

# NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS



North Hills Genealogists  
P. O. Box 304, Ingomar, PA 15127

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Cemetery Project: Jo Henderson & Irene Dinning	Publicity: Gary Schlemmer	Program: Tom Wiley
10 Issues - August - June	Mailings: Laura Kunig & Liz Reilly	Liaison: Elissa Powell

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This is my first column as your newly elected President of the North Hills Genealogists. We've been in business since 1991 when a group of like-minded individuals got together to form this group. Our objectives are fourfold. We want to spread the word. We want to develop and encourage family research. We want to save our records. And we want to support Northland Library.

For those who have not renewed their membership, this will be your last issue. If you feel that you have renewed and your renewal has perhaps crossed in the mail, please let us know. Your membership dues go to support our objectives. Printing and mailing the newsletter takes the biggest portion of the dues. Honorariums for speakers and books for the library take another portion. The balance is reserved to publish our next cemetery book.

Jo Henderson and Irene Dinning are hard to work on our third book. Volunteers are always welcome to assist in the reading and cross-checking of our North Hills cemeteries. In doing this we do our portion in saving some part of our history. Grave stones decay and are lost

over time. I can second that observation during my recent trip to the Congressional Cemetery in Washington, DC. The paper records identified the plots where my ancestors were buried, but the stones are long gone. I can only wish that there was a similar book on the Congressional Cemetery.

Just a reminder of our research trip to Washington, DC which is scheduled for September 26 through 29. This gives you the opportunity to visit the National Archives, the DAR Library and the Library of Congress. Although the seats on the bus are filled, a wait list is being taken. Those who wish to drive themselves may still register for a room with Elissa Powell no later than August 24. More information can be found on [www.northhillsgenealogists.org](http://www.northhillsgenealogists.org).

We return to our regularly scheduled meetings at Northland Library on September 21. They have finished their remodeling and have moved home. I, for one, can't wait to see how it looks.

If you have any genealogical subjects that you'd like discussed, please don't hesitate to ask. Remember, this is your organization.

**Steph**

## WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

All meetings free unless noted otherwise.

**Tues., Sept. 7, 2004 - 7:00 pm - NHG Board Meeting** - UPMC Passavant Hospital Cafeteria. Everyone Welcome.

**Tues., Sept. 21, 2004 - 7:00 PM - Regular NHG Meeting** - Coming From the Reich - Part 2 - Ruth Kittner - **Northland Public Library** (see article)

**Tues., Oct. 19 7:00 pm - A Re-Introduction to the Genealogical Resources of the Northland Library** - Amy Steele, Reference Librarian - Genealogy, Northland Library

**Upcoming events - Christmas Social** - We are working on making plans for our annual Christmas Social. Pass along any suggestions you have for a place to visit and a place to have lunch.

### Other Meetings

**October 14, 2004 - 7:00 pm - WPGS Monthly Meeting** - The Interracial History of Pittsburgh's Hill District. Prof. Laurence Glasco, University of Pittsburgh. Carnegie Lecture Hall. **(Note:** Starting in January, the monthly WPGS meetings will be held on Saturdays at 10:00 am)

**Thurs., Sept. 16, 2004 - 7:00 pm - Lawrenceville Historical Society** - "The Burnt District" - Gary Link (see article) - Canterbury Place, Fisk Street, Lawrenceville, PA

**Sat., Sept. 11, 2004 - Frontier Family Reunion** - 10:00 am - 5:00 pm - Bushy Run Battlefield. **NEW LOCATION.** Previously scheduled for Point State Park.

## LAWRENCEVILLE HOSPITALITY

### HOUSE TOUR

**Sunday, Oct. 24, 2004 - 12:00 noon - 5:00 pm**

Curious about the home rehabs and restorations cropping up all over historic Lawrenceville? See for yourself just how welcoming, creative and vibrant this community has become at the Lawrenceville Hospitality Tour taking place Sunday, October 24, 2004 from 12 noon to 5 p.m.

Walk or hitch a ride on Molly's Trolley. The tour will feature a dozen homes ranging from cozy to grand, from faithfully restored and historic, to creative and contemporary. Because Lawrenceville treats visitors like family, each home will feature a lovely savory or sweet morsel or beverage to tempt the palate and fortify your stroll through all four sections of the neighborhood: the 6th Ward, 9th Ward above Butler St., 9th Ward below Butler St., and the 10th Ward. Art by neighborhood artists will also be on display throughout.

Tickets are \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door. Please call 412-956-2612 to find out where to get yours. Benefits the Lawrenceville Historical Society and the Lawrenceville Stakeholders to encourage home ownership in historical Lawrenceville.

### NHG CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

Christmas Social? In August? Yes, we need to finalize plans for our annual Christmas Social now. If you have an idea of a place to visit and a location for lunch, please pass it along to Tom Wiley or any Board member. We want to have the Social on a Saturday in early December. Watch for future announcements on our plans.

## **NATIONAL ARCHIVES NAMES TWO COMPANIES TO DEVELOP AN ELECTRONIC ARCHIVES**

The following article is from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter and is copyright 2004 by Richard W. Eastman.

The U. S. National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) is moving into a serious effort to preserve today's electronic information.

The Archivist of the United States, John W. Carlin (today) announced the two companies that will lead the way in designing a technological solution to the challenge of preserving electronic information across space and time. These design contracts are valued at \$20.1 million.

At the end of the one-year design competition, The National Archives will select one of these two contractors to build the Electronic Records Archives, a revolutionary system that will capture electronic information, regardless of its format, save it permanently, and make it accessible on whatever hardware or software is currently in use. Over the life of the contract, it is potentially worth hundreds of millions of dollars with countless positive implications for individuals, private businesses, and government organization alike.

The two companies are: Lockheed Martin, Transportation and Security Solutions Division and Harris Corporation, Government Communications Systems Division.

In making the announcement, Carlin said "I am proud that the National Archives has both the mission and the capabilities to solve the problems posed by electronic records. At every step of the process of developing the Electronic Records Archives, we have partnered with the best and the brightest to develop solutions, and today that will continue as we reach this milestone. ERA will make electronic information available virtually anytime, anywhere. We are not just talking about the information contained in

Government records. We will START with Government records, but there is no end to where ERA can take us."

The potential impact to records of genealogical value is huge although individual genealogists probably will not see any change for years. While today's newly-generated records typically are available only electronically, the federal "Right to Privacy" laws keep them out of public view for 72 years. However, future genealogists will depend heavily upon these electronic records.

As the National Archives announcement states:

"The Electronic Records Archives (ERA) will be a comprehensive, systematic and dynamic means for preserving virtually any kind of electronic record, free from dependence on any specific hardware or software. When operational, ERA will make it easy for the public and government officials to find records they want, and easy for NARA to deliver those records in formats people need."

### **SYMPATHY**

We want to express our sincere sympathy to Laura Kunig (VP) on the death of her father last week.

### **2004-2005 NHG BOARD AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

President -	Steph Valentine
Vice President -	Laura Kunig
Secretary -	Sylvan Kretz
Treasurer -	Reed Powell

#### Committees

Program	Tom Wiley
Publicity	Gary Schlemmer
Cemetery Book	Jo Henderson & Irene Dinning
Newsletter Editor	Donna Booth
Newsletter Mailing	Laura Kunig & Liz Reilly

## PREPARING FOR A RESEARCH TRIP

Elissa Scalise Powell, CGRS

### Prepare Yourself

Wear comfortable, appropriate clothing  
Wear comfortable shoes  
Bring a picture ID  
Use a "belly-pack" for money, keys, ID, etc.  
Consider snacks  
Pack pain-relievers and other necessary medications  
Consider a light sweater even in the summer  
Have small bills ready (ones and fives)  
Post-it pads and pencils  
Paper/alligator clips  
Empty folders  
Magnifying glass  
3-hole punch  
Computer cable lock  
Wheeled case or dolly  
Hard candy

### Prepare Your Research

Update your notes from any previous research trips  
Prepare a timeline "cheat sheet" for each family  
Review research logs  
Save time: perform research that can be done locally such as census records  
Print new pedigree and family group sheets  
Bring blank forms  
Do not bring original documents  
*Formulate a research plan tailored to the intended facility*

### Do Reconnaissance

Find websites (GenWeb) and research guides by location (familysearch.org)  
Find websites or guidebooks for repositories  
Read the repository rules and plan to abide by them:

Note any entrance requirements  
Limitations on belongings  
Rules for copying (both photocopy and scanner)

### Materials access

Search the on-line card catalog for material of interest. Write down call numbers  
Note types of materials that might not be in the catalog. Locate where the materials are and what access is needed, including off-site storage

### Traveling There

Make travel and hotel arrangements ahead of time  
Check repository for holiday or other special hours  
Plan appropriate time in the facility  
Use mapping websites to help you locate features such as cemeteries or churches  
Make contact ahead of time with town historian, genealogical society or lost cousins

## CONTRIBUTING TO THE NEWSLETTER

This newsletter belongs to you as a member of NHG. Your help in sending along information will make it a better, more useful newsletter.

Please consider sending along material you have found interesting/information in your research. Of better yet, send an article you have written about your own research -- your successes, your failures, ways you found around 'brick walls', etc. Let the other members know how you are handling your research and share your hints with everyone.

Help make NHG and the newsletter better by becoming an active participant in the meetings, newsletter, cemetery readings, etc.

## NHG SEPTEMBER 21, 2004 MEETING

### COMING FROM THE REICH - PART 2

Ruth Kittner

Part 2 of Ruth Kittner's discussion of German migration will focus on who came to Pittsburgh's Northside, how they got there, what they did when they did get there, the role of the church in the community and other German "encampments" in the Pittsburgh area. Ruth will have special emphasis on the foundation of the Voegtly Evangelical Church in Old Allegheny, including some documents in German, from the Voegtly Church and several related maps of Pittsburgh. Also discussed will be the rediscovery and re-internment of the occupants of the Voegtly Cemetery.

(This is the second part of Ruth's February talk which was originally scheduled for March, 2004 and cancelled due to weather.)

### LAWRENCEVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER 16, 2004

#### The Burnt District Gary Link

Gary Link's recent book *The Burnt District* takes a look at the devastating Pittsburgh fire of 1845. This presentation provides a fascinating glimpse into Western Pennsylvania's past in the days of Stephen Foster when Pittsburgh was emerging as a major urban and industrial center.

Meeting will be held in Canterbury Place, Fisk Street, Lawrenceville at 7:00 pm.

## TIP OF THE WEEK

Family Tree Magazine Email Update  
August 5, 2004

### TIP OF THE DAY

#### E-MAIL ESSENTIALS

This tip comes from Teresa Brewer Delikat of Breinigsville, PA

My e-mail program allows me to add a company name for each of the contacts in my address book. I use this field instead to record the surname of the person's ancestor to help me remember his or her lineage.

I've also used my e-mail software to create contact lists of people researching the same surname. Then I can easily send new research finds to all of them at once. "

Ed: I never thought to use the company name in this way. I think it is a neat idea. I have set up mailing lists for people who are researching my family lines. That way I don't miss anyone if I get a lead on some new information.

Do you have a Tip of the Day to share with the other members of NHG? If you do, send it along for us to use in future issues of the newsletter. We are all looking for new ways to help us "organize" our research.

### OCTOBER IS FAMILY HISTORY MONTH

I know it is only August, but October is Family History Month so start thinking about ways to celebrate your family in October. Share your ideas with the members of NHG.

## **GENEALOGY IN THE NEWS**

In the past week there have been numerous articles in the local papers about items of interest to genealogists. Two of those articles were about NHG. The following is a summary of all three articles.

**Wednesday, July 21, 2004**

**Pittsburgh Post-Gazette**

Maria Carpico

### **Genealogical Society Seeking Old Graves**

Many of you may remember other articles Maria has written about NHG and our cemetery books. Well, thanks to the efforts of Jo Henderson and Irene Dinning Maria has written another great article. She talks about our 'hunt' for lost graves and cemeteries in Franklin Park, Marshall or McCandless.

She talks about the various methods used to read the difficult stones - mirrors, flashlights and water. She quotes Jo: "This is the time to get them before they deteriorate any further."

Check out the PG archives at [www.post-gazette.com](http://www.post-gazette.com) and do a search on "North Hills Genealogists" if you missed the article.

**McKnight Journal**

Thursday, August 5, 2004

### **Genealogists Tracing Roots of North Hills**

Andrea Z. Srimsek

Another great article, thanks to Jo and Irene, appeared in the McKnight Journal on August 5.

This article also talks about our efforts to locate any "missing" graves and cemeteries in Franklin Park, Marshall and McCandless.

She notes that "Due to the North Hills

Genealogical Society (sic), every headstone in the cemetery is a part of history." She talks about how we find the cemeteries, the different types of records (church, burial, other readings and old lot owner's maps) to identify the cemeteries. She then goes on to talk about how the 'readings' are done.

Great job Jo and Irene in getting us such great publicity. But, you may have made your job even bigger if too many people contact you about 'missing' graves and cemeteries.

If you missed the article, see if it is still on the following website:

<http://www.gatewaynewspapers.com/northjournal>

### **Annals of Old Allegheny**

**Rescued 3000 volume archives is last word on 80 years of North Side life.**

*Post-Gazette* August 11, 2004

This article talks about the Allegheny City records that were formerly at AIS and are now housed at the State Archives in Harrisburg. Two archivists have spent a great deal of time going through these records in order to make them available to people for future research. They have developed a detailed list of every record that is available. The following message was recently posted from one of the archivists:

**There are no plans to digitize the actually Allegheny City records. We have microfilmed a very small number of minute books for security and increased access records, (but the volume and variety of size and format ) for the collection as a whole is too great to consider digitization with the resources we have.**

**The finding aid, which acts as a catalog to the collection, will be on the web sometime this fall. The information contained therein will (continued on page 7)**

## **GENEALOGY TOP U.S. HOBBY**

The following information was submitted by  
Melinda Merriman Marn

For a hobby that revolves around dead people, genealogy is remarkably popular. It is considered by most to be the fastest-growing hobby in North America, with many surveys and media sources proclaiming that it has surpassed quilting, stamp collecting and even gardening in popularity.

Interest in genealogy is growing at an astounding rate according to a 2000 Maritz Marketing Research poll, which found that up to 60 percent of the American population is interested in their family history. That's up 15 percent from a similar poll conducted in 1996.

It's not just Americans either. Overwhelming demand recently forced the British Public Record Office to take the brand-new England and Wales 1901 census web site offline temporarily amid fears the entire UK telephone network could be paralyzed by the tremendous demand (millions of visitors exceeded capacity by a factor of 20 during the first days of operation.)

Traffic to popular genealogy web sites demonstrates the growing interest in tracing family history online; for example, the FamilySearch web site of the Family History Library gets six to seven million hits per day.

The U. S. Senate passed a resolution in October 2001 declaring October in the U. S. as Family History Month. Led by Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah and co-sponsored by 84 other U. S. Senators, the resolution stated "within the last month some 14,167,329 people researched their family history and 24 million people have used the web and email to locate or hunt for family or friends with whom they have lost touch."

The Internet genealogy industry is worth an

estimated \$200 million annually. Popular genealogy web site Ancestry.com, which achieved the 500,000 paid subscriber mark in December 2001, is the third largest paid subscription site on the Internet and is closing rapidly on ConsumerReports.org and WSJ.com.

### **Allegheny City Records**

(continued from page 6)

include the titles of all the parts of the collection as well as a paragraph describing the contents and makeup of each part. This will be contained in Record Group 48. The draft finding aid and the records themselves are available now for research here in Harrisburg.

**Jerry Ellis**

**Associate Archivist, Pennsylvania State Archives**

<http://www.phmc.state.pa.us>

Check out the PG website to read the complete article if you missed it.

Watch for information on a trip WPGS is planning to Harrisburg for a chance to research at the archives and the State Library.

WOW, two great articles about NHG and now the great news that the records of Allegheny City are being saved. Many NHG members have ancestors from Allegheny City and these records may fill in many of the blanks people have in their research.

Add this to the work being done by WPGS at the Allegheny County archives and there are a lot of genealogy-related materials that are now being saved for this area.

We'll keep you posted on any updates on all these projects.

## I WONDER WHAT THEY LOOKED LIKE

Donna Booth

How many times during your research have you thought "I wonder what they looked like?" We do so much research on our ancestors but often have no idea what they looked like and wonder if any of our generation looks like any of them. Many families do not have photos of their ancestors for various reasons - photography was too 'new', or they didn't have the money to spend on "fancy" trends. One time many families did spend money on photographs was when a family member and especially a child, died. Then a photo would be taken of the person when they were laid out for burial - often on a couch or in a casket. While this may seem strange to us, it was often the only photo they would ever have of that person.

On my father's side I was able to get some photos of several of my gr-grandparents. But on my mother's side there didn't seem to be any. Most of the photos were those taken after my mother's eldest brother was grown and bought a camera. I really wanted to know what my aunts and uncles looked like when they were young. I was also very interested in seeing my grandparents when they were a young married couple and really wanted to see a picture of their parents. But never expected to see these types of picture.

I knew my mother's older sister had had a box of old photos and asked her son to never get rid of them. When he died in Oct. I again asked his wife that if she found them to please let me see them. Well, several weeks ago she called me and said she had found old photos and papers. Well, naturally I had to go see them, so I jumped in my car and headed to Slippery Rock that Saturday.

When I got there I found two large boxes of photos and papers waiting for me. Some of the more "recent" ones I was able to instantly recognize the people. **Then, I hit the**

**mother-lode.** I reached in one of the boxes and pulled out a tin-type photo. When I turned it over, the note on the back said "Grandpa and Grandma Snyder and Uncle George." This was my grandfather's mother and father and his youngest brother!!! His mother had died in 1875 (after being hit by a train) so I knew the photo was taken before then. There was also a tin-type of my grandparents (in their swimming suits) on their honeymoon in Atlantic City in 1892.

As I continued to look, I found more photos (the post card type) of my grandmother's mother and ones of my grandparents brothers and sisters and some of my mother's older brothers and sisters when they were young! They practically had to tie me to the chair because I almost floated to the ceiling.

In addition to the photos were papers. There was a telegram from my Uncle Charlie to my Aunt Marg (his sister) telling her that "Mother passed away peacefully this morning." (1939). There was also a letter from the railroad (PRR) that detailed my grandfather's brother's work record with the RR. He started at age 12 in 1875 making 8 cents an hour as a water boy. There were all kinds of letters about my grandfather's retirement from the railroad, including letters from many of the men he worked with. There were also newspaper article about my grandfather at different times in his life - like when he turned 90 and again at 98.

I now have two large boxes sitting on my living room floor to go through and there may be more! I'm still in seventh heaven. I'm trying to figure out how to display all this at our reunion next year. I know my cousins are going to be thrilled to see them.

I hope all of you are as lucky as I've been. I feel that I know these people even better now that I can put a face with a name!

**NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS**

**Membership Application/Renewal  
2004-2005**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **Zip+4** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-MAIL (please print clearly)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send me e-mail notices of NHG and other meetings.**

**Yes** \_\_\_\_\_

**No** \_\_\_\_\_

**Send your check for \$15.00 made payable to North Hills Genealogists,  
P. O. Box 304, Ingomar, PA 15127**

**As a member of NHG you will receive 10 issues of the newsletter, learn about genealogical meetings being held by NHG and other groups as well as other historical societies. You will be notified of various activities such as our research trip to Washington, DC, our annual Christmas Social and other events we hold.**

**We meet the third Tuesday of every month (except December) at 7:00 pm at the Northland Public Library, 300 Cumberland Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237.**

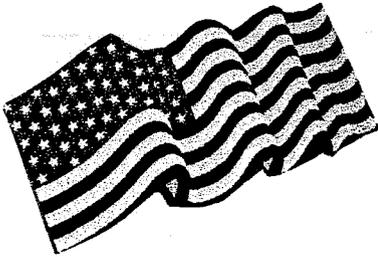
# **NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS**

**P.O. Box 304**

**Ingomar, PA 15127**

## **FIRST CLASS MAIL**

### **DATED MATERIAL**



### **COMING FROM THE REICH - PART 2**

**Ruth Kittner**

**September 21, 2004**

**7:00 pm (Northland Library)**

**North Hills Genealogists is a group of people who share an interest in genealogy and meet to share their knowledge. NHG does NOT maintain a library and does NOT do research for others. An individual member may choose to handle research requests, but NHG will not be responsible for the quality of the work performed or any fees charged.**

### **WE ARE GOING HOME!!!!**

Northland Library has finished their renovations and NHG will be returning there for our monthly meetings (third Tuesday of every month).

When Northland closed for renovation we were lucky and thanks to Tom Wiley were able to use the facilities of the McKnight United Methodist

Church for our monthly meetings. We want to express our appreciation to the Church for allowing us to use their facilities during this past year.

On September 21 we will have our first meeting at the newly renovated Northland Library. Our speaker will be Ruth Kittner, presenting Part 2 of her talk "Coming from the Reich." Ruth spoke at our February meeting and was scheduled to come back in March but we cancelled due to weather. See the article on her talk.

We will be meeting in Meeting Room 148 on the ground floor of Northland. Please note that when you enter off Cumberland Rd. you **MUST** turn left to the lower drive. The main entrance is now on the lower level. **SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER.**