

PITTSBURGH'S OWN...

NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS

www.NorthHillsGenealogists.org
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MY HULL FAMILY

By: Steph Valentine

I am still digging into my mysterious Northern ancestor from New Jersey, William H. Hull. Last month I wrote about his father, Samuel Pomeroy Hull of Morris Township, New Jersey.

My initial clue on William was a letter written to his wife by her sister care of Samuel Hull in Morris Township. I had already researched his wife, Alice Innes Randolph, and knew that she was from Washington, DC. A trip to DC found Alice's father, James Innes Randolph in the DC city directories. I also found mention of their marriage in the *National Intelligencer* (1.16.1851) which referred to him as Captain William H. Hull. Possible military reference? Yet I found no references to him in the DC city directories. However, there was another reference in the *National Intelligencer* (1.2.1853) on the death of his son, Randolph Pomeroy Hull.

I then decided that a visit to the Morris Township public library was in order. Their historical society had indexed all the names in the *Jerseyman*, a paper published and edited by Samuel Hull from 1826 to 1852. This was extremely beneficial. I found multiple references to William H. Hull. William's marriage, the death of his two children (a son, Randolph, mentioned above, and a daughter, Mary Elizabeth Hull), and his moving to Cairo, Illinois in 1870 added to his history.

I have only found William in the 1860 census, living at his father-in-law's house in Washington DC with his wife and only surviving son, Payton Randolph Hull, my ancestor. So far, I have been unable to find William in the 1850 or 1870 census. He may have been in the military during 1850 and

moving to Illinois in 1870 at the time of the census. I believe he died in Cairo, Illinois, prior to 1879 as I found his wife in the DC city directories from 1879 to 1888.

To date, this is what I have:

William H. Hull. Born ca 1828, Morris Township, NJ, died before 1879, Cairo, IL. Married Alice Innes Randolph (b. 1.5.1832, d. 11.28.1888, Washington, DC).

Children:

1. Randolph Pomeroy Hull, b. 10.21.1851, d. 1.2.1853, Washington DC
2. Payton Randolph Hull, b. 12.24.1853, d. ca 1912, Washington DC
3. Mary Elizabeth Hull, b. ca 1856, d. 5.30.1857, Morris Twp, NJ.

So far, I've raised more questions than answers. I need to check to see if William was in the Union Army and, if so, was he a veteran of the War of Northern Aggression and did his wife apply for a pension? I also need to contact the Cairo Historical Society to see if there is any additional information on him. The puzzle continues.

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WHO WE ARE NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS

We are a group of genealogy enthusiasts who meet on a regular basis to assist one another in establishing our family histories. We meet on the third Tuesday of every month except December at the Northland Public Library, 300 Cumberland Road, McCandless Twp. In the North Hills of Pittsburgh, PA. Tip Time begins at 6:45 PM and our general meetin commences at 7:00 PM. Our meetings are free and open to the public.

We publish a Newsletter ten times a year for a nominal fee of \$15.00 annually. The subscription year runs from August to June, but anyone wishing to join mid-year will receive back issues of the Newsletter for that year. Previous years' newsletters are also available for purchase, each with helpful hints for beginners and experienced genealogists.

The NHG Board meets at 7:00 PM on the first Tuesday of each month in the Conference Room, also located at the Northland Public Library. The Board meeting is open to all members of the NHG.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

It is unbelievable that the end of another NHG membership year is almost upon us! Last month you received an election ballot in your newsletter. Please make an effort to return these ballots ASAP!

This has been an exciting and eventful year at NHG. The third book in NHG's Pioneer Cemeteries Series titled *Pioneer Cemeteries of Franklin Park Borough and Marshall Township, Allegheny County, PA* is finished and ready for publication. Five years and countless hours of transcribing data from the individual grave markers and unpublished church records has culminated in the production of this truly superb volume. Special thanks go out to Jo Henderson, Irene Dinning, Sylvan Kretz, Elissa Powell, and all those members that donated their time and talents toward this project. A special \$19.95* pre-publication purchase price for NHG members has been extended to July 31, 2007. Please take advantage of this terrific opportunity! You may use the order form from your May 2007 Newsletter of purchase the book using a credit card on the NHG website.

On a personal level, these past two weeks have been wonderful. All my children were home together and life doesn't get any better than that. We spent many hours together talking, laughing, sharing stories and building up our store of memories to sustain us in the days ahead. Thursday we had our first family protrait taken and my son Richard, a 2d Lt. in the Air Force had a special portait taken in his flight suit holding his helmet. The following day my youngest son Alexander returned to the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs for another year of hard work pursuing his dream of becoming a commissioned officer in the US Air Force. And over their brief vacation I learned that I will be tying a yellow ribbon around the tree in my front yard as my son Richard, a Navigator on a KC-135 Special Operations Stratotanker will be deployed for his first tour of duty in Iraq on July 13th. These are the best of days, these are the worst of days...

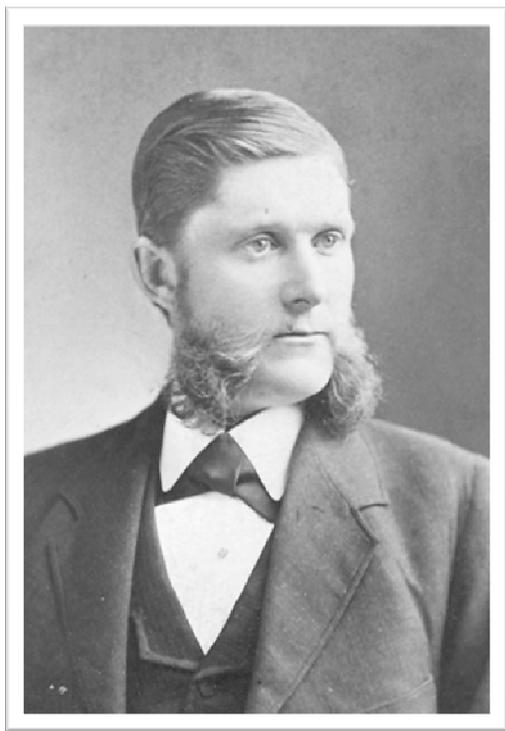
~Maureen

QUERY TO MEMBERSHIP OF THE NHG

The NHG Board received the following query from Shelley Cardiel, Kirkland, Washington:

“I am enclosing an old photograph of THOMAS P. WALKER which was taken at the Dabbs studio in Pittsburgh, PA. I've attempted to locate someone from the family so that the photograph could be returned to them; however, I was not successful.

I am passing the photograph along to you in hopes that you might be able to locate the family and see that it is shared with them and others in your community.”



THOMAS P. WALKER

Is anyone related to this individual or his family? Do you know a WALKER family?

It would be great to return this photograph to the Walker family. Please send any information to INFO@NorthHillsGenealogists.com.

REVERSING YEARS OF NEGLECT AT NORTH HILLS CEMETERY

*By: Ann Rodgers
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
Sunday, May 27, 2007*

This year, the front stretch of Duncan Heights Cemetery in McCandless is neatly mowed, and bright American flags flank the curved stone wall that was perhaps the only attempt its owner ever made at some measure of grace for the last resting place of veterans.

Kathleen Munhall, who lives in an adjacent apartment complex, guides a visitor over the rough ground.

Years of neglect had turned the cemetery into an overgrown swamp, flooded by garbage dumped in the stream that runs through it. Depressions formed when cheap caskets collapsed or paupers were buried only in bags, she said.

Ms. Munhall said she didn't know how many people were buried there. Many civilian graves were unmarked, and all but the hardest military markers suffered the ravages of time and vandals.

"There wasn't a lot of care taken to how they were buried. They would put two or four people in a grave. It makes it hard to research who is buried here," she said.

Ms. Munhall is chairman of the newly formed Duncan Heights Cemetery Association, which will take over ownership of the six-acre property that the township now concedes is long abandoned. Many prior efforts to aid the cemetery were foiled by a deed that could not be cleared. Its owner died in 1961 -- the last year of any burials -- and the other shareholders vanished with all records.

Her group has plans to clean, survey and restore the cemetery, most of which remains a nearly impenetrable labyrinth of brambles, fallen trees and brush. But before they can begin to raise

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REVERSING YEARS OF NEGLECT AT NORTH HILLS CEMETERY

thousands of dollars to do that, they need to incorporate as a non-profit organization. The papers are ready, but they don't have enough money to pay the filing fee.

"We're stalled for lack of \$550," she said.



Bob Munhall, left, and his sister Kathleen Munhall have been working to restore Duncan Heights Cemetery in McCandless. The long abandoned cemetery is the final resting place for veterans dating as far back as the Spanish-American War.

Still, much progress has been made since last Memorial Day, when a story ran in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. Descriptions of the neglected graves galvanized elderly veterans, and helped to mobilize Boy Scouts and the Air Force Junior ROTC unit at North Allegheny High School.

Jeremy Howell, 17, a member of that unit, has made it his mission to clear dumped tires, broken glass and fallen trees -- cutting paths for others to follow.

Bob Munhall, Kathleen's brother, a Vietnam veteran and commander of the North Hills VFW district, had asked him to come take a look. He was so appalled that he enlisted his ROTC unit, some Boy Scouts, and the Evergreen Fire Department, where he also volunteers.

"When I saw the mess that the cemetery was in, I knew there was something I had to do," said Jeremy, who was out at the cemetery on the

afternoon of his senior prom. Early on they respectfully filled bags with the tattered remains of American flags that had long ago been left to rot on the swampy ground.

Donald Wagner, a retired Shaler police officer who served in the Navy during the Korean War, read last year's story and has been mowing the lawn ever since. This week he came to put flags up for Memorial Day -- a task his VFW post has taken on -- and discovered that someone else had already placed flags at the entrance. He has no idea who, but it is a sign of the growing commitment to care for the cemetery.

"Normally I don't get involved in things like this, but reading about this cemetery, it hurt me right here," he said, indicating his heart.

For a long time its main champions were George and Mary Bigelow, who live behind the cemetery and spent years researching the graves. They tried to mobilize everyone from McCandless township to Allegheny County Memorial Park -- which is right across the street - to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to do something about it. Until the deed issue was resolved, they were blocked at every turn.

"I was sickened to see that this was the resting place of fallen heroes."

--state Sen. Jane Orie, of McCandless

A key ally they enlisted in 1999 is state Sen. Jane Orie, of McCandless, who has been relentless in prodding various local and government groups to get involved. She is not a board member because she doesn't want to politicize it, she said, but she believes this is the first time that all the right volunteers are in place to get something done. There are veterans' organizations, including Soldiers & Sailors Hall, genealogists, even a grave digger.

When she first visited in 1999, Ms. Orie said, "I was sickened to see that this was the resting place of fallen heroes. I felt it was my duty and

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REVERSING YEARS OF NEGLECT AT NORTH HILLS CEMETERY

obligation to honor them and to do everything I could to treat them the way they should have been treated," she said.

"It has taken a long time, but I think that in the hearts of all the individuals, we all felt this was a way to pay them back, to give them a cemetery fitting for heroes."

Ms. Munhall weeded her way along machete-chopped paths to a group of the oldest stones of the cemetery. They belong to veterans of the Spanish-American War, though they have clearly been moved from where they once stood. She believes that local teens shoved them into a row to use as seats for drinking parties.

Her brother indicated one that he believes belonged to a black unit that fought in that war. It bears the name of Ben F. Blakely, 1892 to Oct. 21, 1933. Most likely he fell on very hard times to end up in this cemetery, which the county used as a pauper's field. The last military graves belong mostly to veterans of World War II. The Bigelows identified some from a unit that liberated a Nazi concentration camp.

Ms. Munhall got involved because, when her brother told her about it, she realized it was the overgrown swamp she could see from her apartment. If they can just get their incorporation papers filed, her association has big plans for it.

After they finish clearing it, they want to bring in special equipment to identify the grave sites. A skilled group is ready to launch genealogical research to identify those buried in them. The Matthews Bronze Co. has offered to donate a memorial plaque for the site.

"I personally feel that these people need to be laid to rest. This is not OK. And it's not just for the military veterans who are buried here. There are civilians also, and they all need to be treated with respect," she said.

ANCESTRY.COM INTRODUCES LARGEST ONLINE COLLECTION OF U.S. MILITARY RECORDS FEATURING MORE THAN 90 MILLION NAMES OF AMERICA'S MILITARY HEROES

New Records Span American History From the 1600s to Vietnam; Includes Only Complete Online Collection of Rare WWII Counter-Propaganda Newsreels and WWI Draft Cards

PROVO, Utah, May 24 /PRNewswire/ -- Ancestry.com, the world's largest online resource for family history, today announced it has launched the largest collection of U.S. military records available and searchable online, featuring more than 90 million names that span more than four centuries of American history from the 1600s through Vietnam.

A highlight of Ancestry.com's *U.S. Military Collection* is the only complete online collection of WWII United Newsreels from 1942 - 1945. These counter-propaganda films were produced by the Office of War Information and shown in U.S. theaters and abroad during WWII. Newsreels were also dropped behind enemy lines in a German language version.

Ancestry.com's collection also includes *The Stars and Stripes* newspapers from WWI and WWII, commemorative military yearbooks, and the only complete collection of WWI draft registration cards. Combined, the records -- the bulk of which were digitized and indexed from original documents on microfilm at the National Archive and Records Administration (NARA) -- bring to life the stories and sacrifices of the millions of brave men and women who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces.

So many of us have had an ancestor or a loved one sacrifice to serve our country, and some may not even be aware of their military heritage and how proud they should be of their forebears," said Tim Sullivan, President and CEO of The Generations Network, parent

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ANCESTRY.COM MILITARY COLLECTION

company of Ancestry.com. "This new military collection now available online will offer Americans the opportunity to discover their military heritage and the role their own families played in forging this country. We encourage everyone to create a family tree, upload photos and capture personal stories as a way of memorializing their ancestors and military history as our nation celebrates Memorial Day next week."

Inside the U.S. Military Collection

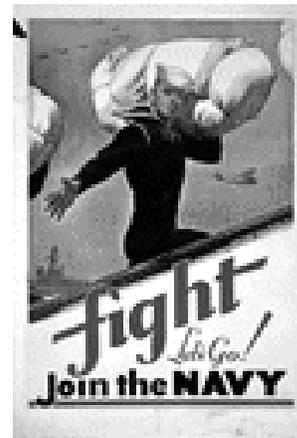
Ancestry.com's *U.S. Military Collection* captures all major wars and conflicts from American history, including the Revolutionary War, Civil War, World War I, World War II, and the Korean and Vietnam conflicts as well as the Spanish-American War and the War of 1812.

The eclectic volume of records features more than 700 databases and titles and 37 million images of original and often personally autographed documents including --

- WWI and WWI I draft registration cards
- Prisoner of war records from the War of 1812, Civil War, World War II, and Korea
- Muster rolls (unit rosters) for the Marine Corps 1893-1958 and WWII
- U.S. Navy Aircraft Carrier Muster rolls, 1939-1949
- U.S. Military burial registers 1768-1921
- Service Records from Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and Civil War
- Civil War Pension Index
- Casualty listings from WWI, WWII, Korea and Vietnam
- WWI and WWII *The Stars and Stripes* newspapers
- Young American Patriots Military Yearbooks (WWII)

"Much like the U.S. Federal Census records, military records are among our most comprehensive and therefore treasured

documents," said Retired U.S. Sen. Jake Garn, also a retired U.S. Navy pilot and Brig. Gen., Utah Air National Guard and astronaut. "Military records are one of the foundations to family history, providing precious links that can often be found no where else. Through the digitization and online availability of these documents, Americans can discover the story of our nation and remember the military legacies of their ancestors through details such as names, service dates and locations, battles fought, medals or honors awarded and even sometimes, very distinct physical descriptions."



Editor's Note: Many of us have already searched the military records on Ancestry.com. With the release of new records, it is definitely worthwhile to search this database again. The inclusion of records from the U.S. Navy is particularly interesting. Not only does the *U.S. Military Collection* database include digital images of the actual Crew Manifest, but it also provides a link to an image of the ship when available.



STILL MORE FREE GENEALOGY BOOKS AVAILABLE ONLINE

June 12, 2007 I wrote before about the huge resources available at Google Books. You can find hundreds of thousands of books there, many of them with every word searchable. Amongst the hundreds of thousands of books, probably ten thousand of them are genealogy or local history books. I have had great luck downloading and saving entire books to my own hard drive.

Google generally makes available the full text of books in the public domain and limited portions of copyrighted books. In cases where the entire book is not available online, Google Books will tell you the location of the nearest library that has it on the shelves. You can read my earlier article at http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2006/10/full_text_genea.html.



Now Google Books has announced a major expansion. Twelve major universities around the United States have agreed to have substantial portions of their libraries included in the Google Books project. Around ten million volumes are expected to be added to the project. Some percentage of these will be older genealogy or local history books.

Participating schools include the University of Chicago and the 11 universities in the Big Ten athletic conference: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Michigan State, Minnesota, Northwestern, Ohio State, Penn State, Purdue and Wisconsin.

You can read more about this expansion and also the pending lawsuits relating to the expansion on CNN at www.cnn.com/2007/TECH/internet/06/08/big.ten.books.ap/index.html.

(reprinted from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter at <http://blog.eogn.com/>)

Editor's Note: You can find Google Books at <http://books.google.com>. I performed a simple search on "genealogy" plus my maiden name "Dimond". This simple search returned 507 hits. With the amount of books that are being added daily it would be worthwhile to place on your own sources list. While not all of the books are full-text searchable, the search engine returns a list of which libraries have this book on their shelves to facilitate ordering through inter-library loan.

"When a society or a civilization perishes, one condition can always be found. They forgot where they came from."

-- Carle Sandburg

WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

Friday, 22 June thru Sunday, 24 June: Palatines to American National Conference and Annual Meeting at WVU Evansdale Conference Center, Morgantown, WV. "Echoes from the Past." Featured Speaker is Professor Roger P. Minert, Ph.D., A.G., with information on various aspects of life for our German-speaking ancestors and German family research. An information brochure and mail-in registration is available on line at www.palam.org. Phone: 614.267.4700. E-mail: info@palam.org.

Sunday, 24 June thru Friday, 29 June: Ohio Genealogical Society Summer Workshop will be held in Mansfield, Ohio. Those interested may register for the entire week or for individual days. More information is available at www.OGS.org by phone at 419.756.7294 or you may e-mail Deborah Lichtner Deal at kinhunter@hughes.net.

NEW CENTRE WILL OFFER DNA TESTS TO TRACE FAMILY ROOTS

Swabbing kits will boost ancestral tourism economy as clan associations show huge interest

By Mark Henderson

A NEW Scottish forensics centre is set to offer the public an opportunity to trace their genetic links in a move that could boost tourism. The centre, based at Glasgow Caledonian University, will be unique by teaming traditional family history search services with modern DNA genetic profiling technology, to help people from around the world trace their Scottish roots.

Dr John Gow, director of the Centre for Forensic Investigation, said that the DNA profiling service would encourage tourists to visit Scotland. "Genealogy is one of the largest hits on the internet search engine Google and there is a lot of interest from all the family history programmes on TV, so there is a big ancestral tourism market out there."

"If Mr Campbell from New York contacts one of the traditional Scottish genealogy companies and discovers that he may have a relation called Mr Campbell in Maryhill, then we can do a DNA test for them and be able to show for definite if they share a common ancestry and are related."

The centre, which will open its doors next Thursday, is also compiling a DNA database of various Scottish and Irish clan groups and Gow revealed that there has already been interest in the DNA technology from clan associations across the globe.

He said: "What we are also trying to do is to develop markers for individual Scottish clans so, for example, we will be able to tell people if they come from the clan McGregor or MacDonald."

DNA will be obtained by the same process currently used during forensic investigations. Following a simple mouth swab, the DNA is then sent for analysis. The Y-chromosome DNA will shed light on the male lineage, while mitochondrial DNA can be used to uncover the maternal lineage. The results should allow researchers to go back several hundred years.

Gow hopes that eventually self-testing kits would be as common a sight for tourists as a guidebook or map - and not just in Scotland. "It is our intention to have DNA swabbing kits in all the tourist

information offices and hotel lobbies across the UK, so people can go and pick up a kit for a few pounds then post it off to us and we will do the DNA tests for them. "We are also hoping that during Tartan Week in New York and at international highland gatherings, the genealogy companies will take along our test kits and distribute them."

The opening of the centre is the latest business to latch on to ancestral tourism, which VisitScotland describes as "a huge potential market".

With over 50 million people around the world claiming Scottish ancestry, the agency estimates that ancestral visitors currently contribute around £150 million per annum to the economy and anticipates that future visitor numbers could increase from 200,000 to as high as 800,000 trips annually.

A VisitScotland spokesman said of the new centre. "This new service offers an interesting opportunity for people who want to come to Scotland to walk in the footsteps of their ancestors."

The opening was also welcomed by Scottish Enterprise. Katrina Morrison, its tourism product development manager, said: "The use of technology has already helped Scotland to stay ahead of the game in ancestral tourism, making it easier for visitors to establish connections with our people."

"This facility will be yet another tool to help Scotland make connections with its diaspora and in so doing, encourage more people to visit."

However, others have advised caution before embarking on the DNA ancestral trail. Dr Helen Wallace, director of GeneWatch UK, said: "DNA genealogy is often harmless fun, but people should be aware that the results are not always reliable. You should also read the small print carefully if you plan to donate your DNA, to make sure it isn't going to be used for research you disagree with."

"If your DNA is stored on a database with your name and address it can be used to trace you or your relatives and can sometimes reveal private information about your health," she added.

Source: Scotland Sunday Herald, 16 June 2007; www.sundayherald.com/news/heraldnews/display.var.1460571.0.new_centre_will_offer_dna_tests_to_trace_family_roots.php

MEMBERSHIP QUERY

Do you have a genealogy query that you would like answered? Please complete this form and mail in with your membership renewal. We'll do our best to answer all your questions!

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY / STATE / ZIP _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

QUERY _____

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY / STATE / ZIP _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____

Indicate your preference for receiving your Newsletter each month (check one)

by regular mail by email

Remember if receiving your NHG Newsletter by email you will get the monthly issue BEFORE that month's regular meeting. If you choose to receive your newsletter by regular mail, the current issue will be mailed to you AFTER the regular monthly meeting.

Enclose your check for \$15.00 made payable to the **North Hills Genealogists** and return by mail to

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

For your convenience you may charge your renewal at our website

www.NorthHillsGenealogists.org

Membership year runs from August - July. Dues for the 2007 -2008 Membership year are due on or before August 1, 2007.



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UPCOMING – NHG PROGRAMS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

TUESDAY, JULY 17, 2007

COMPILING ORAL FAMILY HISTORY

Presented by: Deborah Lichtner Deal

Sometimes genealogists forget the importance of interviewing. Genealogists strive for accuracy and some may deem interviewing as unreliable. Aside from the Traditional who, what, when, where, why and how; oral history is important to place the ancestors in perspective. Also, oral histories are just plain fun!

TUESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2007

MY OLD LIFE TO A NEW BEGINNING

Presented by: Dorota Kayman Saad

Dorota will speak on what her life was like in Poland and her immigration experience coming to the United States in the 1990's.

THIS MONTH -- TUESDAY, JUNE 19, 2007

PUBLIC RECORDS FOR GENEALOGISTS AT THE WASHINGTON COUNTY LAW LIBRARY

Presented by: Patricia B. Stavovy, Asst. Law Librarian

Discover the scores of records and documents available for Genealogists in Washington Co.!