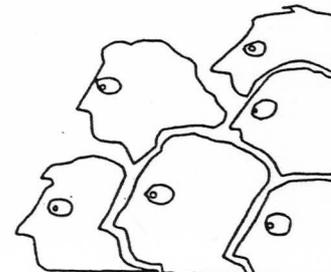




NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS NEWSLETTER



STARTING OUR 10TH YEAR

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

Volume 10, Number 10 - June, 2000

e-mail pioneerbook@juno.com

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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

free.

Independence Day, the Fourth of July is coming up. It's a great day for picnics, hot dogs, watermelon, and cap off the evening with fireworks. As I mentioned earlier, we're having a family reunion at my daughter's in Yorktown, New York.

So, this year, between the picnic, hot dogs, watermelon, and the fireworks, take a moment to remember and thank our ancestors who came to share in the freedom, and served to preserve and pass it along to all of us.

Sylvan

Near her home, in the woods near the intersection of two country roads is a small white church with a very old, but well-kept cemetery next to it. The flutter of flags among the grave stones caught my eye, and I couldn't resist a walk through the stones, reading as I walked. The flags marked the graves of Revolutionary War Veterans. It gave me a thrill knowing that here lie the men who had fought for our independence. It was the freedom that they secured that drew most of our ancestors to this young country.

SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL

It's that time of year again - time to send in your annual subscription renewal for the Newsletter. On page 99 you will find a membership renewal form. Renewals received before July 31 are \$10.

After that date, \$12. Take advantage of the early-bird special and renew now! When completing your form, please include your 9-digit zip code. If you wish you may also include your e-mail address so we can notify you of any meeting changes, etc. Please note, NHG does not publish its membership list or provide the information to any other organizations. Don't miss any issues of the Newsletter. **RENEW NOW**

Each year on Memorial Day, we honor the men and women who served by placing flags on their graves. Visit any cemetery at this time of year and you'll see thousands of flags on the graves of our ancestors who served to keep this nation

WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

Tues, June 27 - 7:30 pm - NHG Board Meeting - Cafeteria, Passavant Hospital. Everyone welcome.

Tues., July 18 - 7:00 pm - Regular NHG Meeting Arthur B. Fox - "Civil War Era - Training Camps, Allegheny Arsenal, Ft. Pitt Foundry, Government Contracts". See write up about Mr. Fox on page 87.

Tues, August 15 - 7:00 pm - Regular NHG Meeting - Ethnicity in Pennsylvania - Its History and Impact (Immigration to Western PA) - Paul Zbiek, Commonwealth Speaker, Pennsylvania Humanities Commission. See article on page 87.

OTHER MEETINGS & EVENTS

Sun., June 25 - 10 am - 5 pm - Civil War Soldier's Fair - See separate article.

Mon, June 26 - 7 pm - Greater Pittsburgh Civil War Round Table - Northland Library - Michael Graswick speaking on "John Wilkes Booth, Lincoln's Assassin".

July 19-22 - The Millennium Conference Program - sponsored by The Allen County Public Library and The Allen County Public Library Foundation, Fort Wayne, IN. For more details, check www.acpl.lib.in.us or call 219-421-1225.

CIVIL WAR SOLDIER'S FAIR

The second annual Civil War Soldier's Fair will be held on Sunday, June 25 from 10:00 am till 5:00 pm on the grounds surrounding the National Aviary on Pittsburgh's North Side. The event will include Civil War re-enactors, period crafters, exhibits and talks will be given by historians in

the Aviary's Rose Garden. The theme for this year's presentations will be Abraham Lincoln. The Fair is held to benefit the preservation of the Hampton Battery and Civil War Soldier's Monuments originally dedicated in 1871. Admission is free. For more information call 412-321-4502.

NHG'S SECOND DECADE

In October, 2000, NHG will celebrate its 10th anniversary! Each year has brought new and exciting activities. The second decade promises to be even more exciting. Watch for information on upcoming programs, socials and other events. What can you do to help NHG continue to grow in its second decade - help with cemetery readings, serve on committees, contribute to the newsletter, present a program? The possibilities are endless.

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

The newsletter is always looking for news, articles, announcements of meetings, etc. If you have a story to tell about your research, information about a program being held by another organization that would be of interest to NHG members, send the information to the newsletter. When sending information, please make sure you put the word "NEWSLETTER" or "EDITOR" on the envelope. You can also contact the editor by e-mail at DJBooth@worldnet.att.net. **The Newsletter goes to print the Wednesday before the meeting. All information must be in the hands of the editor by that Sunday.** If there is a specific topic you would like to see articles on in the newsletter, please let us know. We will make every attempt to respond to your requests.

REMINDER

There is no Newsletter in July.

ANCESTORS SERIES ON PBS

PBS is presenting the second edition of their popular "Ancestors" series. The series started on June 17 and will continue for 12 more weeks. It will be on WQED every Saturday at 6:00 pm. The following is a description of each week's program.

Records at Risk

Tragically, thousands of irreplaceable records are destroyed every day. But around the world heroic efforts are being made to preserve them, including the struggle to reconstruct genealogies destroyed in the Bolshevik Revolution, the massive microfilming efforts of the National Archives and Steven Spielberg's Survivors of the Shoah Foundation.

Family Records

Records kept by ordinary people right in their own homes can be valuable family history resources. Journals, diaries, letters, photographs and even family Bibles not only provide names and dates, they bring our ancestors to life.

Compiled Records

Sheila Hsia's family had been recording its genealogy for nearly 4,000 years, but had their records survived China's devastating Cultural Revolution? Travel with Sheila to China where she discovers the fate of these important family records. Experts identify various compiled records and tell how they can be a helpful point in family history research.

Genealogy and Technology

Computer resources help Megan Smolenyak find cousins she didn't know she had, both in the US and in the Slovakian village of Ostuma. Experts

elaborate on how to use computers and the Internet in seeking out family connections.

Vital Records

When Jeff Gallup's grandparents died, he felt he had lost his only connection to his Sicilian roots, until he took his mother back to Italy. Experts explain how vital records create an important link between generations.

Religious Records

Greg Spacher uncovered a startling truth when he learned that his ancestors were not from Germany, as he believed. His search through church records leads him to France, where he finds a long-lost branch of the family tree. Experts and clergy highlight various religious records and tell how to discover an ancestor's religious affiliation.

Cemetery Records

For Beth Uyehara, her great-grandfather's life was a mystery. Beth travels cross-country to discover the one tangible marker of her great-grandfather's life - his tombstone. Experts tell what to look for in cemeteries, the kinds of records kept there, and the British give us a lesson in transcribing headstones.

Census Records

As an African American, Darius Gray doubted he would find records documenting his family story. Relive his dramatic breakthrough as he discovers his ancestors in the 1880 census. Experts review the fascinating history of the census with specific instructions on how these important records can pinpoint your ancestor's place in American history.

continued on next page

Military Records

For many years Susan Hadler's only link to her father was a letter he wrote to her just after she was born - and just before he was killed in combat in WW II. Follow Susan as she uses military records to connect with the father she never knew. Experts highlight service and pension records, and tell how military records are a rich source of detailed and personal family history information.

Newspapers as Records

Lori Davis was given a mysterious lead when a woman who had known one of her ancestors said, "Look in the San Francisco papers; she was in trouble with the law." Experts add their advice on how to use newspapers to expand family history research.

Probate Records

For Bruce and Mary Kay Stewart, there's only one way to do genealogy - hit the road. They turn their RV into a traveling research center. Experts discuss the various records that are generated by the probate process and some of the interesting details found in wills.

Immigration Records

Imagine the anguish of an immigrant mother whose only choice was to leave behind her dying baby, quarantined at Ellis Island and buried in an unmarked grave. Cathy Horn discovers this family tragedy, and reconnects the lost child to her family tree. Experts describe a variety of immigration records and how to discover the details of your immigrant ancestor's journey.

Writing a Family History

Taylor MacDonald grew up hearing tales about his legendary grandfather, but they remained

just "stories" until he set out to write a family history. Experts tell how to write, publish and share a family history.

Watch for NHG member Elissa Powell on the episode on cemeteries.

There is also a companion book to the series **IN SEARCH OF OUR ANCESTORS**, a collection of 101 inspiring family history stories.

FIRST FAMILIES OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

Congratulations to NHG member Nancy Staudenmaier who was accepted as a member of First Families of Western Pennsylvania by WPGS.

Nancy's ancestor was Philip Brown of Franklin Park. He was born in 1773 and died 21 July 1845.

BOOK FOR SALE

The Erie Society for Genealogical Research is proud to announce a reprint of the 1876 Atlas of Erie County, PA. A special prepublication price of \$30 is valid until July 31. To order contact: The Erie Society for Genealogical Research, PO Box 1403, Erie, PA 16512-1403.

NICKNAME "LENA"

From the "Musings & Gleanings" column by Richard L. Hooverson in *Heritage Quest Magazine*, May/June, 2000

If your research uncovers a woman with the name "Lena" or "Lina", it may stand for the first name Angelina, Olena, Magdalena, Paulina, Caroline, or Helena.

Nothing purchased can come close to the renewed sense of gratitude for having family.

FROM McKNIGHTLAND TO THE LAND OF "McKNIGHTMARE"!

Written by Tom Wiley, NHG Member

Part 2

Churches

What about the churches? Various denominations began planning for expansion into the North Hills even before the end of World War II. It was also a time of great ecumenical cooperation. Many of the Protestant denominations coordinated their church location plans through the Comity Commission of the Council of Churches of Christ of Allegheny County and thought in terms of "community" churches.

Lutheran

The Pittsburgh Synod of the United Lutheran Church in America arranged for a survey to be taken in the Rolling Hills area in 1947 to determine interest in organizing a church. There was strong support from both Lutherans and non-Lutherans. And, on February 9, 1947, the first service was held in the recently completed Berkeley Hills Fire Hall. Organized as the Berkeley Hills Lutheran Church, they purchased five acres of land on Sangree Road where they completed their new building the next year. The first service was held there on October 3, 1948 with the dedication on October 31.

Methodist

On January 28, 1949, the Comity Commission of the Council of Churches approved the request of the Pittsburgh Conference of the Methodist Church to locate a "Community Methodist Church" in McKnight Village. By June the Methodist Church Union of the Pittsburgh Conference had purchased three acres of undeveloped land next to McKnight Village. The next year, 1950, they bought a residence in The

Village to serve first as a house of worship then as the parsonage.

The first worship service was held in the house on March 9, 1950. Later in the year the congregation was officially organized and chartered as The McKnight Village Community Methodist Church. (It is now known as the McKnight United Methodist Church). Their church building was completed and consecrated in the spring of 1954. The same year it also became the polling place for Ward 2 of Ross Township.

Baptists

In 1948, a group of Baptists, with the help of the Bellevue Baptist Church, bought a site at the corner of McKnight and Peebles Road. On February 4, 1951, they held their first Sunday service on the other side of McKnight in TuDeck's Restaurant. They adopted a church constitution on June 15, and by August had their corporate charter. They took the name North Hills Community Baptist Church and continued to meet in TuDeck's through December. This was when their Education Building was completed which contained a temporary sanctuary.

This building had a unique feature. When it was constructed, the side facing McKnight Road had an inset of glass blocks laid in it in the shape of a cross. With lights behind it, it could be seen for miles. The church soon became known as "The church of the lighted cross."

Then in 1959 they built their sanctuary and held the first service there on Easter Sunday, April 17, 1960. But it was not to last. By 1963 the May Company had taken options to purchase land on three sides of the church for a Kaufmann's Department Store. The church sold to the May Company in 1964 and vacated the property the next summer. Then they met in an empty storeroom in Duncan Manor while they planned and built their current church on

Thompson Run Road at the corner of McIntyre. The first service in this new location was January 15, 1967, with the dedication held on May 14.

Kaufmann's

The new Kaufmann's Department Store opened for business at the previous church location in 1966. Today the top floor of this building is occupied by a Giant Eagle Market and the bottom floor is vacant. It had been a Builder's Square store in the interim.

Episcopal

Christ Episcopal Church began in Allegheny City on the North Side in 1831. But in 1951 it was noticed that many of its members were moving to the suburbs. Quite a few were attracted to the new developments in the North Hills. So the congregation decided to sell their building and move north with them. On January 22, 1951 they bought the five-acre Jones Estate in Ross Township at the corner of Babcock Boulevard and Brown's Lane.

Initially, services were conducted on the first floor of the house with the first worship being held on Easter Sunday, March 23, 1952. The second floor provided living quarters for the Rector and his family. The barn on the east end, with a little renovation, provided space for the church school. Each stall held a different Sunday School class.

On May 17, 1953, ground was broken for the Education Building. On Christmas Eve that year, the first worship service was held there in a large area on the second floor. Planning for the main building and sanctuary began in 1959. Ground was broken for it on December 23, 1962 with its dedication a year later, December 22.

It is said that the first rector (1952-1964) used the telephone book as his parish directory, visited everyone in the North Hills and invited them to attend his "community" church. The church

history then declared that the second rector (1964-1962) "...made Christ Church into an Episcopal Church from a protestant church."

Roman Catholic

The records of the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh showed that by the early 1950's more than 500 Catholic families had moved to the new northern suburbs from parishes in Pittsburgh. As a result, Bishop John F. Deardon created the St. Sebastian Parish on June 26, 1952. The St. Sebastian Parochial School was completed in 1953 on property along Siebert Road between McKnight and Babcock Boulevard. The church of contemporary design was completed in 1960.

Suburbs and Suburban Living

Along with the coming of the divided highways, gas stations and garages, grocery stores and churches, dramatic changes were taking place in the North Hills residential neighborhoods. The "suburbs" were being created. Suburban living was being defined. And, the new architecture changed to reflect this new home environment.

The old city garage that had been relegated to the back alley in town was brought up to the front of the house in keeping with the automobile's new importance. There was no need for sidewalks. Everyone was riding everywhere. The city porch was moved to the back of the house and called a deck. The backyards were enclosed, some with six-foot high solid fences.

So that's how the quiet, pastoral McKnightland of yesteryear became what we know today as the land of "McKnightmare". At least that's my current version. But as with any family history or genealogy, this story of the "McKnight" area of Ross Twp. is a "work-in-progress" The author would appreciate any suggestions, comments or corrections. These could be made to Tom Wiley, 190 Goldsmith Road, Pittsburgh, PA or via e-mail at: tomewiley@aol.com

**NHG AUGUST MEETING
AUGUST 15, 2000**

Dr. Paul Zbiek, a Commonwealth Speak of the
Pennsylvania Humanities Council

**ETHNICITY IN PENNSYLVANIA: ITS
HISTORY AND IMPACT**

From the native era, through the waves of European immigration, many groups have affected the culture of the Commonwealth. Dr. Zbiek will explain how new immigrants have been both willingly and unwillingly assimilated, and will examine ideals such as multi-culturalism, the melting pot, and the retention of separate cultures.

Dr. Zbiek's presentation will concentrate on the period from the American Revolution to the 1920's, with an emphasis on Western Pennsylvania. Dr. Zbiek will explore how ethnic history has influenced both the course of Pennsylvania history and our personal lives.

Dr. Zbiek's presentation is a program of the Pennsylvania Humanities Council (PHC), supported in part by a grant from Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania. This presentation is free-of-charge and open to the public.

Dr. Zbiek has a PhD in Ethnic History from Kent State University. He is an Associate Professor of History and Department Chairperson, King's College, Wilkes-Barre.

For more information on this program, call Melinda Merriman at 412-734-5515.

Supported by:

PHC Pennsylvania
Humanities
Council

The state affiliate of the National
Endowment for the Humanities

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**NHG JULY MEETING
JULY 18, 2000**

Arthur B. Fox

**CIVIL WAR ERA - TRAINING CAMPS,
ALLEGHENY ARSENAL, FT. PITTS FOUNDRY,
GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS**

Mr. Fox is an adjunct professor of history at Community College of Allegheny County, North Side Campus where he teaches courses on Pittsburgh history, United States history and United States geography. Since 1986 he has researched and compiled over 70 cultural resource management reports on Pennsylvania archaeological and historical sites. Mr. Fox has published over 50 magazine, journal, and newspaper articles in the past 5 years, the majority focusing on western Pennsylvania military subjects. A regular free-lance contributor to the Pittsburgh *Tribune-Review* Sunday FOCUS section, he has published several articles from his current research (and future book) **The Civil War Era in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 1861-1865.**

Mark your calendar now so you don't miss either of these exciting programs. Both programs will be held at 7:00 PM at Northland Public Library. Both programs are free and open to the public.

More exciting programs are on tap for coming meetings. In addition, planning is underway for our Christmas Social - more information on that in future newsletters. Mark the following dates on your calendar for upcoming NHG meetings: September 19, October 17 and November 21. The Christmas social will be on Saturday, December 2. The regular monthly meetings start at 7:00 pm and are free and open to everyone.

THE STORY BEHIND THE NAMES OF PENNSYLVANIA COUNTIES

Reprinted from John M. Roberts' & Sons advertising in the
Pittsburgh *Sun-Telegraph* - late 1949s-early 1950s.

Submitted by Bernice Broniecki

CRAWFORD COUNTY

Crawford County was erected by Act of March 12, 1800, from territory taken from Allegheny County, and named for Colonel William Crawford, a hero of the western frontier of Pennsylvania, who was brutally murdered by Indians, June 11, 1782. Meadville was designated as the seat of justice. When the county was erected it embraced the northwestern portion of the Commonwealth, including present Erie, Warren, Venango, and Mercer counties. It was the scene of many stirring events during the campaign of General Anthony Wayne against the Indians in 1793 and '94, and during the War of 1812.

Its area of 1,038 square miles is watered by several large streams, but no river flows through its territory. There are deposits of iron, coal, limestone, oil and gas. A considerable portion is under cultivation, with stock raising and dairy products the chief interest. There are two cities, Meadville and Titusville, and fifteen boroughs and thirty-five townships.

The county seat of Crawford County is Meadville. It was chartered as a city February 15, 1866. The first settlers at the site were David Mead and his brothers, Darius, John and Joseph; John Watson, Thomas Martin, James F. Randolph and Thomas Grant of Sunbury, and Cornelius Van-Horn and Christopher Snyder of New Jersey. They built their campfire on the bank of French Creek, May 12, 1788. Grant selected the site of Meadville, but soon abandoned the settlement when David Mead took possession and built a double log block house, which was surrounded with a stockade and protected by a small square

log block house. This settlement was known as "Mead's Settlement." The village took his name, and when incorporated as a borough March 29, 1823, it was called Meadville. Iron and steel works, railroad repair shops, foundries, hookless fasteners, small tools, boilers, rayon, and lantern slides are the leading industries.

The second largest city is Titusville, and was chartered as a city February 28, 1866. The site was first settled in 1796 by Jonathan Titus, who was a pioneer surveyor for whom the town was subsequently named. Chief products are from the oil refineries, also radiators, forge products, oil well supplies, iron and steel tools, cutlery and dairy products.

SYMBOLS FOUND IN GERMAN CHURCH RECORDS

From *The German Research Companion*, Shirley J. Riemer

The following symbols were commonly written into many church records books.

*	geboren (born)
⊗	verheiratet (married)
†	gestorben (died)
(*)	aubereheliche Geburt (illegitimately born)
~	getauft (christened)
o	verlobt (engaged)
⊖	begraben (buried)
† *	Totgeburt (stillborn)
o o	geschieden (divorced)
✕	gefallen (killed in action)
o-o	uneheliche Verbindung (common-law marriage, illegitimate union)

In order records can be found these symbols:

↓	getauft (christened)
†	geboren (born)
✕	verheiratet (married)
†	gestorben (died)
⊖	begraben (buried)

BALLOT FOR THE NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS

INSTRUCTIONS: Each member of the North Hills Genealogists is entitled to one vote for the election of officers.

Officers elected will serve from August, 2000 to July, 2001. Please drop your ballot in the ballot box at the meeting or return it to the address on the front of the Newsletter. All ballots must be received by July 1, 2000.

President (vote for one)

Sylvan Kretz _____

Write In: _____

Vice President (vote for one)

Ginny Skander _____

Write In: _____

Treasurer (vote for one)

Jean Taylor _____

Write In: _____

Secretary (vote for one)

Kay Santa _____

Write In: _____

2000-2001 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

Name: _____ **Home Phone:** () _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip+5:** _____

E-mail address: _____

If desired, you may submit a query on the surnames you are researching. These will be published in future issues of the newsletter. Attach additional sheets if necessary.

Make check payable to "North Hills Genealogists". Dues are \$10.00 if paid before July 31, 2000 and \$12.00 after July 31. Membership runs from August through the following July. Members receive 10 issues of the monthly newsletter; are entitled to submit unlimited free queries to the newsletter; attend field trips and social events and take advantage of the 5 Generation Charts and Surname Cards which are available at the meetings.

Return completed form to the address on the front of the newsletter.

NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS

G/O Northland Public Library

300 Cumberland Road

Pittsburgh, PA 15237-4555

FIRST CLASS MAIL

DATED MATERIAL

**July 18 - CIVIL WAR ERA - TRAINING CAMPS, ALLEGHENY ARSENAL, FT. PITT FOUNDRY,
GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS - Arthur B. Fox**

**AUGUST 15 - ETHNICITY IN PENNSYLVANIA - IT'S HISTORY AND IMPACT - Paul Zbiek,
Commonwealth Speaker, Pennsylvania Humanities Council**

BIRDS OF A FEATHER

The Family Tree - October/November 1998

Mrs. William Robbins of Louisville, Kentucky, was recently married to David Buzzard. It is her fourth matrimonial venture. She was a Miss Martin, daughter of one of the best-known Bourbon Company families. She first married Robert Crow. He died and she married John Sparrow six months afterward. She and Mr. Sparrow did not agree and a divorce followed.

Mrs. Sparrow became Mrs. William Robbin, but again a divorce was found advisable. After a year of lonely life, Mrs. Robbin has become Mrs. David Buzzard. She has two Crows, one Sparrow, one Robbin and a Buzzard at her home.

PASSPORTS - AN OVERLOOKED SOURCE

The Clark House News, May 2000

If your ancestors returned to the old country to visit, they needed passports. Passport applications provide date and place of birth and personal description of the traveler. For records prior to 1906, write to Diplomatic Records Branch, National Archives, Room 5E, Washington, DC 20408. For passports issued during 1906 or later, write to Passport Office, Department of State, 11425 K St., NW, Washington, DC 20520. When writing, include applicant's name and residence and the place and approximate date of application. A charge is made for the search and the copies of the records.