

NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS



%Northland Public Library

300 Cumberland Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Volume 13, Number 5 - January, 2003

e-mail: pioneerbook@juno.com

<http://www.northhillsgenealogists.net>

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Irene Dinning

10 Issues - August - June

Liaison: Lissa Powell

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

HAPPY NEW YEAR! I hope you all had a wonderful holiday and were able to spend time with your family. I was able to spend some time with two young family members (3 months old and 2 yrs old). Children really do make Christmas more fun.

Have you made your resolutions for 2003? I hope they included coming to all the NHG meetings and volunteering to help with our cemetery readings when the weather gets nice.

On December 7 NHG had its annual Christmas Social. Forty-eight people attended the tour of the Fort Pitt Museum and Blockhouse and had lunch at the 1902 Tavern in Market Square. The re-enactors at the Museum gave us some very interesting insight into what life was like during that period of time. We also got an overview of the various military conflicts that occurred in this area in the 1700's. Following lunch, Mary Ann Eubanks of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation gave us a brief history of the Market Square area. It was very enlightening. A special thanks to Tom Wiley for arranging the Museum tour and lunch and Jo Henderson for arranging for Mary Ann to speak

to us after lunch.

We have some great programs lined up for the coming months. These are all listed on the NHG website for your convenience. Check it out at <http://www.northhillsgenealogists.org>.

We are also in the pre-publication stage for our new cemetery book, "Pioneer Cemeteries of Pine and Richland Townships." Check out page 49 for information on ordering the new book. Of course, copies of "Pioneer Cemeteries of Hampton Township" are also available. Check out the special pricing for purchasing both books.

In November there was some damage done at the Depreciation Lands Cemetery (wayward driver). There was a nice article in the Post-Gazette that said the cemetery would be using the book "Pioneer Cemeteries of Hampton Township" to make certain that the repaired/replaced stones were put in the correct locations. Nice to see our previous book is helping with this repair project.

Please feel free to contact me either by e-mail or at the meetings with any comments or suggestions you might have about NHG.

DJBooth@worldnet.att.net

Donna

WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

all meetings free unless otherwise noted

Tues, February 4, 2003 - 7:00 pm - NHG Board Meeting - Cafeteria, UPMC Passavant. Everyone welcome.

Tues., February 18, 2003 - 7:00 pm - "Using Public Library Resources" to find family history and genealogy information. Presenter: Leslie Dunn, Head of Technical Services, Shaler North Hills Library and WPGS Library Committee Chair.

Sat., February 8, 2003 - Harmony Trolley Tour - Sponsored by Allegheny City Society and North Hills Genealogists. See article. page 44.

Other Meetings

Thurs., January 23, 2003 - 7:00 pm - Lawrenceville Historical Society - "Life Into Art: The Katherine Soffel Incident." Presenter: Dr. Williams Coles. Canterbury Place, Fisk Street, Lawrenceville. (see article this page)

Mon., January 27, 2003 - 7:00 pm - The Greater Pittsburgh Civil War Round Table - "Dan Sickles - Union Major General". Presenter: Ed Hahn. The Babcock, Babcock Blvd., North Hills. (see article page 45)

Sat., February 1, 2003 - "PANE E LAVORO (Bread and work) - A history of Western Pennsylvania's Italian Americans" - Heinz History Center - This exhibit uses nearly 100 images and depicts the early Italian immigrant experience in our area.

Thurs., February 6, 2003 - 7:30 pm - Lecture on the Pittsburgh, Harmony, Butler and New Castle Railway - William Fronczek, trolley historian. Northland Public Library.

Sat., February 8, 2003 - 10:00 am - WPGS Meeting - "Researching in Virginia: Fayette County, PA Boy Goes South" - Presenter: Charles Novak. Carnegie Lecture Hall.

Sat., February 22, 2003 - "The History of the National Road" - Heinz History Center. Presentation and book signing by author Reed Day. Reservations - 412-654-6372

May 28-31, 2003 - NGS 100th Anniversary Conference - Pittsburgh, PA

NHG MEETINGS

7:00 - 7:15-20 - Announcements

7:15 - 8:15-20 - Presentation

8:15-20 - 8:40 - Q&A Discussion

8:40 - 9:00 - Freebie Table, Visiting, straighten room and leave

If you can help set up/clean up the room for the meetings, please consider doing so.

LIFE INTO ART: THE KATHERINE SOFFEL INCIDENT

Dr. William Coles

Lawrenceville Historical Society

7:00 pm

Dr. Coles has done extensive research and written books on Katherine Soffel who was the wife of the Allegheny County Jail Warden at the turn of the century. Her romantic involvement with one of the Biddle Boys led to her assisting in their escape as she went on the "lam" with them.

(Ed. note: There is a North Hills connection to this story.) This was the subject of a movie starring Diane Keaton. According to credible sources, Dr. Coles is "spell binding" in his presentation, which is aided by photographs and memorabilia.

QUERIES

Compiled and edited by Sylvan Kretz, Query Editor

LABASH, Alexander A., m. **OSCSIPKA, Julia**, abt. 1917, one son, **William**, b 6 July 1918 in Beaver Co., PA Seeking census and marriage information/certificate. **Contact: Robert Lewis, CJ-2300, 1 Kelley Drive, Coal Township PA 17866-1021**

SCHULTHEIS, William, m to **Katherine AUERGER**, Allegheny City 1850-1920s. **RICHLE, Gottlieb** m. to **Elizabeth WCHULTHEIS** 1894, Allegheny City, 1865-1930. **Contact: Sylvan Kretz, 991 Grandview Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15237-2250.**

Queries are free and open to everyone. Send your queries to the address on the front, attention "Query Editor." They will be published as space permits.

FIRST ENCYCLOPEDIA OF RUSYN HISTORY AND CULTURE DEBUTS IN PITTSBURGH

The first ever "Encyclopedia of Rusyn History and Culture" was unveiled in downtown Pittsburgh this past November during the national conference of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies. Hosting the event was John Righetti, national president of the Carpatho-Rusyn Society and speaker at our September 17, 2002 meeting.

The 535 page encyclopedia features 626 biographies of Rusyn individuals, including pop artist Any Wadol. Members that are interested in learning more about this publication and its availability can e-mail John at rusynone@excite.com.

ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

North Hills Genealogists - 43 - January, 2003 (Vol. 13 #5)

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

The Allen County Public Library, the home of the second largest genealogical collection in the US, is undergoing an \$1.8 million expansion and will be closed in January, 2003. The books and all resources are being moved to another location a few blocks away - and will remain at the temporary location for up to three years. They anticipate reopening at the temporary location around February 2, 2003. The temporary location is at 200 E. Berry Street. All the books, etc., will be available on open stacks at the temporary location. For more information on the closing/temporary location, check out their website at <http://www.acpl.lib.in.us>. This is the library that publishes PERSI (Periodic Source Index) of great value to genealogists everywhere. (Our newsletter is indexed in PERSI.)

NEW FORM FOR REQUESTING BIRTH AND DEATH RECORDS FROM THE STATE OF PA

The Vital Records office of the Commonwealth of PA has a new form for requesting birth and death records in PA after 1906. The old forms are no longer being accepted and apparently will be returned. The new form is two sided (birth on one side and death on another) However, only one record can be requested per form submitted. The fees are the same. Check out the new regulations at the following website:

<http://webserver.health.state.pa.us.health>

PIONEER CEMETERIES OF PINE & RICHLAND TOWNSHIPS

Order your copy of the new *Pioneer Cemeteries* book now. See the order form on Page 49. Take advantage of the pre-publication pricing.

GIVING FAMILY HISTORY TO OUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN

As the new year starts, now is the time to record your memories for your children and grandchildren (so they don't have to hunt as much as we do). Here are several very good books for recording this family information and your memories. I know one of the most exciting things I have gotten in the last year was a copy of the journal one of my gr-gr-grandfathers kept every day. What a wealth of information on the family, plus an insight into what life was like in the early-mid 1800s.

"Grandmother's Memories to Her Grandchild" with art by Thomas Kinkade, written by Cindy Paull.

"To our Children - Journal of Family Memories" by Bob Greene & D. G. Feelfird.

"Notes on the Kitchen Table: Families Offer Messages of Hope for Generations to Come"

"To Our Children's Children: Preserving Family Histories for Generations to Come."

All books available from Doubleday Publishers.

VOLUNTEERS FOR NGS CONFERENCE MAY, 2003

We have received the following from WPGS.

"Won't you join in the interesting adventure of helping with the NGS 100th Anniversary Conference? We need 200-250 happy, helpful volunteers to fill registration bags, help people register, introduce speakers, answer questions, greet visitors, etc. If you can help, please email your name, address, email and phone number to iaconea@carnegielibrary.org and your name will be added to the list. Please do not expect to be

contacted immediately -- we will be building the list and will contact you when we come closer to the conference.

If you previously volunteered, you will be contacted in the near future. To be sure you are on the list, please contact Audrey Iacone at the above email address or at 412-687-6811.

TROLLEY TOUR FOLLOWING ROUTE OF THE HARMONY SHORT LINE

Saturday, February 8, 2003

NHG, in conjunction with The Allegheny City Society, is sponsoring a guided trolley tour following the route of the Harmony Short Line, which was in existence from 1906 to 1930 and ran from Pittsburgh to Butler.

Starting from the Boggs Mansion on North Avenue at 9:00 am for a continental breakfast. Russell Boggs was the founder of the line. The trolley will follow the short line route through the North Hills to Ellwood City and Zelienople, with stops at various points of interest along the way.

Included in the cost of the tour will be a box lunch to eat on the route north. The price of the tour will be \$45 for members of NHG and ACS and \$50 for non-members. Members of both groups will have priority on reservations.

A letter with all details and a reservation form has been sent to NHG and ACS members by the ACS. Don't throw this letter away. It is the only one you will get.

The Harmony Short Line opened up the northern section of Allegheny County for new housing, recreation and economic development.

ALL ABOARD!!!

STEP-BY-STEP: CREATING A TIMELINE

Juliana Smithm, "Ancestry Daily News" (copyright
1998-2002, MyFamily.com) October 24, 2002

Here's a step-by-step guide to creating a timeline for your family files.

Step 1: Gather all the records you have on the family you are creating the timeline for and assemble them by date.

Step 2: Create an entry for each record, including pertinent information from the record and the source description. You can include an abstract, extract, or a transcription of the record.

A typical record entry might look like this:

- 3 June 1880

1880 - US Census, Brooklyn, Kings Co., NY

Kelly, Elizabeth, White, Female, 54, Boarder (Hotel Branting, Madison Ave/58th St.), Single, NY, IRE, IRE (Source information: NARA film T9-895, ED 584, Page 31, SD 1, 466C. At Ancestry.com: Image 31 of 33. Copy of image at: C:\Genealogy\Kelly\Elizabeth\1880Census

Step 3: Go back through the records and analyze them, looking for more dates that can be filled in. Some examples:

- 1814-1815

Kelly, James - Born

(estimated from 1880 U. S. census data)

Tiips:

I have found that word processing documents allow for the flexibility needed to include as much or as little information needed, and to alleviate the problems that spreadsheets bring in as far as needing different columns, headers, and sizes for different records.

Formatting, sizing and color-coding can help to make dates stand out, sources easy to pick out, and for delineation between individuals. For example, I usually make the date larger and bolder, have the names bold and color-coded.

Be sure to include sources. As you add entries, you may run into contradictory information from other sources. Having the sources included allows you to weigh the evidence, and will let you know what records still need to be searched for.

Make a habit of updating your timeline whenever you add new data. They are very useful for planning your next move, and when you decide it's time to write that family narrative, you have the framework already done.

(see another suggestion on Page 46)

THE GREATER PITTSBURGH CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2003

7:00 PM

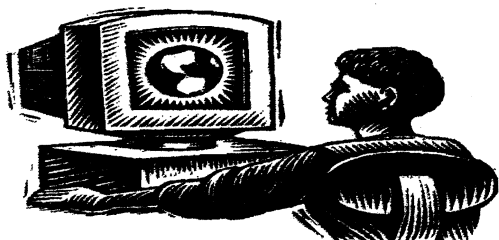
"DAN SICKLES - UNION MAJOR GENERAL"

One of the more colorful characters from the American Civil War is the topic of this month's meeting.

Union Major General Daniel Sickles is known for a scandal before the Civil War, his controversial actions during the battle of Gettysburg, as well as the major role he played in getting the battlefield at Gettysburg established as a national military park.

Round Table member Ed Hahn will speak about these aspects and the rest of General Sickles' life.

The meeting is free and open to the public. It is held at The Babcock, Babcock Boulevard, North Hills.



WEB WANDERINGS

(Note: all start with <http://www> unless otherwise noted)

Do you have a favorite website? Is there a specific place you would like to find a website for? If so, please send a note to the editor at the address on the front or by e-mail at DJBooth@worldnet.att.net.

Historical Guide of Soldiers from Schuylkill
County who Served at Gettysburg
<http://pacivilwar.com/schuylkillgettysburg>

Schuylkill County Civil War POWs by Regiment
<http://pacivilwar.com/schuylkillcaptured>

Letters writteb by a Schuylkill Co., POW
<http://pacivilwar.com/schuylkillpowletters>

Schuylkill Co. Civil War Newspaper Articles
<http://pacivilwar.com/minersjournal.html>

Schuylkill Co., Regiments, Draftees, Casualties,
Pension Roll, Letters, Diaries and Newspaper
Articles
<http://pacivilwar.com/schuylkill.html>

Guide to finding a Civil War Ancestry and to
send away to NARA for pension records
<http://pacivilwar.com/cwpahelp.html>

Can you volunteer to greet visitors at our meetings? We need someone to sit at the table by the door to greet our visitors and answer any of their questions about NHG. Consider volunteering.

NHG MEMBER HAS TIP PUBLISHED IN *FAMILY TREE MAGAZINE EMAIL* UPDATE

Bernice Broniecki has the following tip published in the *Family Tree Magazine Email Update*, January 9, 2003

SPREADSHEETS MADE SIMPLE

Whenever I update my genealogy software program with any new information regarding my ancestors, I also make an abbreviated notation of any additions to a simple two-column spreadsheet. In the spreadsheet's first column I input the date - year first, then month and day (1845/04/15). The second column contains a brief description of the event and those involved. Next I check Websites of local historical societies and others such as dMarie Time Capsule to learn what was being reported in the news on or around the same date as my listed event. I add any noteworthy headlines, along with the dates, to the spreadsheet. Finally, I sort the information, beginning with the most recent date.

Now I can look at my spreadsheet and instantly see what events were taking place on either side of the family and how the road was being paved for future interaction among the different branches. Also, I can see at a glance which world and local events were impacting the lives of my ancestors. Our city had a great fire in April 1845. Until I began this tracking method, I wasn't aware that within a week of the fire, Swiss families from my ancestors' canton arrived here and settled directly across the river from the affected area. I can only imagine what an impression such a tragic sight made upon them.

Great tip Bernice. Congratulations for having it selected for publication.

The following is from "The Kids' Corner" in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and is based on information provided by the Heinz History Center

COLONISTS USED HOME REMEDIES

(August 13, 2002)

Dr. E. Kenneth Vey, Archives Volunteer

In the rugged life of Colonial America, children were subject to diseases. Although many of these diseases weren't fatal, they physically disabled and sickened children.

Without any professional medical care, afflictions such as coughs, croup, intestinal worms, fevers, measles and whooping cough were treated with traditional home-concocted remedies. For coughs, croup and similar respiratory ailments, extracts of the juice of roasted onions or garlic were administered. Rashes with itching were treated by applying an ointment made of brimstone (what we call sulfur) and hog's lard. Injuries such as burns were treated with a poultice made from Indian meal, potatoes, roasted turnips and slippery elm bark.

Poison ivy was treated by applying the leaves of spice wood soaked in vinegar. Snakebites were treated with an oral dose of boiled plantain and milk.

The great scourge of small pox yielded to no remedy and was left to run its course. The treatment of warts in Colonial times is one still believed in today: burying a halved onion, apple or turnip behind the house under a full moon. As bizarre as these practices may seem, in a period with primitive medical knowledge, parents would try almost anything to cure their seriously ill children.

In an uneducated populace, superstitions were very prevalent, particularly among the German immigrants. Some belived sickness could be

prevented by wearing a chicken bone tied on a string around the neck. Others placed brooms across doorways to prevent witches from entering the house. Nailing horseshoes -- toes up - over the doorway also was common to try to bring good luck.

BEYOND WILLS & DEEDS COURT HOUSE RECORDS IN PA

(Information from Jean Morris. Reprinted with permission of the author)

The following is a continuation of sources for court house records in Pennsylvania that was begun in a previous newsletter.

Recorder of Deeds Office

Pre-marital agreements

Powers of Attorney (1788 to current)

Apprenticeships

Maunaumission of slaves and Sale of Slaves (recorded as chattel)

Soldiers Discharge Books 1866 +

Civil War Bounty Lists 1863-1864 were published

Sailors and Nurses Discharge Books 1863 +

Commissions (appointments of County Officials) 1788 - current

Charter Books - 1788 - current - for corporations, (churches, cemeteries, businesses, etc.) These also list the incorporators or who owned the stock.

Planning Books (for county lots, buildings, churches, often contain drawings)

Limited Partnership Books (where 2 or more parties are concerned)

Information on the location of additional records will be included in future newsletters.

**See you at our next meeting on
February 18, 2003**

NGS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

CONFERENCE

May 28-31, 2003

COME TO PITTSBURGH -- YOUR ANCESTORS DID!

The following is a summary of the meeting tracks for the NGS Conference in May.

Wednesday, May 28 - 35 Tracks including: Methodology; Census Records; New Approaches; Immigration; PA Research; Regional Research; Laying a Solid Foundation; Other Possibilities; GENTECH Computer Lab; Masters' Lecture and HSWP Dinner w/Rick Sebak, "A Taste of Pittsburgh."

Thursday, May 29 - 44 Tracks including: Researching Colonial Families; Land Records; New Approaches; Italian, Irish, Jewish Research; PA Research; Migrating Down the Ohio; Laying a Solid Foundation; Internet Research; GENTECH; Masters' Lecture and WPGS Dinner Cruise.

Friday, May 30 - 40 Tracks including: Methodology; Church Records; English Research; PA Research; Migrating Down the Ohio; Laying a Solid Foundation; Topics for Professionals; GENTECH; 3 Workshops - Abstracting, Land Plotting and Certification; and a Masters Lecture, plus the NGS Banquet.

Saturday, May 31 - 40 Tracks including: Finding Women; Military Records; New Approaches; German Research; New Approaches; German Research; PA Research; Repositories; Laying a Solid Foundation; Publishing Your Research; GENTECH; Masters' Lecture.

While some of the tracks have the same main topic, the actual subjects covered in each may be different in each session.

For more details about each program, check out the following: the list of conferences posted by the "freebie" table, in the conference registration brochure available at the meeting, or online through the NGS or WPGS websites.

There will be luncheons every day sponsored by different groups with different speakers and topics.

On all days except Wednesday, the tracks start at 8:00 am. On Wednesday, there will be a keynote speaker first and then the tracks start.

There will also be a vendors' hall open all the time. This will be free and open to the public. You do not have to register for the conference to visit the vendors' hall.

NGS members receive a discount when registering for the conference. There is also a \$10 discount when you register online. The deadline for early registration is March 17. A supply of the paper registration forms are available at the meeting. You can also register for single day seminars if you can't attend the whole conference.

For more information, see the WPGS website at <http://www.wpgs.org> or the NGS website at <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org>.

Don't miss the chance to attend one of the major genealogy conferences to be held in 2003. This will probably be the last NGS conference held on the east coast for at least 6 years.

Here's a chance to network with other genealogists from all over the US and even from other countries. Who knows, you may even find a cousin or two among the conference attendees.

SEE YOU AT THE CONFERENCE!!!

Pioneer Cemeteries of Pine and Richland Townships, Allegheny County, PA

SOME SURNAMES:

Allison
Altmyer
Baker
Berry
Campbell
Cole
Crawford
Dickson
Douthett
English
Ewalt
Gibson
Gilleland
Grubbs
Kelley
Logan
Marshall
McClintock
Morrow
Pegher
Pridgeon
Purvis
Rogers
Sample
Sarver
Shenot
Wallace
Yingling
Zimmerman
And Many More!



This outstanding work documents the final resting place of many of the Pittsburgh area's first settlers. In addition to contemporary readings of thousands of weathering tombstones, every effort has been made to cross reference with available church records and previous readings. Included:

- Over 530 pages in a hardbound, library-quality book
- Exact recording of dates, relationships, epitaphs, symbols, etc.
- Everyname index of over 7,000 names including maiden names
- Military service units indexed
- Stonecarvers' names indexed
- Photos, area maps, and histories

Pre-publication price until March 18, 2003 is \$27. Pennsylvania residents add \$1.89 tax. Price after March 18 is \$35.



Special Offer! Get the *Pioneer Cemeteries of Hampton Township*, a 200-page hardbound book published in 1997 together with the above book for a special package price of \$35 plus PA tax of \$2.45 and \$8 shipping. Price of the Hampton Township volume is \$14.95.

Send your check to:

The North Hills Genealogists, Book Order
c/o Northland Public Library
300 Cumberland Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15237-5455



For more information such as the list of cemeteries included and the everyname index to the Hampton Township book see:
www.NorthHillsGenealogists.org

Books will be shipped as soon as they are published, or you may wait to pick-up your order at the May 20th meeting of the North Hills Genealogists.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY, STATE, ZIP _____
EMAIL _____

SEND ME: PINE / RICHLAND TWPS. BOOK _____ @ \$27 = _____
BOTH PINE/RICHLAND & HAMPTON _____ @ \$35 = _____
PA Residents 7% Tax _____
Shipping amount \$6 (+ \$2 each additional book) _____
TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS

**C/O Northland Public Library
300 Cumberland Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15237**

FIRST CLASS MAIL

DATED MATERIAL



FEBRUARY 18, 2003

USING PUBLIC LIBRARY RESOURCES TO FIND FAMILY HISTORY AND GENEALOGY INFORMATION

Lesle Dunn

BUTLER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY CATALOG

(Thanks to Tom Wiley for this information)

The latest edition of the Butler County Historical Society catalog is now available. It contains more than 60 local history publications and other historical items, including "Young George Washington, and the French and Indian War", and "Pittsburgh During the American Civil War."

Items in the catalog may be purchased at the Society's office in Butler or ordered by phone or mail. To receive a copy of the catalog call:
724-283-8116.

North Hills Genealogists is a group of people who share an interest in genealogy and meet to share their knowledge. NHG does NOT maintain a library and does NOT do research for others. An individual member may choose to handle research requests, but NHG will not be responsible for the quality of the work performed or any fees charged.

E-MAIL MEETING NOTIFICATIONS

If you would like to receive an e-mail notification of future NHG meetings and events as well as meetings of other groups, send an e-mail to:
piioneerbook.com.