

NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS



%Northland Public Library

300 Cumberland Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237

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Irene Dinning

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Program: Tom Wiley &

Mailings: Bill & Lois Daviess

Irene Dinning

10 Issues - August - June

Liaison: Lissa Powell

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well, it looks like Spring is finally here. I'm sure you'll be hearing from either Irene Dinning or Jo Henderson about starting up cemetery readings again for our next book. You can still order our new book "Pioneer Cemeteries of Pine and Richland Townships." Those of you who already ordered them should have either received your copy at the meeting or will be getting it in the mail shortly. Hope you find some ancestors in the book.

Well, eight days after our meeting the NGS conference will be held in Pittsburgh. Right now it looks like there are over 1600 people registered for the conference. The Westin Hotel sold out of rooms (over 600) and now NGS is trying to get more rooms at the Omni William Penn and the Ramada in town. I hope you will all be able to make it to the conference. I was happy to see so many NHG members volunteered to help out at the conference. Remember, the Exhibit Halls are open all day and you do not need to register for the conference to visit there. If you decide there is a session you would like to attend and have not registered, you can still do so. Check the NGS website at <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org>. See you at the

conference.

At the May Board meeting, after much discussion it was determined that we needed to raise our dues. Starting in July, dues will be \$15.00 per year. This was necessary because of increased costs over the last several years for producing the newsletter and meetings. You can take advantage of the early renewal discount. If you renew before July 31, 2003 you only pay \$13.00. A renewal form is on the last page of the newsletter. Copies are also available at the meeting if you do not want to tear apart your newsletter.

We have some great programs coming up this summer. If you have any suggestions for future programs, please let Tom Wiley or Irene Dinning know. They welcome your suggestions.

There are some great programs being presented by other groups in coming months. Check out the listing on page 2 or on the sheets on the back tables. We look forward to seeing you at future meetings.

Donna

WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

Tuesday, June 3, 2003 - 7:00 pm - NHG Board Meeting - UPMC Passavant Hospital cafeteria. Everyone welcome.

Tuesday, June 17, 2003 - 7:00 pm - Regular NHG Meeting - "Heirloom Recipes Plus Genealogy and History -- "Bake Slow and Sure: Heirloom Recipes of the National Road Era & Louisiana Purchase, 1803; Lewis and Clark Expedition 1804-1806; the National Road, 1811-1818; and Swiss born Albert Gallatin" Frank LaCava, Curator of the Fort Pitt Museum and Blockhouse (see article)

May 28-31 NGS 100th Anniversary Conference in the States - Pittsburgh, PA

Thurs, May 22, 2003 - 7:00 pm - Lawrenceville Historical Society - "Divisions of the Blue and Gray" - Allison Caveglia Barash - Canterbury Place, Fisk Avenue, Lawrenceville PA

Sat., June 7, 2003 - Greater Pittsburgh Civil War Round Table - Spring Adopt-A-Position trip to the 155th PA Monument on Little Round Top - Gettysburg National Military Park w/guided tour by licensed battlefield guide Wayne Motts "Defending West Cemetery Hill"

Sat., June 7, 2003 - 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm - Western Reserve Historical Society, Cleveland, OH - Beginner's Genealogy Class - Exploring Family History - Contact: Roger Ellsorth, at 216-283-6541 or P. O. Box 181201, Cleveland Heights, OH 44118-1201 for fees,

Sat. June 21, 2003 - WPGS Meeting - 10:00 am - Carnegie Lecurre Hall - Beginning Genealogy Class - Diane Ragan CGRS.

June 14 & 15 - The Fifth Annual Civil War Soldiers' Fair - West Park - North Side (visit

NHS's table)

Monday, June 23, 2003 - Greater Pittsburgh Civil War Round Table - 7:00 pm - "Renactor and Preservationist" - Roger Lee Hodge. The Babcock, Babcock Blvd.
(<http://www.gpghcwrt.org>)

Sat., June 28, 2003 - Allegheny City Society - Tour of Pittsburgh Civil War Sites with John Heinz History Center and Greater Pittsburgh Civil War Round Table.

Ongoing through September 30 - "Eye of the Storm" at the Heinz Regional History Center. An exhibit that showcases 90 of the Robert Knox Sneden drawings on loan from the Virginia Historical Society. A highlight of this exhibit is "Strong Vincent's" sword from The Smithsonian Institution.

Tues, July 15, 2003- 7:00 pm - Regular NHG Meeting - "Technology and the Genealogist" - Reed Powell

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.

DUES RENEWAL 2003-2004

See the dues renewal form on page 10. Don't miss out on any newsletters by not renewing early. Take advantage of the "early renewal" discount.

QUERIES

Compiled and edited by Sylvan Kretz, Query Editor

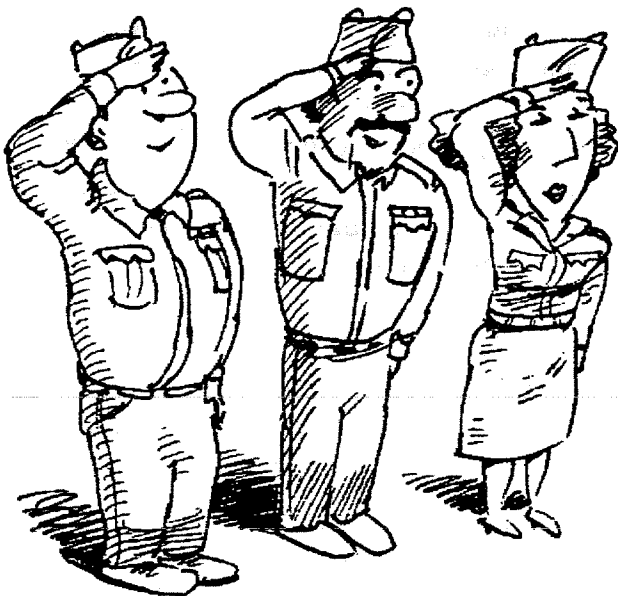
VODZAK, SERYLA, LOPATA, FRANCOVIC.

Contact: **K. A. Mellis, 7007 Forrest Trail Road, Butler, PA 16002.** Note: Researching Polish, Slovak border villages in Eastern Slovakia. Can share information on villages and records.

OESTERLE, LEY, CIPRIANI, COLUMBO.

Contact: **Gary Gaertner, 443 Nedham Court, Wexford, PA 15090-9575**

WILLS, James Jr., (B 1784 Belfast, Ireland - d 1823 Pittsburgh or Carlisle, PA) m. to **THOMPSON, Mary** (b. Belfast, Ireland) immigrated abt. 1790. Parents of **WILL, Isabella, Amelia** (b 1818 Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, PA - m. Jan. 1852 to **Joseph Phillips MCINTIRE**) **PHILLIPS, Angus** or **Magdalene** (a Quaker b. Belfonte Co., PA) Dau. of **Joseph PHILLIPS**, Mother of **Joseph Phillips MCINTIRE**. Contact: **Sandra Hatch, 18730 Weld County Road, Berthoud, CO 80513**



MEMORAIL DAY

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

BOARD OFFICER NOMINATIONS

2003-2004

Sylvan Kretz and Jo Henderson, Nominating Committee, have announced the candidates for Board officers for 2003-2004. They are:

President:	Donna Booth
Vice President:	Kay Santa
Trasurer:	Reed Powell
Secretary:	Sylvan Kretz

A ballot will be included in the June newsletter and available at the June meeting. Ballots will be due by July 1, 2003. The officers will take office August, 2003.

HELP NEEDED!!!!

HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO HELP NHG

Most of you know Lois and Bill Daviess, the two great people who hand you your newsletter every month (or mail it to you if you aren't at the meeing). Well, they have indicated they would like to take a break after 5 years. Soooo -- we need one or two new volunteers to take over this important job. Here is what the job entails:

Pick up the newsletter at the printer (currently Office Depot on McKnight Rd.) The Editor drops it off there to be printed and lets you know it is there.

Put an address label on each copy (they are supplied by the Membership Chair)

Hand them out as members come into the meeting and mail the ones that go to members who were absent.

Here's your chance to help NHG. If you can help with this important job, please see any Board member

JUNE 17, 2003 MEETING North Hills Genealogists

HEIRLOOM RECIPES PLUS GENEALOGY AND HISTORY

The ingredients for our June 17, NHG meeting make for a very interesting evening. They include heirloom recipes surrounded by stories of family, friends and famous visitors and tales of local and national historical events. The action takes place in the Uniontown (PA) area during the early 1800s and will be presented by Frank LaCava, Curator of the Fort Pitt Blockhouse and former President of the Fayette County Historical Society.

Mr. LaCava uses the vehicle of his great-great-grandmother's recipe book that he first discovered as a 14-year old. He writes, "It immediately struck me as a rare and precious volume, much more than an ordinary cookbook; important because of its age and important because of its connections to the early families that settled Uniontown and Fayette county, PA.

Frank explains, "To my young mind, the ancient leather bound ledger appeared to be from 'pioneer' times. My maternal great aunt, Margaret Byers Phillips (1894-1974) had treasured it for years, as her grandmother's book (Jane Skiles Byers, 1812-1888) and occasionally baked from it on holidays." The reason Frank calls the book "the ancient leather bound ledger" is that his great-great-grandmother had organized and written recipes and notes on the unused backside of the pages of a discarded bank ledger book.

The book took its place in the bookcase in the family living room "only to be forgotten for some thirty years." When rediscovered years later, Frank was so impressed with the business entries for a long ago bank and a "horseyard" that he began researching the Skiles family and found

that they had played a prominent role in the early days of Uniontown's history.

Then, at his mother's request in late 1999, he began typing the notations onto index cards. "Some 185 index cards later, I realized what a remarkable collection great-great-grandmother had assembled! Her book was apparently planned. Entrees were not listed out of order, but organized into sections of cakes, dessert, breads, puddings, and so on."

"Best of all, with the collected recipes were the names of the women who comprised her circle of friends and, as such, reflected the social and church circles befitting a gentlewoman of the highest social strata. A US Senator's daughter, the family of a Civil War general, judges' wives, a Congressman's family and a number of prominent city businessmen and farm neighbors, provide a glimpse into the largely unrecorded aspects of women's interrelationships during the middle 19th century."

"So the great research project began. Just who were these women - 45 names in all?" Not just names, but flesh and blood mothers and daughters, who, literally, kept the home fires burning, raising the children, took on the responsibilities that no one could or would attend to when tragedy struck, and largely lived in the shadow of their husbands and fathers."

To put it altogether, in 2002, Frank LaCava, published the book he authored. Its title is "Bake Slow and Sure: Heirloom Recipes of the National Road Era". Frank will have a few copies available for purchase at the June 17 meeting.

**My family is full of notholes. It's not him, it's
not her, it's not them**

**Fayette County and ... The Louisiana Purchase,
1803; Lewis & Clark Expedition, 1804-1806;
The National Road, 1811-1818; and Swiss born
Albert Gallatin**

In Telling the story of his great-great-grandmother's recipe book in "Bake Slow and Sure: Heirloom Recipes of the National Road Era", author Frank LaCava recalls for us the significant role that Southwest PA, particularly Fayette County, played in our national history two hundred years ago.

Frank writes: "Albert Gallatin, a native of Switzerland, settled on the banks of the Monongahela River in western Fayette County, shortly after the American Revolution. His superior leadership abilities were soon recognized and thus, he was quickly elected to Congress in the United States Senate. In 1802, he was appointed Secretary of the Treasury by President Thomas Jefferson. Gallatin was to hold this post for 12 years - longer than any other Treasurer in American history. Gallatin's financial wizardry is most evident in his arrangement for the finance of the Louisiana Purchase in 1803."

President Thomas Jefferson had sent two delegates to Paris to buy New Orleans and part of Florida. The negotiations ended with the purchase of the entire Louisiana Territory for \$15 million thus more than doubling the size of the young nation at a cost of four cents an acre. This is often referred to as the "greatest real estate deal in history."

Now the question became, "What had been bought?" Even the French didn't know. So in 1804, with the approval of Congress, President Jefferson appointed Captains Meriwether Lewis and William Clark to explore this vast unknown area. It is interesting to note that the explorers named the three major branches of the Missouri "The Jefferson", "The Madison" and "The

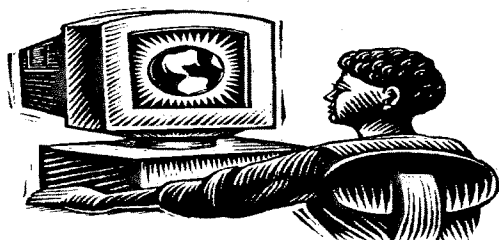
Gallatin."

Frank continues: "Of utmost importance was (Lewis and Clark's) assessment of the navigable waters of the mighty Mississippi River system, for the 'father of waters' and its tributaries was to be the natural highway for the new settlers. But how were the settlers to get to the great water course?"

"The proposed solution was government financing of a public road. Presented to Congress by Gallatin in 1808 as part of a long list of national improvements, it was to be the first Federally funded highway - in fact it was America's first Federally funded project." Always controversial, the road was a political marriage of Northern and Southern interests because it linked the port of Baltimore and the national capitol at Washington, DC (cities with established road systems), with Western Maryland and Southwestern Pennsylvania. One hundred and thirty one miles of roadway were constructed from 1811-1818 connecting Cumberland, Maryland (where the coastal roads terminated) and Wheeling, Virginia (today West Virginia) on the Ohio River. The key point was at the frontier town of Brownsville on the Monongahela River near Secretary Gallatin's home in Fayette County."

All of this history of Southwest Pennsylvania, and more, are to be found in Frank LaCava's book, "Bake Slow and Sure: Heirloom Recipes of the National Road Era." Be sure to come to the June 17 meeting of the North Hills Genealogists and hear Frank tell the rest of the story.

Don't miss this exciting and interesting meeting.



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.

Burgenland Bunch
spacestar.com/users/hapander/burgen.gtml

Allen County, IN Public Library
<http://catalog.acpl.lib.in.us>

Tips to discover your rural ancestors
rootdig.com/adn/ruralroots.html

Identifying family photos
familytreemagazine.com/photos/photohelp.htm

Online Obituaries
<http://arrangeonline.com/obituary>

Birth Date Calculator
progenealogists.com/birthfromdeath.htm

Angel Island Immigration Station - Ellis Island of the West
angelisland.org

North Hills Genealogists
northhillsgenealogists.org

If you have a favorite website and want to share it with others, send it along to the editor.

ELECTRONIC RECORDS GALORE

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Research your family story and discover more about your ancestors from the comfort of your home. The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) recently made 50 million historical records available online. The new Access to Archival Databases (AAD) System (<http://www.archives.gov.aad>) allows researchers to obtain electronic records with the click of a mouse. Records cover a variety of topics, including the Civil War battlefields, historic sites, immigration, necrology, space flight, naval history and much more. The electronic holdings in the database contain material from more than 30 archival series. These series pertain to specific persons, geographic areas, organizations or dates. NARA helps put the information in context by providing you with code lists, explanatory notes from NARA archivists and for some series or files, related documents.

To search AAD, select a series of electronic records. Choose a specific data file within a series and enter search criteria to access relevant records. Once you have records that match your research interests, print them or save them as an electronic file. You won't find paper records here, however. The Archival Research Catalog (ARC) features NARA's nationwide holdings in the Washington, DC area, its regional archives and presidential libraries. Visit NARA's website to learn more about AAD and ARC. (<http://www.archives.gov>)

Check out the National Archives and Library of Congress websites. They both contain a wealth of information. You never know what you will find.

ACCESS TO RECORDS DISAPPEARING OR BECOMING VERY EXPENSIVE

Many of the records that genealogists depend on in their research are in jeopardy of no longer being available, or strong restrictions placed on access, or the cost to obtain copies may become very prohibitive. The following articles are examples of this. This only represents what is happening in two states and at the federal level. Other states are also proposing similar changes.

OHIO DEATH INDEX CLOSING

This index may be inaccessible after July 1, 2003.

Due to significant recent and potential decreases in state support, the Ohio Historical Society may be forced to make massive reductions in staff by July 1, 2003.

As a result, the death certificate index may be removed from the society's web site. This would be necessary since staff would be unable to fulfill the large number of requests for copies submitted by patrons who use the online index.

Onsite access to the index and the death certificates may also be limited by reductions in operating hours of the reading room at the Ohio Historical Center in Columbus. Research assistance via telephone, fax, e-mail, and postal mail will likely be curtailed as well. You can help OHS avoid taking these actions or shorten the duration of the service interruption by:

Becoming a member of OHS; making a financial contribution to OHS; telling lawmakers how much you value the death certificate index, and the OHS's other programs and services; contact Ohio state legislators; and Governor Bob Taft;.

Ed Note: Several years ago, the State of Ohio decided to turn over all death records to OHS. If

the above happens, it will be virtually impossible to get death certificates in the State of Ohio.

PA STATE BUDGET AXE FALLS HEAVY ON LIBRARIES

IT COULD MEAN CUTTING, STAFF, HOURS

Wes Skillings

From Pennsylvania-L Mailing List

This article deals with the impact on a library in Bradford and Wyoming counties, but will have the same impact here in Allegheny County.

This is one National Library Week in which there is not much cause for celebration, thanks to the cuts in Gov. Ed Rendell's 2004 budget which slashes state aid to Pennsylvania's libraries in half. It appears that Rendell, who touts himself as the education governor, has tried to make up for his own revenue shortfall, some of which was inherited, by taking away half of the \$75 million now allocated to our public libraries when the checks are cut next year.

That cut will be across the board to local libraries and in Wyalusing, for example, the previous state aid of approximately \$11,000 will be sliced to \$5,500 in 2004 - a huge impact on a small-town library. In its current budget, the breakdown in state aid Wyalusing received was about \$4,000 in quality library aid, \$5,000 in the Incentive for Excellence program and \$2,000 under equal distribution.

"It is likely staff will need to be cut, hours cut, the materials budget slashed and other services such as interlibrary loan and programming downzied," reported Bradford County Librarian Diane Sadler. Sadler was referring to the Wyalusing Public Library, but her prognosis applies to most other community public libraries in rural Bradford and Wyoming counties as well.

"Wyalusing has been hit already with local cuts and shrinkage in investments and donations," Sadler said, adding that "(with) these further

decreases in revenues the library ... will have no choice but to make serious cutbacks. "

This is not just a Wyalusing problem or a county problem, it is a Pennsylvania problem, and the Philadelphia Inquirer, in a Sunday editorial predicted "a nightmare for patrons" of libraries all across the state if the Rendell budget package holds.

"The stunning reversal of state support after decades of pernicious neglect threatens any hope of progress: the commentary, delivered on the eve of National Library Week, stated. "Instead, Pennsylvania is slammed backward to a deplorable distinction as one of the nation's cheapest stewards of public libraries. "

One exmple, the newspaper reported that the Philadelphia Free Library, thanks to the announced cuts, will have to lay of 40 people, close seven branches and cut public access to hundreds of computers, as well as abandoning Saturday hours.

The impact for large and small libraries alike will also jeopardize other funding, such as federal matching dollars and grants and loans that require local incentive matches.

"Resources that the Wyalusing Library depends on such as the county library system headquarters and the Brown Library in Williamsport District Center for rotating collections, providing interlibrary loans, continuing education, program support will be cut and not able to continue support services to Wyalusing Public Library," Sadler predicted on the local front.

The one hope of salvation is the public, the people who rely on their community libraries for everything from their weekly reading fare, research needs, computers, studio books and various other programs. Library organizations

and adovcates will be aggressively bringing their concerns before the public and urging the news media to editorialize that voters need to urge their state legislators to do something about stemming this projected slash in state funding to our librarians.

"The battle is not over until June 30," Sadler notes. "We have until then to make the public aware of what the cuts mean and how it affects them personally. "

There is some good news regarding funding to our local libraries, nots Sadler. She reports no projected cuts for the POWER Library program, which means databases will likely be maintained. Money for itne interlibrary loan is still funded. However, reimbursement for interlibrary loans is only a small percentage of the actual expense to a library.

This is only a small part of the article, but it points out the major impact facing libraries. As genealogists, we know the value of libraries. These cuts could mean a drastic reduction in the hours we will be able to use the lirbaries for our research and the services available to us. If you feel strongly about this, please consider contacting your State legislators to let them know you want them to reinstate the funding for libraries.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION -- PROHIBITION OF THE DISPLAY, SALE OR PURCHASE OF SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS

At the federal level there are two bills on privacy and the use of Social Security Numbers working their way through the system. They are called the Social Security Misuse Prevention Act. Granted, the misuse of Social Security Numbers has gone on much too long, but as the bills are worded it would spell the end of the Social Security Death

Indexes (on the Internet) and no further indexes could be developed.

The Utah Genealogical Society has worked to get the authors to amend the bills to protect the continued availability of the death indexes, but so far there have been no amendments. It is time for the genealogy community to let Wahington know how we feel. We want people's privacy protected, but we do not want to see this very important research tool lost forever. It is important to thousands of genealogists and family historians.

The following changes have been recommended to Senate Bill S228 and House Bill HR637

Under Section 3 (a)(1)(a) DEFINITIONS, add the following definition: 'SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER - "The term 'social security number' refers to the social security number of a living individual."

Under Section 4(a)(1)(e)(2) LIST OF PAPER AND OTHER NONELECTRONIC RECORDS, delete (D) death certificates.

The bills authors are:

S228

Senator Dianne Feinstein

Senator Patrick J. Leahy

Senator Judd Gregg

HR637

Representative Jone E. Sweeney

If this law is passed, the Social Security Death Index on Rootsweb, Family Search and other sites will no longer be updated and could possibly be removed from most sites. This will mean it will be difficult to find out where some of our ancestors were living at the time of their death.

Please note: We are not supporting any political

activity. This information is brought to your attention so you know what is happening that can impact our genealogy research. You can decide for yourself what actions you want to take.

BEYOND WILLS AND DEEDS COURT HOUSE RECORDS IN PA

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COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Tax Records - if extant are held in this office or under its jurisdiction In Allegheny County few tax lists have been found before 1890 These are held at the PA State Archives in Harrisburg. Records for Poor Children to be schooled by the county can be found in the back of most tax books.

Voter Registrations - 1948 +

Veterans Grave Registrations

Maps of locations of Cemeteries for Veterans Grave Registrations

Road Commissioners Dockets

Bridge Dockets

Police and Firemens Records

Militia Exonerations (early)

Directors of the Poor, Poor House Records, Admissions nd Examinationa (NOT open)

State Mental Hospitals nd County Hospitals. If extant are held at PA State Archives. NOT OPEN

Jail Records. Most are held at State Archives (not always open to researchers)

additional sources will be listed in future newsletters.

NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS

C/O Northland Public Library

300 Cumberland Road

Pittsburgh, PA 15237

FIRST CLASS MAIL

DATED MATERIAL



HEIRLOOM RECIPES PLUS GENEALOGY AND HISTORY - BAKE SLOW AND SURE - HEIRLOOM RECIPES OF THE NATIONAL ROAD ERA

Frank La Cava

**NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL
2003-2004**

New Member _____

Renewal _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Zip+4 _____

PHONE: _____ (include area code)

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

Dues are \$15.00 per year (August - July). If paid by July 31, 2003, the cost is \$13.00. Make check payable to "North Hills Genealogists" and mail to the address on the front. Members receive 10 issues of the newsletter; can attend field trips and social events and take advantage of 5 Generation Charts and Surname Card File.