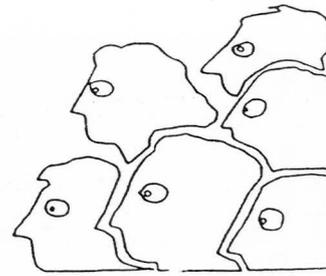




NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS NEWSLETTER



STARTING OUR 10TH YEAR

%Northland Public Library, 300 Cumberland Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237-4555

Volume 10, Number 5 - January, 2000

e-mail pioneerbook@juno.com

President: Sylvan Kretz	Vice President: Ginny Skander	Secretary: Shirley Kuntz
Treasurer: Patsi Lee	Membership: Steph Valentine	Liaison: Elissa Powell
Cemetery Project: Ginny Skander	Book Committee: Marion Hyle	Editor: Donna Booth
Program: Melinda Merriman	Subscription \$12 per year	10 issues - August - June

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The calendar has rolled over to 2000, the holidays are over, the decorations put away for another year, and the New Year's fireworks are only a memory. Winter has blanketed the landscape and the tendency is to slow down and pray for the first warm day of Spring and the robin's song.

This is the time to get re-energized, a time to get busy on all those genealogical activities. It's time to get to the courthouse or library and complete the research that you started last year and put aside when the summer interests intervened. On a snowy day, it's time to safely store all that data into your computer, and don't forget to include the citations. They're as important as the data itself. It's time to pay a visit to your elderly aunt in the nursing home. She loves to look through the family album and tell such great stories of the early 1900's when she and mom were little girls.

It's also time to plan. Time to plan that day trip to find that cemetery in Ohio when the weather breaks. It's time to plan an overnight trip to

that resource center that you just can't reach and research in a single day. Maybe I could plan a side trip to the Civil War Museum and battle site in Petersburg, Virginia while traveling to see my brother-in-law who lives in Georgia.

This is the time to get busy and use this valuable time wisely to act and plan our genealogy efforts.

After all, Spring can't be too far away - I just received my first seed catalog in the mail.

Sylvan

PIONEER CEMETERIES OF HAMPTON TOWNSHIP

The Ohio Genealogical Society has added a copy of *Pioneer Cemeteries of Hampton Township*, to their library in Mansfield, OH.

A man's rootage is more important than his leafage.

Woodrow Wilson

WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

Tues, Feb. 1 - 7:30 pm - **NHG Board Meeting** - Passavant Hospital Cafeteria. Everyone welcome.

Tues., Feb. 15 - 7:00 pm - **Regular NHG Meeting** - Northland Library - "Searching for Your Catholic Ancestors at the Diocese of Pittsburgh". Speaker Ken White, Director, Diocesan Archives and Records Center. (see page 9)

Sat. Feb. 12 - 10:00 am - **WPGS Meeting** - Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall, Gettysburg Room - Diane Ragan will speak on Military Records.

Sun., Feb. 20 - 2:00 pm - **Allegheny City Society** - John Lyon speaking on the Railroads of Allegheny City - Northland Public Library.

Sun., Feb. 27 - **The Western Reserve Historical Society Library** will hold an Irish Seminar at WRHS. Paul Gorry, Genealogist/Records Searcher from Dublin, Ireland and Richard Michael Doherty, President/Founder of the Irish Genealogical Society of Michigan will present "Researching Your Irish Ancestors - Here and There". Contact Nancy Leinweber at (440) 257-9245 or nanbwl@juno.com

Sat., April 1 - **Slippery Rock Heritage Association** - Genealogy Workshop - Ernest Thode will present an all day seminar on various German topics. For information contact Helen Staiger, Slippery Rock Heritage Association, PO Box 511, Slippery Rock, PA 16057, or e-mail at HMSTAIGER@juno.com

April 6-9, 2000 - **Ohio Genealogical Society 39th Annual Conference**, Cincinnati, OH. For more information contact The Hamilton County Genealogical Society, attn: Kenny Burck at kburck@eenergy.com

Sat., April 15 - **WPGS Annual Seminar** - James L. Hansen, reference librarian and genealogical specialist at the Library at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin will speak on the Draper Manuscripts and other topics. James is an expert on the Draper Manuscripts. Watch for more information later.

May 31 - June 3 - **National Genealogical Society** - "Conference in the States" - Providence, RI. This year's event will feature more than 100 presentations, seminars and meetings. Details available at <http://www.ngsgenealogy.com>

August 14-21 - **Discover! Cruises & Tours** - Genealogy/Civil War Steamboatin' Vacation with genealogy speaker Nancy Morebeck and guest lecturers William C. Davis, James Robertson, and Dennis Brown. From New Orleans to Memphis from August 14-21.

Join them on a unique steamboat vacation designed to bring together the best of both worlds.

Leaving New Orleans on August 14, you will spend seven nights aboard the "American Queen" visiting sites along the Mississippi River to Memphis, Tennessee. Civil War historians, authors, and entertainers who bring to life some of the experiences of one of the most tumultuous times will be aboard, offering seminars and help with your own personal search for Civil War ancestors.

Special: **FREE AIR!** if a deposit is made by January 31. Discover! Cruises & Tours, 8342 Bramble Bush Circle, Ste. A, Antelope, CA 95843.

You may also call (916) 332-9572 or 1-887-332-9572 or e-mail at: request@discovercruisetours.com

If you have information on other upcoming events, please send them to the attention of the Editor for use in future issues.

QUERIES

Queries are free and open to everyone. They will be printed as space permits. Send to the attention of the Query Editor.

Compiled & edited by Sylvan Kretz, Query Editor

CURAN, Sandhill, Missouri ((1869), Kansas, **VIETS**, Virginia, New Jersey, Kansas, Indiana (1864), **BLANCHARD, TOWNSEND**, Windworth, Washington (1889). Contact: **Zoella Deuser, 99 Corbett Crt. #318, Pittsburgh, PA 15237-3029.**

SMITH, LEAR, KRESH, BASTIAN, Eastern PA, Bucks, Lehigh, Northampton and Luzerne Co., **TANCZOS, SCHUCH**, Northampton Co., Austria (Burgenland). Contact: **Mr. Rudolph Kresh, 110 Kresh Lane, Butler, PA 16001.**

McDONALD, EDGAR, KANLINE, Pittsburgh Area, PA. Contact: **Pat Rivet, 320 W. Neshannock Ave., 2nd Floor, New Wilmington, PA 16142-1009.**

MERRIMAN/MERRYMAN, Frederick, Allegheny Co., PA. **MERRIMAN, Nancy Yoho, BOETTNER/BITTNER, George**, Beaver Co., PA. Contact: **Nancy L. Drogus, 317 May Road, P.O. Box 396, Beaver Falls, PA 15010.**

RUSSIN, TRETNIK, Lackawanna and Butler Co., PA. Contact: **Andrea Leone, 20 Park Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15223-1729.**

GENEALOGY BULLETIN GOES ONLINE

The Genealogy Bulletin, a free weekly newsletter, previously available in print form, is available on-line. There will still be the same high quality articles by people such as William Dollarhide, Cyndi Howells and *Heritage Quest Magazine* columnists. Check it out at:

<http://www.GenealogyBulletin.com>

THE STORY BEHIND THE NAMES OF PENNSYLVANIA COUNTIES

Reprinted from John M. Roberts' & Sons advertising in the *Pittsburgh*

Sun-Telegraph - late 1940's - early 1960's.

Submitted by Bernice Broniecki

BLAIR COUNTY

The scenery of Blair County is one of the most picturesque in the state, and the famous "Horseshoe Curve", four miles west of Altoona on the Pennsylvania System, is the place where Nature and the hand of man combined to make one of the scenic wonders of America. Blair County comprises 535 square miles and contains one city, eight boroughs and fifteen townships. Now celebrating its 100 Anniversary, Blair County was incorporated by an Act of February 26, 1846, from Bedford and Huningdon (sic) Counties. It was named in honor of John Blair, whose father, Captain Thomas Blair, was an officer of the Continental Army, and settled in Blair's Gap, where he built a fine residence and where Honorable John Blair was born. Near *Big Springs* resided Chief Logan, son of the celebrated Shikellamy, Vice Regent of the Six Nations. Chief Logan, like his father, was a firm friend of the English, and a romantic character in early history. Several places bear his name, the spring and township in this county, and several places elsewhere in Pennsylvania.

The county seat, *Hollidaysburg*, was named for Adam Holliday, who settled there in 1768. He stockaded the stable on the Titus farm and it came to be known as *Fort Holliday*. *Altoona*, popularly known as the "Mountain City" was not named on account of its altitude. The name was given to the hamlet by an engineer who visioned that this would be a great railroad center, and knowing that the first railroad shops in the world had been built in Altoona, in Schleswig-Holstein, the place was named after that great center.

Bellwood was named for Edward Bell, who settled there in 1800 and first called the town "Bell's Mills". *Roaring Springs* was named for the spring in Taylor Township and was first called Spangs Mill, later Baretown during the War of the Rebellion. It was first settled by Dunkards, about 1756. *Tyrone* was named for the old Tyrone Township and first settled by emigrants (sic) from the North of Ireland, in 1850. Tyrone was incorporated from Snyder Township July 27, 1857.

SNAPSHOTS OF U.S. LIFE IN THE 20TH CENTURY

Bill Dedman in the *New York Times*, December 13, 1999.

From the GenCap Mail list
Submitted by Tom Wiley

In 1900, the typical American was a boy, not yet a teenager, named John. He lived with his parents and his sisters, Mary and Helen, on a farm in New York or Pennsylvania.

As the 20th century closes, the typical American is a young woman, 25-34, named Lisa. She lives in a California suburb with her daughter Emily (these days, odds are no better than 50-50 that mother and father live together with the children). She is thinking of having another child who will be called Samantha or Michael.

The nation's population has nearly quadrupled (from 76 million to an estimated 274 million today). More than 10 times as many Americans are 65 or older.

That population has moved from rural areas (60 percent) to urban areas (75 percent). The nation that was 88 percent white is now about 62 percent so and rapidly changing. Two cities that were in the top 10 in population in 1900 are barely in the top 50: St. Louis was 4th, now 47th

and Boston was 8th, now 54th.

Life expectancy increased for men (to 74 years from 46) but even more for women (to 79 from 48). The average household size fell to 2.6 people from 4.8. The number of bachelor's degrees rose to a projected 1.2 million in 2000 from 29,000 in 1900.

People get married later than they used to. The median age of first marriage is about 25 years for women; in 1900 it was 22 years. For men, in 1900 it was 26, and nearly 27 now.

The top 10 names in 1900, according to the Social Security Administration were: Boys: John, William, James, George, Charles, Joseph, Frank, Henry, Robert, Harry. For Girls: Mary, Helen, Anna, Margaret, Ruth, Elizabeth, Marie, Rose, Florence, Bertha.

Based on Social Security applications in the first eight months of 1999, the names in the high school graduating class of 2017 will be: Boys: Michael, Jacob, Matthew, Christopher, Joshua, Austin, Nicholas, Tyler and Joseph. For Girls: Emily, Samantha, Madison, Ashley, Sarah, Hannah, Jessica, Alyssa, Alexis and Kayla.

For more statistical details, check out the following website:

<http://www.census.gov/prod/www/statistical-abstract-us.html>

BEGINNING GENEALOGY CLASSES

Community College of Allegheny County and Butler Community College are both scheduling beginning genealogy classes. Contact the schools for more information on registration and dates.

BEGINNERS CORNER

10 Tips to Help You Get More From Online

Research Time

Juliana Smith

(OHRoots mail list)

1. Think of a trip to a computer like a trip to the library. You wouldn't go to the library unprepared, so do a little preparatory work before you log on.

2. With the immense array of resources available online, it is impossible to keep track of where you have searched and for what. Keeping a research log of sites visited, searches performed and results can save much duplicated effort.

3. Determine what information you need. Go over your research and decide what information you are looking for. Once you have decided on a particular piece of missing information, pursue it.

4. Don't just search for surnames. If you know your ancestors were from a particular location, find out all you can about their hometown or homeland. You will often find clues that will open new avenues of research.

5. Learn. How-to, beginner sites, and specialized sites dealing with specific record types, geographic areas, repositories and/or ethnicity abound. Use them to locate new resources and methods for conducting your search.

6. If you don't find the information you seek online, use online sources to determine what offline avenues are available to you.

7. When you find a pertinent piece of information, make sure you record the full

bibliographic citation. If it is not available on the Web site, write the webmaster and request it. Citing your sources is critical both online and off.

8. Post queries on site where large numbers of researchers visit regularly and where the people that may have the information you seek have a good chance of seeing your post. (Ed. note: I posted a query on a specific Ohio county website and my query ended up in their newsletter. From that I received 6 pages of family information from a person I had never met.)

9. Once you logoff, follow through by proving your findings with original primary source documents. Online resources are secondary sources at best, and often contain errors. Additionally, there is often much more information in the original documents.

10. Have some fun with it! Every so often when you have the time, go off and explore a bit. You'll be surprised at what you can find in unexpected places.

WHAT IS GEDCOM?

GedCom is the acronym for GENEALOGICAL DATA COMMUNICATION, created by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormon) to facilitate the exchange of genealogical data among different software programs. A GEDCOM is a text file that is created automatically in a special format from information that is in a genealogical software program's database -- no need to rekey. Most, but not all, genealogical software programs have GEDCOM capability. For more information on GEDCOM, check out the following website:

<http://helpdesk.rootsweb.com/help/wc2.html#1>



WEB WANDERINGS

(Note: All start with <http://> unless otherwise noted)

The Library of Congress Historical Documents Collection - more than a dozen collections to browse. There is also a link to the main Library of Congress site

memory.loc.gov/ammem/amhome.html

Ship Passenger Lists Site

istg.rootsweb.com/index2.html

Civil War Soldier Photos

Actual photos are not show, but you can search by surname and if you find an ancestor, you can order the photos

carlisle-www.army.mil/usamhi/photoDB.html

Searchable Ireland Records

www.enoch.com/genealogy/Eirerec.htm

Journal of Online Genealogy

www.onlinegenealogy.com

Genealogy Libraries on the WWW

www.genealogy.org/~holdiman/LSG/libraries.html

Genealogy is My Hobby

home.earthlink.net/~middleton/

Heritage Books Online Library

www.heritagebooks.com/library

(see article on page 8)

NEW GENEALOGY AND FAMILY HISTORY CENTER FOR U.S. NATIONAL ARCHIVES

The following article is from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter and is copyright 1999 by Richard W. Eastman. It is re-published here with the permission of the author.

The National Archives Building in Washington, DC will undergo a major renovation beginning in February 2000. The renovations will include a new genealogy and family history center as well as a significant improvement in the microfilm reading room used by thousands of genealogists every year. Other improvements will be constructed in the public exhibits of the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and millions of other historically valuable documents.

The research side of the building, located on Pennsylvania Avenue between 7th and 9th Streets, NW, will remain open for business throughout the renovation. This is the entrance used for genealogy research. However, the exhibition side, on Constitution Avenue will close for renovation on July 5, 2001 and reopen in 2003.

The renovation of the building will include updating or replacing all of the major systems: HVAC, electrical and plumbing; renovating the stack and research areas; creating a new genealogy and family history center; enlarging the microfilm research room; and building new conference and meeting spaces.

Isn't genealogy fun? The answer to one problem leads to two more!

A VERY BRIEF HISTORY OF DEATH CUSTOMS AND IMAGES

Abstracted from *The Ancestry Weekly Digest*, July 24, 1999

Humans have long marked graves and commemorated their dead. At some point, prehistoric man began the custom of burying the dead. Stones were used to prevent wild animals despoiling the gravesites. Later, seashells, tools, beads, clothing and other items were piled atop the grave or buried with the dead and funereal rites began.

European cultures developed in similar fashion. Pictorial images have been used to commemorate death, with a wide variety of images used. Religious symbols and icons were used and perpetuated by the various sects. Other images came into use during less than cheerful circumstances. The death's head and the dancing skeleton, for instance, became common representations for life's brevity during the epidemics of the plague in Europe. As the centuries passed, more and more graphic representations came into use. During the Victorian era in both Europe and the United States, exceedingly elaborate tombs, gravestone carvings, statuary, funerary clothing and other paraphernalia evolved to commemorate the dead. They also allowed the living to share their sorrow and mourning with one another and for posterity. And, entire cemeteries planned as rural recreational parks, were developed.

Craven Images and Icons

Cemeteries and grave markers are big business. The stonemason and the sculptor have had plenty of work over the centuries because of the dead. In some cases, two or more generations of a single family carried on the business. They developed their own stone shapes and carving styles, but the use of craven images became something of a standard.

As you roam through a cemetery, you are likely to see the same image again and again. The survivors erected markers to commemorate the dead and used icons to communicate something about the deceased. Do you know what some of these icons represent? Let's examine some common ones.

A weeping willow tree indicates mourning or natural grief. Clasped hands signify farewells said at death, while a hand pointing upward indicates the pathway to heavenly reward. An urn represents immortality, just as the Egyptians believed that removing and enclosing the viscera in canopic jars preserved the deceased's vitality for eternity. An angel blowing a trumpet indicated resurrection as does a flying dove. Wheat sheaves represent the divine harvest, and a wreath signifies victory over death.

Statuary in cemeteries is common. The Victorians adored their children, and the death of a child was considered a catastrophic tragedy. While a statue of an urn draped with a drape or shawl indicates deep mourning or sadness for an adult, there are examples of children's statuary. Some of these include: the lamb, a figure signifying purity; a small chair or cradle, representing the emptiness caused by young loss; a doll, a rattle or other toy, indicating the premature end of childhood; a sleeping baby picturing the eternal rest for an infant; praying hands, signifying the hope that the child is now in God's care.

While some of these images may seem self-explanatory, others may be more cryptic. Flowers represent the fragility of life and plucked flowers indicate the early severance of a life in bloom. A lion is indicative of courage and an arrow represents mortality. A snake with its tail in its mouth indicates everlasting life in heaven, while a coiled snake indicates sin. Roosters are common in some cemeteries, rep-

representing resurrection. The pelican represents redemption through Christ, while ants indicate Christian industriousness. Scales are indicative of the weighing of justice for the judgment of the dead.

Sometimes there will be Latin phrases carved on stones. "Memento mori" means "remember death". "Tempus erat" means "time is gone". There are many other such phrases that can be interpreted with a simple Latin dictionary.

OLD FELLOWS/REBEKAH ASSEMBLY

Genealogy Bulletin, September/October, 1999, page 17

Submitted by Lissa Powell

The Grande Lodge of the Odd Fellows in California has created a web site giving information all about IOOF records, what they do and do not contain and how to obtain them. The online article states that in the early days of the IOOF, membership was limited to white men (this is not true today). Black men joined The Grand United Order of Odd Fellows back then. The membership records do not include information about the applicant's parents, but just when he joined the lodge and when a member left the lodge (by death, resignation or transfer to another lodge).

The Rebekah Assembly was the group's arm for women members. The way to access IOOF records is to write to the Grand Lodge or Rebekah Assembly secretary for the state. Provide the name of the person, town of residence, years of residence, year of death. You will (hopefully) receive from the State Grand Secretary the name of the local lodge to which the ancestor belonged, the mailing address of that lodge, or the one that has the records, or the current location of the lodge records. The you must write to the local lodge. The website has links (by map or table) to all U.S. states and many other countries and these sites provide (some, but not always all) contact names of members and officers, local publications, lodge activities, Odd Fellow homes

and further links. For general information about the IOOF, write to the Sovereign Grand Lodge, IOOF, 422 N. Trade St., Winston-Salem, NC 27101-2830. For information about the Grand United Order of Odd Fellows, write to them at 12th & Spruce St., Philadelphia, PA 19107. The website is located at <http://128.109.137/IOOF/FamilyResearch.html>

HERITAGE BOOKS ONLINE LIBRARY

The following article is from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter and is copyright 2000 by Richard W. Eastman. It is re-published here with the permission of the author.

Heritage Books has opened an "online library" modeled upon a traditional library. A subscription is required to access the library, although a free sample is available. Here is the announcement from Heritage Books.

"A new on-line library of books of interest to history and genealogy researchers has just been opened by Heritage Books, Inc. The new site is patterned after a traditional library, and consists of a card file and a collection of books. The card file has a descriptive card for each volume in the collection and can be searched for surnames, localities or topics of interest using a boolean search engine. Each card includes a call number which can be used to call up the titles of interest from the stacks. Anyone with a web browser can freely search the card file; viewing of the books is limited to subscribers who pay a small annual fee.

The books in the collection are presented as graphic images and look and function like real books, except they have electronic bookmarks which make it easy to jump into them at key points. The user sees the books just as they were originally created and uses the human-generated indexes associated with them. This means that the user is free to browse through both the book and the index and such browsing will frequently turn up information." (see WEB WANDERINGS)

**FAIRFAX (VA) GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY
SPRING CONFERENCE 2000**

On Saturday, March 18, 2000 at the Tysons Westpark Hotel, McLean, Virginia, the Fairfax Genealogical Society will hold their 25th Anniversary Spring Conference 2000.

This one day event will include sixteen one-hour seminars covering four areas of concentration: Research in Virginia; Building Foundations; Methodology and Sources; and Computers in Genealogy.

Seminars include topics of interest for all genealogists from the "newbie" to the professional.

Registration fee includes a syllabus, admission to the courses and a continental breakfast. There will be opportunities throughout the day to network with fellow genealogists and visit vendors of genealogical books and supplies.

Optional in-house buffet luncheon available with pre-registration (limited to 175 attendees)

There will be a gala reception and 25th anniversary banquet featuring Dr. John Philip Colletta as the speaker. (limited to 175 attendees)

For more information contact: Fairfax Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 2290, Merrifield, VA 22116-2290.

**SEARCHING FOR YOUR CATHOLIC
ANCESTORS AT THE DIOCESE OF
PITTSBURGH**

**Ken White
February 15, 1999**

At the February 15 NHG meeting, Ken White, Director, Diocesan Archives and Records Center will speak on the History of the Diocese in Western PA; What information is available at the Archives and how do you access the information; How to locate the records of Catholic cemeteries.

The Pittsburgh Diocese covers the following counties: Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, Greene, Lawrence and Washington.

GENEALOGY MAGAZINES

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NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS

C/O Northland Public Library

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**SEARCHING FOR YOUR CATHOLIC ANCESTORS AT THE DIOCESE OF
PITTSBURGH - KEN WHITE, DIRECTOR, DIOCESAN ARCHIVES &
RECORDS CENTER
FEBRUARY 15, 2000**

ONE CROWDED MAYFLOWER

From the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, November 23, 1999
submitted by Melinda Merriman

A quarter of all Americans have Pilgrim dreams -- a belief that their ancestors may have walked the Mayflower's wooden decks and survived to celebrate that first Thanksgiving at Massachusetts' Plymouth Colony in 1621.

"So many of us have a family tradition, a belief, that they are descended from the Pilgrims," said Caroline Kardell, historian for the General Society of Mayflower Descendants. "Sometimes the oral tradition is right, and sometimes it is wrong."

A survey of 1,015 adults in the United States

conducted by Scripps Howard News Service and Ohio University found that 25 percent answered "yes" when asked: "Do you think your family may be descended from one of the Pilgrims who came to America on the Mayflower?"

The latest estimates provided by the Mayflower society suggest that there are 35 million descendants worldwide of the 26 men who survived the harsh conditions of the Pilgrims' first Massachusetts winter. But the survey suggests that nearly twice this number in the U.S. believe they have Pilgrim blood.