



NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS



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10 issues - August-June		

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

This will be my final column as president of North Hills Genealogists. My successor, Maureen Durstein, was one of the charter members of our organization. She is highly qualified to handle the duties and responsibilities of our group. Amy Arner was elected vice president. Sylvan Kretz and Reed Powell were re-elected as secretary and treasurer respectively.

If you have not renewed your membership, this will be your last issue. I am pleased to announce that you can now renew your memberships online on our secure online renewal system on our website, www.NorthHillsGenealogists.org. You can also elect to receive your newsletter via email. So far, nineteen people have signed up for that feature. Please consider receiving your newsletter via email. This helps to reduce our newsletter expenses and allows us to budget more for other member benefits.

After talking with several members, we've changed the format of our meeting. Our meeting will start fifteen minutes earlier at 6:45. This will give us thirty minutes for a new session called Tip Time prior to our guest speaker. This will allow us to pick the brains of the more knowledgeable genealogists in our group. Tip Time will also include a library laptop with Internet access.

We are including in this newsletter a questionnaire on suggestions for your newsletter. What can we do to make it more useful? Our newsletter should help you become a better genealogist. It should give pointers on how to write your family history. In short, it should be a reflection of your needs.

We are also looking at what we can do to improve our website. So much information is available on the Internet, but it is scattered about. As North Hills Genealogists, we should be able to provide North Hills resources for all who have ancestors from this area.

On occasion we have the need for a logo for advertising purposes, so if you have an artistic bent, can you design a logo for North Hills Genealogists? I would try, but I am an engineer by training with absolutely no artistic talent.

I've enjoyed being your president and I look forward to continuing my involvement in this outstanding organization.

Steph

WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

Many groups do not meeting in August so there are not too many meetings to report. Have listed some for September.

Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2006 – 7:00 pm – NHG Board Meeting. Northland Public Library meeting room.
NOTE NEW LOCATION. Open to all members.

Tuesday Sept. 19, 2006 – 7:00 pm – Regular NHG Meeting – Dixmont Hospital Cemetery Records –
Kate Guerriero

Other Meetings

Saturday, August 19, 2006 – 10:00 am – Cranberry Genealogy Club - Personal Ancestral File –
Donald Halper. Council Chambers, Cranberry Municipal Building, 2525 Rochester Road, Cranberry

**Sunday, Sept. 3, 10, 17, 24 – 1:00 pm – Lawrenceville Historical Society -Walking Tours of Allegheny
Cemetery**

Thursday, Sept. 21 – 7:00 pm - Lawrenceville Historical Society – World Class Battlefield Next Door –
Rob Messner – Canterbury Place, Fisk Street, Lawrenceville

Monday, Sept. 25 – 7:00 pm – Greater Pittsburgh Civil War Round Table – Lost Order 191 – Tracy
Shives – Sieb's Pub, Babcock Blvd., North Hills

Thursday., Sept. 28 – 1:00 pm – 3:45 pm Philadelphia Area Chapter and Great Lakes Chapter –
Association of Professional Genealogists – Free Brick Wall Consultations – Third Floor Conference
Room, Carnegie Public Library, 4400 Forbes Ave., Pittsburgh, PA

September 29-30, 2006 – PA Genealogy Conference – Sheraton Station Square
www.pagenealogyconference.com.

Saturday, December 2, 2006 – 10:00 am – North Hills Genealogists Christmas Social – Fort Pitt
Museum and lunch at Spaghetti Warehouse.

The Philadelphia Area Chapter and the Great Lakes Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists are planning an afternoon of free one-on-one genealogical brick wall consultations on Friday, September 28, 2006. You can make your appointment for your 15 minute consultation with a professional researcher beginning at 12:30 pm on a first come, first served basis. Please bring with you a pedigree chart and family group sheets that pertain to the problem as well as a list of sources that you have already consulted.

Chapters of the APG across the country offer this service periodically as a way to help family historians by sharing their expertise with those who need it. For more information about APG and its chapters please see www.APGen.org. For more information on this event, please contact the Great Lakes Chapter president, Amy E. K. Arner at Amy@ArnerResearch.com

WALKING TOURS – ALLEGHENY CEMETERY

Sunday, Sept. 3, 2006 – 1:00 pm – Starting at the Butler St. Gatehouse – Twin Lakes Tour. Participants will learn the story of the villain that lived in the cemetery, the legend of the Twin Lakes and much more.

Sunday, September 10, 2006 – 1:00 pm – Starting at the Butler Street Gatehouse – The fascinating story of Galbraith Perry Rogers, the first man to fly across the country. Women in particular will enjoy the story of Jane Gray Swisshelm, who was one of America's leading suffragettes.

Sunday, September 17, 2006 – 1:00 pm – Starting at the Penn Avenue Gatehouse – From Gatehouse to Gatehouse – Takes participants through the Temple of Memories, down 'millionaires row', past the cemetery caves, newly repaired Soldiers' Memorial and ends at the Butler Street Gatehouse.

Sunday, September 24, 2006 – 1:00 pm – Starting at the Butler Street Entrance – Visit some of the oldest graves in the cemetery. Learn about Neville Craig, the first white man born in Pittsburgh and Elba Fisk for whom Fisk Street is named.

\$5.00 donation per tour/per person. Each tour will last approximately 60-90 minutes. These are walking tours, rain or shine, so please dress appropriately.

WORLD CLASS BATTLEFIELD NEXT DOOR

Lawrenceville Historical Society

7:00 pm

Rob Messner

Braddock's defeat was a major battle of international significance where such historical figures as George Washington and Daniel Boone were on hand to witness the defeat of Braddock's English Regulars by combined French and Indian forces. There will be a Power Point presentation, supplemented by artifacts.

SYMPATHY

We want to extend our sympathy to Marion Hyle on the recent death of her husband. Marion is a long-time member of NHG.

We also want to extend our sympathy to Melinda Merriman Marn on the recent death of her father. Melinda served as our Program Chair for a number of years prior to moving to Cleveland.

HISTORY OF NATURALIZATION LAWS

Reprinted from the Mahoning Meanderings, November, 2006, Vol. 30, page 23

The first naturalization law was created on March 26, 1790. This law provided that aliens to the United States could apply for citizenship provided that they were "free white persons" of "good moral character" and lived for two years in the United States plus one year in the state in which they were living. If they met these qualifications they could file for a Petition for Naturalization. He would take an oath of allegiance and become a citizen.

The Act of 1795 required that aliens had to live in the United States for five years and two in the state of residence. This act now required an extra step, the Declaration of Intention. The immigrants had to go to their local court and complete the declaration of intention or "first papers." This had to be completed three years prior to the formal application for citizenship.

The Naturalization Act of 1798 required that aliens had to live in the United States for fourteen years and aliens from countries that were at war with the United States were prohibited from applying for naturalization. This law was repealed in 1802 and the residency laws of 1795 were reinstated. The Act of April 14, 1802 also provided that aliens had to present two witnesses that could verify their time of residence within the United States.

It is important to point out two deviations from the two step process. The Act of May 26, 1824 pertained to minor naturalizations. Immigrants, who came to the United States and were under the age of 18 at the time, could become citizens upon turning 21 years of age and after five years of residence. The Act of July 17, 1862 allowed veterans who served during wartime to become citizens. Neither of these acts required the Declaration of Intention.

An Act of 1855 allowed alien women to acquire citizenship by marrying a United States citizen, or upon his naturalization. A woman's citizenship was directly tied to that of her husband. Women and children automatically received naturalization upon the husband or father's naturalization. In 1907 a law was passed that took citizenship away from women if they married alien men. In 1922 women's citizenship was considered separate.

Until 1906, there were too many variations in the naturalization procedure. The Naturalization Act of June 29, 1906 declared standard fees and forms and created the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization. This act also required proficiency of the English language. Jurisdiction over naturalization had changed hands numerous times. The Secretary of the Treasury oversaw it from 1882 to 1891 when the Superintendent of Immigration Office was created within the Treasury Department. Jurisdiction was later moved to the Department of Labor. In 1940 it was transferred to the Department of Justice under the office of Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS).

In 2003 the Immigration and Naturalization Service moved to the Department of Homeland Security and became the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services.

NEWSLETTER SURVEY

President Maureen Durstein has prepared a survey on the Newsletter Content. It can be found on page 5. You can complete the survey and either mail it to North Hills Genealogists, P. O. Box 304, Ingomar, PA 15127 or drop it off at a monthly meeting.

NHG Newsletter Content Survey

The **NHG Newsletter** is striving to cover topics that will help family history researchers of all experience levels go further with their research. Your participation in this survey and the results we receive will help NHG focus our newsletter content to better serve **YOU!** Please either mail the survey back to us at the P.O. Box or give it to any of the board members.

Which best describes your interest in genealogy?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> For Fun | <input type="checkbox"/> Curious about my family history |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Provide a legacy for my children | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious Requirement (LDS) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DNA Study | <input type="checkbox"/> Family Medical History |

How would you describe your level of expertise in researching your family tree?

- Novice – new to researching my family tree
 Beginner – have done some research but have many brick walls
 Intermediate – have researched both on-line and on-site in my research locales
 Advanced – have researched in all major research groups

The primary area of my family research is located in:

- North Hills Allegheny County
 Western Pennsylvania (please specify County) _____
 Other State and County (please specify) _____

Where do you do your research? (check all that apply)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Correspond with other relatives (by mail or email) | <input type="checkbox"/> Online Free Site (Rootsweb.com, etc.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Online Fee Site (Ancestry.com) | <input type="checkbox"/> Historical Library (i.e. Heinz History Center) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local Library | <input type="checkbox"/> National Archives (D.C. or branches) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> State Library (Archives) | <input type="checkbox"/> LDS (Salt Lake, Utah) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LDS Local Library | |

Which best describes your interest in attending genealogy related activities such as conferences and seminars? not interested some interest very interested

Which of the following would you find helpful or interesting in your newsletter?

- Definitions of basic terms and abbreviations used in genealogy
 "How to" articles Source citing Procuring vital records Naturalization records
 Finding online resources Using online resources
 How to conduct and transcribe an oral interview
 Methods for finding details about specific time periods
 Historical overviews of various time periods Publishing your family history
 Announcements of new online databases
 Announcements of new genealogical products
 Preservation of family photographs and documents

Would you like to see the topics below as a permanent column in the newsletter?

YES NO

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Surname Database – where members can submit their family tree so others with related lines can share information |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Query Section – members can ask for help finding information on a specific individual |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Tip-Time - where members can ask for help solving a specific research problem |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | New Resources – announcements of resources available online or in book form |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Book Reviews – review of new books available in the field of genealogy. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Genealogy Happenings Calendar |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Summary of previous month's Meeting Program |

SUGGESTIONS: _____

**Additional comments or suggestions are ALWAYS appreciated!
THANKS FOR TAKING THE TIME TO COMPLETE THIS SURVEY!!**

NHG CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

NHG will visit the Fort Pitt Museum on Saturday, December 2, 2006 as the first part of the NHG Christmas Social. We visited Fort Pitt several years ago and it was one of our most popular Socials. They have expanded the exhibits and this will give everyone a chance to see the enhanced exhibits. The Point area will be closed starting next year for renovations to Point State Park so this will be our last chance for an unknown period of time to visit this historically significant place.

Fort Pitt Museum commemorates the strategic importance of the Forks of the Ohio during the Great War for Empire in which British, French, Colonial and Native American Forces struggled for control of North America. The Museum closely examines the French and Indian War, the Americana Revolution, the various military fortifications established on the site, the many cultures that influenced the development of the region, and the importance of the fur trade and other early commerce.

Fort Pitt Museum is one of twenty-six historic sites administered by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and contains more than 12,000 square feet of exhibit space. Also on the grounds of Point State Park visitors can tour the Blockhouse, a structure that was once part of the fortifications and is presently owned and operated by the Daughters of the American Revolution.

To find parking near Fort Pitt, visit one/both of the following websites for the locations of various parking garages/lots.

www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us/pghparkingauthority
Alco Parking – www.alcoparking.com

Spaghetti Warehouse is located on Smallman Street in the Strip District, near 26th Street. You can go out Liberty Avenue to the light at 32nd Street (Herron Avenue Bridge), make a left and go down to Smallman. Then you make a left onto Smallman and the restaurant will be on your right by 26th Street. There is a parking lot behind the restaurant. We will include a reservation form in a future newsletter. Payment for the tour and lunch must be made in advance.

Hope to see you all there.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES TO LIMIT OPEN HOURS

Information on these proposed changes were first brought to our attention by NHG member Betty Hoge and has since been reported by various other sources such as NGS and Eastman. If you were planning on making a trip to DC you will want to check the hours they are open when planning your trip.

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) recently published (in the Federal Register) an interim final rule requesting public comment on a change in the hours for conducting research at the National Archives Building (DC) and National Archives at College Park (MD) and for visiting the Rotunda and National Archives Experience on the Constitution Avenue side of the National Archives Building.

The proposed changes include, the ending of evening and Saturday hours, staying open Monday through Friday 9 am to 5 pm. Regional archives could continue to operate during 'core hours' but modify their extended hours.

The shortened hours are a cost-cutting measure by NARA. Research room usage last year showed an average of only 16 percent of researchers at the two Washington, DC area facilities used the reading rooms in the evening. Only 7% of the researchers used the facilities on Saturday.

NARA has already cut out their evening and weekend hours until further notice. This is due to budget cuts and to damage from the flooding in DC recently. The cafeteria (new) in the basement was ruined and has to be completely redone. They are still running the building on generators and there is only limited power available. You are not allowed to plug in laptops and the second floor research room is not being powered at all. Researchers are being kept in a smaller room on the first floor to view their films, but there are only two copiers running and you are timed at 5 minutes of copying and then you have to go to the end of the line. There is limited seating for researchers in the smaller room and those without a seat have to wait outside the room on a waiting list. Appointments for the bulk copier fill up the day before.

Public comment on the proposed changes will be accepted until September 8. If adopted, they would become effective October 2, 2006. To add your comments online, go to <http://www.regulations.gov>, enter NARA-06-0007-0001 in the Keyword or ID field and click Submit.

There are rumors that similar changes may be coming for the Library of Congress so keep your eyes open if you are planning a trip to DC.

Thankfully we can still research via the Internet, but it is unknown what impact this will have on orders for copies from NARA (pension and military records, etc.).

BOARD ELECTION RESULTS

President	Maureen Durstein
Vice President	Amy Arner
Secretary	Sylvan Kretz
Treasurer	Reed Powell

YORK COUNTY, PA ARCHIVES

If you have ancestors who came through York County, PA you'll want to visit their website where it is easy to search their online records and order copies. Indexes to the following records are now available online at <http://www.your-county.org/departments/archives/archives.htm>.

Affidavits of Death 1977-1958
Deed Books 1749-1912
Marriage Records 1995-1929
Birth Records 1893-2906
Death Records 1893-1906
Naturalizations c 1799-1990

(Ed. note: I have ordered records from the York archives and the information they provided were great and at the time the cost was very reasonable.)

SOURCE FOR OLD BOOKS

A friend who is an old book/used book dealer recently gave me a website for old books. Out of curiosity I looked to see if they had a reference to a genealogy written by one of my gg-grandfathers in 1908. And they did. Since I already had a copy I didn't order one but plan to check it out for some other books I would like to acquire.

If you are looking for an old book (history, family genealogy, etc.) you might want to check this out. Who knows, you may just find a copy available there.

The site is . Happy hunting.

OLD CEMETERIES MARSHALL & FRANKLIN PARK

The Cemetery Book Committee is going into the homestretch on our third book. If you have any information on old cemeteries in either Marshall or Franklin Park, they would like to know about them so they can check and see if we have read them. Also, if you know of any that were missed in books 1 or 2 or any corrections for those books, please let them know about them too. Your help will be appreciated.

BACK TO BASICS

DEFINITIONS OF EARLY IMMIGRANT GROUPS

From the Highpoint, Summit County Chapter, OGS, July/August, 2006

The following list will help introduce beginning researchers and others to groups of people who came to the New World in the very early years of settlement.

Hessians – German troops used by the British in the Revolutionary War, many of whom deserted and remained in America. Most were from Hesse, Germany.

Huguenots – French Protestants who fled from persecution, mainly from 1685 onward. They first went to Prussia, the German Palatinate, Holland, England and then came to America. Those in the French West Indies escaped to the southern coast of America.

Moravians – The United Brethren is a Protestant group formed in Bohemia about 1415 and spread to Poland, Prussia, Germany and England.

Palatines – In 1699, Louis XIV of France began persecuting German Protestants on the banks of the Rhine River. Queen Anne of England helped a group to come to America in 1708. More than 2,000 arrived in New York in 1710 and settled along the Hudson and Mohawk Rivers. Many went to Ireland.

Quakers – The Society of Friends was formed in England in 1648. Early restrictions brought them to New Jersey in 1675 and some 230 English Quakers founded Burlington, New Jersey, in 1678. 1681 was the year William Penn was granted the territory of Pennsylvania and within two years, there were 3,000 Quakers there.

Scots-Irish – British rules placed the Descendants of the Pennsylvania Scots in northern counties of Ireland in the early part of the 17th century. Most came to America from 1718 until the Revolution.

Walloons – From southern Belgium, the language of the Walloons is a French dialect. Cornelius May of Flanders, Holland and about 30 to 40 families came to America in 1624 and established Fort Orange. It is now known as Albany, NY.

Mennonites – A Swiss Protestant group. Founded in 1525, who migrated to America by way of Alsace, England and Russia. They settled mainly in Ohio, Kansas, Pennsylvania and Minnesota.

**When writing of the Siege of Londonderry, in his history of England,
Lord Macauley said,
“A people which takes no pride in the noble achievements of remote
ancestors will never achieve anything worthy to be remembered by
remote descendants.”**

From the Beaver County Genealogical Society *Gleanings*, Spring 2006, Volume 30, Number 3

**NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS
P. O. BOX 304
INGOMAR, PA 15127**

FIRST CLASS MAIL

DATED MATERIAL

DIXMONT HOSPITAL CEMETERY RECORDS

**Kate Guerriero
September 19, 2006
7:00 pm**

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.

RENEWALS FOR 2006-2007

Have you renewed your membership for 2006-2007 yet? If not, this is the last newsletter you will receive. Dues are \$15.00 per year. You can send your check to North Hills Genealogists, P. O. Box 304, Ingomar, PA 15127 or use the online renewal option at our website at www.northhillsgenealogists.org or you can bring it to the next meeting.