



NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS NEWSLETTER



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS' NEWSLETTER! This is our premier issue and we do hope you find it enjoyable and useful. Comments and suggestions are welcome to help us better serve your genealogical needs. This group of North Hills family hunters under the leadership of Ruth Grom, Connie Foley, Julia Tauson and Pat Wills, has been meeting at the Northland Library, 300 Cumberland Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237-5455 on the fourth Tuesday of each month (except December) for a couple of years. It is a fun, informal group that has had speakers on a wide range of topics not only of interest to the genealogist but also to the general public. We have now decided to get more organized and produce a monthly newsletter that will communicate genealogical hints, happenings and help. In order to produce this newsletter and other projects, we will be having membership dues at \$6.00 a year running from September to September. The general public is still welcome to come and enjoy the speakers and fellowship. It is hoped that you will want to become a regular member of our mailing list. Membership also

means free queries and help in our newsletter. A membership application is attached for your convenience. Happy Hunting!

BEGINNER'S CORNER

Q: I have always wanted to know more about my family but I have no idea how to start. It would be nice to know if the stories that have been told and retold in our family are true.

A: In order to make sure you are following the correct family lines, you must take steps one at a time, starting with yourself. Write down your vital statistics (birth date and place, marriage date, place and spouse) and then proceed to your parents and grandparents, also collecting death date, place and burial place where appropriate. You can write to the State where an event took place to get the certificate, if you do not readily know all the exact data and have no one to ask. You should know the time period involved and location. Each State has Birth and Death records from 1906 to present in

certain locations. Before 1906, records were kept on the county level. The county courthouse also has marriage information. Please be specific, brief and as exact as you can in your request. Addresses can be found in "Where to Write for Vital Records" (DHHS publication No. (PHS) 87-1142) obtained from :

Superintendent of Documents
U.S. Government Printing Office
Washington, D.C. 20402

Or From: Northland Library has a book which has the addresses in an appendix: "The Source: A Guidebook of American Genealogy" edited by Arlene Eakle and Johni Cerny.

Write down the family legends too and ask exacting question. You may find later in your research that to every story there is at least a grain of truth, but, to get there requires some advance work!

Q: I have heard that I can look up my ancestors in the U.S. Census. How does that work?

A: The Federal Government, starting in 1790, takes a census of the entire population every ten years. The census years from 1790 until 1910 are available on microfilm for viewing by the public. The privacy law says that those within the last 72 years cannot be opened to the public. (Look out in March 1992 for the opening of the 1920 census!) Each census year gives different and more information. From 1790 until 1840, the head of household is listed with the number of other household occupants according to age and race, regardless of the relationship to the head of household. From 1850 on, each individual is

listed in the census with age, relationship and parental birth places added in later years. To search the census you must know the State where your ancestor lived. Some census years are indexed by Soundex for different states. This is true of mostly the years 1880 to 1910. The census for the year 1890 was for the most part, destroyed by fire. So to start your census search, look up your family in the 1910 census in the State they lived in at that time. Then proceed back in time to 1900, 1880, etc. Look at their neighbors on either side as family groups tended to live near each other or migrate to other locations together. Pennsylvania Federal Census films can be viewed at the Carnegie Library in Oakland or any State's microfilm can be ordered through local library.

QUERIES

WELTZIEN - Would like to correspond with any WELTZIEN researcher, anywhere. My WELTZIEN family comes from OHIO through Wisconsin, Sweden and Germany.

--Elissa S. Powell, 720 Highpoint Dr., Wexford, PA 15090-7571

WEYGANDT/STECHEER/GUENTHER - Would like to correspond with any WEYGANDT descendants, especially of Washington County, PA and Wayne Co., OH Settlers. Were Cornelius and Barbara (STECHEER) WEYGANDT the parents of the Lutheran minister George Henry WEYGANDT, b. 2 May 1779 in Northumberland County, PA d. 7 Oct 1847 and buried in Doylestown, Wayne Co., OH? George Henry WEYGANDT married in 1812 to Mar-

ia Susanna GUENTHER who d. 7 Oct 1851 and is buried in Doylestown, Wayne Co., OH? When and where was she born? Parents?

--Elissa S. Powell, 720 Highpoint Dr., Wexford, PA 15090-7571

FIELD TRIPS

The NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS would like to know if there is any interest in going to local libraries and having someone there speak on their collections. We have thought of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Greentree, the Carnegie and Hillman Libraries on Forbes Ave., Oakland and the Western Pennsylvania Historical and Genealogical Library on Bigelow Blvd., Oakland. Car pooling could be arranged to these events. Please come to our meetings on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Northland Library to express your opinion and interest. Or, send a note to the address on the Membership Application.

OUR NEXT MEETING

The NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS will meet again on Tuesday, November 27, 1990 at 7:00 p.m. for "Tip Time" and 7:30 p.m. for our regularly scheduled speaker. This month RUTH RENTON of Upper St. Clair will speak on her German ancestry research using American Church records. Ruth was on the Board of Directors of the Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society, is active in the Genealogical Society of Southwestern Pennsylvania (based on the original Washington County) and in the Palatines to America (based on German speaking ancestry).

LOOKING FOR PENNSYLVANIA BIRTH AND DEATH RECORDS?

See the attached application for information!!

RESEARCH IN ONTARIO, CANADA?

Consider writing to the following address for vital record information:

Office of the Registrar General
MacDonald Block
Parliament Buildings
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1Y5

(Example:Death's from 1860)

PLACES TO MEET GENEALOGISTS

- WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY meeting Saturday, Nov. 3, 1990, 10 a.m. at the Historical Society Building in Oakland (4338 Bigelow Blvd. Pittsburgh, PA 15213) CANDY LIVENGOOD will speak on "Butler County Resources". Meeting is open to the public. The library is also open on Saturday.
- THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS FAMILY RESEARCH LIBRARY, 46 School Street, Greentree, PA 15220 (412-921-2115). Tuesday and Thursday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Wednesday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Closed Monday and Friday. Popular place to do microfiche and microfilm searches of worldwide vital and church records. Helpful volunteer staff.

-- THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA, P.O. Box 894, Washington, PA 15301. Meetings are held at Citizens Library, 55 South College Street, Washington, PA on the second Sunday of each month except summer. The original Washington County included parts of Beaver, Allegheny, Greene as well as Washington Counties.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE MAYFLOWER?

After carrying the Pilgrims to America, the Mayflower made a second voyage carrying slaves to the New World, then disappeared for over three centuries. Generations of residents of Jordons, England have believed, however, that a barn owned by the Society of Friends was built from the Mayflower. Researchers investigating this tradition have been amazed to find this little barn was indeed the ship that helped found a nation.

A bill of sale dated 1625 verified the sale of the Mayflower for salvage to a Buckinghamshire farmer named William Russell. At the current rate of exchange, he paid \$384.00 for the hull of the ship which was erected upside down on a foundation. She has served her ensuing occupants as well as she served the Pilgrims..

-Tri-State Trader-III. State Geneal.
Society Newsletter
January 1983

*****FREE HELP***
FREE QUERIES
available to MEMBERS !!
JOIN NOW !!**

ELLIS ISLAND IMMIGRATION MUSEUM

On September 10, 1990, Ellis Island reopened. It will not welcome immigrants to the United States as it did between 1892 and 1954. The memorial will welcome visitors who have a desire to trace ancestors' steps as they first entered this country.

According to Stephen Briganti, project director, Ohio was one of the major destinations for immigrants coming through Ellis Island. About 17 million people were processed during those years.

Some of the displays are: The American Immigrant Wall of Honor, Ellis Island Galleries, Through America's Gate, and the Peopling of America.

These displays feature photographs, personal papers, artifacts, and soundtracks, as well as an electronic map and video interviews of immigrants of our time.

The American Immigrant Wall of Honor offers an opportunity for you to honor an ancestor and to contribute to the restoration at the same time. A \$100 tax-deductible minimum donation will allow you to designate a name to be placed on the Centennial Edition of the wall, to be finished by 1992. For information on his call (212) 883-1986.

Also due by 1992 is the Ellis Island Family History Center, where visitors can use computers to track down immigrants.

Ellis Island can be reached by ferry from Battery Park in lower Manhattan or from Liberty State Park in New Jersey. Hours will be from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The museum is closed Christmas Day. More information can be obtained by calling (212) 363-3204.

--USA Weekend, Aug. 31, 1990

--Courtesy of Ohio Gen. Soc. Newsletter