



NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS



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10 Issues - August - June

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A cold January. Payback for a warmer and wetter December and the first week or so of January. A time for indoor chores. My February project is to go through three boxes of family stuff that are sitting in our computer room and catalog them.

I enjoyed presenting our last meeting on research on the Internet. Several years ago we had a presentation where the speaker said that we would be able to find all our ancestors on line. Well, maybe. Lets think about it. Remember how we used to do genealogical research before the Internet? You had to visit libraries and archives.

For example, let's take the census. First you had to find the indexes for the specific year and state. Once you found your ancestor's name, then you had to order the applicable microfilms to view the pages. This process might take two months or more.

Compare the above with how easy it is to use the resources through Northland Public Library. First you go on line to Heritage Quest and key in your ancestor's name, census year and state. Within seconds the applicable census pages are identified. Then you click on the page(s) to see if

the individual identified is your ancestor and for a small fee print the page out for further research. And all this can be done in minutes, not months. Not only that, but at the library, you can also access Ancestry.com through the Gale Group.

While more information is available faster, the same rules apply that were used thirty years ago. Are you looking at primary source material? If not primary sources, does the data have references that you can interdependently verify? Ease of access is great but just because more data is available faster does not negate the old computer rule: Garbage In Garbage Out.

The following are websites that I use: www.cyndislist.com, www.archives.gov/aad, www.einetwork.net/ein/northland and www.familysearch.com. Don't forget to use www.google.com for searches. The sites mentioned merely touch on the many resources available for you on the Internet. Use the Internet wisely.

Even though the snow is covering our cemeteries, volunteers are always welcome to assist Jo Henderson (Chens4th@aol.com) and Irene Dinning (dinning1@earthlink.net). Jo and Irene

WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

Tues, March 1, 7:00 pm - NHG Board Meeting, UPMC Passavant Hospital Cafeteria. Everyone welcome.

Tues., March 15 - NHG Regular Meeting, 7:00 pm
- Scott Lang - "Civil War Research in PA"

June 18 - Tour of Union Dale Cemetery (see article)

Other Meetings

Mon., Feb. 28 - 7:00 p.m. - Greater Pittsburgh Civil War Roundtable - "Lincoln & His Generals" - Woody Cunningham. The Babcock, Babcock Blvd.

Sat., March 12, 10:00 am - WPGS Monthly Meeting - "Using Topographic Maps in Genealogical Research", Richard Sayre, MA - Carnegie Lecture Hall, Oakland

Thurs., March 24 - 7:00 pm - "The Steps of Pittsburgh" - Bob Regan. Canterbury Place, 310 Fisk Avenue, Lawrenceville, PA

April 14-16 - Ohio Genealogical Society Conference - Akron, OH. www.ogs.org.

Sat. April 16 - WPGS Spring Seminar - John W. Konvalinka. (see article)

July 18-July 20 - WPGS Bus Trip to PA State Archives and State Library. See WPGS website at wpgs.org for details. Registration opens April 1.

September 29-30, 2006 - WPGS and Genealogical Society of PA - All Pennsylvania Conference, Pittsburgh, PA.

Cemeteries are like junk food; they may not have the most protein for a growing pedigree but they are certainly addicting and have a lot

of flavor.

(President's Report - continued)

are getting ready for the spring and the resumption of our cemetery project.

We are looking for topics of interest to present to you. If you have a suggestion for a meeting, please let us know.

Steph

March Meeting at NHG Civil War Research in PA Scott Lang

Scott Lang, author of the book "The Forgotten Charge: The 123rd Pennsylvania at Marye's Heights" will be speaking at our March meeting. The 123rd was formed in Allegheny City. Scott will talk about his research into this group of Volunteers from this area. He will discuss the various sources he used to research the members of this regiment. If you have ancestors from PA that served in the Civil War you won't want to miss this program. If you had ancestors in Allegheny City you will want to learn more about this regiment, which was the only fully recruited regiment from Allegheny County.

Union Dale Tour June 18, 2005

Union Dale Cemetery was originally farmland and was incorporated in 1846. Did you know that there are many prominent residents of Pittsburgh and Allegheny City buried there? On June 18 you will be able to visit the graves of the McKnight Family, Charles Geyer, Louis Theil, Alice Morrow and Levi Bird Duff just to name a few. Come and see the headstones and obelisks of an era gone by.

BOOK REVIEW

The following review of the *Pioneer Cemeteries of Pine and Richland Townships* was published in the current issue of the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*. Copyright National Genealogical Society. Reprinted with permission.

Rural in character for the last two hundred years, Pine and Richland townships are beginning to change because of the spread of Pittsburgh's suburbs. The objective of this encyclopedic compilation was to preserve "these testaments to the first settlers" (p.vii) before the cemeteries and their inscriptions are lost. The cemeteries include dates from the late eighteenth century to the early 1990s.

One of the difficulties in transcribing tombstone inscriptions is deciding where to begin and how to present the transcriptions so that researchers can locate the place of burial. The section titled "How The Book Is Organized" describes how the North Hills Genealogists read the cemetery inscriptions and explains the valuable notations on the appearance and physical features of each stone. Family historians who intend to visit these cemeteries should consult this useful section.

The book is well organized and carefully presented. The many features for each township include maps; cemetery lists, histories, and inscriptions; lists of Civil War draftees; and references to earlier tombstone readings. The volume contains a bibliography and an excellent every-name index of more than seven thousand names, including funeral directors, military companies, and members of the U. S. armed services during World Wars I and II.

Pioneer Cemeteries should serve as a model for other genealogical and historical societies interested in preserving the records of old cemeteries. Family historians who can trace their ancestry to Northern Allegheny County,

Pennsylvania, will find it to be a worthwhile purchase.

Robert E. Hoagland, CG
Philadelphia, PA

(Ed. This is the second great review of our book that has been published in a major national genealogical publication. Everyone who worked on this book should be very proud of their work.)

Soldiers & Sailors National Military Museum & Memorial "100 Years"

Soldiers & Sailors National Military Museum & Memorial is excited to state that April 12, 2005 marks its 100th Anniversary of Incorporation. In the past 100 years many highpoints have been made and the memorial, originally dedicated to remember Civil War Veterans, has expanded and surpassed the dreams of its founders.

To celebrate this milestone Soldiers & Sailors has declared 2005 as the year to re-introduce itself to the community and re-affirm its goal of education and remembrance of the United States Veterans. With our anniversary we want to make certain that the "Museum & Memorial" are known as an inviting, interactive and engaging place to visit.

In the fall of 2004 Soldiers & Sailors held a contest among the students of the Art Institute of Pittsburgh to design a new logo for the organization. The new logo symbolizes the camaraderie of the military. The red ribbon has been added for the 100th Anniversary of Soldiers & Sailors incorporation, which was passed into state state legislation April 12, 1905.

Soldiers & Sailors is eager to uphold its mission for another 100 years.

Congratulations to Soldiers & Sailors on its 100th anniversary. Visit their website at www.soldiersandsailorshall.org to learn about their upcoming programs.

**VOLUNTEERS HELP ARCHIVE DEATH
CERTIFICATES
MORMONS OFFER TIME IN
EXCHANGE FOR COPY OF 700,000
RECORDS**

Alan Johnson

"The Columbus Dispatch

The following information was submitted by NHG member Peg Duffy.

Margo Schloegel, of Ontario, ORE copies paper death records onto microfilm with a 16 mm camera at the Ohio Historical Society. Schloegel and her husband volunteered to help the society transfer the records from the State Department of Health. Michael Benson, of the Mormon church,, and archivist Laurie Gemmill supervised the transfer of death records to microfilm, which took 3 months.

During three months of painstakingly copying 700,000 Ohio death records, Mormon volunteers Michael Payne and Michael Schloegel found themselves on missions of discovery.

Payne came across Dayton native Orville Wright, whose Jan. 30, 1948, death certificate lists his occupation as "inventor of airplanes."

Schloegel discovered his great-grandfather, Thomas Boyle of Chicago, who died in Cincinnati in 1953.

Payne, Schloegel and their wives - all from Oregon - are part of an unusual collaboration between the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints - better known as the Mormon church - and the Ohio Historical Society. The project - copying and preserving the latest batch of state death records - is saving Ohio taxpayers at least \$100,000.

"If we were doing this with inhouse staff, it would take us forever," said Louise Jones, head

of research services for the historical society.

Instead, individually microfilming about 700,000 death certificates of people who died in Ohio between January 1945 and December 1953 took a little more than 3-1/2 months. This was done at no cost by the Genealogical Society of Utah, an affiliate of the church.

Michael Benson, of Mount Gilead, who works for the church's Family and Church History Department, was the project's on-site supervisor.

He oversaw the two volunteer couples, who worked as many as 40 hours a week. Benson's church will receive a copy of the death records to add to the huge genealogy database it maintains at church headquarters in Salt Lake City.

For Mormons, genealogy is not just a hobby. It's deeply ingrained in a religion that believes strongly in the intrinsic value of family. "We feel the family is very important, the basic building block of the church and of all societies. We think those relationships are eternal," Benson said. "We are interested in any record that would provide information that helps link families."

It's not the first time the church has worked with the historical society. About 3.5 million records sent from the Ohio Department of Health, which has collected information on births and deaths in the state since 1907, previously were microfilmed by church volunteers. Death records are maintained by the Health Department for 50 years before they are turned over to the society for preservation.

The records are in high demand by genealogical researchers because they typically list the birth and death dates of the individual and his or her parents. "It's a primary source for genealogists," said Jayne Davis, of Columbus, a member and past president of the Franklin County Genealogical Society. "It's very popular. Sometime, it's hard to get on the copying

machines at the historical society because so many people are doing research."

The society library at 17th Avenue and I-71 receives about 15,000 visitors annually and gets 20,000 mail requests seeking death records. Individual records are copied at 25 cents per page in person, or \$6 per document by mail. More in-depth research costs \$20.

Microfilming the records makes them available to more people and also protects fragile paper copies from damage by repeated handling, officials said.

The new batch of certificates will be accessible at the end of March. By then, Michael and Janice Payne, of Salem, Ore., and Michael and Margo Schloegel, of Ontario, Ore., will have moved on to other work as part of their volunteer missions on behalf of the church. The couples pay their own expenses on missions of as long as 18 months.

Mr. Schloegel said he was thrilled when he ran across the death certificate for his greatgrandfather. "I never knew him, but I have pictures of him. It was very exciting."

"Everyone has a real desire to know your ancestors," Mrs. Payne said. "I appreciate the sacrifices they made for us. It brings our life into perspective."

THE SHORT-FOR LIST

The following is from Family Tree Newsletter Email Update
2-03-05. Reprinted with permission.

Q: I found my great-grandfather on a passenger arrival list for the Port of New York. He arrived in 1915. But there are all sorts of notations – numbers and abbreviations – on the entry with his name. What do they mean?

A: US immigration officials were fond of using abbreviations and numbers. Some of these notations referred to events that happened on Ellis Island. For example, if you see S. I. by your ancestor's name, that means he was held for the Board of Special Inquiry on the island. You might also see stamped next to his name on the word *admitted* or *deported* – indicating that the board decided about his fate. Either one means you should check the end of the passenger list for detained aliens and Board of Special Inquiry pages, which will give you more information on that passenger.

Other abbreviations reference actions that happened after the immigrant landed – for example, if your great-grandfather applied for naturalization, a government official may have checked and made a note on the passenger record to verify the immigrant's arrival.

Notations had different means depending on the column in which these cryptic entries were made. To understand the notations on your ancestor's arrival list, see Marian L. Smith's article "Interpreting US Immigration Manifest Annotations," online at <http://www2.jewishgen.org/InfoFiles/Manifests>. It originally was published in the Spring 1996 issue of *Avotaynu: The International Review of Jewish Genealogy*.

NEW PROGRAM CHAIR FOR NHG

Laura Kunig is the new Program Chair for North Hills Genealogists. She is taking over from Tom Wiley. She has hit the ground running and has already lined up some great programs for the coming year. If you have suggestions for programs, please let Laura know.

A BIG thank you to Tom Wiley for all his work the past few years on the great programs we have had.

ORAL HISTORY QUESTIONS

Submitted by Steph Valentine

How many times have you said to yourself "Boy, I wish I had asked (Mother, Dad, Grandma, Grandpa, etc.) more questions when they were still around? Don't miss any opportunities to gather information from your relatives the next time you get together. Here are some questions to help you gather that information.

What is your full name and why were you named it?

Were you named after somebody else?

Where were you born and when?

Do you remember hearing your grandparents describe their lives? What did they say?

Who was the oldest person you can remember in your family as a child?

What do you remember about them?

How many years of education have you completed?

Do you have a college degree? If so, what was your field of study?

How did you meet the person that you would later marry? Describe them.

Do you remember where you went on the first date with your spouse?

How long did you know them before you got married?

Describe your wedding proposal.

When and where did you get married?

Did you have a honeymoon? If so, where did you go?

How would you describe your spouse? What do (did) you admire most about them?

How long have you been married (or were you married)?

How many children did you have all together?

What were their names, birthdates and birthplaces?

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?

What was your first job?

What kinds of jobs have you had?

How did you decide on your career?

What wars have been fought during your lifetime? How did you feel about them?

If you served in the military, when and where did you serve and what were your duties?

What were the names of your mother's parents?

When and where were they born and where did they live?

What did they do for a living?

Do you have personal memories of them?

What were the names of your father's parents?

When and where were they born and where did they live?

What did they do for a living?

Do you have personal memories of them?

Did you know your grandparents well?

What do you remember hearing about your GREAT-grandparents?

Did your great-grandparents, grandparents or parents come to the US from a foreign country? Any stories told in your family about the crossing? Do you have any relatives in foreign countries?

What traditions are still practiced in your family?

These are just some questions. We have more that we will print in future newsletters. If you are planning a family reunion for this summer, you may want to make up a questionnaire and hand it out to everyone and ask them to fill it in. When you get the information back, make sure you put it in your database.

You have an opportunity to learn more about your generation and the generations that came before you. Don't miss out on this opportunity when it knocks.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Greater Pittsburgh Civil War Round Table
Monday, February 28, 2005
7:00 pm
The Babcock, Babcock Boulevard

"Lincoln & His Generals"

Woody Cunningham has been speaking to Civil War groups for close to fifteen years now and has become something of an authority on Civil War politics with special emphasis on Lincoln, his Cabinet and his Generals.

His talks are not only educational, but also highly entertaining. Be sure not to miss this one!!!

Lawrenceville Historical Society
March 24, 2005 - 7 pm
Canterbury Place, Fisk Street, Lawrenceville

The Steps of Pittsburgh
Bob Regan

Bob has written a book with this title and will be doing a slide presentation on the many stairs and vistas of our fair city.

WPGS March 12, 2005
10:00 am
Carnegie Lecture Hall

Using Topographic Maps in Genealogical Research
Richard Sayre, MA

Rick Sayre, a WPGS member from Virginia, will be speaking on using topographical maps in genealogical research. Rick will talk about this underused and often misunderstood resource.

There are some great meetings coming up in the local area. Check out these and other meetings. If you know of any good local meetings coming up in the future, send the information along.

HELP FROM THE YELLOW PAGES

Reprinted from WPGS JOTS, February/March 2005

The WPGS Library at Carnegie Library in Oakland has a volume, which is potentially helpful in family research.

It is *The National Yellow Book of Funeral Directors*. In addition to funeral homes' addresses and telephone numbers, the directory includes Canadian Funeral Homes and daily papers, international funeral homes, foreign consulates with phone numbers.

WPGS 2005 SPRING SEMINAR SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 2005

The annual WPGS Spring Seminar will be held on Sat., April 16 at the Holiday Inn Greentree. Guest Speaker John W. Konvalinka will give four talks. In addition there will be a buffet luncheon. See page 59 for details on the program.

WPGS BUS TRIP BURGH TO BURG

WPGS will be taking a bus trip to Harrisburg for two days of research at the Pennsylvania State Archives and State Library. Check out the information on page 58 for more information on this trip.

DO YOU KNOW.....

Have you found a good reference book or resource that has helped you with your research? If so, please share this information with the other members of NHG. I know I've learned about good resources from talking to other people and this has helped me in my research. Be a "Giver" and not just a "Taker" and share your knowledge with others.

Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society

sponsors

BURGH to BURG

Bus Trip

Monday, 18 July 2005, to Wednesday, 20 July 2005

Join "Roots & Branches" genealogy columnist **James M. Beidler** for two days of assisted research at the Pennsylvania State Archives and State Library of Pennsylvania.

You'll board the **Lenzner motorcoach** in downtown Pittsburgh on Monday morning, arriving in Harrisburg in time for lunch at the acclaimed **National Civil War Museum**, with an opportunity to tour the museum that afternoon along with a chance for a one-on-one research consultation with Beidler and his associates.

Research begins **Tuesday** by splitting into 2 groups for orientations at both repositories. The groups switch sites after lunch (on your own). The State Library is open until 8 p.m. Tuesday for those who want maximum research time.

Wednesday research is available at both repositories until the bus leaves at closing time around 4:30 p.m. to return to Pittsburgh

Tour price includes:

- Motorcoach transportation to and from Harrisburg (including driver's tip)
- Two nights at the Crowne Plaza Harrisburg hotel
- One-on-one and group research assistance
- National Civil War Museum admission and lunch on Monday
- One-on-one research consultations with professional genealogists
- Orientations at both State Archives and State Library
- Welcome packet

Registration starts April 1, 2005

<http://www.wpgs.org>

Cost of the trip is just

\$155 (quad occ.) / **\$175** (triple) / **\$210** (dbl.) / **\$315** (single)



WPGS 2005 Spring Seminar

Saturday, April 16, 2005

Holiday Inn Greentree

401 Holiday Drive, Greentree, PA (800) 695-8284

Guest Speaker: John W. Konvalinka

Program

8:30 am	Registration
9:00 am	Welcome
9:15 am	Keeping Up With the Neighbors Learn About Your Ancestors From the People They Knew
10:45 am	Making Your Case – Using the Genealogical Proof Standard
12 Noon to 1:00 pm	Buffet Luncheon
<i>First Families of Western Pennsylvania Awards</i>	
1:15 pm	Your Immigrant Ancestor(s) – Find 'Em in Cyberspace
2:30 pm	Avoiding Tangles in the World Wide Web – Beyond Google: Successful Searching Techniques
\$35.00 Members	\$40.00 Non-Members

John W. Konvalinka is a professional genealogist and has been actively involved in genealogy for 25 years. He is particularly interested in the effective use of computers and the Internet in supporting (not replacing) traditional genealogical research. He has worked with the Internet since the 1980s and with computers since 1955, first as a US Navy pilot and then in two successful, computer related careers in industry - as a partner of Accenture, Ltd (formerly Andersen Consulting,) and as Chief Information Officer of Comcast Corporation.

In his research, he has worked extensively in the British Library, the Library of Congress, the New York Public Library and other major genealogical libraries in the US, UK and other countries, as well as in the Public Record Office and Society of Genealogists (London) and the (US) National Archives, the New York City and New Jersey State Archives, the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society and many smaller libraries, record offices and private collections.

John holds active memberships in the National Genealogical Society, the Federation of Genealogical Societies, the Association of Professional Genealogists, the Society of Genealogists (UK), the New York Genealogical & Biographical Society, the Genealogical Societies of Pennsylvania and New Jersey (where he is a member of the Website Automation Committee), the New England Historic Genealogical Society, the Genealogy Speakers Guild, the Sons of the American Revolution, the Association of One Name Studies, and several other state and local genealogical societies.

Name _____ Check if WPGS Member _____

Guest Name _____ Check if WPGS Member _____

Address _____

Enclosed is a check or money order payable to **WPGS** in the amount of \$ _____ for _____ persons.

Mail completed registration form **no later than April 2** to: WPGS, 4400 Forbes Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15213-4080.

For more information, call 412-687-6811 (voice mail) or visit our web site at www.wpgs.org

NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS

P. O. Box 304

Ingomar, PA 15127

FIRST CLASS MAIL

DATED MATERIAL

MARCH 15, 2005

7:00 PM

CIVIL WAR RESEARCH IN PENNSYLVANIA

SCOTT LANG

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.

books is about over 275 Civil War soldiers and sailors who served with the United States Colored Troops, lived in Allegheny County after the war and became members of this post. This book is available through WPGS (<http://www.wpgs.org>).

Chinese New Year

2005 is the Year of the Rooster.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

March is Black History Month. Take some time to learn about events such as the Underground Railroad and other events that impacted the black population of the US. You might want to check out the new book by Diane Ragan, CGRS "African American Members of GAR Post 206". This

UPCOMING HOLIDAYS

Palm Sunday - March 20

Good Friday - March 25

Easter - March 27

Does your family have special traditions for these holidays? Have you documented them?