



NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS NEWSLETTER



c/o Northland Public Library, 300 Cumberland Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Volume 1 - Number 8 - April 1991

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ah, Springtime! The grass, flowers and trees are budding and I hope your personal research is too! The Slippery Rock Heritage Association had a one day conference on April 13 that was attended by 10 North Hills Genealogists out of the 125 attendees. Mr. and Mrs. Stewart Morris from Everton Publishers, producers of "The Genealogical Helper", were on hand to give many different talks throughout the day. It was a very productive day and your president even met a sixth cousin, Millie McElhinny, who was absolutely thrilled that I could take her back another 200 years on our common line. And I am happy to have another cousin's descent. Perhaps we could even sponsor this Everton seminar in the North Hills some time in the future. I'm sure you would all find it very rewarding as well.

And speaking of "The Genealogical Helper", check out the cover of this month's issue (Mar/Apr 1991). You will see a five generation picture with my grandmother as the little girl. I submitted this picture last June, never dreaming that it would make the cover! Even before I got my own issue, I received a phone call from a Heller researcher who can take my meager late 1800 knowledge of the family back to 1640 definitely and to the 1300's by supposition! I can't wait to see the details on paper! That's what genealogy is, helping each other to better understand the past.

Happy Hunting, Lissa

BEGINNER'S CORNER

Q: Should I send money with a request for a vital record, and if so, how much? Also what about church and other records?

A: You can handle this two ways, depending on which you prefer. You can send a letter of inquiry into the fee structure and description of the holdings and then send a second letter with the exact amount required with your specific request. (Remember a Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope each time.) Or you can send some amount, such as \$5 00 per record, and hope for either change, or a bill, with your record. State and County departments are pretty good at both. With church records and other more 'private' collections, you may wish to send a contribution for the time and trouble of looking for the record you seek. Certain books, such as "The Source" edited by Arlene Eakle & Johni Cerny, have a table of such fees in the appendix.

QUERIES

KLUR: My ancestors came from a small town in the Soviet Union (near Odessa or Kiev, I believe). This is a very rare name and I would very much like to know about anyone else with this surname in the United States. Joshua Klur, 9 Stony Run Court, Dix Hills, New York 11746.

DALLAS, TX: The Dallas County Pioneer Association (DCPA) is collecting family histories for its second volume on families of Dallas County. Stories about families who were active in Dallas County prior to Jan. 1, 1920, are being sought. Write to DCPA, P.O. Box 12496, Dallas, TX 75225-12496.

STEELE: If you are a Steele or know anything about them, a collection of information is being made by Fred A. Steele, 1598 Hillcrest Drive, Arroyo Grande, CA 93420.

PLEASE NOTE: If you have not turned your surnames of interest (with place and time), please do so soon. Maureen Durstein is working on the index of our surnames to be given to all members. Who knows? A cousin may be attending our meetings, just like you! Also if you have not received all your back issues, please let us know. There are lots of scraps of info in each issue that may help you.

THE READERS' CORNER by Robin Schooley

The Readers' Corner will continue to focus on books that are currently available on the shelves of Northland Public Library.

HOW TO CLIMB YOUR FAMILY TREE Genealogy for Beginners, by Harriet Stryker Rodda (GPC-1987) call #929.1 St8 For those who are asking "How do I get started?" here's a book that can help. This book is a very good introduction to beginning genealogy and is written in plain, easy to read language. It shows you how to start at home, keep your records, and how to use public records you will need to gather more information. Harriet Stryker Rodda, a professional genealogist and member of a genealogy minded family that is synonymous with New Jersey research, is very much attuned to the needs of the beginner.

THE LIBRARY, Johni Cerny & Wendy Elliott, Eds. (Ancestry-1988) call # R929.3 L61 Sorry folks, but this book has an orange sticker with a big "R" on it. It's for use in the library only, (which is bad news for those of us who do most of our reading after the kids are tucked in bed) but it can be enormously helpful. It is a guide to the holdings of the LDS (Mormon) Library in Salt Lake City. Even if you are not planning a trip to Utah in the foreseeable future, remember that most of the records on microfilm can be ordered and viewed at Greentree. This book is probably one of the most valuable resources to appear on the genealogical bookshelf in recent years.

EARLY PENNSYLVANIA BIRTHS (1675-1875) compiled by Charles A. Fisher. call #929.1 F53. [orig. pub. 1947, repr. GPC Baltimore, 1975, 1977, 1979] There is 1 circulating and 1 reference copy of this book at Northland. In the course of their research, many genealogists are kind enough to take the time to compile records which they have researched. Mr. Fisher did this for several church baptismal records in Snyder, Union, Northumberland, and Berks Co. churches. He also compiled tombstone inscriptions for several Pennsylvania cemeteries as well as other miscellaneous records and included them in his book. Please keep in mind that this book, by no means, includes every birth record in Pennsylvania. As with any compiled source, Mr. Fisher's work is subject to human error. But if you are lucky enough to have had ancestors living in the areas covered by this book, you just might find some clues here. Good luck and happy hunting!

HEY FOLKS! I make periodic research trips to the Carnegie Library in Oakland and the LDS Family History Library in Greentree. If you'd like to ride along, give me a call at 934-0432. I'd be happy to have the company and since I am going anyway, will not accept remuneration. I usually go on

weekday mornings, leaving between 9:00 & 10:00 a.m. and return between 2:00 & 3:00 p.m. --Robin Schooley.

CONTINUING RESEARCH

From the computer network, submitted by Steph Valentine:

"I just collect the data." How often do we often here that comment? You need to know right away that I am a hard-liner when it comes to genealogy, to the extent that it is possible. i.e., I accept no data that is not referenced with complete source citation, and then I return to that source for my own verification before including it in my database. I am trying to avoid circulating anything that is less than the best current information available from all published sources. So, I will always ask:

- 1) who said?
- 2) where is it written?
- 3) is that the latest data from all published sources?
- 4) who did the initial research?
- 5) is it from primary or secondary sources?
- 6) where can I find the quote or citation? etc.

Sure, I "collect" anyone's "hunches" - but I want to know the research and decision making behind those hunches, the rationale for the conclusions, etc. And I do not distribute any of that information until I have checked it out and am personally satisfied that it is not going to dilute or contaminate the genealogical research already done.

Many people are content to copy from the first book they find, and to accept that as "gospel". Fine for them. Not for me! I take this work very seriously (although I TRY not to take myself too seriously!).

Again, the genealogical research process is slow but simple:

- 1) collect all data from all sources;
 - 2) weight the data;
 - 3) make a tentative hypothesis;
 - 4) DISPROVE it (i.e., tackle all the challenges);
 - 5) gather the preponderance of evidence;
 - 6) make a tentative conclusion;
 - 7) continue to seek additional data, etc.
- It just takes time.

From "History of Armstrong County, Pennsylvania", by Robert Walter Smith, Esq., Chicago: Waterman, Watkins & Co.: 1883.

CHAPTER XX. SOUTH BUFFALO TOWNSHIP. THE DEPRECIATION LANDS

The major part - about three-fourths - of that part of Armstrong County on the north and western side of the Allegheny river consists of depreciation lands, a large tract appropriated by the act of assembly of March 12, 1783, for the redemption of depreciation certificates. Its boundaries, as specified in that act, were: Beginning where the western boundary of the state crosses the Ohio river, thence up that river to Fort Pitt, thence up the Allegheny river to the mouth of Mogulbuchtilon (Mahoning) creek, thence by a west line to the western boundary of the state, thence along it south to the beginning, of which three thousand acres opposite Fort Pitt and equal quantity of both sides of Beaver creek, including Fort MacIntosh, were reserved for the use of the state. The surveyor district assigned to Joshua Elder consisted of the territory between the Allegheny river and a line extending due north from or near the mouth of Bull creek to the northern boundary of the depreciation tract, a portion of which, under a previous allotment of surveyor districts, had been embraced in Stephen Gapen's district.

The bills of credit issued both by congress and by this commonwealth depreciated between 1777 and 1781 from one to nearly one hundred per cent. The difference of opinion as to the degree of depreciation and the consequent cash value of those bills of credit, the chief portion of the money then in circulation, caused much confusion in the settlement of accounts between both individuals and public officers. The act of assembly of December 18, 1780, provided that the hereinafter mentioned certificates of depreciation, given to the officers and soldiers of the Pennsylvania line in the army of the United States in payment for their services, should be receivable at the land office of this state, equal to gold and silver, in payment of, if they should wish to purchase, unlocated lands, and the act of April 3, 1781, adjusted the scale of the depreciation of these bills of credit at from one and a half to seventy-five per cent, varying each month from 1777 to 1781, and in accordance with that scale certificates, called certificates of depreciation, were issued to those officers and soldiers for the indebtedness of the state to them. The above cited act of March 13, 1783, also provided that the unreserved portion of the tract of depreciation lands should be laid out thus: The surveyor-general, in accordance with such directions as should be given him by the supreme executive council, should cause it to be laid out into lots of not less than 200 and not more than 350 acres each, numbering them in numerical order. As soon as the whole tract, or a hundred lots of it, were surveyed, the surveyor-general, secretary of the land office and receiver-gen-

eral were directed to sell them, in numerical order, at such times and places, and under such regulations, as should be prescribed by the supreme executive council. The amounts bid at these sales were to be paid into the receiver-general's office either in gold or silver or in those certificates; whereupon, and on the payment of the expenses of surveying and the fees of the different offices, patents should be issued to the vendees, and whatever specie the receiver-general thus received he was to pay into the state treasury for the purpose of redeeming such of those certificates as remained unsatisfied at the close of these sales. Three pounds and ten shillings, including the wages of chain-bearers and markers, were allowed for laying out and returning the survey of each lot into the surveyor-general's office, to be paid in specie before the patent could be issued. But very few lots or parcels of that depreciation tract were sold until after the passage of the act of April 3, 1792, respecting the provisions of which enough has already been given in the sketch of the Holland Land Company. (See Madison Township.)"

Compiled from the ROOTS-L Computer Network and a talk given by Jackie Morris at the Slippery Rock Heritage Assoc. Workshop, 13 Apr 1991:

HINTS ON MATERNAL LINES

Tracing a maternal line is more challenging than a paternal line (all those wives named Mary _____) but we can be more sure of a child's mother than of its father. This is one of the interesting challenges of genealogy. There are all sorts of ways to find the parents of those nameless wives. References to cousins in letters or diaries; in-laws in censuses living with or next to your family, especially if first names are similar; witnesses, ministers or bondsmen in marriage records; sponsors in baptismal records; various people in wills; and buyers and sellers in land records, especially adjacent parcels can all be helpful. This latter one may be particularly true if two families sold land back and forth frequently or any property sold for \$1.00 may be between families. Other sources can be: records of intention to use a maiden name after a divorce; cemetery records and tombstones; obituaries; application for military pension; lineage society applications; biography books, including Women's Who's Who. Getting in touch with others who are researching in the same geographic area may also yield some clues. You may come across the person who is researching your maternal line and may know your Mary _____ as the sister of his ancestor.

STARTING OUT

From the computer network, submitted by Steph Valentine:

One of the first things you can do is to go to the library and pick up a book on beginning genealogy. The second thing you should do is to get some way to organize your research, by getting a genealogy program and also by getting charts to keep track of your research. Everton Publishers will send you a catalogue free if you call them at (800)443-6325.

Start from yourself back. i.e. if you know your parents and grandparents, that is a beginning. If not, order your birth certificate and it SHOULD give your parents, and possibly their birth place and age. Then their birth certificate should give the same for their parents. I'd work my way back to where this path dead ends. You will also want to start contacting relatives, if you can, especially the oldest ones, ask about their grandparents and what they can tell you about their heritage. Keep notes on interviews, phone calls and write down where you received each piece of information so you will be able to go back and clarify or get additional information.

Join your local genealogical society, even if you don't think you have ancestors in that area, rubbing "elbows" with other genealogists is a great way to learn. Also join the genealogical society for the areas where your ancestors were located may give you contacts to records and possibly relatives.

I am not a professional genealogy researcher, but, as an novice who has had some success at doing what you want to do, will offer the following suggestions:

1. Contact your relatives about this matter. Someone may have already conducted background investigations on your ancestors and have published a family history.
2. Find and visit a historical society in your area. They may have data in books and files that relate to your family. People there can also...probably...put you in contact with your local genealogy society or club. If so, you will have it made...as the members will take you in hand and point you in the right direction.
3. Look in phone books for your family names... not just your own directory but as many others as you can view. Most good libraries have an extensive collection of phone books. Pullout the names and addresses and call or write to possible relatives. Personally, I got quite a few good leads doing this.
4. Attend family get-togethers or reunions. Someone attending usually has a "Family History" to pass out.

5. Visit your state law library or/and Hall of Records. Lots of information there...and help, too from employees.

6. Just about every town, city, county, and state has a published history...available at the local library or historical society. Also, local book stores sell such items. If your line was prominent in community affairs or lived in an area for quite some time, there is probably published material out there, somewhere, on them.

7. Don't forget the local undertaker. Many keep records that relate to people that have availed themselves of their services.

8. If you can get to a branch of the National Archives in a federal office building, you can review census records. Look for areas and dates where you think or know ancestors lived, and, if successful, you will find names, ages, and occupations of past generations of your family line.

9. Obviously, you can use computers. I suggest you get genealogy software into your machine so data obtained can be systemized right from the start. I started with "Personal Ancestral File" and found it to be ideal for my uses. It is inexpensive and supported by LDS.

10. This information should get you rolling.

FIELD TRIP TO CLEVELAND

An all day field trip to the Western Reserve Historical Society Library in Cleveland, Ohio, is scheduled for Saturday, May 11th. Please sign up on the enclosed sign-up sheet sent to North Hills Genealogists, c/o Northland Library or handed to one of our officers by Thursday, May 2. Please note that the library charges \$4.00 for non-members (\$2.00 for senior citizens and students) to use the library. Car pool(s) will leave at 7 AM at an agreed upon location. Riders in any car pool can therefore share the cost of tolls and gas. Car pool(s) may also stop for dinner upon returning from Cleveland. If you need a map of the area within which the library is located, please see Jim Rickey.

SOME CAUSES OF DEATH

Went to bed well; woke up dead.
Cause unknown, died without physicians help.
Died by blow of ax; contributing cause: other woman's husband.

WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

Western PA Genealogical Society at the Historical Society, 4338 Bigelow Blvd. (Oakland), Thursday, May 9, 1991 at 8 PM. The subject is "Text Express -- High tech Magic for Genealogy". It is the next step in saving time - through the use of a scanner to transfer typed and printed material into your computer.

WPGS is also having Saturday classes. These are the last ones of a series but can be useful. We have heard both of these ladies speak at our own North Hills meetings. Catch them in action with another topic. Each session is \$8.00. For more information call 681-5533. 27 Apr: Ruth Renton on Census, Church and Cemetery Records 4 May: Lesle Dunn on Passenger lists, Naturalizations and Vital Records

The Genealogical Society of Southwestern Pennsylvania meets on the second Sunday of each month at Citizens Library, 55 South College Street, Washington, PA 15301. Their June and July meetings are held elsewhere. The library probably can tell you the time they meet there (412-222-2400). The Genealogical Society of Southwestern PA covers the original Washington County, formed in 1781. This is the land to the west of the Monongahela River, from the West Virginia line north, and west and south of the Ohio River to the Ohio line. This is now all of Greene and Washington counties, and part of Beaver and Allegheny Counties. You can write to their society at P.O. Box 894, Washington, PA 15301.

Slippery Rock Heritage Association, Inc., Box 511, Slippery Rock, PA 16057 has quarterly membership meetings and an annual membership dinner. They have a quarterly newsletter, annual genealogical workshop, annual heritage festival (with mini-museum). They also publish local histories, collect photos and oral histories and do local history research as well as sponsor explorer scout post 311. Their individual dues are \$5.00 annually. Write to them for more details.

TOMBSTONE DATING from Dr. Thomas Hannon of Slippery Rock University at the WPGS March 9, 1991 meeting

In Western Pennsylvania, the kind and color of a tombstone is indicative of the time period in which it was produced. Therefore if looking for a marker of a person from a certain time-period, the stones of other time periods can be overlooked. From 1795 to 1840, sandstone which is dark-colored was used. From 1840 to 1900, marble or limestone which is light in color were used. These seem to withstand the elements less well than the older sandstone markers. From 1900 to present, granite is used.

Original thoughts from Ellssa Powell: ON SERENDIPITY

Serendipity, according to Webster's Dictionary, is "the faculty of finding valuable or agreeable things not sought for". Serendipity is a part of genealogy and it happens when you least expect it. For instance, when you are very busily copying baptismal data on your family out of a book in a library and something calls to you to get up and take the books you are done with to the return cart. On top of the return cart is a cemetery book that you "happen" to pick up and leaf through... and lo, and behold, there is your spouse's family, all buried in one small family plot, with names, dates and directions to the cemetery! Or serendipity is when, after spending a day unsuccessfully looking for a tombstone in a cemetery, you get back in your car and for the heck of it (or to please your small child who accompanied you) you chase a hot air balloon to a field where you get out and find... the tombstone you had been hunting for all day! A little hard work and serendipity can go a long way. Such as culling the pedigree charts of a genealogical society in your research locale for pertinent family names and writing to those folks who could be related. But they are not. BUT they do know someone else who does indeed turn out to be a cousin. And this newfound cousin gives you the name of an even closer cousin who happens to live next door to someone else related to another part of your tree. Two trees expanded several generations, all on one clue! Persistence and serendipity also can bring good, unexpected results. As in the case of finding a cousin's submission to the Mormon's Ancestral File and writing to the old address. It is returned with no forwarding information available from the Post Office. Then trying to hire someone in the area to research their phone book for your 'lost' cousin. No luck. Then trying a letter with a self-addressed stamped postcard to the old address again, this time addressed to the occupant. The occupant doesn't know your cousin but asks some neighbors who happen to have kept in touch with your quarry. Bingo! Your cousin is delighted to hear from you! Another connection made and 3 more generations back discovered on your tree. Sometimes procrastination and serendipity make strange bedfellows. As in the time I was reading through some correspondence that had been waiting three months for an answer. One letter said that our distant cousin "was an author of a book called 'The Red Hills' or something like that." So I filed the letter, never intending to do much with that information. The next day I happened into an Antique Store, which I NEVER do. And you guessed it... there was the book by my distant cousin! If I had attended to that letter immediately, instead of procrastinating, I would have forgotten about the title and the hint by the time I entered that store. So when you least expect it, you, too will have serendipitous moments. And I hope they bring you more than you ever expected!

Consolidated from the Roots-L Computer Network: PRESERVATION HINTS

First of all, don't write on your favorite photos with a ballpoint pen. The acid in the ink will eventually eat through the photo. Using a pencil with soft lead (so as not to make an imprint on the other side) or a Sanford Sharpie marker will work on the resin coated backs of photos. Best way to mark a photo is not to mark it, but use a separate sheet of paper displayed near your photo (not glued on the back). Photographs and documents need to be preserved in an acid-free, human environment. Lamination and the 'magnetic photo albums' are to be discouraged. These actually bind to the document or picture and is virtually impossible to remove, ever. A much better method is the use of heavy clear plastic material called mylar. The method used is to cut a piece of it larger than the document, place double sided tape on the mylar in a square, place the document inside (not touching the tape, of course) and then placing another sheet of mylar over the top. This method, if you smooth out all the air, preserved the document from the air, UV light, and dust, and allows the document to be removed at any time. It is also still enough so that it does not bend, which further preserves the document. Mylar is available from most archival supply companies. Care should also be taken to never put paper-based items such as letters, photographs, and other papers in contact with acid containing materials, including acidic paper and mat board or wood, including cedar chests. Encapsulation using DuPont Mylar sheets and double sided tape (which is not archival) is the safest, and reversible, protection. If you choose to mount and frame a family photograph, never allow it to come in contact with the glass, and always use a ragboard mat or liner that is not acidic. This goes as well for any fine print, drawing, etc. Before you attempt any preservation effort, consider contacting an archivist or rare books / manuscripts / maps librarian at a nearby library or archives. They will probably be happy to give you advice on how to handle a particular piece, or what you cannot do or expect, depending upon the condition. They may also be able to tell you what's available in the way of archival supplies or refer you to their suppliers. Storage methods include a proper container and environment. You can store photos between Dupont Mylar or ICI Melinex 516 sheets in a polypropylene box (not wood or cardboard) on a shelf in a closet of an air-conditioned bedroom. Attics are too hot and basements are too humid for storage. If protected from humidity, a refrigerator can be used since the cold slows down chemical reactions that deteriorates photos. Film in its original sealed packaging can also be stored in the fridge.

Some suppliers addresses are: Light Impression Corp., 439 Monroe Ave., Rochester, NY 14607 (1-800-828-6216) has a lot of variety of different mediums of storage and supplies. 20th Century Plastics, 3628 Crenshaw Boulevard, Los An-

geles, CA 90016, (1-800-767-0777). Timepreservers, P.O. Box AA, Washington, PA 15301-0660 (1-800-747-1249). Also recommended by "Popular Photography", June 1990 article: Conservation Resources International, Inc., 8000-H Forbes Place, Springfield, VA 22151, (1-800-634-6932) explains in great detail how deterioration occurs and preventive methods; and University Products, Inc., 517 Main Street, P.O. Box 101, Holyoke, MA 01041, (1-800-628-1912).

For a variety of photo albums, contact Shoebox to Showcase, Susan Fauli, 10491 Meinert Road, Wexford, PA 15090 (412-935-1943).

GENEALOGICAL DISPLAY AT LIBRARY

From May 1 to 15 our Genealogical Society will have a display in the Northland Library lower level. In order for this to be an interesting display of genealogy in general and our group in particular, would you please consider donating some artifact, book, photo, heirloom, etc. The case does have a lock on it, but do not contribute anything really irreplaceable. Please call Robin Schooley at 934-0432 to make arrangements for her to receive your items. She also will be setting up the display at the library on Wednesday, May 1 and could use your help.

From the Roots-L computer network: POLLUTION AND TOMBSTONES

The current National Geographic (April 1991) included in its "Earth Almanac" section on page 140 a note "On Tombs, Pollution's Toll is Graven in Stone" which reports on studies done by geographer Thomas C. Meierding of the University of Delaware. He and his students "traveled 40,000 miles visiting urban and small-town cemeteries. They found the worst cases [of destructive air pollution on gravestones] in the heavily polluted Ohio River Valley... Meierding saw little damage in the Great Plains and Florida but severe effects in Illinois and western Pennsylvania. Deterioration increased between 1930 and 1960, then eased due to pollution controls and the decline of heavy industry. He discovered that acid rain, his initial suspect, dissolved only a thin surface layer. The real damage came from sulfur dioxide gas -- released by burning high-sulfur coal -- which forms gypsum within the marble and forces the stone apart."

From North Hills News-Record, April 12-15, 1991, "Remembering" by Mary Wiley:

RICHLAND MAP

"... During the history week at Community College, I received copies of similar maps for the other North Hills municipalities through the courtesy of Joe Bullock who has a vast collection of early pictures and memorabilia. These early settlers have given their names to roads and areas that are familiar to us today. For instance on the Richland map we find: On the Butler Plank Road corridor south of Bakerstown -- R. Morrow; Rev. or Ben (it's hard to read some of the printing) Johnson; Jn. Ewalt; Mrs. McCombs; G. Phillips; Jn. Waddle; Jn. Richards and T. Crummy. Approaching Bakerstown were -- Mrs. N. Douglas; Dr. Woodruff; Mrs. Brickell and J. Schultz. Other names in the Bakerstown area are overprinted or too crowded to be legible. North to the Butler County line were: W. Morrow; Jn. Scott; George Crooks; the Union (?) Hotel; Arch and Robt. Glasgow and Jn. Marshall. Living in the area between the Plank Road and West Deer township line were -- D. P. Williams, St. Allison; Mrs. Dunbar; Dd. Pedden; Thos. Scaley; William Ralston; and W. and L. Morrow. In the central part of the township -- B. Miller; Mrs. Collins; Robt. Gibson; William Dickey; J. M. Wilson; H. McCully; John Dickey; Jn. Stout; D. McCreskey; Jas. McHely; Chas. Gibson; A. Mahon; Jas. Waddle; Jas. Grubb; Jn. Nauser; Dd. and Jn. Dickson; Mrs. Lee; H. Jacobes and F. Leger. In the western part of the township -- Geo. Fisher; Miss M. and Miss R. Gibson; Geo. Dodd; Chas. Gibson; M. Fisher; Geo. McClintock; C. Miller; A. McClintock; Jas. Wilson; J. S. Crawford; Wm. Zimmerman; Jas. Marbin and Jn. Dodd. This is unfortunately not a complete list. Routes of unnamed roads and creeks cross over and obliterate some names or parts of names. The printing is small and irregular which accounts, I hope, for any misspellings. A railroad (and I can't make out the name) crosses the southwest corner of the township and several main roads are indicated north and south and east and west. This hasn't been the most satisfactory listing, I know, but there are familiar names on it. In some cases the individuals owned large tracts and the location of the house is also shown which further complicates matters. I hope that poor as it is, this listing will prove interesting especially to descendants of those early settlers. If there are misspellings or omissions, I hope you'll let me know."

From the Cranberry (Butler County) Eagle, Weds., April 3, 1991, page 17:

BUTLER COUNTY, PA HINTS

"... Audrey Feters and LeAnne Heist are volunteer genealogists for the Butler Area Public Library on North McKean Street. Their job is to trace the history of families or individuals who once settled in Butler County. They average one letter per day requesting information, not just from county residents but from people all over the continental U.S., Canada, and Puerto Rico. 'You're pretty much a detective,' Feters explained. 'You have a few clues and you have to follow them out. Sometimes you run into stone walls.' Feters and Heist work from noon to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday, in a room beside the Reference Department. They don't charge for their work, but they direct any expressions of generosity to the Butler Public Library....Most often their research shows them something they hadn't known about Butler County. Feters discovered while talking with a fellow genealogist from the Alsace province of France that most of the people who originally settled in Herman came from the town of Siewiller in Alsace. Further research showed that some of those settlers worked to build the Erie Canal, the first major waterway linking an inland lake with the Atlantic.... Both genealogists praised the work of earlier volunteers, whose efforts have made genealogist's work that much easier today. An example is Joan Peck. In the mid-seventies, Peck indexed the 1909 and 1929 census reports by full name and page number. The Project took a year and a half to complete and is still the definitive index to those reports."

OUR NEXT TWO MEETINGS

The next meeting of the North Hills Genealogists is a very special presentation of a Civil War Soldier by Bill May. Bill will talk to us as if he were his Civil War Soldier ancestor. Please don't miss this entertaining and informative evening, the day after Memorial day, on Tuesday, May 28th at 7 PM at the Northland Library. Our June meeting will be held Tuesday, June 25 at 7 PM. Mary Wiley of the North Hills News-Record is scheduled to speak to us on the history of one of our North Hills Communities. Last year she presented the History of Ross Township in a very memorable and interesting talk. Please join us for both meetings!