



NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS

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email: pioneerbook@juno.com

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President: Steph Valentine	Vice President: Laura Kunig	Secretary: Sylvan Kretz
Treasurer: Reed Powell	Membership: Steph Valentine	Editor: Donna Booth
Cemetery Project: Jo Henderson & Irene Dinning	Publicity: Gary Schlemmer	Program: Laura Kunig
	Mailings: Liz Reilly	Liaison: Lissa Powell
10 Issues – August – June		

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Summer is almost finished. I don't know about you, but this has been rather hot and dry. The grass doesn't grow as much so I don't have to cut it as often. Our air conditioner has been running almost all the time and I am starting to dread opening our electric bills. But, then I think of how our ancestors survived the summers. Their houses had high ceilings and outdoor shaded porches. We're spoiled. My grandparents didn't have a TV. They did have a radio and a record player. And I remember they read a lot. My aunt and uncle have quite a few books that belonged to them. The books seem to be more difficult to read than the ones that I'm used to. Perhaps it is because we've become accustomed to TV, the Internet, and other entertainment. Are we dumbing down? I don't know.

I do recommend that in your research of your ancestors, that you utilize your public libraries. While Northland Public Library does not have a large selection of books, they do have free Internet access that ties into a number of outstanding on-line genealogical resources. The Carnegie Library in Oakland, on the other hand, has a large selection of books covering local history and the like. I mention libraries because during my recent trip to visit my aunt and uncle on Cape Cod, I detoured and spent a day at the Morris Township Public Library (NJ) trying to break through a brick wall. I learned a lot more about my ancestor but still nothing about his parents. Nonetheless, it was worth the detour and I will return to do some more digging.

I've started to branch off in my research. I know nothing about my uncle's family, so I figured I'll try to dig up as much as I can so when I see him again, I can pick his brain. What I've found so far, by using Northland's resources, just raises more questions. Was his aunt's name Hetta or Henrietta? Was a last name Brown or Brawn? As he is in his mid-eighties, there is some urgency. Which reminded me, did you know that if you have someone who is celebrating their eightieth birthday or fiftieth anniversary, you can have the White House send them a card? Go to www.whitehouse.gov/greeting for the specifics.

Elissa Powell is getting ready for our upcoming National Archives visit later this month. While we've made our minimum numbers to make the trip viable, there may still be room for a few more. Please contact Elissa Powell at 724-935-6961 or Elissa@PowellGenealogy.com for more information.

Our cemetery project is ongoing. As of now we plan on publishing our third book late next year. If you are interested in helping out crosschecking all the data collected last year, please drop Jo Henderson (Chens4th@aol.com) or Irene Dinning (dinning1@earthlink.net) a line.

Good Hunting

Steph

WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

Tuesday, October 4, 2005 – 7:00 pm – NHG Board Meeting – UPMC Passavant Cafeteria. Everyone welcome.

Tuesday, October 18, 2005 – 7:00 pm – Regular NHG Meeting. “Starting Your Heritage Album” – Laura Kunig.

Other Meetings

Sunday, September 25, 2005 – 1:00 pm – Lawrenceville Historical Society – Tour of St. Mary’s Cemetery. Tour starts at Penn Avenue entrance to the cemetery. \$5.00 per tour

Monday, September 26, 2005 – 7:00 pm – Greater Pittsburgh Civil War Round Table – “Letters From the Gettysburg Battlefield” – Eric Campbell, Park Ranger/Historian Gettysburg National Military Park – held at the Babcock, Babcock Blvd.

Saturday, October 8, 2005 – 9:30 am – 3:30 pm – Slippery Rock Heritage Association – Annual Genealogy Conference – Strain Behavioral Sciences Building, Slippery Rock University. Call 724-794-4627 or email hmstaiger@zoominternet.net for more information.

Sunday, October 9, 2005 – 1:00 pm – Lawrenceville Historical Society House Tour. Tour starts at entrance to Allegheny Cemetery.

October 12, 2005 – CCAC – North Campus – Beginning Genealogy Classes. Wednesday nights from 6:30 – 9:30 pm. Register with CCAC through www.ccac.edu (course YCA-110-1450) or call 412-369-3703.

Tuesday, October 13, 2005 – 7:00 pm – Laurie Ann West Library – French and Indian War in Pennsylvania. – Pennsylvania Humanities Council Commonwealth Speaker Alan Irvine presents the French and Indian War in Pennsylvania through unforgettable characters, moments of grief and loss, flashes of humor. Alan Irving is a professional storyteller, historian and visiting professor of sociology at the University of Pittsburgh. Please call the Reference Dept. to register at 412-828-9520, ext. 15.

Saturday, October 15, 2005, 10:00 am – WPGS Meeting – Your Past, Your Present, Their Future – Jay Speyerer. Carnegie Lecture Hall (see article)

Monday, October 17, 2005 - 1:00 pm – Westmoreland County Genealogical Society – “Hiding Behind Their Skirts: Finding Women’s Records” – Elissa Powell, CGRS – 724-836-1800 or www.starofthewest.org.

Monday, October 26, 2005 – 8:00 pm – Rick Sebak special – Cemeteries – This is a program he made at cemeteries across the US.

**WPGS MEETING
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2005
10:00 am**

**Your Past, Your Present, THEIR FUTURE
Jay Speyerer**

Writing your story. What would you give to know the thoughts and feelings of your great-grandparents? Who were they? What was a typical day in their life? What were their hopes, their feelings, and their accomplishments? Your children and grandchildren will want to know these things about you.

If your great-grandparents had written you a letter describing one day in their life, that letter would be fascinating, not because of how interesting their day was, but because of how different it was from yours. Report on the everyday things you notice that might not make it to the newspapers. From prices to politics, your descriptions will make good reading.

Put your world into words for future genealogists. Remember: you might be very interesting today, but you'll be fascinating in fifty years.

**LETTERS FROM THE GETTYSBURG BATTLEFIELD
Eric Campbell
7:00 pm**

This month's program examines the Gettysburg campaign and battle through the letters of the Union and Confederate soldiers involved. The words of the soldiers were written just before, during and shortly after the campaign. Thus, much of the hindsight and analysis that has been piled on through the hundreds, if not thousands, of books and other writings since the battle are peeled away.

Eric Campbell, park ranger/historian at Gettysburg National Military Park for nearly 20 years, has reviewed hundreds of letters, diaries, and other writings in preparing for this program. Who better to tell this story than the Union and Confederate soldiers who experienced this landmark campaign?

Held at The Babcock Meeting Center, Babcock Boulevard.

**RELOCATION OF THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT AND WPGS
LIBRARY**

Saturday, November 12, 2005 – 10:00 am – 12:00 noon

The November meeting will be a reception in the Relocated Pennsylvania Department and WPGS Library. Both groups will be moving to the Third Floor of the Carnegie Library in Oakland. By moving to the third floor, WPGS will have an open floor plan and a closer relationship with the microfilm collection. Come and see the new location. Take the Silver Elevator to the new location. Light refreshments will be provided courtesy of the Pennsylvania Department.

A VISIT TO THE HEIMAT

By Sylvan Kretz

Heimat (German) = home

Last fall my daughter announced that she and my son-in-law were taking the two children (8 and 10) to Europe this summer. They invited us to join them. We were thrilled. The final leg of the tour was to travel to Frankfurt for the return flight. I mentioned my wish to visit, on the way, the hometown of my G-G-Grandfather, Stockstadt am Main (on the Main River), a small town about 20 miles southeast of Frankfurt.

My ancestor came in 1852 to Allehgney City – “Dutchtown” as some called it because of the large population of Germans. They lived on Second (Suismon) Street. The heart of the Catholic community was St. Mary’s R. C. Church. From their marriage records, I found the name of the town where my G-Grandfather was born in 1842. A cousin had obtained a book which included a listing of the inhabitants in 1945. There it was, “Anton Auberger- Weber – neue hausnummer Maingasse 19). The current address! This house was still there after 165 years!

The exit from the Autobahn directed us down Hauptstrasse, the main street of Stockstadt. We parked in the first vacant space we found and got out to get our bearings. What luck! We were right across the street from the Rathaus (town hall) and right there in front was a large street map of the town – more luck!! Scanning the map indicated that the street we searched for, Maingasse, was just a short block in the direction we had just come. How lucky can you get? We were right in the middle of the Altstadt (old town), which in 1845 was very small, having only about 10 short streets.

We strolled down the narrow, curving lane lined with houses built tight against one another. All the houses were nicely kept. The house numbers decreased as we approached the Main River. The next to the last house on the street was Number 19. What a thrill! Here was the neat little two story house where Anton lived when he decided to leave for America with his wife and five children. Here was the Heimat. It too was well kept, painted a bright white, with flower boxes on the porch. We took pictures to show the folks back home when we returned.

On the return to the car, we decided to pay a visit to the Burgermeister (Mayor). He took time from his busy day to welcome us. We chatted for about half an hour in his conference room. He was very warm and cordial. I had some print-outs of the descendants from my G-G-G-Grandfather down to my grandchildren, eight generations. All told, we had a wonderful visit to the Heimat.

Sometimes you never know where the road leads --- sometimes it leads to home.

Congratulations Syl. How lucky you are. I’m still trying to confirm the town in Hesse where my grandfather was living when they left for America. You have given me the push to continue my search.

Have you had the same luck as Sylvan? If so, please consider writing an article for the newsletter. Share your success with the other members of NHG.

Never give up!!!

MOUNTAIN OF DATA

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Looking for Mountain State ancestors? Check our West Virginia's Vital Research Records project at <http://www.wvculture.org/vrr>. Click Birth, Marriage or Death to search a database. Results link to certificate images. According to the site, you have to register but the writer was able to search without signing up.

The project is richest in death records, with information from most counties covering a range of years up to 1954. Birth records are available for three counties and stop at 1929; six counties' marriage records cover various years.

TIP OF THE WEEK: HEAD BACK TO SCHOOL

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School districts took (and still take) periodic censuses to predict enrollment. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (<http://www.familysearch.org>) has microfilmed many school censuses. Search the online catalog (http://www.familysearch.org/eng/library/fhlc/frameset_fhlc.asp) for keywords school census and you'll find more than 1,100 titles. Add a county, town or school name to narrow your search. If a film looks promising, note its number and go to your nearest FHL branch Family History Center, where you can borrow it for a small fee.

NORTHLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY BOOK SALE BLOWOUT

Northland Public Library is having its annual book sale on Friday, October 21 (9 am- 9 pm), Saturday, October 22 (9 am – 5 pm) and Sunday, October 23 (1 pm – 5 pm).

The sale includes used books and more at bargain prices – best sellers, cook books gardening guides, CDs, videos, children's books, cassettes, LPs, computer manuals, classics, paperback.

The sale will be held on the lower level of the Library. Here's a chance to get some great books and to support Northland Public Library. The Sunday sale is a \$5 Bag Sale.

OCTOBER 18, 2005 NHG MEETING

7:00 PM

STARTING YOUR HERITAGE ALBUM

Laura Kunig

We have all collected papers, photos, and other materials on our families (past and present). Laura Kunig will give us an overview of how to start putting together a Heritage Album that you can share with other members of your family. Come to the meeting and learn how to start your project. All that materials you have collected should be shared, not just stored in files or boxes.

MAP YOU ANCESTORS

From Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter, Copyright Richard Eastman, 2005

One new web site offers a very unique service: online maps where your ancestors were born or lived. The maps are available online, drawn on Google's mapping service.

This new service provides a tool for you to present your family history in a visual format that will enable you to bring genealogy 'to life'. You will obtain a free web site as you trace your ancestors' paths. You can even zoom in on the satellite images of your great-great-grandparents' back yard. However, I should note that the satellite images are quite recent. Chances are there weren't any picture-taking satellites over your great-great-grandparents' back yard during the years they lived there!

The maps show 'balloons' at every location where an ancestor lived or was born. You can click on a balloon to view an ancestor photo, if available. You can zoom in and out of the map, as well as click and drag it to see nearby areas. The site also displays a pedigree chart below the map.

To request a free MapYourAncestors.com web page, you need to fill out an Excel spreadsheet that is available on the site. You then send the spreadsheet via e-mail to the owner of MapYourAncestors.com. Your personalized web site will be available within 48 hours or so. Two versions of the Excel spreadsheet are available: one for genealogy beginners and another for those who have been doing this for a while.

You can see examples of George W. Bush's ancestry at <http://www.mapyourancestors.com>. Another example showing international migration of ancestors can also be found at the site.

MapYourAncestors is a free service although the site owner does suggest voluntary contributions to help defray expenses.

You can find more information, apply for a web site for your ancestor's birth places, or make a contribution at <http://www.mapyourancestors.com>.

NHG CEMETERY BOOKS

NHG is working on its third book on Pioneer Cemeteries of North Hills. Can you help with this project? Proofreading and cross-checking the information from the stones, church and cemetery records is a big job and your help would be appreciated. If you can help, please contact Jo Henderson at Chens4th@aol.com or Irene Dinning at Dinning1@earthlink.net. They will welcome your help. This book will cover Franklin Park and Marshall.

ANCESTOR RULES

Arthor unknown

From The Highpoint, September, 2005, published by Summit County Chapter, OH Genealogical Society

1. Thou shalt name your male children James, John, Josiah, Abel, Richard, Thomas, William.
2. Thou shalt name your female children Elizabeth, Mary, Martha, Maria, Sarah, Ida, Virginia, May.
3. Thou shalt leave NO trace of your female children.
4. Thou shalt, after name your children from the above lists, call them by strange nicknames such as Ike, Eli, Polly, Dolly, Sukey – making them difficult to trace.
5. Thou shalt not use any middle names on any legal documents or census reports, and only where necessary, you may use only initials on legal documents.
6. Thou shalt learn to sign all documents illegibly so that your surname can be spelled, or misspelled, in various ways Hicks, Hix, Hixe, Hucks, Kicks, or Robinson, Robertson, Robison, Foberson, Robuson, Robson.
7. Thou shalt, after no more than 3 generations, make sure all family records are lost, misplaced, burned in a court house fire, or buried so that NO future trace of them can be found.
8. Thou shalt propagate misleading legends, rumors, and vague innuendo regarding your place of origin
 - (a) You may have come from England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales Or Iran
 - (b) You may have American Indian ancestry of the _____ tribe
 - (c) You may have descended from one of three brothers that came over from _____
9. Thou shalt leave NO cemetery records, or headstones with legible names.
10. Thou shalt leave NO family Bible with records of birth marriage or deaths.
11. Thou shalt ALWAYS flip they name around. If born James Albert, thou must make all the rest of they records in the name of Albert, AJ, JA, Bert, Bart or Alfred.
12. Thou must also flip they parent's names when making reference to them, although "Unknown" or a blank line is an acceptable alternative.
13. Thou shalt name at least 5 generations of males and dozens of their cousins with identical names in order to totally confuse researchers.

CEMETERY VANDALISM

Editorial Comment

As genealogists we have all (probably) trooped through at least one cemetery searching for the graves of our ancestors and copying the information from their headstones (and if we are lucky, getting information from the cemetery records).

As an organization, NHG strives to preserve this information by recording it for future generations and publishing books with the information from pioneer cemeteries in the North Hills (2 books published and a third in the works).

While we are hunting for information on our personal trips, we respect the final resting place of our relatives, and those of the other people buried in the cemetery.

It was, therefore, very upsetting to me, to read in a recent issue of the Post-Gazette about a woman, who with her young daughter (age 5) "played" in a local cemetery and made a "game" of toppling over headstones and stealing items from the graves. They had apparently done this more than once, based on the articles found at their home when they were identified.

The mother was arrested for her part in this activity. Question – what kind of example is she setting for her daughter? It is OK to disrupt the final resting place of people? It is OK to steal from their graves?

It upset me when I first read about the vandalism at one cemetery recently. I became very angry when the whole story came out.

Years ago cemeteries were laid out as park-like settings and it was very common for people to go there on Sundays with maybe a picnic lunch, and spend time tending the graves of their deceased family members.

Instead of putting the mother in jail (and probably fining her) she (and her daughter) should be required to go to different cemeteries and help clean up grave sites for those individuals who no longer have family around to do it. Many cemeteries operate on tight budgets and would probably welcome the help. Maybe by doing this, the mother and her daughter would gain some respect for the graves of the people buried there.

I know when I go to a cemetery where any of my family members are buried, and after I find their graves, I feel closer to them and hope they realize that someone has not forgotten them, even someone who possibly never knew them.

Note: This is just my personal opinion. You may not share it. But, I do not see how anyone can treat damaging and stealing from graves, a 'game.'

HISTORY WEBSITES

This information came from a list prepared by Northland Public Library

Early Modern European

Renaissance: <http://www.learner.org/exhibits/renaissance/>

This site offers introductory information about the Renaissance (fourteenth through sixteenth centuries). Resources for this site include an "Introduction – Out of the Middle Ages – Exploration and Trade – Printing and Thinking – Symmetry, Shape, Size, - Focus on Florence – and related resources.

Medieval and Renaissance History Resources: <http://www.historesearch.com/medieval.html>

This portal offers numerous resources for both medieval and Renaissance history. Subject areas available include: Castles of Britain – Medieval Scandinavia – Medieval Horse History – The Plague – Tower of London and more.

United States

The Library of Congress: American Memory

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem>

American Memory provides free and open access through the Internet to written and spoken words, sound recordings, still and moving images, prints, maps and sheet music that document the American experience. It is a digital record of American history and creativity. The user may browse the collections by topic. These topics include "Advertising – African-American History – Government – Immigration – Maps – Presidents – Women's History and more.

The American Civil War Homepage

<http://sunsite.utk.edu/civil-war/>

The American Civil War Homepage gathers together in one place hypertext links to the most useful identified electronic files about the American Civil War (1861-1865). The page opens a gateway to the Internet's multi-formatted resources about what is arguably the seminal event in American history. This award winning resource provides biographical information on federal and confederate figures – battles & campaigns – images of wartime and other pertinent topics associated with the American Civil War.

1914-1918 The Great War and the Shaping of the 20th Century

<http://www.pbs.org/greatwar/>

This resource explores the causes, effects and aftermath of World War I. It presents information on various aspects of this conflict in parceled segments – such as "Explosion/Stalemate – Total War/Slaughter – Mutiny/Collapse – Hatred & Hunger/War Without End". A Timeline and Maps and Battles section are provided to give an overall picture of events. Also of interest is a Historians section that provides short essays of prominent historians covering various topics associated with World War I.

Korean War: Remembering our History

<http://korea50.army.mil/history/index.shtml>

This resource is the 'official, public access web site for the Department of Defense commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War'. Subject headings include "Veteran's experiences – fact sheets – biographies – maps and more.

Historical Map Websites

http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/map_sites/hist_sites.html

This University of Texas at Austin resource provides maps from around the world. Maps of Africa – the Americas – the Middle East – Europe – and more are available. Links to other map sites are also listed and include "City Map Sites – Country Map Sites – Weather Map Sites" and more.

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DATED MATERIAL

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2005
STARTING YOUR HERITAGE ALBUM
LAURA KUNIG
7:00 PM

You may have noticed that the format of this newsletter is different from previous issues. Unfortunately, there was a problem with the program I normally use to prepare the newsletter so..... I hope you enjoy the newsletter.

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.

Watch for information on our annual Christmas Social in next month's newsletter. Join the other members of NHG for a holiday celebration. Information will also be on our website when all plans are finalized.