

NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS



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	Mailings: Laura Kunig & Liz Reilly	Liaison: Lissa Powell
		10 Issues - August - June

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fall is in the air. The leaves are starting to turn and we now wake up to cool mornings. Football season is upon us. High school football on Friday, college on Saturday and the Steelers on Sunday.

I spent a few hours at the Carnegie Library's Pennsylvania Room last week. While books have been renumbered and relocated prior to their move, their staff continues to be extremely helpful to all. I was able to do some digging into my cousin's father-in-law.

From what I've heard, the DC research trip was a rounding success. We all owe a "BZ" (that's Navy for "well done") to Elissa Powell for setting up the trip and seeing it through to completion. This effort on the part of a volunteer is what makes our organization special. All our events, our meetings, our projects are due to the efforts of volunteers. As I've mentioned before, volunteers are always welcome to assist us in making North Hills Genealogists a better and more useful club.

Tom Wiley has set up our Christmas Social to be held at the Zellenople Historical Society on

Saturday, Dec. 11, 2004. After a tour of some of the historical houses, we will then adjourn to the Kaufman House for a luncheon buffet. More information on the social is contained in the newsletter. As Tom will be absent, a volunteer will be needed to coordinate the social.

Volunteers are always welcome to assist Jo Henderson (Chens4th@aol.com) and Irene Dinning (dinning1@earthlink.net) in the reading and cross-checking of the stones before winter sets in.

This month's meeting is an overview of the genealogical resources of Northland Library by Amy Steele, Reference Librarian. November's meeting is a round table where we can share our knowledge with our fellow members in an attempt to resolve brick walls and other sticky problems.

Steph

WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

Tues., Nov. 2, 2004 - 7:00 pm - NHG Board Meeting - UPMC Passavant cafeteria. Everyone welcome.

Tues., Nov. 16, 2004 - 7:00 pm - Regular NHG Meeting - Roundtable Discussion

Sat., Dec. 11, 2004 - NHG Christmas Social - Zellenople Historical Society (reservation form on page 29)

Sun., Sept. 24, 2004 - 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm - Lawrenceville Hospitality House Tour (check out website for more info: lawrencevillehousetour.org)

Mon., Oct. 25, 2004 - 7:00 pm - Greater Pittsburgh Civil War Roundtable - "The Trial of Henry Wirz" - Jim Grindlesperger. Henry Wirz was Swiss-born and became the commandant of Andersonville Prison. At the end of the war, he was tried and convicted of war crimes and ultimately hanged in Washington, DC.

Thurs., Nov. 11, 2004 - 7:00 pm - WPGS Monthly Meeting - "Tracing Your Revolutionary War Ancestor" - Craig R. Scott, MA, CGRS. Carnegie Lecture Hall.

Sat., Nov. 13, 2004 - 8:30 am - 4:00 pm - Croatian Genealogy Seminar - Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church, Youngstown, OH. \$45.00 per person. Contact Robert Jerin at 216-991-2310 or email at rjerin26@yahoo.com to register or for more information. The Babcock Meeting Center, Babcock Boulevard.

Thurs., Nov. 18 - Lawrenceville Historical Society - 7:00 pm - "Living History: Colonial Pittsburgh" - Doug Macgregor, Educator at the Fort Pitt Museum. Canterbury Place, Fisk Street, Lawrenceville.

NHG CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

The NHG Christmas Social will be held on Saturday, December 11, 2004.

We will be visiting the Zellenople Historical Society. The Society is dedicated to the preservation of local historical resources as well as the education of members and the public. A research library is maintained at Passavant House, with a large collection of primary resource materials as well as genealogical records of many immigrant families. These materials are available to researchers seeking their own family records seeking their own family records and those involved in scholarly pursuits.

We will meet at the Passavant House at 243 S. Main St. at 10:00 am. This is the Society's headquarters. We will split into two groups with one staying to tour the Passavant House and the other starting their tour at the Buhl House. At about 11 am the groups will switch and go to the other house for their tour. We will then proceed to the Kaufman House for lunch at 12:30 pm.

At the Kaufman House we will have a buffet luncheon in the second floor dining room. The lunch will consist of Croissant sandwiches, with a choice of ham, chicken salad and tuna salad, fruit salad, a fresh vegetable tray, choice of milk, pop, iced tea, coffee and juice and ice cream for dessert.

The cost of the tour and luncheon is \$16 per person, **pre-paid**. Deadline for reservations is **December 3**. There will be no refunds unless cancelled by **Nov. 22**. See the reservation form on page 29. Please send your reservation to our post office box, **not** to Northland Library (we do not have a mailbox there any longer.)

BECOMING THE SECOND EMPIRE (GERMANY)

The following information was provided by Ruth Kittner during her last presentation at NHG.

<u>Territory</u>	<u>Ever Part of Prussia?</u>
Alsace-Lorraine	1870-1871
Anhalt	No
Baden	No
Bavaria	No
Berlin	1801-1947
Brandenburg	1701-1947
Bremen	1866-1918
Brunswick	No
East Prussia	1701-1947
Hamburg	1866-1947
Hannover	1866-1947
Hesse Darmstadt	No
Hesse Nassau	1866-1947
Hohenzollern	1849-1947
Lippe	No
Luebeck	1937-1947
Mecklenburg-Sterlitz	No
Oldenburg	No
Palatinate	No
Pomerania	1701-1947
Posen	1793-1807; 1815-1918; 1939-1945
Rhineland	1815-1947
Sachsen Altenburg	No
Sachsen Coburg Gotha	No
Sachsen Meiningen	No
Sachsen Weimar	No
Saxony (Kingdom)	No
Schaumburg Lippe	No
Schleswig-Holstein	
Schleswig	1864-1947
Holstein	1866-1947
Silesia	1942-1947
Waldeck	1929-1947
Westphalia	1815-1947
West Prussia	1772-1945
Wurttemberg	No

THE CONFUSION IN BADEN

from Ruth Kittner

Because of the simple difference in size between the German STATE of Baden and the German TOWN of Baden-Baden, there is always a greater probability that an ancestor's origins are within the STATE - far fewer people populated and emigrated from the town. (The present-day population of the town of Baden-Baden is still less than 50,000) There is a greater likelihood that someone who "emigrated from Baden" came from a particular town or village situated within the borders of Baden, the STATE - not from the town of Baden-Baden. Family researchers should be aware of this probability. If you don't find specific evidence of your ancestral origins in the TOWN of Baden-Baden (known in the recent past only as "Baden" by the way, until about 1931) consider that they may well be in another town within the STATE of Baden instead. Or they could indeed be from the town of Baden in the duchy of Baden... Baden, Baden.

More confusion in Baden: Until 1771, there were two duchies, one Protestant (Baden Durlach) and one Catholic (Baden-Baden). In 1771, the Catholic line died out in insanity, and the Protestant line inherited both duchies, with Charles Frederick, 1771-1802, and then the Electors of Baden 1803-1806 (only one actually was an elector, Charles Frederick) and then after 1806, the Grand Dukes. At this time, Baden became a Grand Duchy, and the duchy survived until the fall of the second empire in 1918.

(Ed Note: Why did so many of my ancestors come from such a confusing place as "Germany"? But, it does make for interesting researching.)

CROATIAN RECORDS

As many of you know, NHG member Frank Thomas has made many trips to Croatia researching his family history. During his trips, Frank has copied many church records. He has allowed WPGS to microfilm these records and they are now available for viewing at WPGS. We received the following information from Frank on the records he brought back.

I have visited Croatia 16 times. During my visits, I did some research on my father and mother and my wife's father and mother family lines.

I did research at Archives in Zagreb and churches in the Zuberacka Gora area. I was able to get over 14,000 pages of records on births, marriages, deaths and families who went to church in those areas.

The churches and areas are: Sv. Marua Magdalena church in Gornji Ostrc. Records are on the people from Gornji and Dolnji - Kostanjevac - Tupcina- Jurkovo Sels - Zamaria - Restovo - Soscice - Cernik.

Deaths: 1831-1985; Marriages: 1831-1986; Births: 1831-1985; Families: 1800's to 1950. Families show father and mother and their children and children's children, wives, etc., down the line.

St. Nikola Church in Zumberak, Croatia. Born and Baptized: 1760-1985; Deaths: 1790-1984; Marriages: 1806-1984; Families: 1700's to 1900's in the villages of Zumberak, Kalje, Veliki Vrh, Tupcina, Zelesno, Hartje, Markusic, Javor, Petrovic, Novo Selo, Stupe, Gornji Vas, Kupcina, Restovo, Sosice, Vukovo Brdo, Gornji Ostrc, Donji Ostrc, and Zamaria.

Sr. Barbara Church in Rude, Croatia. Born and Baptized: 1789-1896 and 1931-1988; Marriages

1789-1930 and 1949-1987; Deaths: 1789-1877 and 1949-1988; Families: 1800's and up.

Sv. Michaelis (Mihevil) Church in Kalje, Croatia. Born and Baptized: 1958-1914.

Sv. Michael I Ana Church in Gornji Prekrize. Deaths: 1858-1878.

Okicka Sv. Marija Church in Zdencina, Croatia. Baptized: 1847-1856; Deaths: 1898-1920.

In Miroj Cemetery, Zagreb, Croatia records on Jurjevic's buried up to 1991.

Frank Thomas

To view these records, visit WPGS or contact them at 412-687-6811.

Thanks Frank for making these records available to people with Croatian ancestry.

CONTEST WINNER

Congratulations to Maxine Douthett who won \$30 by answering the North Journal Jackpot in September. The question was "How many graves in Rogers Cemetery in Pine Township?" Maxine correctly answered 21. We hope that she consulted the premier source on the topic: "Pioneer Cemeteries of Pine and Richland Townships, Allegheny County, PA" produced last year by NHG and still available for \$39.95 (members \$29.95). She would certainly have made her money back.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Jo Henderson and Irene Dinning are still looking for volunteers to help with cemetery readings for the next volume of the Pioneer Cemeteries books.

Contact either one of them to help.

Jo - Chens4th@aol.com

Irene - dinning1@earthlink.net

WASHINGTON DC BUS TRIP

Elissa Scalise Powell, CGRS

A good time was had by all 49 genealogists on the bus trip to Washington, DC from September 26-29. Many people appreciated not having to drive to Washington themselves - so much so that 11 people drove 2 hours to the Cranberry Twp. pickup, 3 drove three hours and 2 drove four hours! Another came from New Jersey to accompany her mother and mother-in-law. It was quite a family affair.

Upon arrival a hot buffet dinner was served and two nationally-known speakers gave orientation sessions to the National Archives and the Library of Congress. This information was greatly appreciated since people were able to set their own schedule which included sightseeing for some. The three days quickly came to a close with the best research finds usually in the last hours.

Many people expressed an interest in staying longer and coming back again. Stay tuned - we may just do that.

For those of you on the bus trip, if you would like to write a couple paragraphs on your find or about an ancestor you researched, please send it to the Editor.

As for me, my best trip find was the Sanborn Fire Insurance maps at the Library of Congress which were on computer. As Rick Sayre mentioned, you can download them to a disk or what I ended up doing, emailing them to myself. I have all the maps from my mother's small hometown for 1885, 1893, 1901, 1913, 1923 and 1947. It is wonderful to see the town grow from unpaved roads to paved and the evolution on the property where my grandfather had his auto parts store. The maps show the footprint of each building and detailed where churches and cemeteries are. They make great research tools and inclusions

into family histories.

If you did not go on the trip, but would like to get your name on a contact list for a future one, please let Elissa Powell know at Elissa@PowellGenealogy.com.

MILITARY RECORD HOAX

The following was sent by NHG member Melinda Merriman Marn.

I was just on the Veteran's Admin. Site for my father who served in the Pacific and my uncle who served in Africa, in Italy and finally on Omaha Beach, where he was shot. We are having a problem with my uncle's VA health benefit because of his discharge papers. While there I saw the following:

Military Record Hoax

There is a rumor circulating that Official Military Personnel Files (OMPFs) at the National Personnel Records Center will be digitized and then destroyed. This rumor is NOT TRUE. Don't fall for this Internet hoax. You do not need to request a copy of your records - they are not going to be destroyed.

National Archives & Records Admin.
U. S. Coast Guard Office of Military
Personnel website
Federal Computer Week.

The web address where I saw this is <http://www.myhealth.va.gov>. I thought it would be good for genealogists to know.

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2004

SEE YOU THERE



WEB WANDERINGS

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

Do you have a favorite website? Is there a specific place you would like to find a website for? If so, please send a note to the editor at the address on the front or by e-mail at DJBooth@worldnet.att.net.

Allegheny County Real Estate Web Page

(find where your family used to live)

www2.county.allegheny.pa.us/RealEstate

Dutch Surnames

www.thejournalnews.com/newsroom/070604/b306blauvelt.html

Burker's Peerage, Baronetage and Knightage and Gentry

Burkes-peerage.net

Enlistments in Army or Women's Army

Auxiliary Corps - 1938-1946

archives.gov/aad

Jamestown Records

virtualjamestown.org

Send along your favorite or most helpful websites for inclusion in future newsletters.

RESTRICTING OUR ACCESS TO RECORDS

Previously published in RootsWeb Review: 13 October 2004,
Vol. 7, No. 41

The U. S. House of Representatives is considering a bill, House Resolution 10 (H. R. 10) which seeks to restrict access to birth certificates. David Rencher, chairman of the Records Access and Preservation Committee, a joint committee of the National Generalalogical Society and Federation of Genealogical Societies, has sent a letter to the bill's sponsor, Congressman J. Dennis Hastert, recommending an amendment to the bill that makes a distinction between certified and non-certified copies and excludes records more than 100 years old. A copy of the letter is available on the FGS site at <http://www.fgs.org/rpa/formalactions.htm>. To review this bill, go to <http://thomas.loc.gov>. Enter HR 10 in the search box for "Bill Number."

Concerned U. S. family historians who wish to contact their congressional representatives can go to <http://www.house.gov> and enter their zip code. Follow the link to the representative's website to obtain his/her contact information.

DON'T TRUST AN INDEX

Theresa Wheeler Snell

Previously published in RootsWeb Review: 13 October 2004,
Vol. 7, No. 41

I was unable to find the marriage record of my 2-great-grandmother Mary Elma Kasinger to Albert Ward Allison. I knew the approximate date, but could not find it at the Pike County Courthouse in Illinois. I kept looking, but it was not there. After staring at the name and thumbing through the register, I finally decided to look under Ward (Albert's middle name) Sure enough it was listed in the index as Albert WARD and Mary Elma KASINGER. When I got the actual marriage record, the names were correct - it was just transcribed wrong in the index.

ARE YOUR FAMILY TREASURES SAFE?

Recently several areas of Pittsburgh were hit with major flooding. During these floods many people lost priceless family items. The one item frequently mentioned was family photos.

Having recently received two boxes of very special old family photos, I thought how devastated I would be to lose them. I've been sorting through them and sending many of them to my cousins. Some I've made copies for myself first.

If you have old family photos or papers, I would urge you to:

1. Share copies with other family members so there will always be copies available in the family.
2. Put your copies in a safe place (it is apparent that in a basement is not a good idea).
3. Put them (or copies) in a place where you can grab them quickly if you have to leave in an emergency.

I've heard that people have put the only copies anyone had in a safe deposit box. I thought this was a good idea until I read an article about Sept. 11. It seems that people had put family papers, etc. in bank safe deposit boxes in the World Trade Center buildings. When the boxes were finally found in the rubble and opened, there was nothing left but dust. This was because of the intense heat from the resulting fires. While this is an extreme situation, it points out that you can't count on things being safe in a bank safe deposit box. I certainly hope those people had given copies to other relatives earlier.

So, take a few moments to figure out where to store copies of your important papers and photos

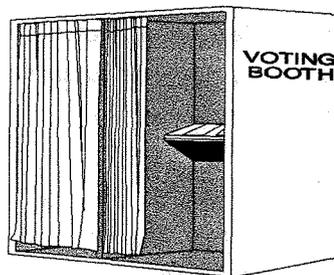
so the "one and only" copy won't be lost forever in the event of a disaster. While you are at it, make a backup copy of your computer files and give them to a relative or friend to keep for you (a good idea anytime in case your computer crashes and you lose your files.)

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.



NOVEMBER 2, 2004

Exercise the right to vote that your ancestors fought and died for you to have.





HAPPY HALLOWEEN

FINDING THE CEMETERY WHERE AN ANCESTOR IS BURIED

Have you ever learned about a cemetery where you believed that an ancestor/relative was buried but could not get there? Maybe it was in a distant state or country and the distance was too far. I guess I've been lucky that most of my mother's family are buried in Pittsburgh (many in the same cemetery) and many of my father's family are buried in cemeteries in Ohio and I have been able to visit them. For many people, time and distance prevent them from visiting a cemetery.

On October 12, 2004 there was an article in the Valley News Dispatch newspaper entitled "Slovakia woman finds father's grave in Tarentum Cemetery." An 82 year old woman had waited nearly 60 years to visit her father's grave. Events such as World War II and then the communist takeover of her country prevented her from coming to the USA to see his grave.

A genealogist from Tarentum found the grave and the woman was finally able to come to the US to see her father's grave.

The **Valley News Dispatch** has a wonderful, touching article about her search and her visit. You can read the article at the following website www.pittsburghlive.com/x/valleynewsdispatch/news. Look for the October 12 article.

This is another example of genealogists helping each other find their 'roots.' "

ODDS AND ENDS

Program Chair Tom Wiley is asking that if anyone has a suggestion for programs to please send them along. Tom has done a great job arranging programs. He wants to provide the types of programs that the members want but the only way he can do that is if the members make

suggestions. You can give him your ideas at a meeting or email him at TomEWiley@aol.com.

Earlier Lissa mentioned that if anyone who went on the trip to DC was interested in writing an article about their experience there for the newsletter it would be welcomed. That is very true. But, any article from a member about their research success (or failure), or any experiences you have had during your research would be great. Remember, this is YOUR newsletter and YOUR organization. I try to find articles and information that is helpful or interesting to our members, but input from all of you would be great. I would also like to receive information on any websites you have found helpful. Naturally the ones I use most are the ones that relate to my research and the localities I am working in. I know other members are researching other countries/states and would love to list any websites they have found helpful. You can give me your article or website information at a meeting or email them to me at DJBooth@worldnet.att.net.

Remember that NHG also publishes FREE queries in our newsletter. Many other groups charge a fee but we don't. We have members living in other states so you never know. One of them may have a lead for you (or may even be a relative). If you have any queries to submit, send them to the Query Editor, Sylvan Kretz. You can give them to him at the meetings.

KEEP THESE DATES OPEN

WPGS and the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania will be holding a conference on September 29-30, 2006 in Pittsburgh. It will be held at Station Square. Plans are being finalized so watch for more information in future newsletters. You don't want to miss this chance to interact with other genealogists from other parts of the state and other states.

**NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS
CHRISTMAS SOCIAL
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2004**

NAME: _____

NAME: _____

NAME: _____

Please include your phone number/e-mail address so that we can contact you in case of any last minute changes in the plans for the social.

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

Deadline for reservations is December 3, 2004. There will be no refunds for cancellations after November 22, 2004.

Parking on S. Main Street is metered with most meters having a two-hour limit. There is a public parking lot one block north of the Kaufman House, with 12 hour meters.

Send your reservation with a check for \$16 per person to the following address:

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

Please mark "Christmas Social" on the envelope.

**PLEASE DO NOT SEND YOUR RESERVATION TO NORTHLAND LIBRARY.
We no longer have a mailbox there and it may delay your reservation.**

SEE YOU DECEMBER 11, 2004

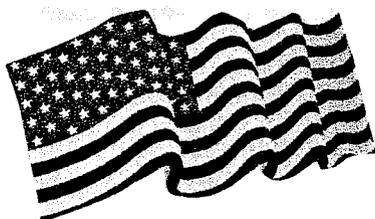
NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS

P. O. Box 304

Ingomar, PA 15127

FIRST CLASS MAIL

DATED MATERIAL



NOVEMBER 16, 2004 - 7:00 PM

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

Bring your questions and possibly breakdown a brickwall.

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.

FAMILY HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

Several holidays are coming up soon - Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years. Many families have special traditions they observe at various holidays. I know there are some in our family.

Many of these traditions are related to ethnic

traditions while others are just ones that have developed within the family over the years.

In the November issue of the newsletter (we don't have one in December) I would like to feature some of these traditions. If your family has any traditions they always celebrate on one or all of these holidays, please send them to me so we can feature them in the newsletter. Tell us how long the tradition has been followed, how it developed (if you know how it did) and anything else about your celebration.

I look forward to hearing from all of you.

Donna