

NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS



%Northland Public Library

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10 Issues - August - June

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Now that Lent has begun, can Spring be far behind? Many nationalities and religions have customs they observe during Lent. Many of these go back hundreds of years. Are there special traditions observed by your family? Are there special foods you eat during Lent? Do you know how many of these traditions have been handed down through the generations? If your answer is "Yes, we do, but I don't know where they all came from.", then now is the time to talk to others in your family. See if they know where the traditions came from and then record this information as part of your family's history.

With warmer weather lurking around the corner, Jo Henderson and Irene Dinning will be gathering up their cemetery reading tools to pick up where they left off in the fall. I know they would welcome your help with the readings. Please see Jo's article on page 67.

While I was putting together the list of upcoming meetings and events in this area, I was amazed at the wide range of programs that will be held in the next month or so. There are programs on the Civil War, local history, and on researching. Of course, there is the NGS conference to be held in

Pittsburgh in May. I am sure you will find more than one of these program that you want to attend. I know I've marked several on my calendar. And, the nice thing is, many of them are free!

NHG has some good programs scheduled for the next few months. I am looking forward to John Canning's talk in May on the churches of Allegheny City. As you know, John has spoken at NHG in the past and his lectures are always well attended. See the article about his talk on page 67. We hope to see all of you at the programs.

Nominations are open for NHG Board Officers for 2003-2004. Consider running for an office or submit the name of a potential candidate. We also need volunteers to help staff an NHG table at the Civil War Soldiers' Fair in June. Can you spare a few hours to help out at our table?

See you at future NHG meetings.

Donna

WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

All are free and open to the public unless noted.

Tues., April 1, 2003 - 7:00 pm - NHG Board Meeting - UPMC Passavant Hospital cafeteria. Everyone welcome.

Tues., April 15, 2003 - 7:00 pm - Regular NHG Meeting - "Even When There Is No Will, There Is A Way: Examining Probate Records"; "Getting The Most Out of Your Conference - Getting Experience: Tips to Save You Time and Money" - Lissa Powell

Other Meetings

Thurs., March 20, 2003 - 7:00 pm - Lawrenceville Historical Society - "Pittsburgh Through Pictures: An Interpretive History of the City" - Dr. Joseph Rishel, Pittsburgh native and professor at Duquesne University - Canterbury Place, Fisk Avenue, Lawrenceville, PA.

Sat., March 22, 2003 - Slippery Rock Heritage Association - 15th Annual Genealogical Workshop. Held at Garden Gate Restaurant, Prospect, PA. Fee Call 724-865-2051 for information.

Mon., March 24, 2003 - 7:00 pm - The Greater Pittsburgh Civil War Round Table - "Charleston Then and Now" - Jack Thomson. The Babcock Meeting Center, Babcock Boulevard, North Hills.

Thurs., April 3, 2003 - The Allegheny City Society - 6:30 - 8:30 pm - "Heimat in Allegheny" (History of Troy Hill and E. Northside area) - John Canning. Held at the Center for Lifetime Learning, University of Pittsburgh. \$36.00 for talk & tour. Call 412-648-2560 for more information.

Sat., April 5, 2003 - Allegheny City Society, The Greater Pittsburgh Civil War Round Table & the Senator John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History

Center - **Pittsburgh Civil War-athon** (see article)

Sat, April 5, 2003 - 10:00 am POINTers in Person (PIP) - "Family Reunions: Clever Ideas for Sharing Your Research Findings at Your Gathering" - Carnegie Library Conference Room, Oakland

Thurs., April 10, 2003 - 7:00 pm - WPGS Meeting - Dr. David Dixon, Slippery Rock University - "Men Used to the Woods: Colonel Bouquet's Scouts and the Battle of Bushy Run" - Carnegie Lecture Hall, Oakland. **Note date and time.**

Future Events

NGS 100th Anniversary Conference in the States - Pittsburgh, PA. May 28-31, 2003. Check out the NGS website at www.ngsgenealogy.org for information and registration.

Federation of Genealogical Societies - "Find Your Genealogical Treasure - A World of Hidden Treasures" - **September 3-6, 2003** - Renaissance Orlando Resort at Sea World, Orlando, Florida. Check out their website at www.fgs.org for more information.

PIONEER CEMETERIES OF PINE & RICHLAND TOWNSHIPS

The latest cemetery book by NHG is now in pre-publication. Take advantage of the pre-publication pricing. If you didn't get a copy of "Pioneer Cemeteries of Hampton Township" you can take advantage of the special pricing for purchasing both books. See the order sheet on page 69 or order online at the NHG website. Credit card orders available for online orders.

THINK SPRING!!!!

PITTSBURGH CIVIL WAR-ATHON

Saturday, April 5, 2003

Hosted by: The Allegheny City Society, The
Greater Pittsburgh Civil War Round Table and the
Senator John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History
Center

This all-day conference is held to benefit the
Pittsburgh Civil War Monument Preservation
Fund.

The morning session runs from 8:30 am - 12:00
pm (lunch at a place of your choice) at the
Senator John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History
Center - **Eye of the Storm: Unknown Stories of
the Civil War**. This will be a private showing of
the History Center's new exhibit featuring
original watercolors, maps and drawings
depicting Private Robert Knox Sneden's
experiences as a Union soldier, mapmaker and
prisoner of war (presented in partnership with
the Virginia Historical Society). Artifacts from
the History Center's own Civil War collection will
also be on display to tell the Western
Pennsylvania Civil War story, as well as
Brigadier General Strong Vincent's sword on loan
from the Smithsonian Institution.

The afternoon session runs from 2:00 pm - 8:30
pm at The Babcock Meeting Center, Babcock
Boulevard, North Hills. There will be three
presentations followed by dinner and an evening
speaker.

2:15 - 5:15 pm will feature the following
presentations:

Jubal Early's Raid, June 26-28, 1863

Timothy Smith

Gettysburg: Crossroads to History

Diana Loski

The Civil War Then and Now: War in the East

Garry Adelman

5:30 -7:00 pm - Dinner & Musical interlude by
"Homefront".

7:15 - 8:15 pm Bob Zeller will present a riveting
photographic presentation, "**The Civil War in
Depth - History in 3-D**".

Check out the Round Table's website at:

www.grpghcwrt.org or call Ruth McCartan at
412-231-1747 for fee and registration
information.

CIVIL WAR SOLDIERS' FAIR

JUNE 14 & 15, 2003

West Park, North Side

(by the Aviary)

NHG plans to have a table at the annual Civil War
Soldiers' Fair on June 14 & 15, 2003. We want
to take this opportunity (free) to publicize our
group and to sell our cemetery books and
Beginners Packet. If you can volunteer some time
on either day to help man our table, please
contact Donna Booth, Jo Henderson or Sylvan
Kretz. This annual fair is held to promote the
restoration of the Civil War monuments on the
North Side. There are re-enactments as well as
vendors. Abe and Mary Lincoln usually stop by
for a visit. This is also a great opportunity to pay
a visit to the National Aviary. If you haven't
been there recently, it is worth a visit. Please
consider volunteering to help at our table.

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.

NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD OFFICERS FOR 2003-2004

The Nominating Committee (Jo Henderson & Sylvan Kretz) are asking for nominations for Board Officers for 2003-2004. The positions are: President; Vice President; Secretary; Treasurer.

If you are interested in running for one of these positions or know of a member you feel would be a good candidate, please contact either Jo or Sylvan. Please check with the person you are recommending before submitting their names.

Here's your chance to help NHG grow.

March 18, 2003 NHG MEETING COLLECTIONS & WEBSITES OF INTEREST AT THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

At our March meeting, David R. Grinnell, Acquisitions Archivist of the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania at the Senator John Heinz Regional History Center, presented an overview about the collections held in the HSWP archives and how to access them. He also gave an update of new acquisitions that are of genealogical significance.

David also explored how to use the "Historic Pittsburgh" website while projecting it live for us to follow. This site has been created through a partnership between the University of Pittsburgh's libraries and HSWP.

In his position, David is responsible for arranging the transfer of books, publications, photographs and manuscript collections to the History Center from the individuals and company officials who are donating these items.

He is a native of Michigan and can trace most branches of his ancestry to the pioneers of that state, who settled there prior to 1840. At the age of 10, during the Bicentennial of the United States, he became keenly interested in his genealogy and for the last 25 years he has researched and compiled a great amount of information on his family.

David graduated from Albion College, Albion, MI in 1988 with a BA in History. He was employed for a time as a Manuscript Assistant at the Bentley Historical Library at the University of Michigan. Shortly after moving to Pittsburgh in 1995 he became a Library Assistant at the F.O.R. Sto-Rox Library in McKees Rocks. While in the "Rox," he was instrumental in creating a small collection of local history materials. This has lead to his continued interest in the history of the Western Pennsylvania region.

NGS 100TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE IN THE STATES MAY 28-31, 2003 PITTSBURGH, PA

Register now for this upcoming conference. There will be many speakers as well as vendors with books, supplies and all kinds of "goodies." Check out the NGS website for more information and to register.

<http://www.ngsgenealogy.org>



GENEALOGY SCAM IS BACK AGAIN!

Well, it's a new year and the same old scams are back again. These people never seem to give up.

The old scam that is back is www.genseekers.com.

Behind the password protection are links to many free genealogy on-line sites. There is no content of their own on this site.

In order to get the "5-day free trial" you have to surrender a credit card or bank account number. You have to cancel within 5 days or you get charged. Guess what! The cancellation e-mail bounces. Does this surprise you?

Again we urge **"BUYER BEWARE"** when dealing with any pay sites. With **Heritage Quest** and **Ancestry Plus** both available FREE through Northland Library, why pay for something that you can get (and really get some information) for FREE.

There are numerous watchdog sites that report on these scams. Check sites such as Rootsweb.com for information on checking into these new offers. Keep your wallet and credit card in your pocket and take advantage of the many truly free sites.

CONSTABLES ENFORCED THE LAW

"The Kids' Corner" - *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* August 14, 2002 - Sponsored by the Heinz Regional History Center -
Written by Dr. E. Kenneth Vey, History Center Library & Archives volunteer

In the late 18th century, law enforcement in Pittsburgh was overseen by a constable. The constable was responsible to the court, then at Hannastown, Westmoreland County.

The constable was the one official given the power of arrest. His duties usually pertained to

civil matters in the area known as Pitt Township, with a population of roughly 1,000.

In 1794 Pittsburgh became a borough. Still quite small, Pittsburgh was limited to Grant Street on the eastern side and 11th street on the north, with the rivers as the other boundaries. For this civic area, a "high" constable was appointed. In the next decade, problems that irritated residents and forced elected officials to action were juvenile pranks, horses galloping at high speed and the "indecent practice of bathing publicly in daylight."

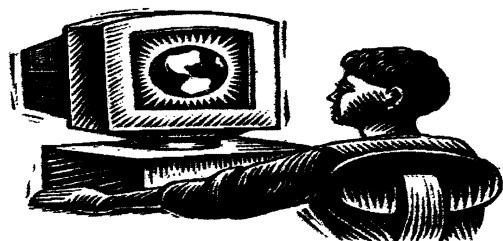
Later, night watches were initiated. These men, with a captain, patrolled the city and cared for the lamps, oil, wicks, and other city property. They also kept alert for fire, an ever-present danger. They were given the power to arrest the drunk and disorderly, disturbers of the peace, and those engaged in any "unlawful or evil design."

These men wore no special uniform and carried no weapons. They did, however, carry heavy sticks; hence the term "night sticks." At night they were charged with the duty of calling out the hour and reporting on the prevailing weather from 10 pm until daybreak. Any prisoners were taken to "Mt. Airy", as the jail on Grant's Hill was called. Pranksters who imitated the watchmen's call were fined \$5.

Watch houses were provided in the event of bad weather, but the watchmen could only occupy them under that circumstance.

The first formal police force in the city was not established until 1857.

GENEALOGISTS WILL DATE ANY OLD THING.



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.

Irish Church Records

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~irishchurchrecords/index.htmml>

List of Many Sites

<http://genealogyregister.com>

Kinship & Family Books

(site in German but names can be read)

genealogienetz.de/gene/faqs/ortsbuch

Old Handwriting

amberskyline.com/treasuremaps/oldhand.html

Family Bibles

geocities.com/Heartland/3955/bibles.htm

Ships Passenger Lists

<http://olivetreegenealogy.com/ships>

Do you have a favorite website? If so, share it with the the members of NHG. Send to the address on the front or to the Editor at: DJBooth@worldnet.att.net.

MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Donna Booth

March is Women's History Month. So often, we do the majority of our researching by using the male surname and do not follow the female surname as completely. We do not delve into the female relative's past to discover how they made a difference, how they touched the lives of others, and where they came from.

Most of us do not have a Jane Addams, founder of Hull House in Chicago, or a Marie Curie, who discovered radium, in our family trees. But we do have grandmothers, great-grandmothers and so forth who, even though they did not achieve national or international fame and do not appear in the history books, still made major contributions to our ancestry.

Take this opportunity to spend more time on your female ancestors in your research. I know I was able to find a copy of a family genealogy written by one of my gg-grandmothers. While this was not a "professional" genealogy, it still provided much information on her family. It also told me about her younger years in Ireland before her family immigrated to the US; and what their trip over on the ship was like; and the various hardships they endured on their journey to their new home. I'm so thankful that she cared enough about her heritage to take the time to write down this information so that when I decided to start researching that family line, I was able to use it as a basis for more detailed research. Thank you, GG-Grandmother Mary Finlay.

For help in getting started on researching your female relatives, consult "**A Genealogist's Guide to Discovering Your Female Ancestors**" by Sharon DeBartolo Carmack.

VIRGINIA CAPTURES COLLECTION

"Family Tree Magazine" E-Mail Update - 6 March, 2003

In 1922, one of the most thorough and impressive collections of documents and manuscripts related to Virginia history left its native state, sold to the highest bidder. Who was the lucky recipient of such a priceless piece of Virginia history? The Huntington Library in San Marino, CA, purchased the hundreds of thousands of items that were once part of the private collection of history scholar Robert Alonzo Brock. Until his death in 1914, Brock accumulated valuable historical materials sought after by historians and scholars - books, maps, surveys, letters and government records dating from the Colonial era to the late 19th century. But Virginia didn't forget about the gem that slipped from its grasp. A \$250,000 project to microfilm the collection is set to begin any day.

During the past several decades, researchers made trips to the Huntington Library to record the materials that make up Brock's life's work. The process of recording the materials piece by piece was slow and time-consuming. The collaborative microfilming project will bring extensive documents from the Civil War era, legal records of the Confederate States of America District Court for Eastern Virginia, records of the United Confederate Veterans and more to the Library of Virginia shelves by 2007. So far, \$150,000 has been raised through the Library of Virginia, Roller-Bottimore and Robins foundations.

CEMETERY COMMITTEE REPORT

Jo Henderson

You can tell it's almost Spring, no matter what the calendar says. The Cemetery Committee is calling for volunteers to spend time in the warm, sunny out-of-doors. You will enjoy the company of like-minded people and contribute to our genealogical resources. In short, let's get

together and "read" a cemetery. We record names, dates, and inscriptions. We cluster around to decipher the most worn stones. And we do NOT go out in snow, sleet, hail and other nasty stuff. If you would like to join one of our jaunts this year, email Irene Dinning at dinning@stargate.net or Jo Henderson at chens4th@aol.com.

HISTORIC CONGREGATIONS OF ALLEGHENY CITY

John Canning

NHG May 20 Meeting

Throughout its 100 or so years of existence, Allegheny City was home to a considerable number of religious communities. What city outside of Scotland could boast having three distinct Presbyterian seminaries within eight blocks of each other. Early settlers from the eastern sections of Pennsylvania, from Europe and from the slave South contributed to the diverse religious composition of the Allegheny City community. Added to the mix were congregations having a definite American genesis.

Many of the congregations in Allegheny City "mothered" new religious organizations in the northern communities of Allegheny County as families with Allegheny roots moved into the 20th century suburbs. In fact the very church building of the Holy Trinity German Lutheran congregation in Allegheny's Eleventh Ward is presently home to a Baptist community in McCandless Township.

This program will examine the history and role of many of Allegheny City's congregations by looking at their origins (in terms of ethnicity and doctrine) as well as their growth, their connection with the North Hills and in some cases their demise.

A WEBSITE WORTH VISITING

"UpFront with NGS, The Online Newsletter of the National Genealogical Society", Vol. 2, No. 5 - 01 March 2003,
Co-Editors Dennis and Carla Ridenour

HISTORIC PITTSBURGH

<http://digital.library.pitt.edu/pittsburgh/index>

The Historic Pittsburgh Web Site is a digital collection that provides an opportunity to use the Internet to explore and research the history of Pittsburgh and the surrounding Western Pennsylvania area. This Web Site is a joint project of the University of Pittsburgh's Digital Research Library and the Historical Society of Western PA at the Heinz History Center and represents a model of cooperation between libraries and museums in providing online access to their respective materials.

- **The Full-Text Collection** - This online collection contains 476 books from the 19th and early 20th centuries. The books can be searched by keyword or bibliographic information, or the list of all the books in the collection can be browsed in alphabetical order. This is a growing collection, with a total of 42 books added in February 2003. All books are available for viewing.

- **Census Schedules** - This collection allows users to search the US Census Schedules for the City of Pittsburgh from the years 1850, 1860, 1870 and 1880 and for Allegheny City from the years 1850, 1860 and 1870. (The boundaries of the cities can be seen on maps from the Historical Pittsburgh Map Collection)

- **Archival Finding Aids** - There are currently 269 finding aids that describe important archival collections on greater Pittsburgh area history. These finding aids represent only a preliminary set of items from the Historic Pittsburgh Encoded Archival Description (EAD) Project.

- **Historic Map Collection** - This map collection currently comprises 21 volumes (937 plat maps).

An Atlas for the year 1901 was added in January 2003. This representative selection of plat maps were published by the G. M. Hopkins Company and cover the greater Pittsburgh area through the years 1872 to 1939.

- **Chronology** - An online chronology of Pittsburgh with 3,100 entries can be browsed by decade and year (1717-2001), or searched by keyword and date. The chronology was taken from the fifth edition (1999) of "Pittsburgh: The Story of an American City" by Stefan Lorant. Permission to reproduce the chronology in electronic form to accompany the Historic Pittsburgh Web Site was granted by the Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group. The chronology will continue to be updated beyond the scope of the print edition.

- **HSWP Catalog** - As part of the Historic Pittsburgh Web Site, the Digital Research Library provides a Web-based catalog for the Library and Archives of the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania (HSWP). This online catalog contains 23,800 records and was last updated on 10 October 2002. The Historical Society offers a non-circulating collection of materials documenting life in Western Pennsylvania. The Reading Room and collections are located at the Senator John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History Center, 1212 Smallman Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15222.

SURNAME CARDS

Check out the Surname Cards from other NHG members. They are available at every meeting. If you haven't submitted yours yet, now is the time to do so. You might just find a "cousin" lurking out there someplace.

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

SOME SURNAMES:

Allison
Altmyer
Baker
Berry
Campbell
Cole
Cravensford
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:

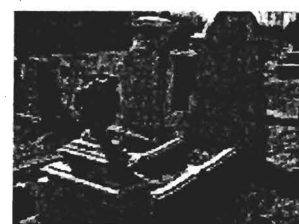
- Over 530 pages in a hardbound, library-quality book
- Exact recording of dates, relationships, epitaphs, symbols, etc.
- Everyname index of over 7,000 names including maiden names
- Military service units indexed
- Stonecarvers' names indexed
- Photos, area maps, and histories

Pre-publication price until 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 \$ _____

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C/O Northland Public Library

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Pittsburgh, PA 15237

FIRST CLASS MAIL

DATED MATERIAL

**EVEN WHEN THERE IS NO WILL, THERE IS A WAY: EXAMINING
PROBATE RECORDS"**

Lissa Powell

Tuesday, April 15, 2003 - 7:00 pm

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>

