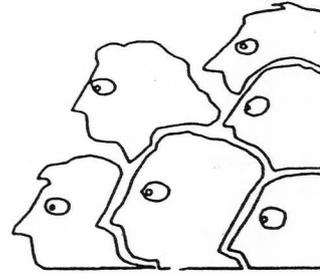




NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS NEWSLETTER



STARTING OUR 10TH YEAR

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

Volume 10, Number 8 - April, 2000

e-mail pioneerbook@juno.com

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10 Issues - August-June

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Years ago, when I was a kid, we used to have an annual family picnic every year on the Fourth of July. There were aunts, uncles, cousins, grandparents and the whole family as I knew it. We'd all go to a grove in North Park for the day, and Uncle Joe would always bring the biggest watermelon he could find. In the late 40's we called it a reunion, and there were over one hundred family members. In the 50's the annual picnic died out as many of the older members died, and the kids went their separate ways.

A few years ago, my daughter revived the Fourth of July picnic. She is hosting it again this year for the eighth time. It has been growing each year, and this year looks like a pretty good attendance. It is again taking on the appearance of a family reunion that we had years ago. I'm hoping that we can sustain it as an ongoing family tradition.

She has asked me to bring along and share my research on the family tree with all in attendance. She said that when she visits with the grandchildren, she never seems to have the

time to share all that I've found, only bits and pieces here and there. Others of the family have also asked for information too. So, I'm in the process of gathering my stuff, and plotting charts to make it a bit more understandable. I'm thrilled, because I believe the real joy of finding your family tree is sharing it with your family.

There's still time for you to organize a family picnic for this summer. Sign up for a grove at the park and invite your family. Ask the relations that you haven't seen in a while. They may welcome the chance to renew ties. And, don't forget to bring along your family tree information. My grandchildren ask "Where's my block (on the chart) Grandpap?" I'm sure that your's will be thrilled to find their block too.

Sylvan

PS - I want to thank all of those who offered to help with the cemetery reading project. We will be getting organized shortly, weather permitting.

WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

Tues., May 2 - 7:30 pm - **NHG Board Meeting** - Passavant Hospital Cafeteria. Everyone welcome.

Tues., May 16 - 7:00 pm - **Regular NHG Meeting** - "Can I Do Genealogical Research at The Archives of Industrial Society" - Speak, Dennis East.

Sat., May 20 - **NHG Spring Research Field Trip to Western Reserve Historical Society**. See separate article on page 3.

Sat. April 22 - **Civil War Seminar** - Sponsored by Penn State University 9:00 am - 1:00 pm. Topics: End of the Confederacy: Vicksburg, Gettysburg and Tullahoma, June 28, 1863 - July 5, 1863. Cost \$50.00; pre-registration \$45. Contact Ron Gancas at Soldiers & Sailors for information.

Wed., April 26 - **Allegheny City Society** - Annual Meeting - Penn Brewery, Troy Hill Road. John Canning will speak on The Germans of Allegheny City. A buffet dinner will begin at 6:00 (\$17). Reservations required for the buffet. Program will begin at 7:00 and is free and open to the public. For more information call 412-322-8807.

Thur., May 11 - 7:30 pm - **WPGS Meeting** - Carnegie Lecture Hall - Marilyn Holt will speak on "Back to Basics - Sources You May Have Missed"

Wed., May 3 - **United States Army Band - Soldiers & Sailors Hall**. Call Linda at 412-621-4253 for information and tickets.

Sat., May 20 - **Cumberland County Historical Society and The Hamilton Library Association**, Carlisle, PA - Genealogy Fair. Four speakers plus vendors. \$20 for non-members. Call 717-249-7610 or visit the website at www.historical.society.com

May 31 - June 2 - **National Genealogical Society - "Conference in the States"** - Providence, RI. This is the largest genealogy conference in the US this year. There will be more than 100 presentations, seminars and meetings. Details available at the website <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org>.

July 20 - 22 - **The Allen County Public Library & The Allen County Public Library Foundation** - National conference at the Grand Wayne Center, Fort Wayne, IN. Details available at their website www.acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy/graphics/year2000.html

Sept. 6 - 9 - **Federation of Genealogical Societies - "World of Records - Rediscovering Old Millennial Sources with New Millennial Techniques"**. Salt Lake City, UT. Contact FGS at P.O. Box 200940, Austin, TX 78720-0940 or e-mail at fgs-office@fgs.org.

NEW FEATURE IN NHG NEWSLETTER "Dear Genie"

We are going to institute a new feature in the NHG newsletter which we hope you will enjoy and find useful. We are going to try a "Help" column called "Dear Genie" (for genealogy). This will be your chance to submit questions about how and where to find information in your research. We will select questions that are submitted and publish them in the newsletter. We'll try to help you with answers and give the other members a chance to help too.

Submit your questions to the Editor at either the address on the front or at DJBooth@worldnet.att.net. You may include your name, address, phone and e-mail address so others can contact you with their suggestions.

We hope you will send in your questions and hope you find this new feature helpful in your research.

QUERIES

Compiled and edited by Sylvan Kretz, Query Editor

HUCKESTEIN/HUCKENSTEIN, Christ (b. 1835 - Germany), m. **Mary** (b. 1842 - France) Children: **Nicholas J.** (1861), **Mary** (1865), and **Dora** (1868). Pittsburgh (Allegheny City) 1870 census. **Contact: Sylvan Kretz, 991 Grandview Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15237.**

DODD, Samuel (b. 5/15/1799 or 1800) - Allegheny City), m to **Mary SARVER** (b. 10/2/1809 - Allegheny Co.) Children: **Joseph** (b. 1832 - Pittsburgh) Bought property in Ross Twp. in 1832. Enn. in Ross Twp - 1850 census. Moved to Floyd Co., Indiana in 1853. Seeking information linking to **DODD, Samuel** m. to **Mary/Magdalena SHELPMAN** (both b. late 1760's - Delaware, probably Sussex Co.) **Contact: Ann Conaway, 4523 Seminole, Pasadena, TX 77504, e-mail: cconaway@infohwy.com**

LASH, William Arthur (b. abt. 1918 - Ambridge, Beaver Co., PA). Daughter born 4/25/1948 in Phillipsburg, Centre Co., PA. **Contact: Robert Lewis CJ-2300, 1 Kelley Drive, Coal Township, PA 17866-1021.**

BOLER, Hippolyte, m. to **Natalie KYGIER**, both from Krakow, Poland 1899 aboard *Munchen*. Lived in Natrona till 1925. **Contact: Marie Williams, 8941 Cordwood Trail, Cheboygan, MI 49271, e-mail: wwil@sunny.ncmc.cc.mi.us.**

RICHARDS, SLOPAK (b. Bohemia/Austria) both in Allegheny Co., PA. **Contact: Dorothy Richards, 108 Olde Ingomar Ct., Pittsburgh, PA 15237**

ARMOUR/ARMOR, Beaver Co., PA,
CARNAHAN, LYNCH, Allegheny Co., PA,
ROUSH/ROSE, AUMILLER, Meigs Co., OH.
Contact: Mildred Roush, 351 East Second Street, Beaver, PA 15009

WALTERS, Sarah, East Ward, Pittsburgh, Allegheny Co., PA (1840 census index). **Contact: Richard Carbonaro, 2244 Grand Cypress Drive, Lakeland, FL 33810-5750, e-mail: dickcarbon@juno.com**

Queries are free and open to everyone. Send your queries to NHG, attention: Query Editor, at the address on the front. Please Note: NHG does not maintain a library nor does it do research.

NHG SPRING RESEARCH FIELD TRIP WESTERN RESERVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY CLEVELAND, OH SATURDAY, MAY 20, 2000

On Saturday, May 20, NHG will make its annual research trip to Western Reserve Historical Society in Cleveland. Drive or carpool with friends for a day of research. The library has US and state census records, surname files, and many books for all state. They also have a large collection of family genealogies. Bring a box lunch or use the vending machines. If you plan on going, please sign up at the meeting or contact Sylvan Kretz at swkretz@attglobal.net. We need to give the library an idea of how many will be coming. A map to the library will be available in the May newsletter and at the May meeting. Join your fellow NHG members for a day of research.

NOMINATIONS FOR NHG BOARD OFFICERS

Nominations are being accepted for NHG Board officers. Here's your chance to help NHG grow. Offices are: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. If you are interested in running, please contact any current Board member or e-mail Sylvan Kretz at swkretz@attglobal.net. The new officers will take office in July. Ballots will be in the June newsletter.

NHG MEMBER'S STORY

Serendipity in Cyberspace

Submitted by NHG member Peg Duffy

As we concentrate on Internet searches giving us access to records and documents, we sometimes overlook the information we find through the people on mail lists.

Discussion lists are frequently criticized for the non-relevant chatter. However, such repartee helped me to find a person with whom there had been no contact for more than thirty years. My husband knows that a cousin of his mother was married to a Pittsburgh firefighter. I contacted one regular participant in list responses, who had identified himself as a City firefighter. Through professional acquaintances, he was able to provide a current address for the relative. We've had written and telephone discussions with the relative, enabling us to move back two more generations.

In another case, a person was researching a familiar surname in a small Washington County town. Again, I contacted the individual and through exchanges found that her 81 year old cousin had played on a basketball team that my mother coached in the early thirties. The snapshots I have of that team have been brought to life now that I have telephoned this senior citizen. In turn, I was able to provide the researcher with a copy of a document bearing her grandfather's signature and notary seal.

So often we focus on what we can gain rather than what we can give in our research. I was making decisions on the proper home for an assortment of books with minimal value other than sentimental. One was a small 1827 Bible, well-used but having no connection to my family. An 1836 inscription indicated that the book was a gift to a female cousin of the first owner. That

particular name had recently surfaced in a query. I was delighted to send the Bible to a documented descendant of that owner as she was to receive it.

Bringing people to life is just as rewarding as completing that pedigree chart!

Peg Duffy

NATIONAL ARCHIVES FIRE INTENTIONAL

According to a recent AP article, investigators say that the February 29 fire at the National Archives - Suitland Branch was intentionally set. Conservation efforts are progressing and an NARA spokesperson says that fewer than 40,000 pages have been destroyed. For more information check out this website:

<http://www.excite.com/news/ap/003234/14/archives> file.

FAMILY HISTORY COLLECTION FIREBOMBED AT LOCAL LIBRARY

On January 25, 2000, a fire started at the Virginia Beach Central Library when a firebomb was thrown through a broken library window. As many as 1,400 books sustained damage due to the sprinkling system and smoke. Damage was in the local history and genealogy section of the library.

According to Carolyn Barkley, a librarian at the branch, "The actual count of loss was 1,406 books. These books were 000s through 929.3755. That represents about half of the printed collection - no original documents or microfilm were damaged. Societies, libraries and publishers are invited to donate their printed family history materials. Check out their website for more information on helping rebuild their collection:

www.virginia-beach.va.us/services/library

KNOWING INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN TO CENSUS TAKERS HELPS UNDERSTAND RECORDS

Lloyd Hosman for *AntiqueWeek*, March 13, & 26, 2000
(continued from March newsletter)

Enumeration Instructions for 1850-1860 Censuses

Under heading 4, age, was to be listed the age of each person on their birthday previous to June 1.

If not known, it was to be estimated. The space was not to have been left blank. Children under age one were to be entered by the fraction 1/2, 2/12, etc.

Under heading 5, sex, insert M for male and F for female.

Under heading 6, color, if the person were white the space was to have been left blank. If black, insert B. If mulatto, insert M.

Under heading 7, occupation, after the name of each male over age 15 was to be inserted their occupation or trade. If the person were a clergyman, the initials of his denomination were to have been inserted,

Under heading 8, real estate, was to have been inserted the value in dollars of any real estate owned by each individual. No reduction in the amount was to be indicated in the event of a lien against the property.

Under heading 9, place of birth, the name or initial of the state, territory or country was to be given. If unknown, that was to be so indicated.

Under heading 10, married in year, a mark or dash was to be made for any person married within the years previous to June 1.

Under heading 11, school in the year, a mark was to have been made after each person's name who had been in an educational institution. Interestingly, Sunday schools were specifically not to be included.

Under heading 12, cannot read and write. If a person could read and write a foreign language, they were considered as able to read and write.

Under heading 13, deaf and dumb, blind, insane, etc., the enumerator was cautioned with regard to convicts. When a person who has been convicted of a crime was living in the household, that was to be so indicated. However, since inquiring about that might give offense, it was suggested that the enumerator check with the county records and go by his own knowledge. In addition, if the place being visited was a poor house or asylum, etc., the nature of each person's infirmity was to be given. If the place was a jail, etc., the crime committed was to be given in column no. 3, recorded with the name and the year of conviction.

Finally there were slave schedules for 1850 and 1860. These listed the name of the slave owner, how many slaves he had, their ages, sex, and color, whether fugitive or manumitted and whether deaf or dumb, blind, etc. There was no place on the form for slave's names. However, at times some were listed.

**The "Family Tree" is an interesting
thing,
Where statistics are kept on file.
But some of the trees I have heard
about,
Should be sprayed every once in a
while.**



WEB WANDERINGS

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

Archives Services Center, University of
Pittsburgh
library.pitt.edu/libraries/archives/archives.html

University of Pittsburgh Digital Library
<http://digital.library.pitt.edu/pittsburgh>

Website with a collection of worldwide
phonebooks, city maps, directories - locate small
villages all over the world
<http://mitglied.tripode.de/froboesefamily/index.html>

Family Reunions - post information about your
upcoming family reunion
**click on small Family Reunions banner link at
rootsweb.com**

Mailing Lists
An index to most genealogy mailing lists hosted
by RootsWeb
rootsweb.com/~maillist

Canada, British Columbia Vital Records
hlth.gov.bc.ca/vs/genealogy/order.html

CHURCH ARCHIVES IN HESSE, KASSEL, GERMANY

From Hesse-L mail list on RootsWeb

If you have an ancestor from an area controlled (genealogically speaking) by the church archives in Kassel, you are now able to send an English-language e-mail to the Church archives requesting research services. The results of any research will be reported to you by return e-mail (in German). They will not send the actual copies of documents until your check has cleared their bank.

Note the following regarding their service: In accordance with our services and fee schedule we cannot commit more than two hours per inquiry, so we ask that you do not request information concerning more than 3 persons per inquiry.

E-mail: ekkw.archiv@t-online.de. Their website is at: <http://www.ekkw.de/archiv>

ANCESTORS SPECIAL ON PBS

In last month's newsletter there was an article about a sequel to the popular Ancestors series on PBS. At that time it was indicated that the series would be shown in April. WQED has advised that at the present time they have not finalized their schedule and could not provide the actual dates this program may air. We will continue to keep in touch with WQED and keep you posted.

Did you know that in 1900:
Rocky Mountain Buckeye, March/April 2000

Almost every city park in America had a carousel

Sugar cost four cents a pound. Eggs were fourteen cents a dozen. Coffee cost fifteen cents a pound.

The Statue of Liberty was only fifteen years old

EXPLANATION OF OLD MEDICAL TERMS

Patricia Hahn, *AntiqueWeek*, February 7, 2000

At Mt. Vernon 200 years ago, three doctors treated George Washington with typical remedies of the 18th century – bloodletting and blistering. The patient died in spite of (or perhaps because of) the care he was given. Those doctors agreed that Washington's death was caused by "inflammatory quinsy." Modern doctors would say he had abscessed tonsils or severe tonsillitis. Quinsy is one of many outdated medical terms that genealogists may run across in their research.

Earlier in 1799, Martha Washington had taken quinine for what the doctors diagnosed as "ague and fever." George had suffered repeated bouts of ague ever since he, as a young surveyor, had been bitten by mosquitoes while camping out in a Virginia swamp. Ague is an old term for malaria, or more commonly, the symptoms of the disease – chills, fever, and uncontrollable fits of trembling. The word is a shortened form of the French words *fievre ague* (acute fever).

During the French and Indian War, George Washington had put up with spells of ague, as well as the flux or dysentery. He was out of action for several days, however, with the grippe. That was a contagious fever that gripped or seized its victim suddenly. It was often a type of influenza.

We no longer hear of falling sickness, which is now known as epilepsy. Edema, swelling of body tissues caused by fluid buildup, was once called dropsy. In early America, a common ailment, yellow fever, was referred to as American distemper. Apoplexy, better known to us as a stroke, was a cerebrovascular accident (CVA) or sudden rupture of a blood vessel in the brain.

Doctors of old thought the brain and the stomach were very closely connected. The vapors was mental depression or hypochondria supposedly caused by injurious exhalations produced in the stomach. Years ago, dyspepsia or dyspepsy meant digestive problems along with a bad mood (or even deranged mind). Today, the term dyspepsia might be used for gastritis, an irritated stomach lining, not necessarily accompanied by an irritable mood.

There was no name then, nor is there one now, for a genealogist's mood caused by what seems like an ancestor dropping off the face of the earth or of one popping up mysteriously from nowhere.

The cause of that might be a disease that has been a threat to society for thousands of years, no matter whether it is called phthisis, a decline, consumption, tuberculosis, TB, or the Great White Plague. It was a major event that disrupted families and caused people to migrate. More lives were suddenly rearranged by tuberculosis than by any war. The doctors' prescription for the disease was a change of climate. In the early 1750s, George Washington accompanied his consumptive half-brother Lawrence to Barbados. Lawrence was not cured, but died of the disease that was the number one killer of the time.

FIRST FAMILIES OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

On April 15, WPGS welcomed the second group of members into First Families of Western Pennsylvania. If you were part of this group, please send your name and the names and dates of your ancestors to the editor so we can put it in our newsletter. E-mail the editor at DJBooth@worldnet.att.net or send your information to the newsletter at the address on the front.

THE STORY BEHIND THE NAMES OF PENNSYLVANIA COUNTIES

Reprinted from John M. Roberts' & Sons advertising in the
Pittsburgh *Sun-Telegraph* - late 1940s-early 1950s

Submitted by Bernice Broniecki

CLARION COUNTY

Clarion County was created by an Act of March 11, 1839 from Armstrong and Venango counties, and named for the river which flows through the county. This river was originally called "River Au Fiel", later "Big Tobeco", the Indian word for alders, and from which it is probable the later popular name "Toby" was derived. It was shown on some maps as "Stump Creek," but has been called "Clarion" since 1817. At *Brady's Bend*, a magnificent view is to be had of the great Horseshoe Bend in the Allegheny River, with *Sarah Furnace* and *Red Bank* in the distance.

Christian Frederick Post, the Moravian missionary, when bearing a message to the Indians, in an effort to win them over to the English, in 1758 crossed the "Big Tobeco", now the Clarion River, at about the present *Cooksburg*, and traversed the northern part of the county near the present *Franklin*.

Bishop David Zeisberger, another intrepid Moravian missionary, came to this region in 1767. Colonel Daniel Broadhead's expedition against the Six Nations, in August 1779, led through Clarion County, along the old Venango Road, and many of the stirring events in historic western Pennsylvania were enacted along the Allegheny River. Important stations along the "Underground Railroad", in pre-Civil War days, were in Clarion County, and many slaves were assisted on their way to Canada. The first permanent settlers came from Penn's Valley, Centre County, in 1801, and were a group of nine: Samuel Wilson, John C. Corbett, William Young, Philip Clover and his son Philip, Jr., John Love, James Potter, John Roll and William Smith.

The county seat, Clarion, named for the river, was laid out by John Sloan in 1839, and incorporated from Clarion Township, on April 6, 1841. East Brady was named for the Revolutionary officer, Captain Samuel Brady. Rimersburg was named after the settler, John Rimer, in 1829. New Bethlehem, formerly "Gumtown", later "Bethlehem", added the prefix "New" to distinguish it from Bethlehem in Northampton County.

Clarion County, containing part of the famous Cook Forest is 601 square miles of table land and rolling country, with thirteen boroughs and twenty-one townships.

(Note: The number of boroughs and townships may have changed since this article originally appeared.)

THE DEVIL LURKS IN THE SHADOWS

Clark House News, January, 2000

The oldest graves are to be found in the south part of a church yard, as it was the custom to avoid the shadow of the church falling across the graves. For in the shadows lurked the Devil and, as every good man and woman knew, the Devil always rode in from the north. In Victorian times, the extreme north side of the church yard was reserved for the suicides. (Rev. J. Russell Killman, *Voices Out of the Past*)

TOMBSTONE SEARCHING HINT

Ancestry Weekly Digest, April 8, 2000

"When I go trekking through cemeteries, I find it very useful to take along my binoculars. I find a good vantage point, and then I am able to scan a lot of grave markers from one spot. This has been especially effective with tombstones from this century, and it has saved me miles of walking in the hot sun."

Donna Mae Dougall

LIFE IN THE 1500S RATHER DISGUSTING

Rocky Mountain Buckeye, March/April, 2000

"It's raining cats and dogs"

Houses had thatched roofs. Thick straw, piled high with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the pets -- dogs, cats and other small animals, mice, rats, bugs -- lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery, and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof. Hence the saying, "It's raining cats and dogs."

There was nothing to stop things from falling through the roof into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could really mess up your nice clean bed. So they found if they made beds with big posts and hung a sheet over the top, it addressed the problem. Hence those beautiful big four-poster beds with canopies.

"Dirt Poor"

The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the saying, "dirt poor." The wealthy had slate floors which would get slippery in the winter when wet. So they spread thresh on the floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they kept adding more thresh until it would all start slipping outside when the door opened. A piece of wood was placed at the entry way -- hence a "thresh hold."

They cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire. Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They mostly ate vegetables and didn't get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight and then start over the next day. Sometimes the stew had food in it that

had been in there for a month. Hence the rhyme: peas porridge hot, pease porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old."

"Chew the fat"

Sometimes they could obtain pork and would feel really special when that happened. When company came over, they would bring out some bacon and hang it to show it off. It was a sign of wealth that a man "could really bring home the bacon." They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and "chew the fat."

"Trench mouth"

Most people didn't have pewter plates but had a trencher -- a piece of wood with the middle scooped out like a bowl. Trenchers were never washed, and a lot of times worms got into the wood. After eating off wormy trenchers, they would get "trench mouth." Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle and guests got the top, or the "upper crust."

"Saved by the bell"

England is old and small and they started running out of places to bury people. So they would dig up coffins and would take their bones to a house and reuse the grave. In reopening these coffins, one out of twenty-five coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside, and they realized they had been burying people alive, so they thought they would tie a string on their wrist and lead it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night to listen for the bell. Hence on the "graveyard shift", they would know that someone was "saved by the bell" or he was a "dead ringer."

NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS

**C/O Northland Public Library
300 Cumberland Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15237-4555**

FIRST CLASS MAIL

DATED MATERIAL

CAN I DO GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH AT THE ARCHIVES OF INDUSTRIAL SOCIETY?

Dennis East

Tuesday, May 16, 2000

COLLECTION OF RECORDS

AntiqueWeek, December 6, 1999

A province of the Prussian Empire, Brandenburg in the 1800s stretched from the Elbe River to beyond the Oder River into modern Poland. The Brandenburg, Prussia Emigration Records database is a collection of records kept by the government regarding persons emigrating from the province in the 19th century. Each record provides the emigrant's name, age, occupation, residence, destination and year of emigration. Part of an ongoing project, it contains the names of over 7,500 persons.

Taken from microfiche copies of records kept at the main archive in Potsdam (Brandenburgisches Landeshauptarchiv Potsdam), copies are held by

the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. For researchers of German ancestors, this can be a helpful source of information.

HUMOROUS LOOK

AntiqueWeek, March 22, 1999

Old Death Records

Died suddenly - nothing seriously wrong.

Worn Out

Went to bed feeling well -- work up dead

Don't know - never fatally ill before

Don't know - died without aid of physician

Blow on the head with an axe - contributory
cause, another man's wife.