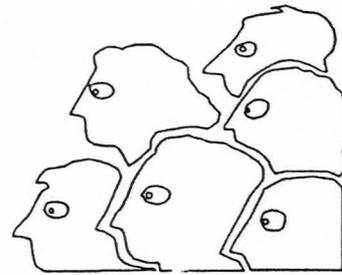




# NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS NEWSLETTER



## STARTING OUR 10TH YEAR

%Northland Public Library, 500 Cumberland Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237-4555

Volume 10, Number 7 - March, 2000

e-mail [pioneerbook@juno.com](mailto:pioneerbook@juno.com)

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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The first of March found me driving to Yorktown, NY to visit my daughter, son-in-law and grandchildren. It's amazing how casual we are about traveling. We throw a few clothes in a suitcase, put it in the trunk of the family sedan, and we're off to New York. We leave in the morning and in the afternoon we're enjoying dinner with the kids - amazing!

Driving across Pennsylvania, where the radio stations are sparse, I had time to reflect on my family's travels across Pennsylvania in the 1840s. Travel wasn't quite so casual at the time.

I attended a presentation last month by the Allegheny City Society on canals and railroads in Pennsylvania. That got me thinking. Given the timing (1840s) which preceded the completion of the railroad across the state, it's almost a certainty that they came by canal boat. I did a little digging on the route of the Main Line Canal.

In the early 1800s, travel by wagon from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh took 28 days. When the canal system was completed about 1831, the trip was shortened to 4 days. Quite an advance,

but still not comparable to the luxury of the family sedan for a day's drive across the interstate highway. One unique feature of the Pennsylvania Main Line Canal was the Allegheny Portage Railroad where canal boats were hauled on rail cars over the Allegheny Mountains, a rise of 1398 feet. I had seen the Portage Railroad years ago, and had marveled at the bold engineering for that period, but had never connected it with my family's trek to Allegheny City.

I believe that discovering facts such as how your ancestors came to this area are so important in adding "meat" to the "bones" of your genealogical search.

As I'm writing this article, its a beautiful 70 degrees outside, near a record high for early March. I know it won't last, but the spring weather is just around the corner. With the return of the nice weather, we are able to get out and resume our on-going project of reading the cemeteries of Pine and Richland Townships. Don't be shy when the call comes for volunteers. You'll get a chance to meet your fellow genealogists, get lost of fresh air and help us move toward our goal of recording these

cemeteries. Remember the quote I cited last month, let's "Gather up the fragments that remain, lest they be lost".

Sylvan

## WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

Tues, April 4 - 7:30 pm - **NHG Board Meeting** - Passavant Hospital Cafeteria. Everyone Welcome

Tues., April 17 - 7:00 pm - **Regular NHG Meeting** - Pastor Paul Miller Ruff - German Lutheran & Reformed Church Records of Southwestern PA

Sat., April 1 - **Slippery Rock Heritage Association** - Genealogy Workshop - Ernest Thode will present an all day seminar on various German topics. For more information call 724-794-8600 or e-mail [hmssagt@aol.com](mailto:hmssagt@aol.com)

Sat., April 15 - **WPGS Spring Seminar** - James L. Hansen, FASG will be speaking on the following topics: The Draper Manuscripts; Genealogy in Alphabetical Order -- Getting the Most from All Types of Indexes; What to Do When You Hit a Brick Wall; Getting Around the Lost 1890 Census. For more information call (412) 687-6811.

June 19-21 - **Pennsylvania Chapter of Palatines to America National Conference** - "Pennsylvania, a Palatine Crossroad, 1683-2000 Contact: PA Chapter, PO Box 280, Strasburg, PA 17579-0280 (717)687-8234

April 28-29 - **Italian Americans in Western Pennsylvania History Conference** - sponsored by the Historical Society of W. PA and the National Italian American Foundation at the Heinz History Center. For information contact Nicholas P. Ciotola at (412) 454-6433 or [npctotola@hswp.org](mailto:npctotola@hswp.org).

## QUERIES

Compiled and edited by Sylvan Kretz, Query Editor

**DONNAN, Martha E., WILEY, John Park**, parents of **WILEY, Carrie M.**, (b. 1864, d 1917), **WILSON, Mary** (b. 1773 d 11/16/1845). Contact: *John H. Wilson III, 414 Golden Grove Road, Baden, PA 15005*

**YOUNG**, Descendants of Caleb and Eliza, Gibsonia, PA. Contact: *Katie Richardson, 324 Heather Hill Drive, Gibsonia, PA 15004 e-mail: [Ksrewr3@nauticom.net](mailto:Ksrewr3@nauticom.net)*.

**CROOPS/CROUPS/GROUB, Andrew** (b 1819) m. **Sarah SCHLAGEL, Henry** (b 1855) Pine Township, PA. Believe migrated from Luzerne Co. **COVERT, Opaline** (1858-1888) Pine Township or Harmony, PA Also interested in **SARVERS and SCHLAGELS**. Contact: *Richard E. Croop, 3800 Nigh Road, Ridgeway, ONT e-mail: [croop@fortiere.com](mailto:croop@fortiere.com)*

**RENO, John** (b 1796/8, d abt. 1840), son of **Zachariah**, brother of **Lewis H., Benjamin, Henry, Francis, Samuel, Jackson and Alfred**, Allegheny Co. (1820 and 1830 census). Survived by son **John** (b. 4/5/1829) who left Allegheny County about 1846. Interested in name of wife, descendants or vital records. Contact: *Don Reno, 302 Salina, Borger, TX 79006*.

## CENSUS 2000

You should shortly be receiving your 2000 Census forms. Hopefully you will receive the long form. Conrad Slanina (NHG) reminds everyone to make a copy of your form before mailing it. As genealogists we all know the importance of census records.

We are devoting most of this issue to census information. We hope this helps with your research.

## CENSUS - KEY TO GENEALOGICAL MYSTERIES

Bob Brooke, *AntiqueWeek*, January 3, 10, 2000

Whether a genealogist finds his or her way to census records early or late in a search depends on how much accurate data can be accumulated and documented from family and local sources. Eventually, though, gaps in family data will probably lead to searching census records.

The word census originally referred to a Roman register of adult male citizens and their property, which determined political status, military obligation and taxation. Census records are compilations of information about the individuals and their households. Numerical summaries of the various categories investigated are called "enumerations". These come at the end of some of the sections in census records, listing the total number of males, females, occupation, houses, etc. found in a small political division.

A federal population census has been taken in the US every 10 years since 1790. The records of all but two of the American censuses have survived virtually intact to the present day. The 1890 census was almost totally destroyed by fire. Only fragments, including a list of widows of Civil War pensioners, remains. Some parts of the 1790 census were destroyed, but have been reconstructed from tax lists of the period. Smaller portions of the 1800 and 1820 census were destroyed during the War of 1812, and there are no surviving census records for New Jersey before 1830. On the whole, however, America's census records are more complete over a longer period than those of most nations.

The US Government initiated the census to help apportion taxes and legislative representation among the states. In 1790 federal marshals rode out with a list of six sample questions. Over the years, as the government has made the census a tool for social planning, it has grown into an

extensive survey of detailed information about the American people that's invaluable to genealogists.

Towns posted early censuses publicly in order to facilitate corrections or additions. Beginning in 1850, however, the government declared the information contained in the census confidential in order to ensure the greatest possible accuracy in responses. Although no law has yet been passed concerning the sealing of these records, an informal agreement between the National Archives and the Census Bureau in 1952 called for their release after 72 years.

The value of census records to the genealogist varies according to the date of the record, since they aren't consistent in content. Congress stipulated that information should be furnished by the head of the family, recognizing the head of the family as the husband or father unless he was deceased. Because husbands and fathers are usually poor sources of ages and birth dates within a household, this led to numerous inaccuracies.

Like many other documents, the records of the U.S. Census include some inconsistencies, omissions and errors, the fault of either the census takers or the subjects themselves.

The 1790 census identified only heads of households by name, then enumerated the people in each household in five categories: white males over 16, white males under 16, white females, other free persons and slaves. While succeeding censuses sought additional information, those conducted through 1840 continued to summarize the data for each household, identifying only the head by name. Nonetheless, it's possible by comparing successive census entries and relating them to any facts turned up in other records, to determine the approximate ages and death dates of individuals within the family.

In 1850, the Census Bureau made a major innovation of great significance to genealogists. For the first time, the census identified every individual by name, age, sex and color.

In 1860, the census included American Indians for the first time. Information on the value of individual property holdings, added in 1870 provides a clue to the existence of wills and deeds in county courthouses.

In 1880, the Census Bureau made still more additions of particular genealogical significance. Census information included the relationship of each person to the head of the family, the marital status of each person and the place of birth of his or her mother and father. While relationships weren't described in earlier censuses, they can often be inferred, but assumptions should be confirmed through other sources before being accepted as facts.

Information in the 1900 census included months and years of birth, the lengths of marriages and the number of children of each adult woman. If immigrant ancestors were alive at the time of the 1900 census, a genealogist can learn the year of their immigration, a fact which may lead to ship passenger lists and other documents that will help carry a search abroad.

Researchers may obtain a one-page summary of the information covered in each census from 1790 to 1970 from the US Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Pittsburg, KS 66762.

Genealogists can try to locate census records any time they've pieced together sufficient data on an ancestral family during a census year, but it's most likely that they'll find their ancestors in the later 1880 or 1900 census and then, with additional clues, trace them back into earlier ones. Because the 1880 and 1900 censuses collected so much detailed information, locating

ancestors in them can be like opening a genealogical gold mine.

By searching the census records a genealogist can investigate a variety of surnames, check for variations in spelling and compare the information in one census to that in another. In order to get the greatest use out of census records, a researcher needs to be absolutely scrupulous in researching them. Every bit of information contained in the records, as well as some details that don't seem relevant at first may prove useful later, should be copied down. As in all genealogical research, one fact often leads to another.

### **KNOWING INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN TO CENSUS TAKERS HELPS UNDERSTAND RECORDS**

Lloyd Hosman, *Antique Week*, Jan.-Feb., 2000

Knowing the instructions that were given to those taking the census can go a long way in helping us understand the records that they produced. The first Congress passed an act that with some minor modifications governed census taking from 1790 to 1840.

When the first census was taken in 1790, the marshals were told what questions to ask. No forms were issued. They had to use whatever paper was available, rule it, write in the headings and bind the sheets together. The government was interested primarily in two things, military preparedness and a tax base. They were to ask six things: the name of the head of the family, the number of free white males 16 and older, free white males under 16, free white females, all other free persons, and slaves.

Things improved slightly in the censuses of 1800-1820 when the states provided schedules of varying size and typeface. Finally in 1830 the government began providing uniform printed schedules.

## **Enumeration Instructions 1830-1840 Census**

The instructions and forms given to the enumerators for the 1830 and 1840 censuses were virtually the same. Emphasis was placed on making sure that the entries were as of the first day of June. Any person living in the home on the day of the census, but whose usual place of abode on June 1 was in another family, was not to be counted. The enumerators were to include such persons as may have deceased after June 1st and were not to include any infants born after that day.

This emphasis was very strong in the instructions and no doubt were for the most part observed. Mistakes were made. People were not counted and some were counted when they should not have been. However, as a general rule these instructions were carried out and they should be kept in mind as we work with census research.

## **1850-1860 Census**

With one small exception, the 1850 and 1860 census forms were the same. That exception was the adding of the value of personal property. Thus the instructions were virtually the same for both censuses. As is generally known, the 1850 census ushered in a new era in census taking, in that, beginning with this census all free persons were to have been enumerated (at least that was the goal). As a result, the instructions became much more detailed in order to provide the enumerators with as much help as was reasonably possible with the greatly increased task. The instructions could not possibly provide the answers to every question that might arise, but they did give general guidelines that would fit most situations.

The forms were 12-1/2 x 17-1/2 printed on two sides with space for 40 entries on each side. In

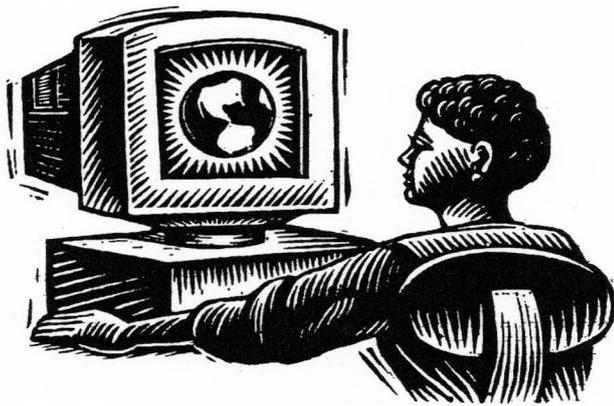
addition to the state and county, the name or number of the district, town or city was to be inserted as was the date of the visit.

Under heading 1, all dwellings were to have been numbered in order of visitation. A dwelling was defined as a separate inhabited tenement, containing one or more families under one roof. Where several tenements were in one block with walls either of brick or wood to divide them and having separate entrances, they were each to be counted as separate houses. If they were not so divided, they were counted as one house. If the house was used partly as a store, shop, etc., and partly as a dwelling, it was to be numbered as a dwelling. Hotels, poorhouses, hospitals, jails, etc., were numbered as a single dwelling and were to be so identified perpendicularly under the heading.

Under heading two, all families were to have been numbered in order of visitation. A family was defined as one person living separately in a house or a part of a house and providing for himself or several persons having a common means of support. Thus, a widow living alone and providing for herself or 200 persons living together with a common head (including inmates of an institution) would each be counted as a family.

Under heading three, all free persons in the family, including those that were temporarily absent, were to be counted. Again close attention was to be paid to the June 1 date. The order was to be father, mother and then children in order of birth. If parents were dead, then whoever was considered head of the family was to be listed first. Lodgers, servants, etc., were listed last. Landlords, jailers, etc. were considered family heads of those under their care. Indians not taxed were not listed. Anyone temporarily

(continued on page 6)



## WEB WANDERINGS

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

U. S. Census Bureau  
[census.gov](http://census.gov)

Census On-Line  
[census-online.com](http://census-online.com)

Women's History Month  
March

Women: The Shadow Story of the Millennium  
[nytimes.com/library/magazine/millennium/m2](http://nytimes.com/library/magazine/millennium/m2)

Women in America 1820-1842  
[xroads.virginia.edu/~hyper/detoc/fem/home.htm](http://xroads.virginia.edu/~hyper/detoc/fem/home.htm)

Women's Military History from 1776-1998  
[undelete.org/military.html](http://undelete.org/military.html)

Not for Ourselves Alone  
[pbs.org/stantonanthony](http://pbs.org/stantonanthony)

Soundex Codes  
[nara.gov/genealogy/soundex/soundex.html](http://nara.gov/genealogy/soundex/soundex.html)

Today In History  
[history-magazine.com](http://history-magazine.com)

RootsWeb Worldconnect Project  
<http://worldconnect.genealogy.rootsweb.com/>

absent, with the intention of returning again, was to be counted. Students away at school were to be listed with the family with which they were staying on June 1.

Persons on board a vessel temporarily in port, whose only habitation was on the vessel or at another place, were not to be listed. Sailors, and all employed in the navigation of the lakes, rivers and canals were to be listed at their homes, or, if they lived on the vessel, at the place where the vessel was owned.

(to be continued)

## RELEASE OF 1930 CENSUS

*AntiqueWeek, December 20, 1999*

The 1930 census is scheduled for release to the public by the National Archives on April 1, 2002. The project roll counts are as follows. Census: 2,268 rolls; Soundex, 1659 rolls, and about 30 rolls of enumeration district maps will be in color.

The states which have an index are: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky (partial), Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia. The census date was April 1, 1930.

Thirty-two questions were asked: Street address, house number, visitation order number, family number, name of each person living there, relationship of each to head, home owned or rented, value if owned or monthly rental, radio set, does family live on a farm, sex, color or race, age at last birthday, marital condition, age at first marriage, attended school or college since Sept. 1, able to read or write, place of birth for person, his/her father and mother, language spoken before coming to US, year of immigration, naturalization, able to speak English, trade, profession or work done, industry/business, class of work, if actually worked yesterday, veteran of US military or naval force which war or expedition, number of farm schedule.

## TAKE PART IN 2000 CENSUS

Jim Garamone, *American Forces Press Service*  
In the *Kings Bay Periscope*, January 28, 2000

Thanks to Gary Schlemmer for sending this along

Counting the population of the United States is important, an integral part of the Constitution.

Military service members and their family members must be counted too. The Census Bureau will work with military officials to ensure all service members and their families are "enumerated" by the bureau.

Here's how military members are to be counted:

- Service members living in the United States are counted at their usual residence, the place where they live and sleep most of the time., whether on base or off base.

- Service members assigned to installations outside the United States - including families with them - are counted as part of the U.S. overseas population..

- Crews of ships home ported in the United States are counted at their usual onshore residence - where they live and sleep most of the time. If they report no onshore residence, they are counted at the ship's home ports.

- Crews of ships home ported outside the United States are counted as part of the U. S. overseas population.

So, this is where service members will be counted, but for apportionment of the seats in the House of Representatives, they will be assigned to their voting residence.

Each base has a project officer to work with the Census Bureau. Service members fill out special forms called military census reports. They can

claim their home addresses or report the address of their barracks. Sailors and Coast Guardsmen fill out shipboard census reports.

Service members living in family housing in the United States will receive a questionnaire just like civilians in the surrounding communities. Still service members must fill out both the military or shipboard census reports and the questionnaires.

The first counts for the 2000 Census have already been made. Census Bureau Director Kenneth Prewitt personally enumerated residents of Unalakleet, Alaska January 20, to kick off the first U.S. Population census of the new century.

The scene will shift to the rest of the United States with about 100 million advance letters (ed. note - with an extra digit on your street address) going to households between March 6 and 9. Census officials will mail the questionnaires March 13 to 15. **April 1 is Census Day.** The questionnaire will ask how many people are in the household on April 1, 2000. "That's how we get the snapshot of America", said a Census Bureau spokesperson.



# DATE

**APRIL 1, 2000**

**CENSUS DAY**

## **CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**

The Greater Pittsburgh Civil War Round Table will have monthly meetings at Northland Public Library. The first meeting was February 29. Each meeting will be at 7:00 pm on the fourth Monday of each month. Scheduled topics for upcoming meetings include:

- March 27 - Civil War Medicine
- April 24 - Col. Strong Vincent, Hero of Little Round Top
- May 22 - Civil War Civilian Mourning Clothes
- June 26 - John Wilkes Booth: Lincoln's Assassin
- September 25 - Escape from Libby Prison
- October 23 - Private Christian Hinchberger
- November 27 - The Miner-Minerd Civil War Legacy

## **CEMETERY PROJECT**

As genealogists we all know how important cemetery records can be to our search efforts. Thanks to the work done by others, we have available readings of various cemeteries. Recently I wanted to find burial information on members of my mother's family. Unfortunately, the cemetery where many of them are buried has never been "read". So, I was dependent upon the help of the office at the cemetery. Fortunately, the caretaker was more than willing to help.

Spring is coming and NHG will resume reading the pioneer cemeteries in the North Hills for our second book.. Volunteers are needed for these readings (no experience necessary). If you would like to help with these readings, contact either Ginny Skander at (412) 443-1460 or Lissa Powell at (724) 935-6961

## **'ANCESTORS' SEQUEL AIRS ON PBS IN APRIL**

*Family Tree Magazine, April 2000*

PBS will be airing an 11-episode sequel to their popular series in April. The programs will be part of a multimedia package focused on learning genealogical techniques. A website, online courses, instructional videos, printed guidebooks and a teacher's guide will accompany the TV shows. The goal of this multimedia approach will be to teach the five-step research method taught by the Family History Library in Salt Lake City.

The series will open with an hour-long, prime-time special and then be followed with 10 half-hour episodes. More information can be found at the KBYU Ancestor's website [www.kbyu.org/ancestors/](http://www.kbyu.org/ancestors/)

## **FIRE AT NATIONAL ARCHIVES IN MARYLAND**

A fire occurred on Wednesday, March 1 at the Washington National Records Center in Suitland, MD which stores more than 3.7 million cubic feet of records.

Archive officials said 3,000 cubic feet of records were stored in areas where sprinklers activated but fewer than 300 cubic feet - approximately 700,000 pages - were actually damaged or destroyed.

The bulk of the records were from the Department of Veteran Affairs. These are inactive files of deceased veterans who previously made claims for benefits.

Other records damaged/destroyed were some involved in a lawsuit brought by American Indians against the government, District of Columbia government offices, Labor Department and US Patent and Trademark office.

## THE CENSUS TAKER

Arthur Unknown

It was the first day of census, and all through the  
land;

The pollster was ready ...a black book in hand.

He mounted his horse for a long dusty ride;  
His book and some quills were tucked close by his  
side.

A long winding ride down a road barely there;  
Toward the smell of fresh bread wafting, up  
through the air.

The woman was tired, with lines on her face;  
And wisps of brown hair she tucked back into  
place.

She gave him some water...as they sat at the  
table;  
And she answered his questions..the best she was  
able.

He asked of her children..Yes, she had quite a  
few;  
The oldest was twenty, the youngest not two.

She held up a toddler with cheeks round and red;  
His sister, she whispered, was napping in bed.  
She noted each person who lived there with pride;  
And she felt the faint stirrings of the wee one  
inside.

He noted the sex, the color, the age...  
The marks from the quill soon filled up the page.  
At the number of children, she nodded her head;  
And saw her lips quiver for the three that were  
dead.

The places of birth she "never forgot";  
Was it Kansas? or Utah? or Oregon..or not?  
They came from Scotland, of that she was clear;  
But she wasn't quite sure just how long they'd  
been here.

They spoke of employment, of schooling and  
such;

They could read some, and write some..though  
really not much.

When the questions were answered, his job there  
was done;  
So he mounted his horse and he rode toward the  
sun.

We can almost imagine his voice loud and clear;  
" May God bless you all for another ten years. "

Now picture a time warp..its now you and me;  
As we search for the people on our family tree.

We squint at the census and scroll down so slow;  
As we search for that entry from long, long ago.  
Could they only imagine on that long ago day;  
That the entries they made would effect us this  
way?

If they knew, would they wonder at the yearning  
we feel;

And the searching that makes them so  
increasingly real.

We can hear, if we listen, the words they impart;  
Through their blood in our veins and their voice  
in our heart.

## FAMILY STORIES

As you research your families, you probably  
comes across stories about them. You "hear the  
words they impart" .

Take a few minutes and send your stories to the  
newsletter and share your findings with the other  
members of NHG. Send your stories to the  
attention of the Editor.

**SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE, IT IS A WAY TO  
ACHIEVE IMMORTALITY**

# **NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS**

**C/O Northland Public Library**

**300 Cumberland Road**

**Pittsburgh, PA 15237-4555**

## **FIRST CLASS MAIL**

### **DATED MATERIAL**

<p><b>PASTOR PAUL MILLER RUFF</b> <b>GERMAN LUTHERAN &amp; REFORMED CHURCH RECORDS OF</b> <b>SOUTHWESTERN PA</b> <b>April 18, 2000</b></p>
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#### **WPGS SPRING CLASSES - 2000**

WPGS is again offering their beginning genealogy classes. Topics include basic introduction, courthouse records, library use/materials, census, vital records and church and cemetery records.

The classes will be held on two consecutive Saturdays, May 6 and 13. Each day classes will be held from 9:30-11:30 am and 1-3 pm.

Registration form is available on-line, by mail or at the Pennsylvania Department at Carnegie Library. All classes will be at Carnegie Library, 4400 Forbes Avenue (Oakland).

#### **CELEBRATING WOMEN'S LIVES, PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE**

*Access* magazine section, *Tribune-Review*  
March 6, 2000

In the summer of 1848, a small group of American women joined together in Seneca Falls, NY for the first conference on women's rights. On the agenda were the right to own property and the right to vote. Property rights came quickly in New York, but it took decades for the second part of that agenda to be fulfilled. Seventy-two years after Seneca Falls, in 1920, women gained voting rights through the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

#### **March is Women's History Month**