



NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring is around the corner. While we continue to have freezing at night, we're now starting to see the summer birds return. I saw three red-winged black birds at our feeder yesterday. And the starlings and grackles have returned too. The darn starlings tend to push all the seed out of one of our feeders onto the ground. And the grackles tackle our homemade suet and it's all gone within four days. And the weatherman is talking about temperatures in the upper 60s later this week.

I just got back from a quick genealogical research trip to Washington, DC. I stayed at a friend's house – his wife works in DC proper so I was able to get a ride in with her for the two days of research. I went to Oak Hill Cemetery, where I found the graves of numerous ancestors. I also dropped by George Washington University's archives where I found my grandfather in the school's yearbook for 1914. I also spent a day at the Library of Congress. Of course, each visit tends to raise more questions. For example, I found out that my uncle, Louis Carusi, was a slave holder in DC. He owned 5 slaves in 1850 and 3 slaves in 1860. These slaves were bought from him in 1862 by the federal government and given their freedom.

The lesson I learned from this recent trip is to be better prepared. I had made a list of what I wanted to do but I failed to check, via the Internet, what specific holdings the Library of Congress held. I ended up spending several hours reviewing the library's catalogs that could have been better put to use.

For those of you with Italian heritage, Pittsburgh is hosting Roots in the Boot, a conference on Italian history, culture and genealogy in mid-July. As I have Sicilian ancestors, I'm very interested. I know from where and when they came but I haven't been able to cross the pond.

Elissa Powell will be giving April's presentation "Hiding Behind Their Skirts: Finding Women in Records." We're having Debbie Corll talk about the French and Indian War in May. And June features Northland Library's Amy Steele on using Northland's resources for genealogical research including the Internet.

(see page 2)

President's Message

We continue to test creating our newsletter in PDF format so we can send it to you via email. It will save us in postage and reproduction costs. It will also ensure that you get it in a timely manner. As always, we look to you for suggestions for future topics of interest for upcoming meetings.

Steph

WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

Tues, April 4, 2006 – 7:00 pm – NHG Board Meeting – UPMC Passavant Hospital Cafeteria. Everyone welcome.

Tues., April 18, 2006 – 7:00 pm - Regular Monthly Meeting – Elissa Powell – Hiding Behind Their Skirts: Finding Women in Records

Other Meetings

March 22-24 –Lake County (OH) Genealogical Society – Motor coach trip to Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, IN (www.rootsweb.com/~ohlcgs or Beth at bastachiw@juno.com)

Mon., March 27, 2006 – Greater Pittsburgh Civil War Round Table – 7:00 pm – “Thaddeus Lowe and the Civil War Air Force” – Bill May – 7:00 pm – Sieb’s Pub, Babcock Meeting Room – Babcock Blvd., Pittsburgh, PA

Sat., April 1, 2006 – Beginner’s Genealogy Class – Genealogy 101 – Western Reserve Historical Society – 12 pm – 3 – pm (fee) registration/information gen05wr@aol.com

Saturday, April 8, 2006 – Sixth Annual Civil War Seminar “Lincoln: The Early Years” – 8:30 am – 4:00 pm – Sponsored by the Greater Pittsburgh Civil War Round Table and The Allegheny City Society. Information/registration: jlc9828@yahoo.com (fee)

Saturday, April 15, 2006 – Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society – Diane Ragan, CG – “Mothers, Marms, and Madams: Women of the Civil War” – 10 am – Carnegie Lecture Hall, Oakland (www.wpgs.org)

Mon., April 14, 2006 – 7:00 pm -Greater Pittsburgh Civil War Round Table – “General A. P. Hill” – Patrick Falci – Sieb’s Pub (www.grpghcwrt.org)

July 14-15, 2006 – Roots in the Boot – American-Italian Family History & Culture Conference – University of Pittsburgh (www.rootsinthebook.org)

Sept. 29-30 – PA Genealogy Conference – sponsored by WPGS and the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania – Station Square (fee) (www.pagenealogyconference.com)

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QUERIES

Prepared by Query Editor, Sylvan Kretz

RINAMAN, Pine Twp, Allegheny Co., PA. **BECKERTS, CRUSAN, LAPP**, Pittsburgh, PA. **HOPKINS, LOWE**, Pennsylvania. **Contact: Joanne Hopkins 215 Grove Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15229**

RAMSEY, Hookstown, Beaver Co., PA, **Contact: Doris Jones, 9543 Magellan Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15237**

KOTCHEY/GOTSCHKE/KUTCHE Looking for any information on this family. **Contact: Ms. Eileen Kotchey, 3934 Summers Dr., Allison Park, PA 15101**

JONES, Hugh & David, sons of **David & Mary**, Lower St. Clair (SS Pittsburgh) 1850-1870. **Contact: Clyde Jones, 832 West Old Rt. 422, Butler, PA 16001**

Queries are free and open to everyone. Send your queries to Query Editor, North Hills Genealogists, P. O. Box 304, Ingomar, PA 15127. Queries will be published in the newsletter as space permits.

HOW TO AVOID THE CENSUS TAKER

From Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter, copyright Richard Eastman, 2006

New Zealand conducts a nationwide census every five years. Laird McGillicuddy always tries to avoid being counted.

The self-admitted "eccentric" McGillicuddy spent census day of 1996 hovering over Garden Place in a hot air balloon. He claimed that he was outside of New Zealand's legal air space. The government agreed, and he was not counted.

In 1991 he filled in his form in Latin and nailed it, Martin Luther-style, to a tree in Garden Place. A census official retrieved it, and Laid McGillicuddy was counted as a resident of New Zealand.

In 1986 Laid claimed he was possessed by the spirit of an ancient ape creature and was no longer legally a person. This was unsuccessful, with a judge ruling he had to fill out the form because he had deliberately made himself a non-person

In 2001 he actually was outside of New Zealand. He was in Australia helping to take care of a sick friend.

This year, Laid McGillicuddy claims that he will be cryogenically frozen in Garden Place in a cool bid to render himself "legally dead" for the duration of the official head count. "Hamilton will freeze over before I fill out their cheeky damned forms," he said. There is no explanation if he is serious and if he also plans to be thawed out the following day.

I think some of my ancestors practiced similar schemes for avoiding census takers!

(Ed. note: I agree with Dick. I think some of mine did too. Did yours?)

IRISH-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

FamilyTree Email Update – March 16, 2006

Hat's off to you if you're Irish or a woman, and if you're an Irish-American woman, well this is a great time to be alive. That's because March marks both Irish-American Heritage Month and Women's History Month.

GREAT NEWS FOR IRISH ROOTS

FamilyTree Email Update – March 16, 2006

Investigate your Irish roots by digging up some death and birth and marriage announcements in the new Irish Newspaper Archives (<http://irishnewspaperarchives.com>). It covers more than a million pages from *The Freeman's Journal* (1763-1924), *Irish Independent* (1905-2003), *Sunday Independent* (1935-2006), *The Connaught Telegraph* (1975-2003), *The Tuam Herald* (1994-2000), *Leitrim Observer* (1923-1970) *Meath Chronicle* (1897-2002) and *The Anglo-Celt* 1908-2001. Not all years complete for a given newspaper.

Searches are free, but you have to register and pay to view articles.

You can search on a keyword plus a date range and publication, or browse individual issue date. There is not full support for Mac users at this time. An advances search is coming.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

We would not be here to research our family lines without the women in our heritage (think about it). Most of our research is based on surnames – the man's name. But, in order to have a complete family tree/history, we must research our female ancestors. Finding them can be hard because we often do not know their maiden names. I guess I was fortunate because many of my female ancestors were rather easy to find because I had their maiden names. (Although some are still 'hiding' from me).

The first paragraph on this page covers both Women's History Month and Irish-American Heritage Month. While 99% of my family lines are of German heritage, there is one gr-gr-grandmother who came from Ireland. Fortunately for me, she wrote a small genealogy of her family (21 pages). While it would not win a prize as a genealogy book, it gave me some wonderful information to use in my research. Thank you gr-gr-grandmother Mary Finley. My problem now is finding the Irish records. That is why I'm looking forward to the June 10 meeting of WPGS. Hopefully I'll get some good ideas there.

Remember to honor the women in your heritage. Without them, we would not be here! Many of them had very interesting lives and that information can add 'meat' to our family tree.

DOWNLOADABLE GENEALOGY CHARTS AND FORMS

Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter – copyright by Richard Eastman, 2006

Looking for some blank forms that you can fill in during your genealogy research? You can download free, high-quality blank forms online from several website and print them on your own printer.

Family Tree Magazine has a huge collection of downloadable forms on the company's web site. The forms include pedigree charts, research calendars, note-taking forms, deed indexes, research journal, correspondence logs, family group sheets and census extraction forms. You can see this impressive collection of forms at <http://www.familytreemagazine.com/forms/download.html>.

Ancestry.com has downloadable forms that are as nice looking as the commercially available forms. You can obtain a pedigree chart (called an Ancestral Chart), Research Calendar, Research Extract, Correspondence Chart, Source Summary and Family Group Sheet. You can do all of this at: <http://www.ancestry.com/save/charts/ancchart.htm>.

FamilySearch.com has a collection of online forms, including U.S., British, Irish, Canadian census extraction forms, family group sheets, blank timelines and more. The forms are available at: http://www.familysearch.org/eng/Search/RG/frameset_rhel

About.com offers a number of downloadable genealogy forms, including family tree fan charts, pedigree charts, family group sheets and relationship charts. Take a look at http://genealogy.about.com/od/free_charts/

Misbach Enterprises houses one of the largest collections of downloadable genealogy charts in Adobe PDF format. You can print directly from the website or store the forms on your local hard drive and then print them later as often as you wish. All the charts are formatted to fit 8.5" x 11" paper. Go to <http://misbach.org/pdf/charts/>

All of the above are FREE of charge.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Lesle Dunn, Volunteer Coordinator for the PA Genealogy Conference, is looking for people to help at the conference in September. NHG had the biggest group of volunteers at the NGS conference here in Pittsburgh. Let's do it again!!!

If you can help on one or both days, please contact Lesle at dunnl@einetwork.net. There are a variety of volunteer opportunities that need someone to fill them.

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BOOK REVIEW

THE RESEARCHERS GUIDE TO AMERICAN GENEALOGY

by Jack Sanders © 1991

The following review was submitted by Steph Valentine)

(While this review was done before the Internet explosion, it covers a lot of ground. The latest volume, dated 2000, is available at Northland Public Library.)

An oft-heard question asks what's a good book for starting out in genealogy. Perhaps the "best" book – one that Time Magazine called the "standard textbook" – has just been revised into a second edition and published by Genealogical Publishing Company (1001 North Calvert Street, Baltimore, MD 21202). (Ed: A third edition is now available – order through Borders)

"The Researchers Guide to American Genealogy" by Val D. Greenwood contains over 600 pages of explanations, instructions, sources, tips, definitions, charts, forms – and, of course, a comprehensive index – that are certain to provide the answers to almost any question new – or even veteran researchers – could have.

Among the many subjects covered are using libraries (including the National Archives), how to organize and evaluate your findings, successful correspondence technique, and such sources of records as newspapers, vital statistics, censuses, wills, land records, courts, church records, immigration records, military records and cemeteries.

Mr. Greenwood doesn't just tell the reader to go to these places; he explains how and offers tools to help in your research when there. For example, the section on wills reads like a textbook (only it's more interestingly written) on the probate system and how it works, and comes complete with a legal dictionary of probate terms.

The book also briefly covers computers and genealogy software. Mr. Greenwood avoids mentioning specific programs, presumably because software changes so quickly and the text would be too soon dated. Instead he focuses on how to evaluate any genealogy package. If there is a failing of the book, it is its lack of any information on on-line genealogy services such as this network, Genie, CompuServe, Prodigy, etc. {note: some of these no longer exist} However, this is a small shortcoming compared to the wealth of research information offered. What's more, the author cites sources that can give you more information, such as Richard Pence's book on computer genealogy and another on genealogy software.

The book concludes with a plug for compiling and writing "family history" as opposed to simple family genealogy. "While the goal of the genealogist has traditionally been to identify and link together past generations of ancestors into pedigrees, the goal of today's family historian is to do

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that as well as to understand something of the lives and times of specific persons, couples or families over one or more generations," writes Mr. Greenwood, who is a former college instructor, a law school graduate, and longtime researcher and writer at the LDS Church Genealogical Society in Salt Lake City. The book, chosen by the National Genealogical Society as the basic text for its home study course, is available in stores (\$25) and many libraries.

NEW SEARCH SITES

I recently found some new search sites that you may want to try.

ArchiveGrid (www.archivegrid.org) searches for primary source materials over almost 1 million collections. It covers the US and worldwide (Australia, Canada, England, France, Germany, etc.) The primary source material covers correspondence, diaries, manuscripts, church and business records, printed matter, images, etc.) It searches across two types of records: 800,000 bibliographic records from 166 institutions and also nearly 65,000 full-text online guides and inventories. You can search by names, subjects, places, etc. It provides links to the institutions that have the material. It does NOT cover secondary source materials such as published books or journal articles. Excludes official documents from NARA.

It is free from March through May. June 1 it is available by subscription to institutions and individuals. There is NO access to full text of primary sources.

A2A: Access to Archives – English archives. (www.asa.org.uk) This covers from the 11th century to modern day. As of December 2005, there were 395 archives and institutions covered. You can search by name, place, and drill down with dates, etc. The name you are searching for is always highlighted in yellow. You can then order the records from the appropriate Record Office.

Linkpendium (www.linkpendium.com) has 3,251,076 genealogy links. This site is being developed by the founders of Rootsweb. You can search by surname or locality (more options available later). A \$ sign next to a link means there is a fee associated with the source.

As of February, 2006, 100,000 links are being added per month.

Happy hunting. I hope these sites will assist you in your research. If you find a site that you have found helpful in your research, please send it along so we can share it with the other members.

**8% of the total people online in the US are logging onto research their family history
(as of April, 2005)**

HELP!!!

If you can write an article about your research trials and tribulations, or successes, please submit them for publication in the newsletter.

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 2006 – 7:00 PM
HIDING BEHIND THEIR SKIRTS: FINDING WOMEN IN
RECORDS
Elissa Powell

VANDAL TRAPPED BY TOMBSTONE

Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter, copyright Richard Eastmen, 2006

This seems like poetic justice. A teenager in Roodhouse, Illinois, went on a vandalism spree at a local cemetery. About 40 headstones were damaged. A funeral director estimated the damage at about \$10,000.

However, it was rather easy for police to find the culprit. It seems that in the process of toppling a 600-pound gravestone, the stone fell on the mischief maker's leg, pinning him. He was pinned until authorities arrived at the scene. It took four firefighters to lift the stone off his leg.

The young man is recovering from undisclosed injuries at a hospital. Police Chief Steve Speeks said the boy will be questioned about the alleged vandalism once he is released.

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