



NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS



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10 Issues - August - June		

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Just got back from a two day research jaunt to Washington, DC. One of my brick walls, my grandmother's folks, lived in DC in the 1800s through early 1920 and I knew very little about them. Using the Internet, I found that the DC Public Library has a Washingtoniana Room featuring the census, city directories, microfilm of all the major daily newspapers along with lots of indexes. I was able to flesh out the background of a lot of my ancestors. The two major breakthroughs were to confirm the lineage from my g-grandmother to the original Sicilian immigrant and to identify the location in Denmark where my g-g-grandfather orinated. Now I've got to 'jump the pond' and start overseas research.

We had a super meeting last month. Leland Meitzler of Heritage Quest gave a presentation titled The Witnesses. The gist of the talk is that we should pay attention to those people who witness assorted legal or church documents. The point being made is that generally witnesses might be friends, in-laws, relatives, or someone else closely related to the person you're researching. Unfortunately, these folks aren't found in indexes. Once you have names of

witnesses, check censuses and other documents for those witnesses as they can point toward your ancestor.

I can vouch for the above thesis. I was able to obtain a copy of my g-g-g-grandfather's will from the DC Archives. One of the witnesses to that will had the same unique last name as the husband of my great-aunt. So, now I might check the on-line census the next time I get to Northland Library.

We've restarted our cemetery project under the guidance of Jo Henderson and Irene Dinning. If you are interested in helping out crosschecking all the data collected last year, please drop Jo (Chens4the@aol.com) and Irene (dinning1@earthlink.net) a line. We already have 30 people signed up for our September research trip to Washington, DC. Please contact Elissa Powell (Elissa@PowellGenealogy.com) for more information. Space is limited.

Happy hunting!

Steph

WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

Monday, May 23, 2005 - 7:00 pm

Tues, June 7, 2005, 7:00 pm - NHG Board Meeting - UPMC Cafeteria. Everyone welcome.

"A Victor, Not a Butcher: Ulysses S. Grant's Overlooked Military Genius"
Edward H. Bonekemper, III

SATURDAY, June 18, 2005, 10:00 Am - Regular NHG Meeting - Tour of Union Dale Cemetery
(NOTE: DAY CHANGE)

Ulysses S. Grant has been tarred with negative labels such as "butcher", "plodding", and "uncreative." Ed Bonekemper's book - and this month's program - shows that to the contrary, Grant was a creative, cunning, and quick general who was a winner wherever he fought in the Civil War. Between Fort Sumter and Appomattox, three Civil War armies surrendered - all of them to "Unconditional Surrender" Grant.

OTHER MEETINGS

Thurs, May 19, 2005, Lawrenceville Historical Society, 7:00 pm - "The Allegheny Arsenal, An Historical Overview" - James Wudarczyk. Canterbury Place, Fisk Street, Lawrenceville.

As he did with his prior book, "How Robert E. Lee Lost the Civil War", Ed Bonekemper stirs the waters of Civil War controversy. Grant's admirers will be heartened by the narrative and statistical support for the proposition that Grant possessed military genius, was the outstanding general of the Civil War, and conducted one of the greatest campaigns in military history - the capture of Vicksburg and its 30,000 man army.

Mon, May 23, 2005 - The Greater Pittsburgh Civil War Round Table - 7:00 PM - "A Victor, Not a Butcher: Ulysses S. Grant's Overlooked Military Genius" - Edward H. Bonekemper. III The Babcock, Babcock Boulevard. (see article)

June 1-4, 2005 - NGS Conference in the States and GENTECH Conference - Nashville, TN

SATURDAY JUNE 11, 2005

NHG MEETING

TOUR OF UNION DALE CEMETERY

Sat., June 11, 2005 - 10:00 am - WPGS Monthly Meeting - "Preservation of Family Heirlooms" - Marilyn Cocchiola Holt and Jacalyn C. Mignogna. Carnegie Lecture Hall, Oakland

The June monthly meeting of NHG will be held on **SATURDAY, June 18** at Union Dale Cemetery. We will be touring Division 2 of the cemetery. Our guide will go over the cemetery history, what type of information pertinent to genealogy that you can legally get from a cemetery, cemetery mergers and what to do when you find one in your research.

Sat., June 11, 2005 - 10:00 am - Lawrenceville Historical Society - Rolling on the Allegheny III - see article

July 18-20, 2005 - WPGS - Burgh to Burg Bus Trip - See article

Sept., 25-29, 2005 - NHG Research Trip to Washington, DC - see article.

We will meet at the Chapel on the grounds of the cemetery on Brighton Road west of Oliver High School.

GREATER PITTSBURGH CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

WPGS MONTHLY MEETING
Saturday, June 11, 2005 - 10:00 am

Preservation of Family Heirlooms

Marilyn Cocchila Holt and Jacalyn C. Mignogna

Do you have family valuables hidden away that need attention? Would you like to learn how to care for papers, photographs and clothing that has passed down from your ancestors? Then join WPGS for a Q&A session with a preservation specialist who can advise you on how to care for those family treasures.

Marilyn Cocchiola Holt, MLS is Head of the Pennsylvania Department of the Carnegie Library and has been a genealogical librarian for 22 years.

Jacalyn C. Mignogna, MLS is a Librarian in the Pennsylvania Department of the Carnegie Library who specializes in preservation issues.

LAWRENCEVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Rolling on the Allegheny III

10:00 am - 12:00 pm

A boat ride, lecture and refreshments on the beautiful Allegheny River aboard the Voyager, History is fun when you wash it down with coffee and donuts. Boat departs at 10:00 sharp from the Carnegie Science Center dock.

Charge: \$25 for non-members and \$22.50 for LHS members. May payment to the Lawrenceville Historical Society, P. O. Box 4015, Pittsburgh, PA 15201.

BURGH TO BURGH BUS TRIP

July 18-20, 2005

Join other researchers on a trip to the Pennsylvania State Archives and State Library on July 18-20, 2005. The trip will consist of two

days of assisted research with James M. Beidler, "Roots & Branches" genealogy columnist.

Cost: \$155 (quad occupancy); \$175 (triple, occupancy); \$210 (double occupancy) and \$315 (single occupancy). This includes bus transportation, two nights at the hotel, one-on-one and group research assistance; National Civil War Museum admission and lunch on Monday; orientations at both the State Archives and State Library.

Reservations must be received by May 31, 2005. Send reservation: name, address, phone number with payment to: WPGS %Phyllis F. Locke, 824 6th Street, Patterson Heights, Beaver Falls, PA 15010.

NHG RESEARCH TRIP TO WASHINGTON, DC

September 25-29, 2005

Join others for a research trip to Washington, DC in September. Charge includes bus transportation, arrival dinner, 4 nights at the hotel, arrival dinner and orientation.

Single: \$465

Double: \$295

Triple: \$235

Quad: \$205

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

Details, maps, links and other information will be posted at www.NorthHillsGenealogists.org.

Don't miss this chance to research at the National Archives, DAR Library and the Library of Congress.

CEMETERY COMMITTEE REPORT

Jo Henderson

Spring must be here! Last week, readers for Vol. III of the "Pioneer Cemeteries of North Hills" were out in force. The group finished Little Hill Methodist Church beneath sunny skies and perfect temperatures.

Readings will continue as weather permits. All cemeteries have been read once; this spring and summer will be second readings. We worked from typed transcripts of the first reading, to which have been added any church records or other readings that we have found.

If you would like to help in a sit-down capacity, you are needed! This would require going to the church and adding the church records to our typed transcripts. You would work with a partner. If interested, contact Jo Henderson at 724-625-2669 or Irene Dinning at 412-741-6463.

Four NHG members became new readers at last month's meeting: Winnie Derbish, Mary Ann and Al Smith and Loretta Edkins. Welcome and fair weather!!

ALLEGHENY CITY RECORDS

You may have seen a recent article in the newspaper about the Allegheny City records being transferred to the State Archives and how several of the archivists there have gone through these records to get them ready for researchers.

At the April 27, 2005 meeting of the Alleghny City Society, Mr. George Ellis of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (one of the men who worked on these records) spoke about what they found. He talked about the tax records that were a large part of these records and the valuable information that might be found in them. He also mentioned that the records for

licenses granted to people who had markets, etc. could also provide a great deal of information.

If you have ancestors who lived in Allegheny City in the 19th century you may find some information about them in these records. If you go on the bus trip that WPGS is sponsoring you will be able to see these records on that trip.

SHIP-SHAPE DATABASE

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Mystic Seaport (<http://www.mysticseaport.org>) has posted its collection of early American published ship registers -- including the New York Marine Register, American Lloyd's Register of American and Foreign Shipping and The Record of American and Foreign Shipping -- at <http://www.mysticseaport.org/library/initiative/ShipRegisterList.cfm>. Together, these annual books list registered ships, barks, brigs and schooners from 1857 through 1900.

The registers aren't passenger lists, but they may help you find out more about an immigrant ancestor's ship. You can choose a register to browse by year, or select Search Ship Registers to search on the name and type of vessel, or the name of the ship's master. The search is case-sensitive, so start names with capital letters, and type a capital letter if you choose the "begins with" option for the ship's name search. Click on a ship's name in the results list to see which register lists it. Then you can link to the register to learn the ship's home port, the date and place it was built, its dimensions and more.

WESTMORELAND COUNT HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

The Spring 2005 issue of Westmoreland History, a publication of the Westmoreland County Historical Society, has been recently released. This issue marks the 10th anniversary of the magazine which shares the stories of the people that have shaped Westmoreland County's place in the rich history of our nation, state and region. In this issue, two main articles focus on World War II, which ended 60 years ago this summer. These articles feature the stories of ordinary people from Westmoreland County whose lives were caught up in the war. Their stories help us understand that the lives of those who went to war and those who stayed behind on the home front were inseparable. "They Went in Harm's Way" by James Steeley is about five boys from Norvelt who enlisted in the army just months before the bombing of Pearl Harbor and were sent to the Phillipine Islands. The day after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Japanese invaded the Phillipine Islands, and paradise vanished as all five Norvelt boys were eventually captured. Their personal stories are both tragic and touching. "Dreams Told Before Breakfast" by Virginia Leiner, looks at a series of Round Robin letters written by eleven friends in the Greensburg High School Class of 1935. Ned and Hazel Booher, two of the Round Robiners, donated 29 of these letters written during 1942 and 1943. They tell a story of true and fast friends who were bound together by shared experiences and dramatic world events; their letters provide a personal glimpse at life at this time. Two other articles included in the magazine are "James Monroe and the Westmoreland County Afro-American Republican League" by George C. Young and "Young Peaceable Kingdom to Lawless and Cruel Proceedings: The Transformation of the Western Pennsylvania Frontier During the Seven Years War" by Matthew Ward, PhD. The recurring department articles include a look at early iron

furnaces (there were 16 in Westmoreland County in the early nineteenth century) and Scenes of Western Pennsylvania Life After the American Revolution. The magazine can be purchased for \$5 at the Society's office at 41 West Otterman St., Suite 310, Greensburg, or at several retail outlets in the County. Call the Westmoreland County Historical Society at 724-836-8100 x 10 for additional information.

18TH CENTURY TOOLS AND GARDENING

The Shaler Garden Club will meet on August 23, 2005 at the Shaler North Hills Library at 7 p.m.. Mr. Rob Windhorst of the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation, Neville House in Collier Township will lecture on 18th century gardening and will show a variety of tools that were used in that period. He will also discuss research into 18th century cooking techniques and gardening methods.

DINE & DONATE HELP NORTHLAND LIBRARY

It's simple to donate to Northland Public Library! Just visit Eat'n Park (see locations below) anytime during the promotion period, present the coupon when you pay and they will donate 10% of your check to Northland. There's no limit to the number of times you can participate, so be sure to get more than one flyer (available at the meeting).

This offer runs from June 9 - July 21 at the following Eat'N Park locations: 7671 McKnight Road; 7370 McKnight Road and Franklin Park, 2650 Brandt School Road.

Pick up a flyer at the meeting and have a meal at one of these locations and at the same time, donate 10% of your check to Northland Library. A nice way to say 'thank-you' to Northland.

PARKERSBURG, WV CITY CLERK GIVES MICROFILM RECORDS TO LIBRARY

The following article is from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter and is copyright 2005 by Richard W. Eastman

Historians and genealogists researching West Virginia ancestry have another tool available at the Parkersburg and Wood County Public Library. City Clerk Connie Shaffer presented library Director Brian Raitz with microfilm records of the city council minutes dating back to 1851, as well as ordinance books from throughout Parkersburg's history. "It's another valuable resource for local history and research," Raitz said.

Shaffer said the process of copying the city's records from book to microfilm began about three years ago when Parkersburg City Council appropriated the first money for it. So far, the project has cost less than \$10,000 but Shaffer said that there are two books left to copy and an index system may be added.

You can read more about this new resource on the Parkersburg News and Sentinel web site at <http://newsand sentinel.com/news/story>.

HUNTING FOR AN ALLEGHENY COUNTY CIVIL WAR ANCESTOR?

If you have a Civil War ancestor who lived in Allegheny County after the war, you will want to check out the newest database added to the "Members Only" section of the WPGS web page (www.wpgs.org). Publications Committee volunteers have typed an index of the 2,300 names that appear in six Personal War Sketch books of the Grand Army of the Republic Posts. A typical page in one of these books includes the veteran's name, place and date of birth, and a brief history of his military service in his own words as given to the Post Historian. The corresponding War Sketch books have been

microfilmed and are now included in the WPGS Library collection. Should you find a name on the list, their Research Committee will photocopy his entry. Send your request, citing the information found on the web site (i.e., veteran's name, GAR Post and page number) along with a check for \$5 payable to WPGS and a self-addressed, stamped #10 return envelope to: WPGS Research Committee, 4400 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213. If you have any questions regarding Civil War research or this database, you can e-mail Diane Ragan, CGRS at dianeragan@aol.com

PITTSBURGH AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

The Afro American Historical and Genealogical Society will co-sponsor a one-day workshop with the Church of Jesus Christ Latter-Day Saints, and Your Sister's Project. The workshop, entitled "Strengthening Families Through History" is designed to introduce the resources that are available to research, document, preserve and share family heritage.

The workshop will feature 14 different sessions for adults and youth ages 6 to 17 years of age. Sessions include, Family History 101, Interviewing Those Who Know, Struttin' Your Stuff - Sharing Family Finds, Resources at The Family History Center and Carnegie Library's Pennsylvania Room, How Life Used To Be-Stories From The Past, for children 6 to 11 and Hip-Hop Family History for Youth 12-17. The Church has agreed to provide complimentary resource materials, as well as the loan of their 8' x 20' display that showcases family histories of Hank Aaron, Alex Haley, Gladys Knight and Jesse Owen.

Strengthening Families Through History will be held Sat. June 18, 2005. Email aahgspgh08@aol.com for more information.

UNCLE FRANK'S RED GERANIUM

By Sylvan Kretz

About three years ago, I went to the cemetery just before Memorial Day ("Decoration Day" Grandma used to call it), for the annual planting of flowers on my Grandparents' graves. There in the corner of the back row of my gr-grandparent's large family plot was my mother's Uncle Frank. He was my g randma's younger brother and had been in the Army in WW I. He was in a machine gun battalion.

After the war, he never married. There were no descendants to decorate his grave on "Decoration Day". But to my surprise, there was a bright red geranium planted in front of the bronze military marker. This puzzled me, as my grandmother's family had long since passed away, and my mother's generation of 27 cousins were all deceased, except one who was in his mid-70's and lived in the South Hills.

Next "Decoration Day," I came prepared. I was going to solve this mystery of who was putting flowers on Uncle Frank's grave? I had gotten out my mom's picture album and scanned a sepia toned picture of Uncle Frank in his WWI khaki uniform. I put it in a plastic zip-lock bag with a nice note saying "Give me a call", and taped it to the front of the bronze marker.

Well, about two days later I got an excited phone call from Clarence, mom's cousin in the South Hills. He said, "My God, I almost had a heart attack. I went to the cemetery to plant a flower on Uncle Frank's grave and there he was staring up at me." Clarence said that he felt that, being a bachelor, Uncle Frank has no one to look after him, so he had been putting flowers on his grave for several years.

We had a really nice chat that afternoon about mom's photo album, and he thanked me for this picture. We talked about the family genealogy,

and he said that he had a family tree of his father's side, and he would gladly share with me. Later as a result of that phone call, his nephew called, asking for a copy of his grandmother's wedding picture that I had in the album. This was Clarence's mom, and my grandmother's younger sister. I happily obliged him with a scan, and a digital on a CD.

What a great way to reconnect with members of the family, and it all started with a red geranium and a picture of Uncle Frank in his Army uniform.

As genealogists we usually go to the census, birth, death, and marriage records and wills and deeds as the sources for our research. But often we hit a brick wall when we don't find the people we are looking for in those records.

But, as Sylvan's story shows, we sometimes have to "think out of the box" when doing our research. We sometimes have to be creative in finding ways to break through those brick walls. In a previous article I noted how I found another family branch by watching a show on HGTV.

Have you tried a creative way to find family lines? If you have, please send an article for the newsletter so your fellow NHG members can get more ideas for their research.

If you haven't used an unusual way to research, we would still like to hear your research stories. Remember, this is YOUR newsletter and YOUR organization. Your contributions to both are important.

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

DATED MATERIAL

SATURDAY JUNE 18, 2005
TOUR OF UNION DALE CEMETERY
10:00 AM

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.

JUNE NHG MEETING

Just a reminder that our June meeting will be held on **SATURDAY, JUNE 18, 2005** at Union Dale Cemetery.

We will meet at the Chapel on the cemetery grounds to begin our tour. Our tour will be in Section 2.

The cemetery is located on Brighton Road, opposite Oliver High School.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn more about what types of records are available for use in your genealogical research.

We will **NOT** have a regular Tuesday evening meeting in June. We will resume our evening meetings in July.

See you on June 18!!!!

MEMORIAL DAY
MAY 31, 2005