



# NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS

P. O. Box 304  
Ingomar, PA 15127



Family Tree, Number 7 - April, 2006

<http://www.northhillsgenealogists.org>

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**Publicity:** Gary Schlemmer  
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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring has arrived. Buds are forming on the trees. The grass is starting to turn green which means that I'll have to cut it shortly. And, of course, there is the spring list of chores to accomplish. This is also a good time for you to look at whatever genealogical chores you might wish to accomplish. A list of goals and objectives is useful and helps focus your attention on what is truly important.

If you're like me, you have a lot of paper. Mine is not too well organized and I often find myself looking for some sort of reference that I know that I have only to give up and go to the library to find it again. I went to Staples and picked up some folders, colored pens and other filing accessories. So, now I'm prepared and I've just got to make myself some time.

I also recently bought a laptop. While I like paper and have lots of spiral bound notebooks full of research, I find myself re-keying data into Personal Ancestral File. While I'm not completely sure of how I will integrate my laptop with research, I'm now prepared.

North Hills Genealogists is run by volunteers. This newsletter, the newsletter mailing, publicity, our cemetery project and many other tasks are accomplished by volunteers. What I'm trying to say is that volunteers are always welcome. New blood is always good for an organization. Often times those of us who are currently doing the various jobs tend to fall into ruts and fail to see alternative ways to accomplish the job. And it is also true that many hands make light work. You've seen me ask in previous President's columns for suggestions for meetings. If you are interested in assisting this organization, please talk to me or any of our board members. You can reach me at home (724-934-3398) or via email ([svalen@nauticom.net](mailto:svalen@nauticom.net)).

Our recent Board meeting (held the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00 pm at UPMC Passavant) discussed the status of our cemetery project, upcoming programs, the newsletter and other topics of interest. Our Board meetings are open to all members. If you are interested, please attend.

I recently got an email from a site called [www.familytrackers.com](http://www.familytrackers.com). I went there and it sounds too good to be true. It is our consensus that this is a scam designed to get your valid email address. Don't fall for it, as there are a lot of valid genealogical research sites. Steph

## WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

**Tues, May 2, 2006 – 7:00 pm – NHG Board Meeting.** UPMC Passavant Hospital cafeteria. Members welcome

**Tues, May 16, 2006 – 7:00 pm – Regular NHG Meeting – Debbie Corll – French & Indian War**

### Other Meetings/Events

**Mon. April 24, 2006 – 7:00 pm – Greater Pittsburgh Civil War Round Table – “General A. P. Hill” – Patrick Falci – Sieb’s Pub, Babcock Meeting Room – Babcock Boulevard**

**Tues., May 2, 2006 – Western Reserve Historical Society, Cleveland – German Genealogy Seminar – John T. Humphrey - 10:00 am – 4:00 pm (see article)**

**Thurs., May 18, 2006 – 7:00 pm – Lawrenceville Historical Society – 19<sup>th</sup> Century Music of Stephen Foster and the Civil War – Presented by Home Front – Canterbury Place, Fisk Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA (Lawrenceville)**

**Sat. May 13, 2006 – 10:00 AM – WPGS Monthly Meeting – “Golden Age of the City of Bridges: Allegheny County’s 1924-1940 Bridge Construction Program” - Gerald M. Kuncio – Carnegie Lecture Hall, Oakland.**

**Sat., July 1, 2006 – 12:00 noon – 5:00 pm – Stephen Foster Music & Heritage Festival – sponsored by Lawrenceville Historical Society – Allegheny Cemetery**

**Sat., July 14-15, 2006 - Roots in the Boot – American-Italian Family History & Culture Conference – University of Pittsburgh ([www.rootsintheboot.org](http://www.rootsintheboot.org))**

**Sept. 29-30, 2006 – PA Genealogy Conference – Sheraton Station Square ([www.PAGenealogyConference.com](http://www.PAGenealogyConference.com))**

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Here are several chances for you to volunteer.

NHG needs someone to pick up the newsletter at Office Depot on McKnight Road after printing, put address labels on each copy, and hand them out to members at each meeting. If you can help with this, please contact Steph Valentine at [svalen@nauticom.net](mailto:svalen@nauticom.net).

Can you help at the Pa Genealogy Conference? There are a variety of volunteer jobs available. NHG had the largest group of volunteers at the NGS Conference. Do it again. Contact Lesle Dunn at [dunnl@einetwork.net](mailto:dunnl@einetwork.net) to volunteer. If possible please contact her before the end of the month.

**North Hills Genealogy Conference – 62 – April, 2006 (Vol. 16, #7)**

## **GERMAN GENEALOGY SEMINAR**

**Western Reserve Historical Society**

**Tues, May 2, 2006**

John T. Humphrey will be presenting a German genealogical seminar at Western Reserve Historical Society on Tuesday, May 2, 2006. Registration begins at 9:30 am; the seminar is from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. In his three segments John Humphrey will cover:

**Researching German Ancestors: "The Agony and the Ecstasy".** More Americans claim descent from German Ancestors than from any group who emigrated from the British Isles. This two hour introduction explores obstacles like language and custom, and looks at a variety of records kept by Germans both in the US and Germany.

**Finding Your German Ancestor's Place of Origin.** An interesting array of records exist that can lead you to your ancestral "heimat" in Germany. Learn what those records are and how to use them.

**Using Church Records in Germany and the US to Climb the Family Tree.** Church records are perhaps the single most important record available for finding information on German ancestors. Learn what they contain and how to use that information once it is found.

Cost is \$30 for WRHS members; \$35 for non-WRHS members. There is a \$5 late fee for registrations at the door or those received after April 28. For more information contact Brent Morgan (216)382-7297 or Registrar Nancy Leinweber (440) 205-1942.

## **GREATER PITTSBURGH CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**

**Monday, April 24, 2006 – 7:00 pm**

**"General A. P. Hill" – Patrick Falci**

General Ambrose Powell Hill was a Confederate General. Patrick Falci has appeared as the general for many years and portrayed him the movie "Gettysburg", for which he also was historical advisor. For the mini-series "Rough Riders" he was cast by actor/director Tom Berenger as "rough rider #2" and assisted him with research. Patrick also served as Ron Maxwell's historical coordinator for three years prior to the filming of "Gods and Generals."

Meeting held at Sieb's Pub, Babcock Meeting Room, Babcock Blvd., North Hills.

## **STEPHEN FOSTER MUSIC & HERITAGE FESTIVAL**

**DOO DAH DAYS**

**July 1, 2006**

The Lawrenceville Historical Society, Allegheny Cemetery will be holding Doo Dah Days on July 1, 2006 at Allegheny Cemetery. Music, cemetery tours, food vendors, re-enactors, etc. Starts at 12:00 noon – 5:00 pm. Parking in Teamsters Hall parking lot on Butler Street. See [www.doodahdays.com](http://www.doodahdays.com).

**North Hills Genealogists – 63 – April, 2006 (Vol. 16, #7)**

## GENEALOGY RESEARCH IN ENGLAND

Submitted by Steph Valentine

One of the first rules that any genealogist learns is to work backwards in time from what you know to what you don't. England and Wales have mandated a census every ten years starting in 1801 with the exception of 1941. Like America, it wasn't until 1841 that the census included the names of every individual. And, like the US census, the information collected varies from census to census. Likewise, to ensure the confidentiality of the information provided, the census returns are not released until 100 years later. So, the 1901 census is the latest one that is currently available.

The English censuses are being indexed and are available on the English national archives ([www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/census](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/census)) free of charge. Recently 1851 was added. The indexed censuses available are 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891 and 1901. The 1841 census is currently being indexed.

From 1841 on, the census for England and Wales were compiled using the same system of registration districts and sub districts that were used for the registration of births, marriages and deaths.

For research prior to the census, it is important to know that a law had been passed in 1538 ordering the clergy to record baptism, marriages and burials. No records were kept before this date except a few monks recorded the events of prominent families. It was not, however, until 1598 that the records were required to be kept in books and parishes were instructed to backdate them to 1538. Few did so, so few parishes have records that survive from 1538.

By 1598, it had become the recognized practice to send to the Bishop a copy of the years' entries in the parish registers. These copies are known as Bishops Transcripts. Where they have survived these are useful, not only when the original registers have been lost, but even when they have survived, as the Bishops' Transcripts may provide different or additional information. As they are contemporary with the parish registers, they present the same handwriting problems.

So, you can use the same sort of detective work that you use in American research. If you can find your ancestors in the 1841 census, chances are that his ancestors lived in the same area and might be found in the parish registers. The borders of English counties, like those in the US, changed over time, but the towns and parishes remain the same. It is also true that wealthy ancestors are easier to trace than poor. It should also be remembered that the less wealthy frequently do appear in records – as jurors, witnesses, sub-tenants, taxpayers and legatees. It just takes time. Because of the sheer volume of the surviving English public records you may have success. And, unfortunately, like early America, England was a male oriented society.

While books have been written on researching your English roots, the above is more of a general overview. What I do suggest is that a lot of English genealogical research can be accomplished on the Internet. I'd recommend that Cyndi's List be your starting point.

## **BOOK REVIEW**

### **A-Z GUIDE TO TRACING ANCESTORS IN BRITAIN**

**Jack Saunders, 1992**  
**Submitted by Steph Valentine**

(Note: This book is not available at Northland Public Library, but may be available through inter-library loan.)

Those with ancestors in Great Britain may be interested in an update of a veteran and well-respected handbook from Genealogical Publishing Company, Baltimore, MD, "The A-Z Guide to Tracing Ancestors in Britain", by F. C. Markwell and Pauline Saul, has been expanded into a fourth edition, adding 32 pages of information to the third edition's 224 pages. It's a mini-encyclopedia of British family history research.

This illustrated paperback is described as "everything you ever wanted to know about those curious British terms you come across in your research." Terms like Poor Law, State Papers, GRO, Hind, and many hundreds of others are covered in alphabetical articles, ranging from a few words to a couple pages.

The book is not just a bunch of definitions of old terms. Its beauty is that it provides much information about the term that would be specifically of interest to a genealogist and, where appropriate, the guide tells you where to find more information. It includes tips, lore, bibliographies, sources, addresses and "signposts pointing to every conceivable topic that could be of interest to the family historian."

Among the articles are New Year's Resolutions for Family Historians, the very first of which is "I will not be a bore about my ancestors." Clearly the book is written with a sense of humor. There is a complete index, plus maps showing old and new counties in England, Scotland and Ireland and one to the repositories in London.

It's a neat, comprehensive piece of work.

### **NHG CHRISTMAS SOCIAL**

Christmas, you say! It has just turned to Spring, why are you talking about Christmas? Well, the Board has been discussing our annual Christmas Social. In order to get a date in early December, we have to start now! It does seem strange to be thinking about Christmas when it is nearly 70 degrees outside.

Watch for more information about the Christmas Social in future newsletters. As we firm up details, we will let you know what the plans are.

## **WARRANTEE ATLAS OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY, 1914**

Historic Pittsburgh website (<http://digital.library.pitt.edu/maps/warrantee>)

To supplement the online G. M. Hopkins plat maps, the Historic Pittsburgh Map Collection now contains a digital version of the Warrantee Atlas of Allegheny County, 1914. The atlas depicts the original land grants that settlers of present-day Allegheny County received from the Commonwealth after William Penn and his descendants vested the land to the legislature. The Warrantee Atlas is ordered by township, cities, boroughs, and riverbeds and islands. It includes the name of the individual who received the grant, the date the land was warranted and surveyed, property dimensions, patent information and sometimes the name the property was given by the title owner. The online atlas can be browsed by plate number or by the last name of the original owner.

For more information about the historical context of the Warrantee Atlas, we make available the [Historical Sketch to Land Titles in Western Pennsylvania](#), by Joel Fishman, PhD.

We would like to thank the Allegheny County Recorder of Deeds office for recommending the digitization of the Warrantee Atlas for greater public access to the citizens of Allegheny County. The online version of the atlas will reduce the amount of handling required by users of the physical resource, thus preserving one of the most important sources of information about early land grants in Allegheny County.

## **CYNDISLIST REACHES 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY**

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

It seems like only yesterday but now Cyndi Howells, the owner/author of Cyndi's List is celebrating her tenth anniversary of providing a virtual "card catalog" to genealogy on the Internet. In addition, the site has just been enhanced with a layout with streamlined navigation.

Note: If you haven't checked Cyndislist, now is the time to do it. There are over 200,000 links to information to assist you in your research.

## **GODFREY MEMORIAL LIBRARY ADDS SEVERAL NEW GENEALOGY DATABASES, DROPS ANOTHER**

Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter, Copyright Richard Eastman, 2006

The Godfrey Memorial Library in Middletown, Connecticut is small but contains a huge amount of genealogical information. Best of all, the staff at the Godfrey have been aggressive at making genealogy records available online to library patrons who live far away.

This week, Library Director Richard E. Black has announced the addition of several new databases and the deletion of one other. The Library's many online services are available at <http://www.godfrey.org>.

## **NEW ONLINE BIRTH INDEX IN WISCONSIN**

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

The Wisconsin Historical Society is pleased to announce its Pre-1907 Wisconsin Birth Index ([www.wisconsinhistory.org/vital](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/vital)). The index was made by digitizing a 1907's microfiche index and then expanding it with tens of thousands of delayed births, or births that were filed many years after the event, that were previously indexed separately. The result is free public access to more than 1,000,000 Wisconsin births, dating from the 1840's through 1907.

The index can be searched in a variety of ways – using just a last name or browsing by county and year. Users can try various names and locations to find Wisconsin ancestors. When an ancestor is found, a copy of the birth record can be ordered from the Wisconsin Historical Society online.

The Society plans to add pre-1907 death and marriage indexes in the next few months, creating a comprehensive vital records index that will be entirely free and publicly searchable. Until the death and marriage indexes are available, searches can be requested through our Wisconsin Genealogical Research Service. ([www.wisconsinhistory.org/genealogy/ogrs](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/genealogy/ogrs))

## **GREENTREE FAMILY HISTORY CENTER**

Submitted by Laura Kunig

The Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania Family History Center at Greentree is finally coming into the 21<sup>st</sup>. Century! We have been promised a new Digital Imaging System for our FHC. Since we are the oldest FHC in the area, we are the last to receive this new type of reader/printer from headquarters in Salt Lake City.

This digital imaging system is the same as the ones in other FHCs locally. You can print out a hard copy of your film pages, or download to a floppy or CD. If we connect this computer to the Internet, you may also e-mail the images to your home computer.

We hope that you will come in to use the new machine at Greentree! We also want to remind you that we have the longest hours of the regional FHCs, many unique books on our shelves, 1056 indefinite films on hand, and 25 years of patron microfiche in three large microfiche file drawers.

Regards,

Lorrie Guthrie, Director  
Pittsburgh Family History Center

## TOP TEN GREATEST MOMENTS IN GENEALOGY

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

Chris Dunham is at it again. Here's his latest list.

10. 4500 B.C. – Genealogy is invented in Mesopotamia when a man asks his parents for their names.
9. Jan. 7, 1847 – The premier issue of the *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, hits the newsstands, with handy tips for ridding your family of recent immigrants.
8. June 18, 1760 – Illinois census taker Jabez Crowley is fired for writing too legibly.
7. Sept. 2, 1893 – At a DAR luncheon in Washington, DC., Mrs. Amelia Wetherbee reveals that her ancestors were Loyalists, whereupon she is promptly eviscerated.
6. January 8, 1918 – Donald Knuth comes up with the idea of Soundex, when he realizes that his surname sounds a lot like “Kennedy.”
5. Jan. 10, 1921 – The 1890 U. S. federal census is burned by hoboes trying to keep warm.
4. June 12, 1951 – The first genealogy computer program is written. It costs \$5 million and stores up to seven names.
3. May 29, 1953 – Hugh Hefner's dream of publishing a genealogical journal is put on hold when he stumbles upon nude photos of Marilyn Monroe.
2. January 1976 – Alex Haley's *Roots* is released, leading millions of readers to wonder if they too are descended from fictional characters.
1. November 24, 1998 – DNA tests confirmed the centuries-old suspicion that Thomas Jefferson's slave Sally Hemings founded the University of Virginia.

[The David Letterman of Genealogy]

## ANCESTRY.COM EMAIL NEWSLETTER

Submitted by Laura Kunig

Ancestry.com has had two email newsletters, Ancestry Daily Newsletter and Ancestry Weekly Newsletter. Laura Kunig sent them the following email when she stopped receiving her Daily Newsletter. [You do not have to subscribe to Ancestry.com to receive these newsletters] They replied.

I have not received a daily newsletter in over a week. I was wondering if there is an issue with my e-mail bouncing it back? I double checked my spam folder to see if I accidentally checked on that and I did not. Please let me know if something is wrong with my address. Laura Kunig.

From Ancestry.com

We appreciate your message. We apologize for any inconvenience. The Ancestry Daily Newsletter was discontinued as it was being regarded as unsolicited bulk mail by most email providers. The Weekly Newsletter is still being continued. If there is anything else with which we might assist you, please let us know.



## **COPYRIGHT AND CITING SOURCES**

<http://home.earthlink.net>

The following information was abstracted from the above website.

How many times have you found a source of information, copied it down by hand or made a Xerox copy and then when you wanted to go back and check for more information, found you did not cite the source of the information?

Anyone doing genealogy, if they want people to accept their information, are certain to cite their sources for the information they have listed. Why is this so important?

Another genealogist needs to know where you found your information so they can check the source themselves; to better evaluate the data (was this Primary, Secondary or Tertiary information?); if you do not cite your source and use the information, you are plagiarizing the information; it is unethical to not cite your source. You also need to indicate whether you got it from a book, newspaper, journal, municipal record, webpage, oral communication, etc. If you did not personally research the source, then do NOT cite the source. The form of the citation should include: cite the person, website, etc. where you got the information, the date you got it and include their source for the information.

There are numerous books/publications on citing your sources, but probably the best one is by Elizabeth S. Mills, *Evidence: Citation & Analysis for the Family Historian* (Genealogy Publishing Co., 1997). Check Northland Library for a copy of this book.

Copyright: "*the exclusive right, granted by law for a certain number of years, to make and dispose of and otherwise to control copies of a literary, musical, or artistic work.... Protected by copyright.....*"

Most people think of a book, song, etc. as being copyrighted material. But, a webpage on the Internet is also considered a published work. As a result, everything on the webpage is owned by the webmaster, owner/creator of the page. While some information on the webpage may be in the public domain, the organization of the material on the webpage is covered by copyright laws. Therefore, you can't just copy information from a webpage and use it as your own (just as you cannot use an article, speech, etc. done by someone else). In 1998 the Federal government passed the Digital Millennium Copyright Act. Therefore, it is important that if you use material published by someone else, you MUST cite the source and give the original author credit. If you do not, you run the risk of possible lawsuits, financial repercussions and discredited reputation in genealogy circles. You should also get permission from that person before publishing/using their materials and putting your name on it.

Be very careful with documenting your sources (for your own use and to avoid any legal issues) and make it part of your research function to always document where you found your information.

**NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS  
P.O.BOX 304  
INGOMAR, PA 15124**

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

**MAY 16, 2006 – 7:00 PM  
DEBBIE CORLL  
FRENCH & INDIAN WAR**

**NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD OFFICERS**

The Nominating Committee is working on the slate of officers for the coming year. If you are interested in running for a Board office (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer) please let the Committee (Lissa Powell or Tom Wiley) know.

If you would like to nominate someone else for a Board position, you **must** get their approval before nominating them. If they agree, please forward that information to Elissa Powell or Tom Wiley.

**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.**

**North Hills Genealogists – 70 – April, 2006 (Vol. 16, #7)**