



NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS

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10 Issues – August – June	Mailings: Liz Reilly	Liaison: Lissa Powell

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Fall is here. Halloween has come and gone and we're now off daylight savings time. I've picked everything in my garden and have started to get it ready for winter. As I type this, we just had a front come through and the temperature dropped almost fifteen degrees. But there is a Steeler game this afternoon, so all is not lost.

I've made contact with a distant 3rd cousin. I've always known his name, but until recently I haven't made the effort to track him down. The Internet has been useful in finding his address. A letter went off which included my email address. Within two weeks I got a reply from him and we are now sharing information. What I found interesting is that he has inherited some furniture that belonged to one of our ancestors. As you recall, I've been scanning pictures of my ancestors. And one of the pictures shows our common ancestor sitting on a chair that my cousin has! WOW! The lesson learned here is to reach out to distant cousins as they might have information that might be of use.

With the onset of the new year, it is time for us to make our New Year's resolutions. And it is time to review the ones you made last year. Even though I had six hours of research in New Jersey, I was not successful in breaking through my brick wall. I know a lot more on my Hull ancestor, but still not much on his ancestors. So Samuel Hull returns to my list. On the other hand, some of my genealogical resolutions were accomplished.

Jo Henderson and Irene Dinning have done an outstanding job in coordinating our ongoing effort for our third cemetery book. All seven cemeteries for the third book have been read once. Six cemeteries have been read twice (the 'proofreading'). Only Mt. Pleasant remains to be proofread. There are some stones that are very difficult to read in most of the cemeteries. These require special readers and a very sunny day. These readings will be called whenever we get the appropriate weather. With the crazy turns of weather this year, that could mean some mid-winter excursions.

Histories, deeds, interviews and other material are collected on all cemeteries, thanks in no small part to members who have been collecting and sending Jo a wide variety of source material. Writing will be done over the winter. Should anyone wish to volunteer to assist, please contact Jo (Chens4th@aol.com) and Irene (dinning1@earthlink.net).

As always, should you have any suggestions for speakers or topics for upcoming meetings, please let me or any board member know.

Steph

WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

Tues., Dec. 6, 2005 – 7:00 pm – NHG Board Meeting – UPMC Passavant Cafeteria. Everyone welcome.

Sat., December 3, 2006 – 10AM – NHG CHRISTMAS SOCIAL – HISTORIC SAXONBURG – Museum Tour and Lunch. MERRY CHRISTMAS

Other Meetings

Monday, Nov. 28, 2005 – 7:00 pm – Greater Pittsburgh Civil War Round Table – The Wounded of Gettysburg – Gerald A. Patterson – check out <http://www.grpghcwrt.org> for more details.

Sunday Dec. 4, 2005 – Noon – University of Pittsburgh Nationality Rooms Program Open House. Cathedral of Learning. This is the only time the rooms are open FREE.

Friday, Dec. 9, 5-7 pm and Sat., Dec. 10 10 am – 7 pm – Old Allegheny Victorian Christmas House Tour. Call 412-323-8884 or visit www.alleghenywest.info for more information. Note: There is NO tour on Sunday this year.

Saturday, Jan. 14, 2006 – WPGS – 10:00 am – Resources at the Catholic Archives, Diocese of Pittsburgh – Suzanne Johnston. Carnegie Lecture Hall, Oakland.

Thursday, Jan. 19, 2006, 7:00 pm – Lawrenceville Historical Society – Rivers of Steel – a Power Point presentation with artifacts by Jan Dorner of the Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area. Canterbury Place, Fisk Street, Lawrenceville

Many groups and organizations do not hold regular meetings during the holidays. Many have special events, such as NHG does. Check our the website for those organizations to see what events they are having.

See you in January, 2006. Have a great holiday season.

CITY DIRECTORIES LIST PEOPLE WHO WORK

This areticle was written by Steph Valentine

City Dirextories list people who work, either for a firm or self-employed tradesmen and women. They are listed in alphabetical order so everyone with the same surname is shown on the same page(s). Also shown is the person's occupation, work address, often the name of the company, the home address and some abbreviations to indicate single family dwelling – boarder – upstairs – rear, etc. Sometimes city directories have a reverse directory which lists, by street, everyone, but this is rare.

Directories were used by debt collectors, door-to-door salesmen, personnel managers looking to hire trades, and delivery services among others.

Children age 12 and older were allowed to work in most states and they will be shown but ages were never listed in the directory.

Names and addresses were typically furnished by the employers of the city, by door-to-door canvass and by city hall records.

Historically, city directories were the only means of advertising for business firms and tradesmen. Newspaper advertising didn't appear until the turn of the century.

Directories were held to be a reliable reference. Published were diligent in obtaining correct information. Most publishing of directories was discontinued in the 1980s due to lack of need, growing populations, telephone yellow pages and the Internet.

Hints and Tipe

A year by year listing will show when a person arrived on the work scene, either by immigration, reaching of age, or moving into the area.

It will also indicate when a person left the area. Many publishers showed 'rem' or removals to another city. A typical entry might read, "jones, John P., rem to New York" or wherever.

Most often the name of a widow's deceased husband is show, i.e., "Jones, Mrs. Mary (widow of John), dressmaker....

Because listings are alphabetical and show addresses then persons living at the same address can be presumed to be related. You need to cross reference that information with the census. For example, a nephew with a different last name of the family might be found separately from that family in the directory.

City directories are invaluable for filling in for the missing 1890 Census.

Using the home address, the Enumeration District can be determined using Bureau of Census Lists. This is invaluable in Census searches and finding out who the neighbors are. Often times a neighbor might be related through marriage.

For popular surnames there will be multiple given names, i.e., "Murphy, Charles, bricklayer,..." There may be more than one Charles working as a bricklayer. The correct one for your lineage can be determined by cross-referencing the home address to census enumeration districts.

Photographs of your ancestor's home, either historic or contemporary, can be obtained. Most large city libraries and historical societies have extensive collections of old photos, usually cataloged by street.

Reseaarchers should take care to consult maps and atlases of the town desired. Many of these directories contain suburban areas. The Reading, PA director, for example, includes Easton, Pottsville, Allentown and Lebanon.

I have been able to obtain copies of applicable pages by sending a letter to: Research Librarian, Anytown City Library, Anytown, USA, Zip. Enclose five or ten dollars and ask for copies for a range of years. Most libraries charge a nominal fee and will do this for you.

Ed. Note: Steph is right. City Directories are invaluable when doing research. When I first started on researching my material grandmother's family here in Pittsburgh, I was able to find her parents, and most of her siblings in the census soundex and on the census reports. However, I could not find her oldest brother,, even though I knew he and his large family were here. Af ter looking through the soundex several times I still could not find him. So, I went to the City Director for the appropriate census year (1900 or 1910, I can't remember for sure) and found him listed there. I noted his address (right near where my gr-grandparents lived) and then checked the front of the Directory to determine in which City ward that address was located. Once I found the Ward number, I went to the census microfilm and found the foll that had that ward. As I rolled through it, line by line, I kept looking for his name. His last name was Appmann.. Well, I found Fred and his family on the census, on the street given in the directory. But, then I found out why I could not find him in the Soundex. On the Census their last name was written as Attmann! Apparently the Census Enumerator has misunderstood how the name was pronounced and heard it as Att..... instead of App.... If I had not looked at the City Directory for the appropriate year, who knows how long it would have taken me to find Fred and his family. When I used the Soundex code for Attmann, there he was. So, use the City Directories as a major part of your research. You may also spot additional people in collateral lines living near your relatives.

MAJOR EPIDEMICS OF THE 19TH CENTURY IN NORTH AMERICA

Reprinted with permission from the FGS Forum, Summer, 2005, Vol. 17, Number 2

<u>Year</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Epidemic</u>
1793	Philadelphia, etc.	Yellow Fever
1802	Nebraska	Smallpox
1802	California	Diphtheria and Pneumonia
1803	New York	Yellow Fever
1804	Oahu, Hawaii	Asiatic Cholera
1804	New Orleans	Yellow Fever
1806-11	New England	Spotted Fever
1815-16	West/Southwest	Smallpox
1817	New Orleans	Yellow Fever
1820-21	New Orleans	Influenza
1820-23	Nation	'Fever'
1821	Quebec, Canada	Cholera
1822	New Orleans	Whooping Cough
1826-28	Southeastern Coast	Dengue Fever
1829-33	Pacific Northwest	Malaria or Smallpox
1831-32	Nation	Asiatic Cholera
1832	Montreal, Canada	Cholera
1832-35	Nation	At least half of the American Indian population living on the lower Chinook River die
1833-35	Midwest	Cholera
1837	Missouri, South Dakota, North Dakota & Montana	Smallpox
1837	Philadelphia	Typhus
1839	Pennsylvania	Scarlatina
1841	Nation	Yellow Fever
1847	Pacific Northwest	Measles

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

DATED MATERIAL

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.

There will NOT be a newsletter in December. The next issue will be published in January 2006. Please send any materials for that issue before the end of the year (2005).

There will NOT be a regular monthly meeting in December. NHG will be having its annual Christmas Social on Saturday, December 3. We will be visiting the historic Saxonburg, PA museum for a tour and will then have lunch at the Saxonburg Hotel.

The Board of North Hills Genealogists want to wish all our members a Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We hope you enjoy the holidays with family and friends. May 2006 be the year of your big 'breakthrough'.

SEE YOU IN 2006