



FEEFHS CONFERENCE EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION EXTENDED TO JULY 1ST

Salt Lake City, UT - On 1-3 August 2008 the Federation of East European Family History Societies' Annual Conference will be held at the Pittsburgh Airport Marriott Hotel, 777 Aten Road, Corapolis, PA 15108. "Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania: The East European Magnet" is the theme of the 2008 FEEFHS National Conference. **The early bird registration deadline for the FEEFHS Conference has been extended to 1 July 2008.** Meeting this deadline offers discounted fees for members who attend the conference. The Pittsburgh location for the FEEFHS Annual Conference is especially convenient for local genealogists with East European roots.

According to the organization's web site: "The **Federation of East European Family History Societies (FEEFHS)** was organized in 1992 as an umbrella organization that promotes family research in eastern and central Europe without any ethnic, religious, or social distinctions. It provides a forum for individuals and organizations focused on a single country or group of people to exchange information and be updated on developments in the field. While it primarily serves the interests of North Americans in tracing their lineages back to a European homeland, it welcomes members from all countries."

As part of the 2008 Conference, anyone with a full Conference Registration will have the privilege of having FREE research consultations with outstanding researchers of the FEEFHS

staff. The Consultation Registration Form for this portion of the Conference will be found on the <http://www.feefhs.org/> web site and in special mailings to FEEFHS individual members and member organizations. Take advantage of this opportunity! Get your research in order and be prepared to state the Country, Province or State, County and Town from which your family immigrated. If you don't know what you are doing and need help to establish the town name, that can be done also. Translation help will also be available by appointment.

For more information, go to <http://www.feefhs.org/> and connect to the following conference links: Registration Form, PayPal, Conference Information, Pittsburgh Airport Marriott Hotel, Speaker List, Preliminary Program, Vendor Information, Conference Video, and Conference Blog.

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NHG BOARD MEMBERS 2007-2008

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For information:

INFO@NorthHillsGenealogists.org

WHO WE ARE NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS

We are a group of genealogy enthusiasts who meet on a regular basis to assist one another in establishing our family histories. We meet on the third Tuesday of every month, except December, at the Northland Public Library, 300 Cumberland Road, McCandless Township in the North Hills of Pittsburgh, PA. Tip Time begins at 6:45 P.M., and our general meeting commences at 7:00 P.M. Our meetings are free and open to the public.

We publish a newsletter ten times a year for a nominal membership fee of \$15.00 annually. The subscription year runs from August to June, but anyone wishing to join the North Hills Genealogists mid-year will receive back issues of the newsletter for that membership year. Previous years' newsletters are also available for purchase, each containing helpful hints for beginners and for experienced genealogists.

The North Hills Genealogists Board meets at 7:00 P.M. on the first Tuesday of each month in the Conference Room of the Northland Public Library. The Board meeting is open to all members of the North Hills Genealogists organization. Consider joining us this year!

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

It doesn't seem like that long ago that I was writing about moving into the winter months of the New Year. As usual, we managed to survive those and are now moving into the summer months. And these summer months always seem to fly by so quickly! It's no wonder, since - particularly here in the northern climes - we tend to crowd a huge array of events into these three months. Some come along naturally; for instance, school graduations. And since school is out, we take our family vacations. Add in various picnics, sporting activities, weddings and reunions, and the schedule is full.

Certainly as genealogists, family reunions have a high priority. They are definitely one of this genealogist's favorite summer events. It is the time to review family history and lore, explore newly furnished materials, meet new additions to the family and sometimes meet relatives that you didn't know existed!

There are two reunions associated with my family tree. One is of my maternal grandmother's family - the Ohmer Clan. The other is the gathering of my father's side - the Williams Family.

The Ohmer (with various spellings such as Aumer) side started its Pennsylvania branch when Theodor Ohmer migrated from Herxheim, Germany to Erie in 1880. They have had reunions for as far back as I can remember with people attending from across the USA. Held annually for many years, they are now held every two years due to the many people traveling long distances. The family is fairly well documented, and the obligatory family tree is on display. A few reunions ago, the decision was made to create a website dedicated to the genealogical history of this family. While it is still a work in progress, it has already reaped rewards. Distant cousins from Herxheim hit on the site and have made contact. We hope to get them to attend a future reunion!

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

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The Williams reunion is relatively new in comparison. Other than the descendants of my great-grandfather, there was virtually no contact between the branches of our family – despite the fact that my great-great-grandparents had come to the Erie area in 1832 and had seven children. We had our first reunion in 2003 and our sixth on June 8th. Our first reunion was primarily an introductory get together between two lines of the family. Since then we have expanded considerably, exchanging pictures, records and oral history.

One huge breakthrough at these reunions occurred when a cousin brought along a hand-written letter. It had been written to his mother by her mother and then passed to him. He somewhat hesitantly asked if it could be of value. Of value!!! It merely explained that my great-great-grandmother, Catherine Jones Williams, had two brothers – William and Thomas Jones – who had also immigrated to the Erie area in the 1830s. It also spelled out the location of their farms. We had long suspected that William and Thomas were relatives, but were never able to prove it!

So in addition to the usual pleasures of the family reunion – the food, drink and camaraderie – there is also a distinct genealogical value. Finding cousins in Germany or brothers of your ancestors doesn't happen at every reunion, but these discoveries don't have to happen often to be extremely valuable. Here's hoping that your next reunion produces at least one such find! I am looking forward to hearing about it.

Please make all of your summer activities – whatever they are - safe and enjoyable. I plan to spend a few weeks in Madagascar, hanging around with the lemurs. Who knows – I may find some relatives there!

~Dave

IDEAS FOR FAMILY REUNIONS

Idea submitted by Sylvan Kretz

Written by Sue Ennis

Family reunions, common during summer, can benefit genealogists in several ways if you think ahead. Interviewing older family members can uncover new tidbits of information to enhance your family history research. Create and take with you a list of questions to ask in the categories of names and places, memories of events such as births, marriages or deaths, historical events that touched family members directly, occupations, military participation or family legends. Being prepared with pen and paper or a recorder will assist with this process.

If those topics don't trigger some stories or remembrances, another method of discovery is to take along family photos or documents of interest to your research and show them to your family members. The visual cue of the image along with a simple query such as "Tell me about the day this photo was taken" can result in the person's memories returning and a revealing of a piece of family lore.

Web sites focusing upon "Family Reunions" not only offer ideas for questions, queries, and story collection, but also explain methods for planning and organizing a family reunion. Four credible sites are listed below:

<http://www.reunionismag.com/> This site offers hundreds of reunion tips and a free issue of their magazine.

<http://www.familyreunion.com/> Ideas and examples for family reunion planning.

<http://genealogy.about.com/> Click on Reunions for general information.

<http://www.kfc.com/tips/reunions.asp> Included here just for fun - reunions AND catering tips.

If your family does not currently have a family reunion, it is a perfect time for you to initiate one for 2009!

NORTHLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY CELEBRATES 40th ANNIVERSARY

(source - <http://www.northlandlibrary.org/>)

During the decade from 1988-1997, Northland Public Library focused upon adding to their collections and growing with their communities. Here are some key events from that decade.

June 1989 Marshall Township joins Northland Public Library

November 1989 First annual Wintertide community event

April 1990 Addition of 2 MacIntosh computers to Public Microcomputer Center (through a foundation grant from USX)

September 1991 Dial-A-Story line inception

April 1992 Birthday Book Club started

August 1992 Information centers added and expanded

1992-1997 Maintain programs and continued growth at Northland.

NHG UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Tuesday, 17 June 2008

WHERE DID GRANDPA WORK? WHAT DID HE DO?

Brent Morgan's presentation will take a look at industries that may have employed our ancestors. We may not find Grandpa's specific employment record, but we may find information regarding where he worked and what he did to garner a better understanding of his work life, skills, and income level. This month's program focuses upon our male ancestors in honor of Father's Day. Knowing the occupation of males in our families can lead to added insight into the lives of our ancestors.

Brent Morgan has been researching since 1983 and became more serious upon retirement

www.NorthHillsGenealogists.org

NHG UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Brent Morgan, continued

in 1998 from Graybar Electric. Brent is the Genealogist for Western Reserve Society Sons of the American Revolution and presently the Richmond, Virginia, chapter of the SAR. He is the present Chairperson of SCWFO (Society of Civil War Families of Ohio), a lineage society of the Ohio Genealogical Society (OGS). He is also a past president of East Cuyahoga Chapter of the OGS, The Genealogical Committee (an auxiliary of the Western Reserve Historical Society), and the ILR (Institute for Learning in Retirement) at Baldwin-Wallace College, Beachwood, Ohio.

The Morgans were McCandless residents in the late 1970s and the early 1990s, but now reside in Hanover County, Virginia, near Richmond where they are close to the Revolutionary War, Civil War, and grandchildren (not in that order!)

Tuesday, 15 July 2008

REFLECTIONS OF A GRASS WIDOW

Butler County author Violet Covert will present a genealogical human interest program based upon her latest book, *Reflections of a Grass Widow*, published by Mechling Bookbindery. This new book by Mrs. Covert is uniquely two books in one. The first part of the book is a novel based on historical facts that correlate with the second half of her book - the original journal of one Pennsylvania grass widow. Sally's journal was written in 1808 and is reprinted in its entirety.

This presentation will trace the journey of Sally from Maytown in Lancaster County, PA to Washington County, PA. From this program you can find out the definition of a grass widow and why these females' stories are so special. After her presentation, Violet will conduct a question and answer session, and copies of *Reflections of a Grass Widow*, released on April 5th at the Butler Genealogical Expo, will be available for purchase. Mark your calendars now for this program featuring a local author and genealogist with a witty presentation style.

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NHG UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Tuesday, 19 August 2008 INTERNET GENEALOGY FORUM

Embarking on a new area of research? Hit a dead end? Unsuccessful in your searches? Queries left unanswered? Confused by Cyndi's List? Come to the NHG August meeting where we will conduct an open forum addressing Internet genealogy difficulties, complete with on-line guidance. Bring your questions and problems and any details you have, and we will attempt to help with information, direction, and possibly, answers! We will also be able to address questions about specific documents if you bring them electronically on a CD or thumb drive, or you can e-mail them to the NHG at www.INFO@NorthHillsGenealogists.org no later than August 10.

Remaining 2008 NHG Meetings

Tuesday, 16 September 2008
ORAL HISTORY - Claire Schmieler

Tuesday, 21 October 2008
BUTLER COUNTY COURTHOUSE
RECORDS - Maxine Jackson

Tuesday, 18 November 2008
ANNUAL NHG ROUND TABLE

Saturday, 6 December 2008
NHG ANNUAL SOCIAL - Tour the Pennsylvania Room at the Carnegie Library in Oakland with Marilyn Holt with lunch nearby after the tour.

WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

Wednesday, 18 June 2008 6:00 P.M.
The Beaver County Genealogical Society will hold its monthly meeting at the LDS Church and Family History Center, 114 Church Road, Monaca, PA. Author and genealogist Violet M. Covert will discuss her new book, *Reflections*

of a Grass Widow - A Tour to the West 1800 including a journal by Sally Hastings. This program is free and open to the public.

Wednesday, 25 June 2008 7:00 P.M.
The Cranberry Genealogy Club welcomes Albert Kramer, speaking about "German Citizens Emigrating to America" at their June meeting. The Cranberry Genealogy Club meets in the Cranberry Public Library Conference Room, Cranberry Township Municipal Building, 2525 Rochester Road, Cranberry Township, PA.

For more information, visit their website at <http://www.cranberrygenealogy.org/>.

Speaker Albert Kramer was born and raised in Valencia Boro and attended Mars High School. He is a member of the Valencia Historical Society and a member of the Cranberry Genealogy Club. He has been researching the Kramer Family Tree for about 30 years. He is also researching the Staley, Wetzler, Hundley and Zeigler families.

This presentation will cover how the residents of Pferdsbach, Germany dissolved their community and sailed to America in 1847. Many of them settled in Western Pennsylvania, such as the Peter Feil family in Mars and the George Datt family in Valencia.

UPCOMING REGIONAL AND NATIONAL CONFERENCES

19-21 June 2008
PALATINES TO AMERICA NATIONAL CONFERENCE, COLUMBUS, OH

The 2008 National Conference of Palatines to America will be held in Columbus, Ohio, on 19-21 June 2008. The theme is "Tune Up Your German Speaking Research." For detailed information, see the PalAm web site at <http://www.palam.org/> or write to Palatines to America, 611 E. Weber Road, Columbus, OH 43211-1097.

UPCOMING REGIONAL AND NATIONAL CONFERENCES

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21 JUNE 2008

FAYETTE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY SEMINAR, UNIONTOWN, PA

"Come and Dig Your Fayette Roots!" is the theme of this year's one-day seminar at the Uniontown Library, 24 Jefferson Street, Uniontown, PA, from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. The cost for this event is \$25, which includes lunch and two well-known guest lecturers, Lisa Alzo and NHG's Elissa Scalise Powell, CG. Lisa will present "365 Ways to Discover Your Family History" and "Silent Voices: Telling the Stories of Your Female Ancestors." Elissa will present "What's a Prothonotary? Your Guide to Pennsylvania Court House Records" and "Thinking Outside the Index - Advanced Search Techniques." This seminar is offered for all levels of genealogists. For last minute information and a registration form, go to: <http://fcgspa.org/Seminar.html>.

21 June 2008

ANNUAL SEMINAR - WABASH VALLEY GENEALOGY SOCIETY TERRE HAUTE, IN

The Wabash Valley Genealogy Society will host a seminar at the Forsythe Program Center, 1100 Girl Scout Lane, Terre Haute, Indiana, just south of Fairbanks Park, this Saturday. The seminar is open to the public and will run from 8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. There will be genealogy related vendors, national speakers and door prizes.

Shirley Richison Fields, Indiana Genealogy Society project leader, will explain "Once a Hoosier" and "Family Search Indexing." Kandie Adkinson, the Kentucky Secretary of State's administrative supervisor of the Land Office Division, will describe historical land-patenting processes. Beau Sharbrough, Vice President of Footnote.com, will present an educational, non-commercial demo of the Footnote site featuring historical documents.

The cost is \$15 with an optional lunch for an additional \$5. Register for this one-day seminar at <http://www.inwvgs.org/>.

22-27 JUNE 2008

OHIO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY 2008 SUMMER WORKSHOP, MANSFIELD, OH

This one-week workshop provides daily sessions and evening programs for all levels of genealogists. Registration is \$265 for OGS members and \$295 for non-members. Single day registration is also an option at \$60 for Ohio Genealogical Society members and \$65 for non-members. This annual workshop is just a few hours west of Pittsburgh and offers a thorough program for all levels of genealogists. The Ohio Genealogical Society's Summer Workshop is a quality national program to consider attending. For detailed information, refer to the web site at: <http://www.ogs.org/workshop/>.

1-3 AUGUST 2008

THE FEDERATION OF EAST EUROPEAN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES' ANNUAL CONFERENCE, PITTSBURGH, PA

"Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania: The East European Magnet" is the theme of the 2008 FEEFHS Conference. This conference will be held at the Pittsburgh Airport Marriott August 1-3. Don't miss the chance to attend a national conference so close to home! For more information about registration, go to <http://www.feefhs.org/> and click on the conference link. The deadline for early bird registration is 1 July 2008.

3-6 SEPTEMBER 2008

THE FEDERATION OF GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES' 2008 CONFERENCE, PHILADELPHIA, PA

Plan to attend the FGS Annual Conference, "Footprints of Family History" in Philadelphia at the Pennsylvania Convention Center from September 3-6. The registration deadline is open through August, 2008, for this conference. For more information and registration details, go to the web site at: <http://www.fgs.org/>, or call for a FGS conference brochure toll-free at (888) FGS-1500.

NHG FALL CONFERENCE

DISCOVER YOUR ROOTS,

DISCOVER YOURSELF

SATURDAY, 25 OCTOBER 2008

Reserve your spot for the NHG Fall Conference, *Discover Your Roots, Discover Yourself!* This conference will be held on Saturday, 25 October 2008 at the Christ Episcopal Church, 5910 Babcock Blvd., Pittsburgh, PA 15237 from 9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. The registration fee for members of NHG is \$30 prior to September 16th, \$35 after that date, and \$50 at the door. The registration fee includes two nationally known speakers, small group discussions, continental breakfast, a hot lunch and a panel discussion to end the day's events. Check-in will begin at 8:00 A.M. on the day of the conference.

Pamela K. Boyer, CG, CGL, will present two seminars: "Dos and Don'ts for Your Research" and "Our National Treasure: The Library of Congress." J. Mark Lowe, CG, will present two seminars: "Make Those Early Census Records Talk to You" and "Out on a Limb, Trapped by Bad Research."

In addition to the presentations, this conference will provide attendees with a unique opportunity to participate in a small group discussion with our expert speakers. During the time that one speaker is presenting a formal lecture, the other speaker will conduct a group discussion on a defined topic. These interactions are intended to answer your questions in a friendly, comfortable atmosphere.

The Fall Conference experience will end with a panel discussion with the speakers that is moderated by Elissa Scalise Powell, CG.

Pick up a brochure about the NHG Fall Conference at any meeting, or obtain registration and additional information at <http://www.NorthHillsGenealogists.org/> and click on "Conference" or e-mail for information at: conference@NorthHillsGenealogists.org.

NHG MEMBERS NEEDED FOR CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

Planning for the NHG Fall Conference is underway, led by chairperson Amy Arner. Your help is needed to ensure the success of our first genealogical conference. Volunteers are needed for planning, organizing, publicity and to work in various capacities during the conference on October 25th. Please contact Amy Arner at amy@arnerresearch.com in the next few weeks to let her know how you can assist with the NHG Fall Conference.

NARA and USGS PRESERVING VITAL RECORDS

Press Release **4 June 2008**

Washington, DC - The story of the Nation's land during the last 75 years can be told impartially through records of earth observation: aerial photographs dating from the 1930s and satellite images dating from the 1960s. This vast reservoir of data supplies objective reference points that are essential in documenting land change and in understanding climate change. Preserving important records of the Nation's history while providing convenient public access to them is a vital responsibility of government.

To meet this responsibility in the field of earth observation, Professor Allen Weinstein, Archivist of the United States, and Dr. Mark Myers, Director of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), today signed an agreement creating a cooperative framework for how the two Federal agencies will work together. This agreement will ensure the preservation and access of the massive earth imagery and geospatial data resources currently archived by the USGS at its Earth Resources Observation and Science (EROS) Center in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. **(continued on page 98)**

NARA and USGS PRESERVING VITAL RECORDS (continued from page 97)

During the signing ceremony Professor Weinstein remarked, "Today we are marking an important milestone for USGS EROS to become an affiliated archive within the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) system. This agreement between NARA and USGS is a guarantee that our Nation's collections of aerial and satellite images of the world's land areas will be permanently maintained, preserved, and accessible to the public. These records are crucial to scientists and policy makers around the world in understanding how man and society affect the natural landscape."

Director Myers added, "The USGS EROS archive of historic satellite imagery and aerial photography is the largest civilian archive of such data in the United States. Occupying over 40,000 square feet and totaling nearly three petabytes (3000 terabytes) of electronic data and millions of film frames, the EROS archive is massive, essential, and irreplaceable. We have a daunting responsibility to care for this collection. Working with the National Archives, we will continue to preserve and make these records readily available to all users worldwide."

The agreement establishes a commitment to enhance the preservation and access capabilities of both NARA and the USGS. The two agencies will work together to ensure that NARA has legal custody and ultimate responsibility for the preservation of the archived EROS holdings and that USGS will meet the stringent preservation and access standards of NARA.

NEW WEB SITE

The Chicago (IL) Public School System has recently launched a web site about all of the schools in the system, including ones that have been closed. There are also ways to obtain and share alumni information. Go to their web site at: <http://www.cpsalumni.org/>.

HISTORICAL MARKER TO BE UNVEILED IN FRANKLIN PARK

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and the Borough of Franklin Park, Allegheny County, PA cordially invite you to attend the dedication of a State Historical Marker in the North Hills. The ceremony for this new State Historical Marker will occur on Sunday, 24 August 2008 at 1:30 P.M at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, 2500 Brandt School Road, Wexford, PA 15090.

This particular historical marker will commemorate the 18th Century Native American Kuskusky Path through the area. All are invited to celebrate our heritage with music, food and fellowship on the grounds of this historic church. Bring your own lawn chair.

For more detailed information, contact: Debby Rabold, Historian, Borough of Franklin Park, at fphistory@franklinparkborough.us or by calling her at (412) 364-4115, extension 309.

CANADIAN RESEARCH WEB SITE

A searchable web site of interest to genealogists with ancestors from Canada is located at: <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/canada-gazette/>.

DEADLINE TO ELECT 2008-09 NHG OFFICERS

BALLOTS FOR THE NHG OFFICER ELECTIONS MUST BE FILLED OUT AND POSTMARKED BY JUNE 28TH. ADDRESS CORRECTION FROM THE MAY NEWSLETTER BALLOT - SEND BALLOTS TO NHG, P.O. BOX 304, INGOMAR, PA 15127.

RENEWAL FORM for 2008-2009 MEMBERSHIP in THE NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS

The annual membership year for the North Hills Genealogists begins August 1 and ends July 31. The cost of membership is \$15.00 per year, which includes ten issues of the *NHG Newsletter*. Remember: if you receive your *NHG Newsletter* by email you will get the monthly issue BEFORE that month's regular meeting. If you choose to receive your newsletter by regular mail, the current issue will be mailed to you AFTER the regular monthly meeting. A discounted rate for the NHG Fall Conference is another benefit of renewing your membership or joining now for 2008-2009!

Please fill out the form below, and enclose a check for \$15.00 made out to **NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS**. Turn in your form and payment at a meeting, or mail your membership renewal by August 1, 2008 to: *North Hills Genealogists, P.O. Box 304, Ingomar, PA 15127*. For your convenience you may charge your renewal at our website: <http://www.NorthHillsGenealogists.org/>.

NAME (please print) _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

Indicate your preference for receiving your NHG Newsletter each month - check one box below.

By regular mail _____

By E-mail _____

HOME ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

*** PLEASE LIST SURNAMES AND LOCATIONS YOU ARE RESEARCHING:**

*** QUERIES** (Members of the North Hills Genealogists may submit research-related queries for inclusion in a future newsletter.)

P.O. Box 304
Ingomar, PA 15127

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Dated Material

UPCOMING PROGRAMS FROM NHG

Mark Your Calendars!

Tuesday, 15 July 2008

REFLECTIONS OF A GRASS WIDOW

Speaker: Violet M. Covert

This presentation will focus upon the human interest aspect of genealogy through the story of a Pennsylvania grass widow, Sally, in the historical context of her time. Find out how a "grass widow" is defined and why the story of Sally's journey from Lancaster County to Washington County holds our interest still today.

Tuesday, 19 August 2008

INTERNET GENEALOGY FORUM

Speakers: NHG Members

Embarking on a new area of research? Hit a dead end? Unsuccessful in your searches? Queries left unanswered? We will conduct an open forum addressing Internet genealogy difficulties with on-line guidance. Bring your questions and problems, and we will attempt to help with information, direction, and possibly, answers!

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM - Tuesday, 17 June 2008

WHERE DID GRANDPA WORK?

Speaker: Brent Morgan

This presentation takes a look at industries that may have employed our ancestors. We may not find Grandpa's specific employment record, but we may find information regarding where he worked and what he did to garner a better understanding of his work life, skills, and income level.

