

NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS



%Northland Public Library

300 Cumberland Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237

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President: Donna Booth

Treasurer: Reed Powell

Cemetery Project: Jo Henderson &
Irene Dinning

10 Issues - August - June

Vice President: Kay Santa

Membership: Steph Valentine

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Mailings: Bill & Lois Daviess

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Editor: Donna Booth

Program: Tom Wiley &
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well, Phil saw his shadow again (Darn!) and it looks like he might be right about the weather. I don't know about you, but I am really looking forward to Spring.

Last month we had a demonstration of the new Heritage Quest online data bases. I've tried them and found quite a few of my ancestors in both the census records and in the books they have online.

I hope you have taken advantage of this new service. You can also access Ancestry Plus at Northland through the Carnegie Web site. Using both of these together can be a big help in your research.

On February 6 I went to the lecture on the Harmony Short Line at Northland. Since I could not go on the tour I was anxious to hear more about this line. I was amazed to learn that it had traveled on my road. I learned from Ruth McCartan at Allegheny City Society that they had filled two trolleys for the tour and had turned people away. I hope those of you who went on the tour enjoyed yourselves. Hopefully we can work with ACS on future events.

When warm weather finally comes, Jo

Henderson and Irene Dinning will be looking for volunteers to help with cemetery readings for the third volume of our cemetery books. If you can help with the readings, please contact Jo or Irene. They will be glad to have your help. We are currently in the pre-publication stage for our second book. Now's the time to order your copy of the Pine-Richland book. There is an order form on page 9. You can use the order form or if you want to use a credit card, go to our web site (see above) and place your order there.

Here's your chance to volunteer and help our group. We need some "greeters" to greet our visitors at the meetings. We also need people to volunteer to man a table at the Civil War Soldiers Fair on June 14 & 15. We want to have both our books available for sale at this Fair. If you can volunteer for any of these activities, please see any of the Board members.

We have some good programs coming up in the next few months. We hope to see all of you at them. If you have any ideas for programs, please let Tom Wiley know.

Donna

WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

All free and open to the public unless otherwise noted.

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

Tuesday, March 18, 2003 - 7:00 pm - Regular NHG Meeting - "Family History and Genealogical Resources at The Senator John Heinz Regional History Center" - David Grinnell, Acquisitions Archivist, HSWP Archives Department.

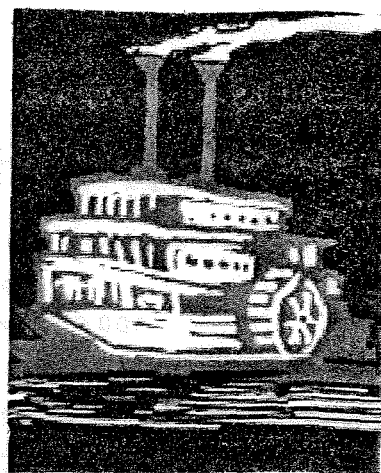
Monday, February 24, 2003 - 7:00 pm - The Greater Pittsburgh Civil War Round Table - "Fifth Wheel on a Cart, an Overview of the U. S. Sanitary Commission" - Joanne Shelby. The Babcock, Babcock Boulevard.

Saturday, March 1, 2003 - 10:00 am - POINTers in Person "PIP" (Preserving our Italian Names Together) - Italian Genealogy on the World Wide Web" - Anna Alfonsi Cotter - Carnegie Library, Oakland.

Saturday, March 8, 2003 - 10:00 am - WPGS Meeting - "Urban Maps - A Pittsburgh Case History" - Richard Sayre, MA - Carnegie Lecture Hall, Oakland.

Thursday, March 20, 7:00 pm - Lawrenceville Historical Society - 7:00 pm - "Pittsburgh Through Pictures: An Interpretive History of the City" - Joseph Rishel. Canterbury Place, Fisk Avenue, Lawrenceville.

Saturday, March 22, 2003 - Soldiers & Sailors Hall - 7:00 pm - Civil War Ball. Tickets \$20 per person. To order contact: Casey Andrea Nowicki at 412-621-4253.



NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY'S 100th ANNIVERSARY

CONFERENCE IN THE STATES
May 28-31, 2003

David L. Lawrence Convention Center
Pittsburgh, PA

MOVING A NATION WESTWARD

COME TO PITTSBURGH, YOUR ANCESTORS
DID!

Registration information available at the NHG meeting or check out the NGS website at:
<http://www.ngsgenealogy.org>.

Don't miss this exciting opportunity to attend numerous lectures on doing genealogy research with speakers from all over the country and even from Europe.

Volunteers are still needed to help out during the conference. If you can volunteer a few hours on one of the days, please contact Audrey Iacone at iacone@carnegielibrary.org.

SEE YOU AT THE CONFERENCE

EXPERT ADVICE: WORLD RECORDS

"Family Tree News Service" January 2, 2003

This is an overview of the Family History Library's (FHL) record holdings for the many countries represented in the FHL collection. You should become familiar with the catalog entries for your ancestral country and its different geographical divisions to determine all the possible records for your research. For many of these countries, with their boundary changes, political strife, economic problems and record-access difficulties, it's easier to research your ancestry at the FHL rather than in that country.

The FHL materials for many of these countries represent more than you may have access to on-site in a country. Also, records may no longer exist in their original format. The bulk of the records at the FHL for these countries cover the 18th and 19th centuries, but some records for the 20th century and prior to 1700 exist.

The volume of records at the FHL varies from country to country. Be sure to check under a variety of locality jurisdictions including country, province, district, canton, state, duchy, county, parish, village or other division. For example, you know your ancestral parish in Sweden is Ostraby, which is in Malmohus. If you check under Sweden or Malmohus in the catalog, you'll find many valuable topics and indexes, including church records. But you won't find the ancestral parish. Church records are a topic for these localities, but you still don't see your parish name under that topic.

You should research in the items under these other localities in case you find some additional family details, but you still want the actual parish registers for Ostraby. Check under Ostraby in the place category of the catalog search to zero in on the actual parish registers. Now, go back and use the keyword search for Ostraby, and this will

yield not only the parish registers but also some civil censuses.

At some point in time, your ancestral town or county may have been under the jurisdiction of another county or country. This may be the case for colonies or territories. Fortunately, the FHL has many maps to show this, and often the FHL catalog points out jurisdictional changes.

Excerpted from "Your Guide to the Family History Library" by Paula and Jim Warren. Reprinted here with the permission of the publisher, Betterway Books.

LOST SOUNDINDEX RULE

From Cyndi's List

Please be aware that a formerly "lost" rule for calculating Soundex codes has been rediscovered.

This rediscovered rule is called the "Ashcraft" or "H & W" Rule. In addition to the existing Soundex calculation rules, add:

If "H" or "W" separate two consonants with the same soundex number, the "H" or "W" is disregarded, and the second consonant is not coded.

The Soundex Indexing System web page on the National Archives site has been updated to include this previously "lost" rule. Not all web links have been updated. The genealogical community owes a special thanks to Tony Burroughs who researched and rediscovered the original Soundex instructions used by the Census Bureau. His report is also in the December 2001 issue of the "National Genealogical Society Quarterly."

You might want to check out NARA's site and re-check your codes. You may end up finding some of those "missing" ancestors.

U.S. SUPREME COURT DECIDES COPYRIGHT ISSUE

Information from the National Genealogical Society

A decision was recently handed down by the highest court in the land, that is of interest to genealogists and others interested in copyright issues. On January 15, 2003, the Supreme Court of the United States rendered its opinion on the *ELDRED v ASHCROFT* case that concerns the duration of copyrights. The heart of the case was the authority of the Constitution to assign to Congress the length of time that copyrights were valid. The case stems from the 1998 passage of the Copyright Term Extension Act (CTEA), which enlarged the duration of copyrights by 20 years. The law provided for application of the enlarged terms to existing and future copyrights alike. The U. S. Supreme Court upheld that the U. S. Congress did act within its authority and did not transgress constitutional limitations.

RECORDS PRESERVATION AND ACCESS

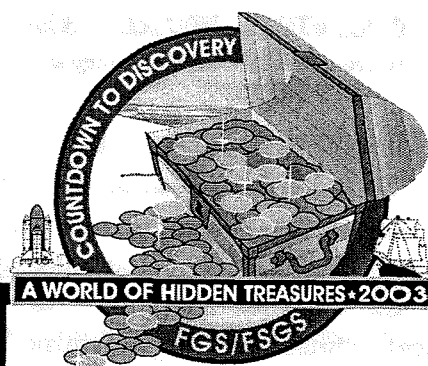
Information from NGS

NGS and the Federation of Genealogical Societies have established a committee to ensure "record access and preservation for this and future generations."

The members of the committee come from all over the country and from the genealogical community and share a common interest in preserving and maintaining access to historical records of genealogical value. Their mission is to "help coordinate the efforts of individuals and societies who can have a tremendous impact on these problems."

The following website contains more information on this committee. Check it out.

<http://www.fgs.org/rpa>.



Find Your Genealogical Treasure

at the
Federation
of Genealogical Societies
and
Florida State Genealogical Society
2003 CONFERENCE

3 - 6 September 2003
Renaissance Orlando Resort
at SeaWorld
Orlando, Florida

For Information:

Contact FGS at fgs-office@fgs.org or
call 888-FGS-1500.

Visit our web site at

www.fgs.org

Subscribe to the
Conference ezine at

<http://www.fgs.org/2003conf/conf-ezine.htm>



COURT HOUSE RECORDS IN PENNSYLVANIA

Continued from previous newsletters. Used by permission of
Jean O. Morris

Clerk of Courts or Clerk of Quarter Sessions

Election Returns/Voters Lists 1859 +
Road Petitions and Road Dockets 1788+
Petitions for Peddlers' Licenses 1866+
Coroners' Inquests (homicides) 1866 + in
Pittsburgh those extant are held at AIS
Naturalizations and Declarations of Intent 1788-
1906 are found in records of ANY COURT
which was in session when immigrant
applied
Tavern Licenses had to be applied for yearly,
published in newspapers
Vendors of Foreign Merchandise - 1821 +
Quarter Sessions Minutes
Execution Dockets and papers 1788 +
Court of Oyer & Terminer - to 1827 for capitol
felony, murder, treason, rape, counterfeiting
Register of Notaries Public

ANCESTRY QUICK TIPS

Ancestry Daily News, October 30, 2002

I was intrigued that a 19th century Pennsylvania German ancestor whose name was Weidenhammer was listed in a city directory of the day as Weidenhamer (one 'm'). A reference librarian at a historical society explained how this came about when she was shown a photograph of the ancestor's tombstone. The name on the stone was Weidenhamer with a line over the 'm'. She said this line was commonly used with German surnames to indicate a double consonant. So when the ancestor signed the Directory form, he must have written Weidenhamer with a line over the m. Transcribed by the typesetter into English, the name appears misspelled.

Patty Mertz, Nashville, TN

THE FAMILY HISTORIAN

They think that I should wash and clean, and be a model wife.

I tell them it's more interesting to study Grandpa's life.

They simply do not understand why I hate to go to bed....

I'd rather do two hundred years of research work instead.

Why waste the time we have on earth just snoring and asleep?

When we can learn of ancestors that sailed upon the deep?

We have priests, Rabbi's, lawmen, soldiers, more than just a few.

And yes, there's many scoundrels, and a bootlegger or two.

How can a person find this life an awful drudge or bore

When we can peek into the lives of folks who came before?

A hundred years from now of course, no one will ever know

Whether I did laundry, but they'll see our Tree and glow...

'Cause their dear old granny left for them, for all posterity,

Not clean hankies and the like, but a finished Family Tree.

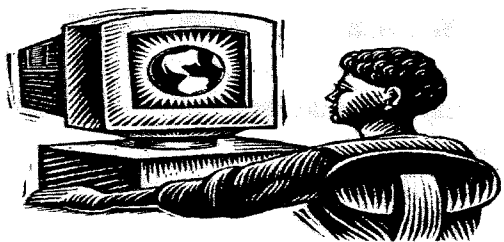
My home may be untidy, 'cause I've better things to do ...

Checking all the records to provide us with a clue.

Old granny's pulling roots and branches out with frenzied glee,

Her clothes ain't hanging out to dry: she's hung up on The Tree.

by Mel Oshins



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.

Ship Passenger Lists

<http://olivetreenealogy.com/ships>

Marriage Index - Georgia 1851-1900

freenealogylookups.com/cd237.htm

Genealogy Records - New York 1675-1920

freenealogylookups.com/cd238.htm

Marriage Index - New York City 1600s-1800s

freenealogylookup.com/cd239.htm

Marriage Index - New Jersey 1680-1900

freenealogylookups.com/cd240.htm

Marriage Index - West Virginia 1863-1900

freenealogylookups.com/cd241.htm

Palantine Ship Passenger Lists

searchforancestors.com/passengerlists

Railroad Genealogy Society

rrgs.org

Civil War Soldiers & Sailors System

itd.nps.gov/cwss

SOCIAL SECURITY DEATH INDEX EXPLAINED

Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter, Vol. 8, No. 5

February 3, 2003 - Used by permission

Copyright 2003 Richard W. Eastman

Several genealogy sites offer access to Social Security Death Records. If you are looking for information about individuals who died in the United States in the last third of the twentieth century, this can be a valuable database. For many people, this database may be the only clue as to place of birth of a deceased relative.

The Social Security Administration was created by an act of law in 1935 as part of President Roosevelt's New Deal program. The act provided for a retirement system for many Americans, although not all. The act also created a new governmental agency to manage the program. In the following 68 years, the Social Security Administration has become one of the largest agencies in the federal government.

The original Social Security Act provided benefits for workers in industry but did not cover government employees, railroad workers, or many other occupations. As the years went by, the original Act was expanded several times, and today almost all American workers make contributions to the Social Security system.

The Social Security Administration provides public domain information of all deaths reported to the agency. A number of genealogy companies purchase an index to this data and make it available on Web sites and on CD-ROM disks. The Social Security Death Index (SSDI) database is an index to basic information about persons with Social Security numbers whose deaths have been reported to the Social Security Administration.

(continued on next page)

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The SSDI contains the following information about deceased individuals:

Social Security Number

Surname

Given name

Date of death

Date of birth

Last known residence

Address used on the last benefit payment check

Date and place of issuance of the Social Security Number

This information alone can provide clues; but, remember that this online database is only an index – an abbreviated listing. When a person applies for a Social Security Card, he or she must give their current address, date and place of birth, father's name and mother's maiden name. Note that the index does not list place of birth or maiden name. However, that information is recorded on the original application forms, and copies of those applications may be obtained by mail.

The Social Security Administration (SSA) began computerizing its records in 1962 and did not convert everything to digital records for another two or three years. Earlier death information probably still exists on paper records in some dusty filing cabinet, but most of the pre-1962 records have never been computerized. About 98% of the people in the SSDI died after 1962, although a very few death dates have been recorded for as early as 1937. Some of the online Web Sites advertise that the data they possess will contain information about deaths as early as 1937, but that claim is a bit misleading; 98% of the information is for 1962 and later.

For many years, the SSA only recorded the deaths of those people who were receiving Social Security benefits. That is, when a pension check was being issued monthly, the SSA had to be

notified of the death of the recipient in order to stop future payments. Most deaths recorded in the SSA database in the 1960s through 1980s were only those of retired persons drawing SSA benefits or for widows or a few dependents of deceased recipients of SSA benefits. During those years, you will not find death information for those who never received benefits, for example those too young to qualify or those who were receiving benefits from other retirement plans, such as railroad pensions or teachers' pensions.

In the late 1980s and after, all deaths in the US were reported to the Social Security Administration and recorded in the SSDI. You can find deaths of children and non-retired adults listed for the 1990s but not for earlier years.

Because legal aliens in the US can obtain a Social Security card, their names may appear in the SSDI if their deaths were reported. Some 400,000 railroad retirees are also included in the SSDI.

The Social Security number is the most valuable piece of information when seeking a number of other documents. It is essential for ordering paper copies of originals; you can order copies of the documents associated with this number to obtain information of a birth place, a maiden name, or parents' names. Furthermore, finding a Social Security number together with a birth and death date can help in a request for a death certificate or obituary from some other source.

The Social Security Administration makes copies of the original Social Security application (SS-5) available to third parties who request information on a deceased individual. The cost is \$27.00 for each individual copy.

Check the LDS site for more information at <http://www.familysearch.org>.

**WPGS MEETING
SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 2003**

10:00 AM

Carnegie Lecture Hall, Oakland

**URBAN MAPS - A PITTSBURGH CASE
HISTORY**

Richard Sayre, MA

Under the vehicle of a case study involving a German immigrant family, Rick will show the useful genealogical data and social history available from plat maps displayed on the Historic Pittsburgh web site combined with the use of online Sanborn Maps. He will discuss the availability of maps by years and locality as well as present techniques to combine traditional sources such as city directories and censuses with web based sources to discover an ancestor's residence, occupation, familial relationships and church affiliations.

GENEALOGY ON-LINE CLASSES

Four Sundays, March 30 thru April 27, 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm. Community College of Allegheny County, North Campus, 8701 Perry Highway. "Genealogy On-Line" class covering all the aspects of using your computer as a tool for genealogical research taught by Elissa Scalise Powell, CGRS and Reed Powell. For more information contact: www.ccac.edu or call 412-244-5206.

E-MAIL MEETING NOTIFICATION

If you would like to receive an e-mail notification of future NHG meeting and events and meetings of other groups, you can sign up for this notification by sending an e-mail to:

pioneerbook@juno.com

**GREATER PITTSBURGH CIVIL WAR
ROUND TABLE**

Monday, February 24, 2003 - 7:00 pm

"Fifth Wheel on a Cart"

An Overview of the U. S. Sanitary Commission

Joanne Shelby

Civilian Re-enactor Joanne Shelby will be discussing the founding of the United State Sanitary commission in 1861, the various services it performed for the military and the role of the nurses in the Commission.

Joanne is with the 9th Pennsylvania Reserves Re-enactment Group.

Meeting held at The Babcock, Babcock Boulevard, North Hills.

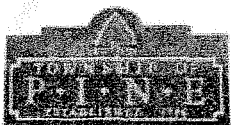
UPCOMING NHG MEETINGS

Tuesday, April 15, 2003 - **"Even When There is No Will, There Is A Way: Examining Probate Records"** and **"Getting The Most Out of Your Conference - Getting Experience: Tips to Save You Time and Money"** — Lissa Powell

Tuesday, May 20, 2003 - **"Historic Congregations of Allegheny City"** - John J. Canning, Allegheny City Society (John spoke previously on Germans in Allegheny City and his talk was very enlightening.)

Tuesday, June 17, 20203 - **"Bake Slow and Sure: Heirloom Recipes of the National Road Era"** - Frank LaCava, Curator of the Fort Pitt Blockhouse and former President of the Fayette County Historical Society.

Mark these dates on your calendar now.



North Hills Genealogists



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

SOME SURNAMES:

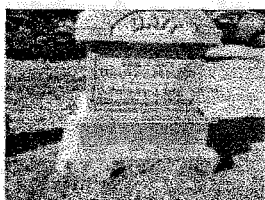
Allison
Altmyer
Baker
Berry
Campbell
Cole
Crawford
Dickson
Doubett
English
Ewalt
Gibson
Gilleland
Grubbs
Kelley
Logan
Marshall
McClintock
Morrow
Pegher
Pridgeon
Purvis
Rogers
Sample
Sarver
Shenot
Wallace
Yingling
Zimmerman
And Many More!



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:

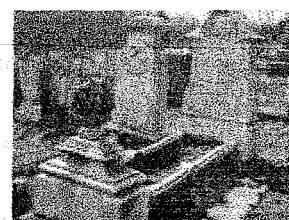
- Over 530 pages in a hardbound, library-quality book
- Exact recording of dates, relationships, epitaphs, symbols, etc.
- Everyname index of over 7,000 names including maiden names
- Military service units indexed
- Stonecarvers' names indexed
- Photos, area maps, and histories

Pre-publication price until April 30, 2003 is \$27. Pennsylvania residents add \$1.89 tax. Price after April 30 is \$39.95.



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 \$19.95 (\$14.95 NHG members).

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



On-Line Ordering using a credit card can be done at:
www.NorthHillsGenealogists.org

The website also has more information such as lists of cemeteries or names included.

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



FAMILY HISTORY AND GENEALOGICAL RESOURCES AT THE SENATOR JOHN HEINZ HISTORY CENTER

David Grinnell, Acquisitions Archivist

March 18, 2003

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.

ANCESTRY PLUS ONLINE

To access Ancestry Plus online through Carnegie Library, go to your local library and do the following:

1. Go to <http://www.clpgh.org>
2. Select the link to EINetwork (in blue at the bottom of the home page.

3. The next page will give various links. Select the one for Online Databases. Click on this link

4. On the next page, scroll down until you come to the link for GALE GROUP. Click on this link.

5. The next page will display the link to Ancestry Plus.

This site has many databases you can search. Note that this is only available through a library computer. **You cannot access it from your home computer.**

You can only access Heritage Quest through the Northland Library computers.