



# NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS



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Ingomar, PA 15127

Volume 15, Number 10 - June, 2005

<http://www.northhillsgenealogists.org>

e-mail:[pioneerbook@juno.com](mailto:pioneerbook@juno.com)

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Vice President: Laura Kunig

Secretary: Sylvan Kretz

Treasurer: Reed Powell

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Cemetery Project: Jo Henderson & Irene Dinning

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Mailings: Liz Reilly

Program: Laura Kunig  
Liaison: Lissa Powell

10 Issues - August-June

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well, I'm back from a quick trip to visit my mother in Brooklyn. I find traveling there via Amtrak to be quite relaxing. While it is a nine hour trip, there is plenty of room and I find I can accomplish quite a bit. I took a book on time management along with a small box of genealogical notes that I needed to catalog. I also tried to better prepare myself for a day's worth of research in New York City. Brooklyn Historical Society, Brooklyn Public Library and New York Public Library were all on my list. Alas, one was closed and another had different hours than published. So I spent my whole day at the NY Public Library. Besides the same resources that the Northland Public Library offers, New York has a few extras that made it well worth my while. I can't wait to go back!

Your board has been updating our bylaws, unchanged since 1990. Tom Wiley has been spearheading the effort. We hope to publish the proposed new bylaws within the next few months for your approval.

Our cemetery project is ongoing. As of now we plan on publishing our third book late next year. If you are interested in helping out crosschecking all the data collected last year, please drop Jo Henderson ([Chens4th@aol.com](mailto:Chens4th@aol.com)) and Irene Dinning ([dinning1@earthlink.net](mailto:dinning1@earthlink.net)) a line.

We already have 30 people signed up for our September research trip to Washington, DC. We need a minimum of 40 to make the trip happen and our drop-dead date is August 15th. Please contact Elissa Powell for more information. Space is limited ([Elissa@Powellgenealogy.com](mailto:Elissa@Powellgenealogy.com))

This is the last newsletter for our fiscal year. Attached is the renewal form along with a ballot for next year's officers. Our dues remain unchanged at \$15. We are always looking for suggestions for our monthly meetings. We are also looking for suggestions to save money. Publishing our book is going to be expensive. Nuff said.

Steph

Reading the book on time management reminded me that there are only so many hours in the day and the need to prioritize the tasks. What brought this home was while scanning old pictures I realized that I need to contact my cousins and identify the pictures before it is too late. I was finally able to locate a Utah cousin on my mother's side to help me in identifying some heretofore unknown Utah ancestors. I only hope that Jesse can be of assistance.

## WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

Tues, July 5, 2005 - NHG Board Meeting - 7:00 pm - UPMC Passavant Cafeteria. Everyone welcome.

Tues, July 19, 2005 - Regular NHG Meeting - 7:00 pm - Rubik's Cube Genealogy: A New Twist on Your Old Data - Elissa Powell, CGRS

Tues, August 2, 2005 - NHG Board Meeting - 7:00 pm - UPMC Passavant Cafeteria. Everyone welcome.

Tues. Aug 16, 2005 - Regular NHG Meeting - 7:00 pm - Using Internet Sites for Research in Washington, DC - Elissa Powell, CGRS

Mon. June 27, 2005 - Greater Pittsburgh Civil War Round Table - 7:00 pm - Civil War Cowards, Dr. Lesley J. Gordon. The Babcock, Babcock Blvd.

Sat. July 16, 2005 - Cranberry Genealogical Society - 10:00 am - Municipal Bldg., 2525 Rochester Rd., Cranberry.

Thurs., July 21, 2005 - Lawrenceville Historical Society - 7:00 pm - History of the Pittsburgh Police Department - Sergeant John Fisher. Canterbury Place, Fisk Street, Lawrenceville.

## A GENEALOGIST'S DREAM FIND

Sylvan Kretz

I was walking through the cemetery the other day, looking for another of my family, and happened upon a grave marker that I thought just has to be a genealogist's dream find. Imagine searching for your great-grandfather's grave, and going to the cemetery for the first

time, hoping to maybe find his grave, and the years of birth and death, and there, located with a large rough hewn stone cross in an upright grave stone that read:

Francis J. Kiernan

Born in the Parish of Abbey

Co. Longford, Ireland

Aug. 15, 1841

Died July 10, 1922

Co. F. 40th N. Y. Vol. Inf.

1861-1865

Father

Then on the flat ledger slab covering the grave was the record of the Civil War battles he had been part of during his four years of service.

40th N. Y. Vol. Inf.

Yorktown

Seven Days Battle

Chantilly

Gettysburg

Mine Run

North Anne

Weldon R. R.

Williamsburg

Groveton

Fredericksburg

Auburn

Wilderness

Cold Harbor

Boyton Plank Rd.

Fair Oaks

Bull Run

Chancellorsville

Kellys Ford

Spotsylvania

Petersburg

Appomattox

The shamrocks carved on the stone surely indicate one lucky Irishman. And how lucky the genealogist who, searching for the ancestor, finds this terrific record of the man.

## DONATIONS TO NORTHLAND LIBRARY

Amy Steel, genealogical librarian at Northland Library, shared with NHG the books she purchased from Leland Meitzler for Northland with funds furnished by NHG.

*What Did They Mean By That? A Dictionary of Historical and Genealogical Terms, Old and New,* by Paul E. Drake.

*Allegheny County, Pennsylvania Cemetery Directory, Compiled and Published by the Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society.*

*Guide to Genealogical Resources of Italy; Region of Sicily; with Maps and Full Index of Included Towns*, by George E. Ott.

*German-English Genealogical Dictionary* by Ernest Thode.

*Deciphering Handwriting in German Documents: Analyzing German, Latin and French in Vital Records Written in Germany* by Roger P. Minert

*Romanians in the United States and Canada, A Guide to Ancestry and Heritage Research* by Vladimir F. Wertsman.

*The Conceptual Approach to Genealogy* by David G. Chamberlin.

*Allegheny County, Pennsylvania in the War for the Suppression of The Rebellion, 1861-1865; Roll of Honor, Defenders of the Flag, Attack on Fort Sumter, S. C., April 12, 1861, Surrender at Appomattox, VA, April 9, 1865; published by the Board of Managers, Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall*, compiled by Samuel M. Evans.

## ERIE COUNTY - OLD RECORDS TO BE MICROFILMED

Pittsburgh Tribune-Review, June 8, 2005

Thirty-three old books of vital records from Erie County finally are being put on microfilm.

The books date back to the 1800s and include marriage licenses and birth and death records. Tito Bongiorno, Erie County's record manager and the project's leader, said the records deteriorate even faster when people are paging through them all the time. Bongiorno said it is important for the preservation and security of the records that they be put on microfilm. California-based BMI Imaging will digitally organize the microfilm into a computer program.

The public will be able to search the records on two computers at the Office of the Register of Wills. The records include the 1937 marriage license of film star Roscoe "Fatty" Arbuckle and actress Addie McPhail and the 1933 marriage license of comedian Bob Hope to his first wife, Grace Troxell.

## BOARD OFFICER NOMINATIONS

President - Steph Valentine

Vice President - Laura Kunig

Secretary - Sylvan Kretz

Treasurer - Reed Powell

A ballot is on page 93. Please return your ballot to North Hills Genealogists, P. O. Box 304, Ingomar, PA 15127. All ballots must be received by June 30, 2005 in order to be counted.

*The Director of North American Railroads, Associations, Societies, Libraries, Museums and Their Collections*, compiled by Rolly T. Hansen.

## QUERIES

Compiled and edited by Sylvan Kretz, Query Editor

**SIDEBOTTOM, James, West Virginia,**  
**REINBERGER, Susan, married to MANLEY, Abel**  
- children born in Steubenville, Jefferson County,  
OH. Died in Pittsburgh, PA January, 1874.  
**Contact: Louise Wallace, 2642 S. 90th Avenue,**  
**Luray, KS 67649-9412**

**ASCHENBACK/ASHENBOUGH,**  
**Johannes/John, residing in the Pittsburgh area**  
in the 1840 census. Born in Saxony, Germany in  
1798. **Contact: Ruth D. Nunes, 82 White Road,**  
**Centerburg, OH 43011-9751**

## PETITION TO SAVE ARCHIVES FUNDING

The President's budget recommendations for Fiscal Year 2006 slash or eliminate more than 150 federal programs. In that budget, the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) has been targeted to receive **NO** funding. This includes **NO** funds for the grants program and **NO** funds for staffing to support the NHPRC programs. It effectively eliminates NHPRC.

The Council of State Historical Records Coordinators, the Society of American Archivists, and the National Association of Government Archivists and Records Administrators are working collaboratively to address this threat to NHPRC and NARA. Activists across the US are rallying to save NHPRC while also ensuring that NARA has sufficient funding to sustain its current programs and continue to advance in areas that benefit all archival repositories and every citizen of the United States.

As part of their efforts to continue to express to Congress interest in restoration of funding for NHPRC, they have created an online petition. The petition will be forwarded to the House

Appropriations Committee and Subcommittee on Treasury, Transportation, HUD and the Judiciary in early July. The petition can be accessed at:

[www.savearchives.org](http://www.savearchives.org)

Click on the "petition" button.

Many genealogists have signed this petition to show support for the records we use.

Members of the NHPRC Joint Advocacy Task Force, Council of State Historical Records Coordinators

Society of American Archivists

National Association of Government Archivists and Records Administrators.

(Sign the petition and save the records we use.)  
(Thanks to Elissa Powell for forwarding this.)

## DUES FOR 2005-2006

The dues for 2005-2006 remain at \$15.00. A renewal form is found on page 93.

Send your renewal, along with a check for \$15.00 to: North Hills Genealogists, P. O. Box 304, Ingomar, PA 15127.

Don't miss any issues of the newsletter because you didn't renew now.

Do NOT mail renewals to Northland Library. We no longer have a mailbox at the Library and if you mail it there, we may not receive it.

## **DISCHARGE PAPERS AVAILABLE**

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, June 14, 2005

Unclaimed original soldier discharges dating as far back as 1898 are now more easily accessible to local veterans and their families.

The 2,601 records have been catalogued by name, years of service and branch of service by the Recorder of Deeds staff for the past several months. They are now located in the Veterans Affairs office in Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall.

According to Jim Uzdel, deputy recorder, when discharge papers were brought to the recorder of deeds in the past, they had to be left there for a copy to be made. The discharges remaining in the building were never picked up by the veteran.

Veterans and their immediate family members with proper identification can obtain the original document, an important piece of information in a soldier's life.

Valerie McDonald Roberts, Allegheny County recorder of deeds, said the document can serve as an informative piece for families who may have questions about their relative's birth date, location, years of service and other basic statistics.

"I know the value of having that discharge," said McDonald Roberts.

It's more than just having information. It's a large part of what [veterans] did. Instead of sitting around collecting dust, we decided to let the families have [the discharges].

Ed. Note: I contacted S&S. These are original discharge records that were never picked up. If the originals were picked up, copies can only be obtained from the county. S&S does NOT have copies of those records that were picked up. Veterans/family members will need to show

proper proof of relationship in order to get copies. These include all branches of the service, not just the Army.

## **FGS CONFERENCE IN SALT LAKE CITY**

The Federation of Genealogical Societies with local hosts Utah Genealogical Association invite you to attend the MAJOR genealogical event of the year - in Salt Lake City!

September 7-10, 2005 are the dates for "Reminders of the Past, Visions for the Future". These are the dates to set aside to attend this exciting educational and research opportunity.

For more information and a registration brochure, visit the FGS website, [www.fgs.org](http://www.fgs.org), phone 1-8788-FGS-1500 or write the Federation of Genealogical Societies, P. O. Box 200940, Austin, TX 78720-0940 or email [fgs-office@fgs.org](mailto:fgs-office@fgs.org). (NHG is a member of FGS. Note that when registering,

**NHG JULY 19, 2005  
7:00 PM  
Elissa Powell, CGRS  
RUBIK'S CUBE GENALOGY: A NEW TWIST ON YOUR OLD DATA**

Twisting your data through the different formats of sources, geography and chronology lets you view where the holes and discrepancies are, and allows you to see further clues. Some of the items discussed are: timelines, genograms, lineage society applications, land platting and writing the family narrative.

**HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY**

## **GREATER PITTSBURGH CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE**

Monday, June 27, 2005, 7:00 pm

Dr. Lesley J. Gordon

In popular imagination, the American Civil War remains a conflict in which all sailors acted out of personal bravery and self-sacrifice. Communal memory and historical scholarship have insisted that every soldier was a hero. But, there were northerners and southerners, not paragons but humans, who did not perform admirably or heroically. Many were shirkers, skulkers and deserters; those who fled from battle, or slipped away during long marches.

Dr. Lesley J. Gordon's talk will provide sobering perspective on this overlooked but fascinating topic.

Dr. Gordon is Associate Professor of History at the University of Akron. Her publications include: "General George E. Pickett in Life and Legend.", "Intimate Strategies of the Civil War: Military Commanders and Their Wives," and, "This Terrible War: The Civil War and Its Aftermath."

## **LAWRENCEVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

July 21, 2005 - 7:00 pm

### **The History of the Pittsburgh Police Department**

Sergeant John Fisher

Veteran officer John Fisher will discuss the proud tradition of our men in blue. As a major city, Pittsburgh has had its share of catastrophes, crime and wise guys. There are sure to be plenty of interesting stories in this lecture about Pittsburgh's finest.

Canterbury Place, Fisk Street, Lawrenceville

## **DAR INDEX IMPROVEMENTS**

FamilyTree Email Update, June 9, 2005

Reprinted with permission from

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) has enhanced its online index to the Genealogical Records Committee Reports – the name for its collection of genealogical information from family Bibles, tombstones, church records and the like. DAR, a lineage society for women with Colonial ancestors, has a research library in Washington, DC.

Search the 18 million name (and still growing) index at <http://grc.dar/darnet/>. Search for your ancestor and results now show you the book title and a link to its catalog record with the volume number and location in DAR's library. You'll also see the contents of the subject and note fields, which can help you determine if the book is relevant to your research. Click Ordering Page Copies for details on requesting photocopies of the pages with your ancestor's name.

## **NHG RESEARCH TRIP TO WASHINGTON, DC**

There is still time to sign up for the bus trip to Washington. Remember that everyone is welcome to come and with the open schedule you don't have to do research on all four days. Payment is fully refundable until August 16. After that date, partial refunds will be made. For more information, you can contact Elissa Powell by email or phone at 724-935-6961, NHG by email or check the NHG website for information on the itinerary, maps and information you will need to know in Washington.

email: [DCTRIP@NorthHillsGenealogists.org](mailto:DCTRIP@NorthHillsGenealogists.org)

[www.NorthHillsGenealogists.org](http://www.NorthHillsGenealogists.org)

**NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS  
RENEWAL 2005-2006**

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**QUERIES**

**Submit free queries to be published in the newsletter.**

**Mail w/check for \$15 to North Hills Genealogists, P. O. Box 304, Ingomar, PA 15127.**

**NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS  
BALLOT  
2005-2006 BOARD OFFICERS**

**PRESIDENT:** Steph Valentine \_\_\_\_\_

**VICE PRESIDENT:** Laura Kunig \_\_\_\_\_

**SECRETARY:** Sylvan Kretz \_\_\_\_\_

**TREASURER:** Reed Powell \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail ballot to North Hills Genealogist, P. O. Box 304, Ingomar, PA 15127. All  
ballots must be received by June 30, 2005.**

# **NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS**

**P. O. Box 304**

**Ingomar, PA 15127**

## **FIRST CLASS MAIL**

### **DATED MATERIAL**

**TUESDAY, JULY 19, 2005**

#### **RUBIK'S CUBE GENEALOGY: A NEW TWIST ON YOUR OLD DATA**

**Elissa Scalise Powell, CGRS**

**7:00 pm**

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.

**NHG AUGUST 16, 2005**

**7:00 PM**

**Elissa Powell, CGRS**

**Using Internet Sites for Research in Washington, DC**

Whether you are preparing for the trip to Washington on Sept. 25-29, or not able to go at this time, there are websites you should be aware of connected to the repositories there.

This will be an interactive demo of the sites for the National Archives, Library of Congress and the DAR Library.

**THERE WILL NOT BE A NEWSLETTER NEXT MONTH (JULY). THE NEXT ISSUE WILL BE IN AUGUST.**