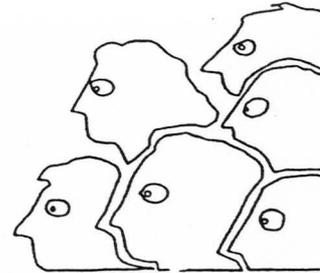




NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS NEWSLETTER



STARTING OUR 10TH YEAR

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

Volume 10, Number 9 - May, 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	Mailings: Bill & Lois Daviess	10 Issues - August-June
Subscription \$12 per year		

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I wandered through the genealogical forest this past winter, I happened upon my son-in-law's great-grandparents. They were residents of Troy Hill, as were my ancestors. With a little probing, I was able to find both grandparent's and great-grandparent's families in the earlier and subsequent census reports. I gave the information to my son-in-law and he shared it with his aunt.

The other day I received a lovely thank you note from his aunt, thanking me for my research. I had provided information that she hadn't known. For instance, she did not know that her grandmother's name was Elisabeth. As a small child she had only known her as "grossmummy."

She was so enthused by the information, that it prompted her to go to her "archives" in the attic and retrieve old records that had been stored there for the last 30 years or so. There were baby pictures, wedding portraits, birth and marriage certificates, family photos, even photos of her grandfather serving in the Spanish

American War in 1898. All of these are now being shared with her nephew, my son-in-law. I have kept copies of the census information, and have received copies of the other information from my son-in-law to be entered into my grandchildren's family tree.

It makes me feel good when I can share some information with another person. But it makes me feel really great when that information bears fruit and sparks some further action to seek out and record our family histories for our children and grandchildren. That thank you note said it all.

Sylvan

Did you know that in 1900:

The vast number of immigrants came into the US from Germany, Great Britain and Ireland

Interest paid on savings accounts - 4-6 %

The Ouija board was wildly popular

From the Rocky Mountain Buckeye, March/April 2000

WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

Tues. June 6 - 7:30 - **NHG Board Meeting**, Passavant Hospital Cafeteria. Everyone welcome.

Sat. May 20 - **NHG Field Trip to Western Reserve Historical Society - Cleveland, OH** - see separate article for details and a map.

Tues. June 20 - **NHG Regular Meeting** - "Orphan, Pauper or Prisoner - Researching in Institutional Records". - Audrey Abbott Iaconne.

May 31- June 3, 2000 - **National Genealogical Society** - "2000 Conference in the States", Providence, Rhode Island.

Thurs. June 8 - 7:30 pm - WPGS Monthly Meeting
Billie Gailey will talk on Lineage Societies and
Suzie Johnson will talk about First Families of
Western Pennsylvania.

June 19-21 - The Pennsylvania Chapter of Palatines to America - "**Pennsylvania, a Palatine Crossroad, 1683-2000**". Contact: The Pennsylvania Chapter, P.O. Box 280, Strasburg, PA 17579-0280.

July 19-22 - "**The Millennium Conference Program**" sponsored by The Allen County Public Library & The Allen County Public Library Foundation, Fort Wayne, Indiana. For more information checkout <http://www.acpl.lib.in.us>

September 6-9 - Federation of Genealogical Societies, "**Rediscovering Old Millennial Sources with New Millennial Techniques**". For information, contact FGS at fgs-office@fgs.org or the Utah Genealogical Association at usga@softsolution.com.

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. The library has US and state census records, surname files and many books for all states. Bring a box lunch or use the vending machine. See the map on page 9 for directions. Join your fellow NHG members for a day of research.

MAY 28-31, 2003

No, that isn't the wrong year. In May, 2003, the National Genealogical Society will be holding its 100th Anniversary Conference in Pittsburgh. WPGS will be the host society for this conference. It is anticipated that between 2300-2500 people will attend this conference. Mark this date on your calendar and plan to attend this national conference. We will provide updates as information becomes available.

LUTHERAN RESEARCH

The Archives of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America holds valuable genealogical information for those who are researching their Lutheran ancestors. It is located at the Ek Grove Village, 321 Bonnie Lane, Chicago, IL. Hours of operation are 8:30 am - 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday. Appointments in advance are advised. For more details, contact, ELCA, 8765 W. Higgins Rd., Chicago, IL 6061. e-mail at archives@elca.org. Visit their website at <http://www.elca.org/os/archives/intro.html>.

**It's 2000. Do you know where your
Great-Great-Grandparents are?**

The following is the first part of an article written by NHG member, Tom Wiley. We will feature other parts in future newsletters.

FROM McKNIGHTLAND TO THE LAND OF "McKNIGHTMARE"!

by Tom Wiley

Before 1939, McKnight Road was a gravel, dusty country road in the midst of small farms. It was zoned residential and had no businesses. There were few people and fewer cars.

A small monument on the southeast corner of McKnight Road and Siebert Road indicates that it was widened and paved in 1939 making it a dual lane highway from Babcock Boulevard to just north of Siebert. And, that this construction was a project of the Federal Works Agency of the Public Works Administration (PWA). The PWA was one of President Franklin Roosevelt's major legislative efforts to re-employ people and bring the United States out of the Great Depression.

Some senior citizens of today remember, as teenagers living in the surrounding areas, "racing" on the quiet and infrequently used highway.

McKnight Run

In this same area, a small creek started a little north of Siebert and flowed quietly down the valley crisscrossing under the new highway to empty into Girty's Run just beyond Babcock Boulevard. The stream was called McKnight Run after John McKnight, an early settler in the valley. The road was, of course, named McKnight Road.

And so, some folks called this area of Ross Township "McKnightland."

Berkeley Hills Elementary School

The Berkeley Hills Elementary School was completed in 1939 on Siebert Road and the Mellwood Presbyterian Church was just getting organized over on Evergreen Road. The Great Depression was winding down and World War II was beginning in Europe.

North Hills Dairy

In 1941, the North Hills Dairy became the first business on McKnight Road. Its job was to collect milk from the surrounding farms and process it into pasteurized milk, butter and ice cream. The dairy was on the northwest corner of McKnight and Seibert where the McKnight post office stands today.

World War II

Then came the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor - December 7, 1941. The next day the United States Congress declared war on Japan and later Germany and Italy. But at the time there were no shopping malls, no huge parking lots, no housing developments and no "McKnightmare" traffic jams to contend with.

The war in Europe ended on May 8, 1945. The Japanese surrendered on September 2, 1945. And, suddenly ten million GI's were headed home. Over two million couples got married during the first year of peace. Thirty two million babies would be born during the next ten years. We call them the "Baby Boomers." And, their parents did not want to raise them in the city.

East Street Connected to McKnight

In 1946, Allegheny County extended East Street north out of the city to connect with McKnight Road at Babcock. The next April, County Commissioner John Kane said, "This new highway eliminates traffic bottlenecks by

providing two lanes in both directions, and is engineered in the same advanced manner as the Pennsylvania Turnpike, with cloverleaf intersections and divided roadways. It will benefit all the people by providing much easier access to North Park, with its picnic groves, playgrounds, golf courses, swimming pool, game preserve, lake and tennis courts. I expect it to stimulate a great deal of attractive residential development." And, on the way back, don't forget to stop at the North Hills Dairy for an ice cream cone!

Rolling Hills and McKnight Village

In the spring of 1947 two residential developments were being promoted in this area - Rolling Hills along Siebert Road around the Berkeley Hills Elementary School and McKnight Village high on a hill above McKnight Road near Babcock.

Construction of the first houses in Rolling Hills was effected by government "wartime" restrictions on the use of building materials. Gradually these limitations were eased and the builders were able to add a garage with a room above it onto the side of the original plan. If you look closely you might be able to detect which ones these were.

McKnight Village, starting a little later, was not effected by the wartime restrictions. And, in 1948, a multiple-unit apartment complex was built in The Village, overlooking the Babcock interchange.

As these housing developments filled up with young families and their children, it became urgent to have grocery stores, and drug stores and churches nearby. It wasn't just a matter of convenience; there were no streetcar lines in the immediate area and public bus transportation was sparse, if it existed at all. Family cars

became a necessity and with them the need for gas stations and garages.

Berkeley Hills Fire Company

The Berkeley Hills Volunteer Fire Company officially incorporated in October, 1942, bought land along Siebert Road the next February and purchased their first fire truck in August of '44. That fall they began construction of their first building. It was dedicated on October 20, 1945. Their hall became a community meeting place and since 1959 has been the polling place for Ward 1 of Ross Township.

Joe Berkley's Pharmacy

Joe Berkley (yes, only two "e's") who had pharmacies in West View and Perrysville, established his third one about 1946 at the corner of McKnight and Siebert, opposite the North Hills Dairy. Miller's auto garage was there along with Ammer's Esso Servicecenter. An early advertisement for Ammer's station claimed that they were the first gas station on McKnight.

The Ammers lived in a house adjacent to their gas station. Originally, the house was on McKnight Road but it was moved back and is now part of The Shadowood Lounge.

Thorofare Food Markets had a store in this area for a while. Then they moved down the road to the foot of Tillotson Road (now Braunlich Drive). On the other corner of Tillotson was Rossi's Cities Service gas station. Still further down McKnight was another gas station - Bigley's Gulf.

Vince Rizzo's Hardware

Vince Rizzo owned the Berkeley Hills Hardware Store on the west side of McKnight Road. Nearby was an early McDonald's stand that was just adding a new item, french fries, to its menu of

hamburgers (15 cents) and milk shakes. Herky Miller started his garage and gas station on Babcock just above Siebert in 1948. He began with Cities Service brand but switched to Gulf in 1953.

P & T Market

In 1953, Frank Thomas bought a fruit stand on Babcock Boulevard near McKnight Road. It was open only in the summertime and carried some groceries. Together with his business partner, John Plecher, he turned it into the P & T Market. Then it stayed open year round, had a full line of groceries and featured what current longtime McKnight Village residents still speak of today as "The best meat department anywhere." It sure beat driving to Millvale to shop for groceries - which some McKnight Village women did then after their husbands came home from work with the family's only car.

McKnight Shopping Center - Northway Mall

Also in 1953, the McKnight Shopping Center opened at the corner of McKnight and Peebles with 24 stores and services and parking for 50 cars. Included were Heintzelman's Market (fruit and vegetables), Wlodek Selected Meats, Rabold's Bakery, a bank and a hardware store. This retail area was expanded, enclosed and reopened in 1962 as the Northway Mall with 67 stores and parking for 2000 cars. The Joseph Horne's Department store was the featured anchor on one end with an A&P Tea Supermarket and a Woolworth's at the other.

According to some past reports, the Northway Mall was Pennsylvania's first true mall in that it was the first to be fully enclosed. It also provided, as the plaza did before it, a 300-seat community room, complete with kitchen and stage. But, probably more noteworthy, at least to the children of North Hills, was the

floor-to-ceiling aviary in the mall area of the second floor. Here the kids could watch a Chinese pheasant, a mynah bird and dozens of parakeets while their parents relaxed on the nearby benches. The aviary no longer exists.

North Hills Village Shopping Center

In the summer of 1946, the North Hills Village Shopping Center was completed with Gimbel's as the anchor store. There were a total of 45 stores and parking for 3500 cars along its nearly one-mile frontage on McKnight Road. There was an Acme grocery and Ondeck's. The later was known for its high quality meats.

McKnight-Siebert Shopping Center

In the fall of '56 and spring of '57, the McKnight-Siebert Shopping Center opened with eleven stores and space for 350-400 cars. The first businesses included a Thrift Drug Store, Zuccherio's Barbershop (now Anthony's) and Giglotti's Jewelers. There was a Loblaw's supermarket there for awhile. They sold out to Del Farm. Then it became Foodland that lasted for only a few years. The original developer wanted to make this strip-mall larger but the owner of the Texaco gas station next door wouldn't sell. It had begun operation in about 1950.

Look for the next part of this article dealing with the churches and suburban living in next month's newsletter.

Cemetery Headstone

Here Lies Jan Smith, wife of Thomas Smith, Marble Cutter. This monument was erected by her husband as a tribute to her memory and as a specimen of his work. Monuments of this same style are two hundred and fifty dollars.



WEB WANDERINGS

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

Soldiers' and Sailors' Memorial Hall
soldiersandsailorsshall.org

Air Force Association
afa.org

The American Legion
legion.org

Association of the United States Army
ausa.org

Disabled American Veterans (DAV)
dav.org/contents/

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)
vfw.org

Daughters of the American Revolution
chesapeake.net./DAR

Descendents of Mexican War Veterans
<http://member.aol.com/dmwv/home.htm>

Grand Army of the Republic (GAR)
pages.prodigy.com/CGBD86A/garhp.htm

MEMORIAL DAY

On this memorial day, remember your ancestors who served their country and made it possible for us to research our families in freedom.

BEGINNER'S CORNER

RELATIONSHIPS EXPLAINED

from the *Clark House News*, March, 2000

First Cousins

All have the same grandparents

Second Cousins

All have the same great-grandparents, but not all the same grandparents

Third Cousins

All have the same great-great-grandparents

Fourth Cousins

All have the same great-great-great-grandparents, and so forth

Removed

Is a term used to describe a relationship and it tells you that the two people being compared are from different generations. You belong to the same generation as your first cousins (you all have the same grandparents), so "removed" would not be used with them. You are simply "first cousins."

Once Removed

Means that there is a difference of one generation. For example, your mother's first cousin is your first cousin, once removed. This is because your mother's first cousin is one generation younger than your grandparents and you are two generations younger than your grandparents. This one-generation difference equals "once removed."

Twice Removed

Means that there is a two-generation difference. You are two generations younger than a first cousin of your grandmother, so you and your grandmother's first cousin are first cousins twice removed. And, of course there is "three times removed", "four times removed", etc.

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

Clearfield County

Clearfield County was erected by Act of March 26, 1804, out of Lycoming and Huntingdon Counties. The same Act also created the counties of Cambria, Jefferson, McKean, Potter and Tioga.

A portion of the original territory of Clearfield County was taken in 1843 to form Elk County, and a small portion, in 1868, was annexed to Jefferson and Elk Counties.

The county was named for Clearfield Creek, which empties into the Susquehanna River east of Clearfield. The first mention of the name of this stream is found in the journal of the Rev. John Ettwein, the noted Moravian missionary among the Indians. During the migration of the Moravian Indian converts from Wyalusing to western Pennsylvania, Ettwein noted on July 14, 1772: "Reaching Clearfield Creek where the Buffaloes formerly cleared large tracts of undergrowth, so as to give them the appearance of cleared fields. Hence the Indians called the place "Clearfield." The commissioners appointed to locate the county seat, received several propositions and in 1805 selected a tract of land belonging to Abraham Witmer on the site of Chingleclamouche's Old Town, the name of a famous chief who dwelt there, and a name signifying "at the quiet hill." The latter part of this name also survives in the name of Moose Creek. Chingleclamouche was the most important Indian village on the upper West Branch of the Susquehanna River, from 1700; it was destroyed by Provincial troops, marching from Fort Augusta in November, 1756. Territorially Clearfield is one of the largest counties in the Commonwealth, containing 1,142 square miles. The west branch of the

Susquehanna flows from the southwest corner through the county and leaves it in the northeast corner. Rich deposits of bituminous coal, fire clay, iron ore, limestone, and fertile soil provide the natural resources. In 1828 Peter Karthaus arrived in Harrisburg with six arks, laded with bituminous coal from his mines in this county, and it was exhibited in front of the Capitol, but the industry was not developed to any great magnitude until about 1870. Karthaus also stated that he was the first to smelt iron in Pennsylvania by means of bituminous coal. The other important industries are vitrified brick, drain tile, and tanning. Clearfield County included nineteen boroughs and thirty townships.

QUERIES

Compiled and edited by Sylvan Kretz, Query
Editor

Queries are free and open to everyone. They will be printed
as space permits.

LEY, RAPP, Manchester area of Allegheny City --
1870-1879. Contact: **Carol Ruffolo, 205
Montclair Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15229**

**SWEENY, SAWDERS, CONNOLLEY,
McDONOUGH**, Allegheny County. Contact:
**Sister Fidelis McDonough, 606 Tally Drive,
Pittsburgh, PA 15237-2942**

JOHNSON, Norway and Minnesota, **MEIER**,
Switzerland. Contact: **Mrs. Inez M. Meier, 8607
Wittmer Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237, e-mail:
Inezmeier@aol.com**

BITTNER, SMITH, WRIGHT, Somerset County.
Contact: **Carol Kapetanaovich, 1180 Windmill
Ln., Pittsburgh, PA 15237**

McCONVILLE, Pittsburgh, PA. Contact: **Sharon
McConville, 103 Hillendale Rd., Pittsburgh, PA
15237**

PAYING FOR RESEARCH IN GERMANY

From the Hesse Rootsweb site - Don Watson, Website Manager

Yes, the zip code goes in front of the City or Town on your letters to Germany. Just add the word "Germany" right below the German zip+town, and USA to your return address. Did you include a return address envelope of the right size and German postage stamps for return postage? They can't use our postage stamps. Since research rates in Europe are on the increase, it would be a good idea to ask the archives for an estimate in advance, including postage. To do that you have to tell them what you are looking for in advance. In some cases you can E-mail the archive for an estimate. You can count on at least \$25 plus \$3 postage to send in advance. They'll let you know how much more money they need. Remember that you must establish that the ancestor you are looking for is in your direct line if the information you are seeking is less than 95 years old, in order to survive German privacy laws.

One International Reply Coupon (IRC) costs \$1.05 in a U.S. Post Office, and only ONE IRC can be used per letter by your German contact, and ONLY for international postage. So don't even think about sending several as "extra postage" or as a "fee for services." The German postal service prohibits more than one per letter and your German contact doesn't want a bunch of IRCs laying in an office desk. That's why you ask them to include postage in their estimate. Best idea is to forget the IRC altogether and send an extra amount of cash to cover postage, usually around \$3.00. A 4x9 envelope containing a letter, sent from a German archive to you in the US costs DM 3.00 up to 20 grams, which is about 2 pieces of paper and the envelope. Over 20 grams and up to 50, the cost is DM 4.00. There is a better answer. You can contact an American living in Germany and ask her to mail German postage stamps to you. The following website is

one you can use to do this:
<http://home.t-online.de/home/mckenzie/stamps.htm>.

How to Send REAL Money to Germany

If you go to your bank or post office for a draft or money order, you'll pay a heavy fee. And guess what. Your German contact will pay an even heavier fee just to cash it! You may want to use:

International Currency Express
427 North Camden Drive #F
Beverly Hills, CA 90210
Telephone: (888) 278-6628
info@foreignmoney.com

Capital Foreign Exchange
825 14th Street NW
Washington, DC 20005
Telephone: 02 842-0880
Fax: 202 842-8008
Toll Free: (888) 842-0880

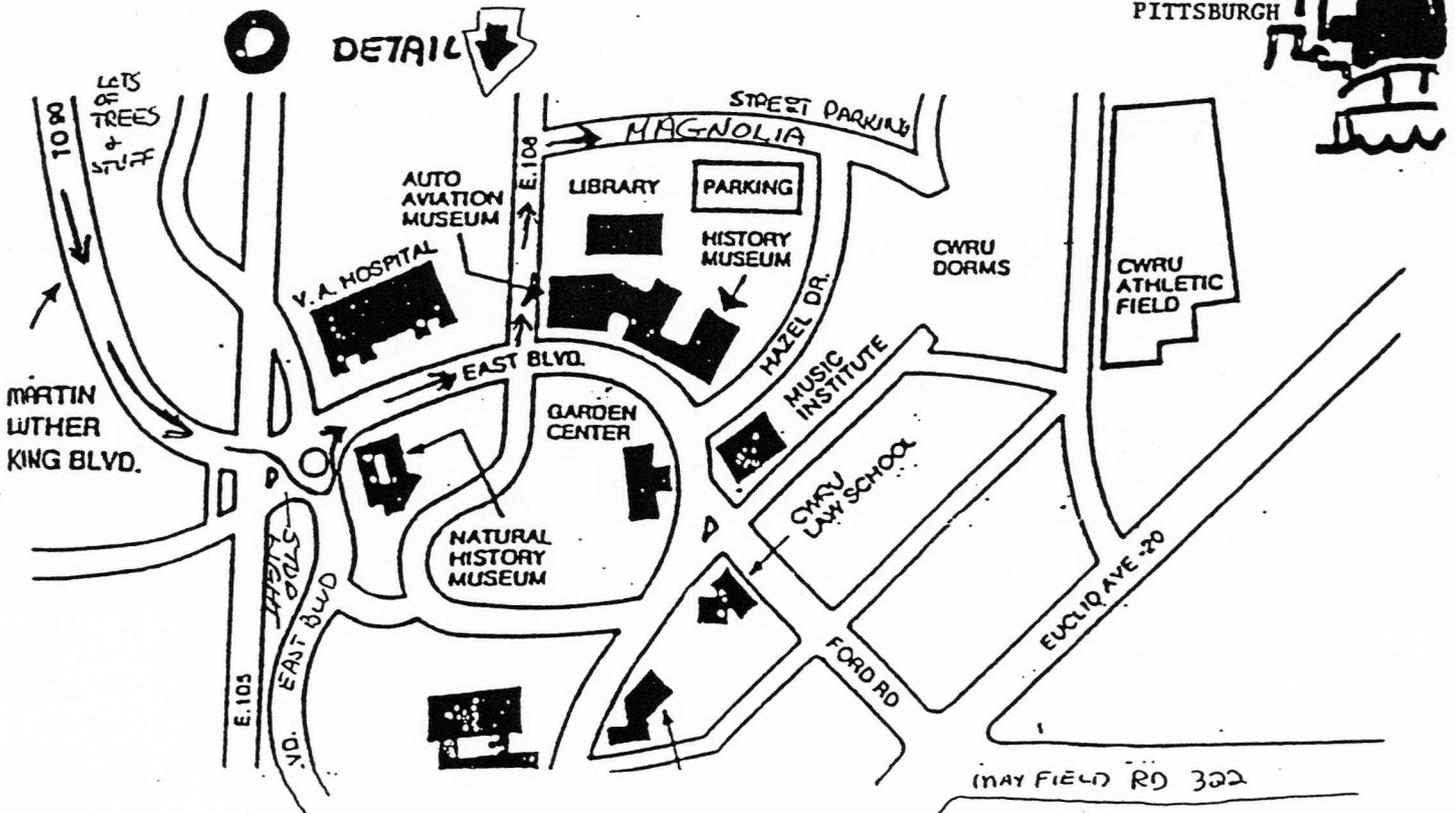
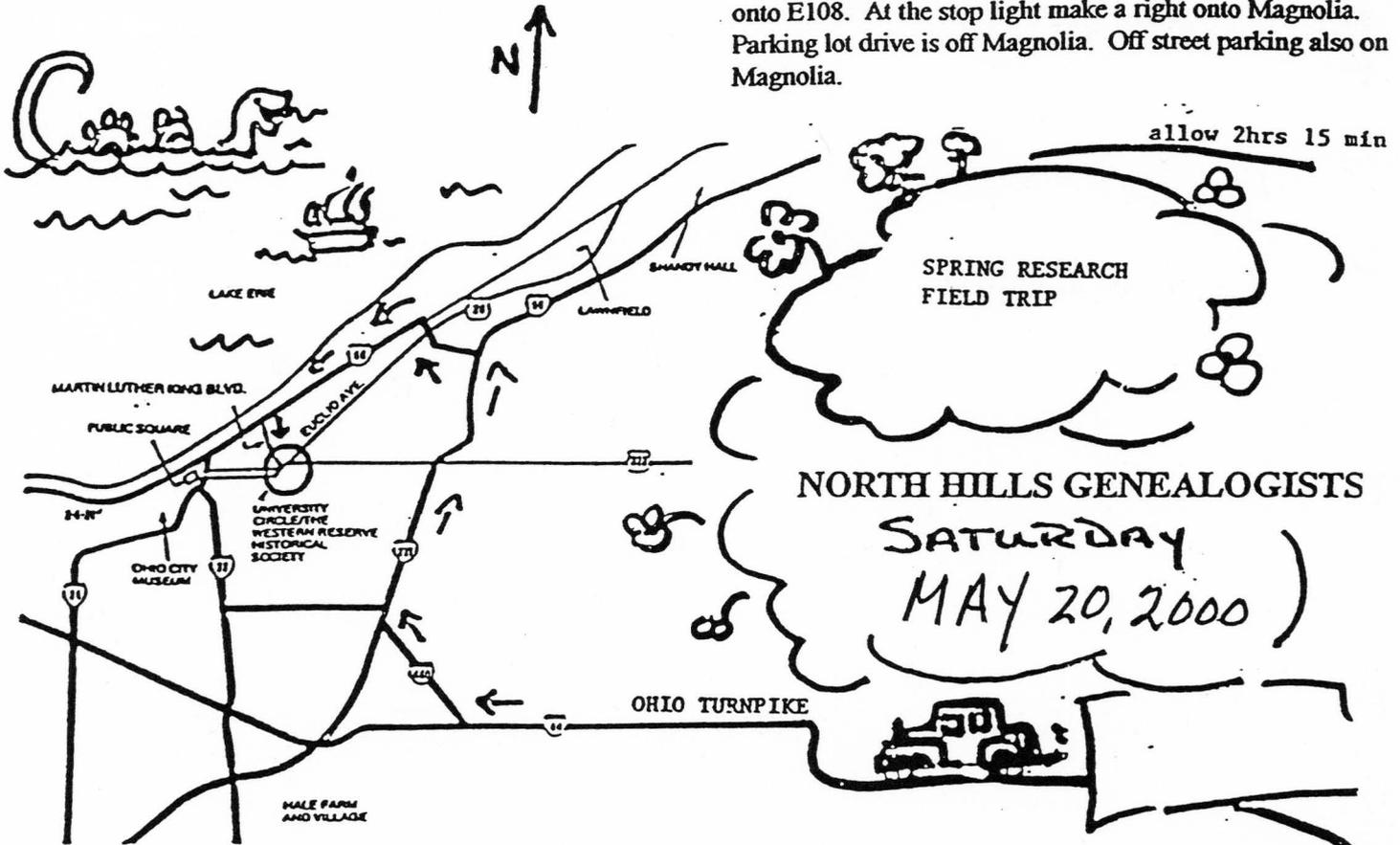
They charge \$5 for the issuing of the check. They will convert your dollar amount to German Marks at the current exchange rate, fill out an international check that costs your German contact NOTHING to cash, and charge you \$5. Then they mail the check to you so that you can tuck it in an envelope, along with your German inquiry. The phone call is free. PLEASE NOTE that the payee line is important. If you make it out to one church and the archives are kept in another then there could be a problem in processing the check. So Church Archives or Kirchenarchiv is better than naming a specific church in a specific town. The same applies to civil archives. If you make the payee line City of Darmstadt (Stadt Darmstadt) and the archives are actually somewhere else, then there could be a problem with endorsements and cashing of the check. So, Archives or Archiv, without naming a specific town, is a more practical solution.

CONVENIENTLY LOCATED IN THE HEART OF UNIVERSITY CIRCLE

Western Reserve Historical Society

Library, History Museum, Crawford Auto-Aviation Museum
 10825 East Boulevard/Cleveland, Ohio 44106/(216) 721-5722

Ohio turnpike to Exit #187 (Streetsboro). Proceed North on I-80 to I-271. From I-271 proceed to I-90 West and exit at Martin Luther King Blvd. Follow Martin Luther King Boulevard to light at East Boulevard. Go left at light. At next stop light there will be a traffic circle in front of you. At the circle, go out the top onto East Blvd. Make a left onto E108. At the stop light make a right onto Magnolia. Parking lot drive is off Magnolia. Off street parking also on Magnolia.



NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL

DATED MATERIAL

ORPHAN, PAUPER OR PRISONER - RESEARCHING IN INSTITUTIONAL RECORDS

Audrey Abbott Iaconne

June 20, 2000

STRANGERS IN THE BOX

Author Unknown

Come, look with me inside this drawer,

In this box I've often seen,

At the pictures, black and white,

Faces proud, still, and serene.

I wish I knew the people,

These strangers in the box,

Their names and all their memories,

Are lost among my socks.

I wonder what their lives were like,

How did they spend their days?

What about their special times?

I'll never know their ways.

If only someone had taken time,
To tell, who, what, where, and when,
These faces of my heritage,
Would come to life again.

Could this become the fate,
Of the pictures we take today?
The faces and the memories,
Someday to be passed away?

Take time to save your stories,
Seize the opportunity when it knocks,
Or someday you and yours,
Could be strangers in the box.

Have you marked all your pictures?