



NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS NEWSLETTER



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

Volume 1 - Number 9 - May 1991

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Vice President: James G. Rickey
Sec/Treasurer: Maureen Durstein

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Neither rain, nor snow, nor sleet, nor broken bones, torn ligaments and sprained backs will keep us from giving you a great newsletter. Your president and treasurer have had their share of mishaps this month, as well as illnesses among the Board. Let's hope summer brings us better health!

The candidates for our June election have been announced by the nominating committee, Julia Tauson, Chairperson: President Elissa Scalise Powell Vice-President James Rickey Treasurer Maureen Durstein Rec. Secretary Margaret Sullivan

We will take nominations from the floor and then vote on these candidates at our June meeting. The new officers will take their offices in September 1991 through August 1992. We now have 50 people who are subscribers of our little newsletter. I would like to urge all of you to become a PARTICIPATING member of the North Hills Genealogists. The best way to have an organization falter is to burn out the willing few. Please come to our board meeting, MONDAY June 10 at 7:30 pm in the meeting room at Northland Library to see what new and exciting plans we have for the society. ALL are welcome. We need your input! Please feel free to discuss your concerns and ideas with any board member. We would like to address your genealogical needs.

We also could use a few success stories, articles or interesting genealogical data that you run across to include in these pages. Please submit to Maureen Durstein 10 days before our meeting dates, or send it to the North Hills Genealogists in care of the Northland library.

Please take note that Leslie Dunn has invited us to the Shaler library for our July 23 meeting. She will show us the genealogical holdings there which complement (not duplicate) the holdings at Northland. Leslie who spoke to us about her trip to Salt Lake City, Utah, is an involved genealogist and a librarian at Shaler. We thank Leslie for this wonderful offer and opportunity to explore another library.

Happy Hunting, Lissa

BEGINNER'S CORNER

Q: When I went to the LDS Family History Library to look up some of my ancestors on the IGI (International Genealogical Index), I found a few people but not everyone. One of the ancestors I found had two slightly disagreeing records listed. How can this be?

A: There are two ways that names and dates get into the IGI. The Mormons who submit their ancestors as part of their religious activities will have their ancestors listed. This information is only as reliable as the person placing it in the IGI. They could have researched it well, or just taken the "family legend" data and submitted that.

The other names and dates are extracted from baptism/christening and marriage (but not death) information that have been collected in a rather random fashion from sources all over the world. For example, almost every known marriage that occurred in Ohio up to about 1875 is now in the IGI. But in other parts of the country, the data is very sketchy. A region of Germany may have a dozen villages, all of which have extant church books, and only maybe three will have been extracted. In areas where the records are collected into archives and are legible, the IGI frequently has nearly everything. And of course you have to search variant spellings, since they could be found in the records in various ways or interpreted differently. So the IGI is an excellent indicator of the existence of a primary record. If someone is missing from the IGI, it means nothing. You can't use it as negative evidence. And you can't really consider it a primary record. But it can point you toward primary records that you might not have thought of, in locations you might not have suspected.

JUNE GUEST SPEAKER

Mary Wiley from the North Hills News Record and previously a speaker at our meetings, will address our group on June 25th about North Hills history.

WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

The Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society will have its June 13th meeting at 8 pm in the Historical Society building at 4338 Bigelow Blvd. The topic will be "Field Trip to Wales" in which Margarete Evans will show how to get ready for your summer family history activity from A (Analysis) to Z (Zero Hour). In a recent monthly newsletter of the WPGS, we were told that the North Hills Genealogists "crammed a wealth of information into their newsletter. We hope that members of this group will attend our meetings and share with us in promoting genealogy in this area. They will be made welcome." Take them up on their offer!

"An All American Conference", August 15, 16, 17, 1991 in Fort Wayne, Indiana put on by The Federation of Genealogical Societies and the Allen County Public Library Historical Genealogy Department. For more information: 1991 FGS Conference, Attn.: Curt Witcher, Conference Chair, Allen County Public Library, 900 Webster Street, PO Box 2270, Fort Wayne, IN 46801-2270.

FIELD TRIPS

Our next field trip will be on Saturday, June 15 at 2 pm to the Depreciation Lands Museum in Hampton Twp. Please sign up by June 10 by sending us a note or sign-up slip to the Northland Library, or telling Jim Rickey.

Our last field trip to the Western Reserve Library in Cleveland was a wonderful experience. After 11 people signed up, 6 of us were able to make the excursion in 2 cars (smoking and non) and a motorcycle! The library has ALL the Census microfilms for ALL the states through 1900. For 1910 they have most of the states one might need. They also have some military records and Cleveland area newspapers on microfilm. Their county history and family history book collections are excellent. They have so many resources it was hard to dive into each one in the seven hours we were there. The staff was very helpful in finding what each of us needed. This is not only for people having Cleveland or Ohio or New England roots, but in their West Virginia collection, I found a mother-load of information! The Library is about 2 hours and 45 minutes away and well worth the trip. See Jim Rickey for a map if you'd like to try this on your own this summer. On June 8 & 9, 1991, the Western Reserve Historical Society will have a book sale for the benefit of the Library Acquisition Fund. Over 10,000 books, maps and prints will be available for purchase from noon to 5 pm on Saturday and 12:30 pm to 4pm on Sunday. For more information call (216) 721-5722.

SCHOOL LOOKING FOR ITS ROOTS

Ingomar Elementary School in the North Allegheny School District (located in the town of McCandless) is searching for its 'roots'. If you have information about the school's past (particularly photos) please share what you have with Abe Comunale, School Principal, Ingomar Road, Ingomar, PA 15127, phone (412) 366-9665.

NATIONAL CEMETERY SYSTEM by Todd Eastman

I have located the name and address of the National Cemetery System which keeps records for soldiers who are buried in national cemeteries from 1861 to the present. Since I have been trying to locate the grave site of my GGG-Grandfather who died during the Civil War, I thought I would try writing to them.

I already had all the specifics on this ancestor, the state from which he served, dates, company and infantry, etc. All that I lacked was the exact burial site. I wrote a couple of months ago with all the information I had requesting assistance in locating his grave site.

Low and behold, I just received a nice letter from the National Park Service representative at the Andersonville National Historic Site. It seems that my original letter to the National Cemetery System was forwarded to Andersonville, and the folks at Andersonville searched their records for my ancestor. The result was a nice black and white polaroid photo of my ancestor's tombstone, as well as a copy of the burial record, a map of Andersonville prison with the exact location of the tombstone, and additional information on the history of Andersonville prison.

Not only did this cost me nothing more than postage in writing to them, but they were even nice enough to return my SASE unused!

For those of you who may be trying to locate the grave site of a soldier, here is the address I wrote to:

Cemetery Service
National Cemetery System
Veterans Administration
810 Vermont Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20422

If you write, be sure and give as much information as possible to assist them in their search, and be patient in waiting for a response.

MILITARY & CIVIL WAR RECORDS

From the Roots-L BBS

Records at the National Archives are available for your ancestor who served in the military in all branches of the service from Revolutionary war soldiers to soldiers who were in before 1910.

If you request from the General Services Administration General Info Leaflet #5, Rev. 1981, it will tell you the forms needed, and what is available at the National Archives. In a nutshell, you first need the name and military unit of your ancestor. Next, write a brief letter to: Military Service Branch (NNMS), National Archives and Records Service, National Archives, 8th and Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC, 20408. Briefly state who you wish to research and request five or six NATF Form 80's. In a few weeks you will receive the forms. Take two complete forms and fill out the first white copy, checking "pension" records. On the second white copy check the "Military" records block.

If any records are found they will tell you and then you may send a small amount of money and request the records they have found. There are also quite a few other records on vets available, such as court martial, medical and personnel. If you are lucky, for about \$15 you may get over 200 xeroxed pages of a Confederate soldier ancestor!

If your parent was in the military they may request this information, or the next of kin may get this information, if they served 1910 to present, including Civil Service records. I had my mother, who was next of kin to my deceased father, sign an affidavit giving me the power to obtain the info on my father's Navy, Army, Marine, and Air Force records as well as his Civil Service Records to 1967, and I not only received the records, but got some fantastic photographs which were taken of him too.

There are 11 branches of the National Archives around the US: Boston, NY, Philadelphia, Chicago, Atlanta, Kansas City, Ft. Worth, Denver, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Seattle. They have microfilms too, so you don't have to drive to Washington DC.

When you request info from Washington DC (General Services Administration re: Archive records) be sure to request one of each form for military records for each branch they handle. You can xerox them from then on, and it has the cost info on them too.

Another excellent source on this subject is "Tracing Your Civil War Ancestor," by Bertram Hawthorne Groene, Ballantine Books, NY, LCCN 88-92854, ISBN 0-345-36192-X (\$6.95 at B. Dalton).

Many states also have extensive records of their citizens with military service, both Union and Confederate. The book has much more info and suggestions.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS INFORMATION AND CONTACTS

Library of Congress (Across the street from CAPITOL Bldg.)
ATTN: Photo Duplicating
1st & Independence Ave.
Washington, D C 20540

Main Number: (202) 707-5000
Library Loan 707-5444 Ms. Kay Blair
Photo Duplicating 707-5640

In order to have a Library of Congress number for a book, the author sends two copies of his book and a nominal fee (around \$25.00) to the Library of Congress. These books are available for Photo Duplication and sometimes Library Loan. The cost for Photo Duplicating (copying materials) is \$.45 per page plus \$4.50 if total is under \$50 and \$7.50 if over \$50.

All contacts or requests for copying must be initiated by correspondence and your requests will be checked and they will reply telling you if they have found your request and the cost for copying the material. Then you mail the check, they copy it and send you the material. They will check for information while on the phone, i.e. surname or title search. Most of the Genealogical and History books and articles cannot be loaned to your local library.

From the Kingston Branch Ontario Genealogical Society Newsletter, May/June 1991 (vol 18, no 3):

FAMILY STORIES SOUGHT

Alex Haley, author of the novel "Roots", is producing a prime-time TV series for PBS on family history in partnership with KBYU-TV. The series is called "Ancestors" and it "will feature stories and storytellers with the ability to capture imagination and bring family history to life." They will also focus on the dramas that result from family history research. Interesting stories are solicited; send them to BaBette Davidson, Project Director, "Ancestors", C-302 HFAC, Brigham Young University, Provo, Ut 84602.

THE READERS' CORNER by Robin Schooley

I am sure that our visit from Bill May and his recreation of his Civil War ancestor's experiences is going to spark a lot of interest in searching for our own ancestors that lived through those times. Below are just a few books on the shelves of our own Northland Library that may be of some interest. (And every one is a circulating copy!)

TRACING YOUR CIVIL WAR ANCESTOR by Bertram H. Groene (1973- call #929.1 G89) Although published 18 years ago, this book can give you some very good ideas about how to find information on your Civil War ancestors. Several appendices are also included which give additional resources for locating information. If there is a Civil War soldier somewhere on your family tree, this book can surely give you some help in tracking down information on him. Just keep in mind that addresses and forms mentioned may not be current due to the age of the book.

WHO WAS WHO IN THE CIVIL WAR by Stewart Sifakis (1988- call #973.7092 Si2) A comprehensive, illustrated biographical reference to more than 2500 of the principal Union and Confederate participants in the War Between the States. Major military leaders, political leaders and activists, lesser-ranking soldiers and civilians who distinguished themselves and nearly 250 illustrations. While there is little genealogical information in this book, and the average soldier in the field is not included, lucky are those whose ancestors are mentioned here. And the lives of our ancestors of that time were touched by those who are mentioned.

REBELS & YANKEES, THE FIGHTING MEN OF THE CIVIL WAR by William C. Davis (1989- call #973.74 D29) The experience of America's epic conflict through the lives of the men who fought it. Featuring a unique photographic record of personal memorabilia and weaponry. Through illustration and text, this book gives you more of a feel for the Civil War from the participants' point of view. The photographs of the soldiers are often quite touching, and the full color photographs of the precious artifacts that were left behind can give an insight into their every day experiences.

Northland Library has a wealth of books about the Civil War. I especially enjoy leafing through the ones that include contemporary photographs. By learning more about the times our ancestors lived through, we learn more about our ancestors and ourselves.

If you would like the National Archives to search for records of your Civil War ancestor, you must write to National Archives, Washington, D.C. 20408, and request NATF Form 80, Order for Copy of Veterans Records. You MUST use this form. You should receive it within a week or two. You may want to request several copies.

After you have received your forms, follow the directions carefully. For a Civil War veteran you can request a search of either the pension file or the military file. (There were no bounty-land warrants issued for Civil War Service). It is a good idea to request both, but you must use a separate form for each request. You must supply the following MINIMUM information: Name (first, middle & last if possible); Branch of service (Army, Navy or Marine Corps.); State from which he served; War in which, or dates between which he served; and if service was Civil War, whether it was Union or Confederate. Supplying other information as requested on the form may expedite your request.

After mailing your forms back to the address indicated in the instructions, you can expect to wait anywhere from three weeks to three months for an answer. The National Archives will let you know whether or not they were able to locate a file. If they were, you must return your form to the National Archives Trust Fund Board in Atlanta (they usually supply a pre-addressed envelope) with a check for \$10.00 within 30 days. It can be well worth the price. You should receive photocopies of the file within 10 working days.

The National Archives will also inform you if they were not able to locate a file, and perhaps send additional information as to the reasons why. The same procedure can be followed to order veterans records of any period from the Revolution to about 1914. As with most genealogical records, the earlier records will not be as complete, or contain as much as the later ones. Good luck and happy hunting!!!

West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV, holds a complete set of indexes to Civil War Military Records. This is the closest institution to our area that I know of that holds that holds such an index.

Sincere thanks to all who contributed to the library display: JoAnn Jarvis, Elissa Powell, Jan Fazio and Connie Foley. Special thanks to Connie for her help in setting up and to Lissa for taking it all down. Apologies to Jan for the confusion and delay in getting her items into the case. I think the display drew a lot of interest and we all look forward to the next one. Thanks... Robin.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next board meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 10th, at 7:30 pm in meeting room No. 2 at Northland Library.

FOUR RULES ABOUT FAMILY LEGENDS

1. Before you really despair, start by believing family legends.
2. Try to figure out how your legend(s) might have been deformed from the original story, and notably, how the names might have changed. (Was your ancestor really best friends with Jenny Lind, the "Swedish Nightingale", or just came from the same country?)
3. Do not be obsessed only by names and vital records -- search, at every chance you can, for historical data. The examples given in an historical book could be your ancestors!
4. Note everything (oral and written data). A simple key word could make the legend come alive when it is found in a history book.

GENEALOGICAL COMPUTING RESOURCES

National Genealogical Society
Computer Interest Group
4527 Seventeenth Street North
Arlington, VA 22207-2363

Newsletter: NGS/CIG Digest (bimonthly)
NGS/CIG Dues \$5.00/year
NGS Dues: \$30.00/year
Membership in the NGS is required

Genealogical Computing Association of Pennsylvania
(GENCAP)
c/o MICRODOC
815 Carpenter Lane
Philadelphia, PA 19119

Newsletter: GENCAP Newsletter
Dues \$10.00/year

Ancestry, Inc.
PO Box 476
Salt Lake City, UT 84110
800/531-1790

Genealogical Computing Journal
Quarterly \$25 /year
\$8.00 discount for Ancestry
Research Club members

[Publishes a "complete" CIG directory in J/F/M issue and a "complete" directory of Computerized Genealogical Databases in A/M/J issue.]

National Genealogy Conference available on the first two networks, the others have their own genealogy discussion conferences:

A "Fido system" conference

NGS/CIG BBS 703/528-2612 (109/302)

"Anything Goes" 412/264-2692;
NGS/CIG BBS area 55 is the conference
(no parity, 8 data bits, a stop bit)

GENCAP (see above for address) 215/438-2858
Eugene Stackhouse, system operator

GENie Genealogy
Roundtable

CompuServe
Genealogy Forum

NATIONAL ARCHIVES FEE INCREASE

Ohio Genealogical Society Newsletter, 4/91, Vol. XXII, No. 4:

Effective March 1, 1991, the cost of furnishing reproductions from the military, passenger arrival and Eastern Cherokee application records in response to mail inquiries was increased to \$10 for each record ordered. The fee for copies of census records was increased to \$6. New forms and leaflets reflecting these changes are now in the process of being printed and will be available in the near future from the Archives. Existing copies of NATF Forms 80, 81, 82 and 83 received after April 15, 1991, will be returned, with copies of the new forms, for re-submission. To obtain replacements for NATF Form 80, send requests to: Reference Service Branch (NNIR), National Archives and Records Administration, 7th and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20408.

WARREN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

from the Erie Times-News, Sunday, April 28, 1991, page 4B:

The Warren County Genealogical Society was founded in September of 1987, a fledgling group of "family historians" who joined together for mutual help in family research. Since then, the group has grown to a membership of 60 and they have acquired over 100 books and related material. They meet on the fourth Monday of every month from September through June in the Slater Room of the Warren Public Library at 7 pm. Several members are willing to do limited research for anyone who would be unable to do it themselves, and a portion of each meeting is devoted to members queries and help with research. A periodic newsletter is also provided. For more information try writing them at 51 Fourth Street, Youngsville, PA 16371.

COMPUTER GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH TEXTS as of August 1989

There are a number of books floating around dealing with getting started in Genealogical Research, with and without computer.

"Tracing Your Roots By Computer" by Joanna D. Posey
(ISBN 0-948348-23-3, which is the 1986 edition)
Posey International, PO Box 338 Orem, Utah, 84057

who also publishes the *"Genealogical Computer Pioneer"* - a bimonthly newsletter. She also is currently doing Satellite radio broadcasts via KSTARR - often available from your local LDS Church library on tape. The LDS Church normally has the downlinks and provides "group listening" for church members. SPACENET 1, Channel 17, 6.8 MHZ covers North America)

"Tracing Your Roots By Computer" was made a series of books in 1989:

<i>"Word Processing Your Family Stories"</i>	\$6.00
<i>"Family Heritage Software Reviews"</i>	\$16.95
<i>"Computerized Maps, Photos, and Historical Timeliness"</i>	\$12.00
<i>"Family Heritage Telecommunication Projects"</i>	\$8.00
<i>"LDS Family History Computer Projects"</i>	\$8.00
<i>"Selecting Computers and Software for Genealogy"</i>	\$6.00
<i>"Computerizing A Complete Family History"</i>	\$25.00
<i>"Desktop Publishing Guidelines for Family History"</i>	\$8.00

Judging by the titles, the original single volume has been broken up into several smaller volumes and updated with information published as articles in the "Pioneer".

"Computer Genealogy - a Guide to Research through High Technology" by Paul Andereck and Richard Pence
(ISBN 0-916489-02-7, 1985)
(soft-bound, 5 1/2 x 8 1/2, 280 pages)
Ancestry, Inc., PO Box 476 Salt Lake City, Utah 84110
\$12.95 or \$10 to Ancestry Research Club members.

I have found both books to be interesting, especially for someone just getting started in either computers or genealogy or both. However, both texts are basic and quickly out-grown. While long, their content is very hand-holding and tutorial. The important thing is that both give you a good solid footing in the realm of "professional" genealogical research. They talk about documentation, record keeping forms, sources for information, etc.

Whether you want them for your library is mostly a question of \$. They are both books that you should take the time to read through. (both are soft-covers at text book prices.)

"Ancestry's Guide to Research: Case studies in American Genealogy" by Johni Cerny and Arlene Eakle
(ISBN 0-916489-01-9) (softbound, 5 1/2 x 8 1/2, 364 pages)
Ancestry, Inc., PO Box 476 Salt Lake City, Utah 84110
\$10.95 or \$8 to Ancestry Research Club members.

"The Source: A Guidebook of American Genealogy" By Arlene Eakle and Johni Cerny
(ISBN 0-916489-00-0) (hardbound 8 1/2 x 11, 786 pages)
Ancestry, Inc., PO Box 476 Salt Lake City, Utah 84110
\$39.95 or \$32.00 to Ancestry Research Club members.

From the US Government General Printing Office:

These are pamphlets available from:
Consumer Information Center
Pueblo, Colorado 81009

"Using Records in the National Archives for Genealogical Research"

Order number 448T \$.50 (25pp 1986)
Describes historical materials such as census, land, naturalization, and military records, and how you can use them. (National Archives and Records Administration General Information Leaflet No. 5) (USGPO: 1988 216-726-80611)

"Family Folklore": Interviewing Guide and Questionnaire
Order number 164 T \$1.00 (7 pp 1979)
Record family stories & tradition for genealogical research. (Folklife Program, Office of American and Folklife Studies, Smithsonian Institution) (USGPO: 1986-0-496-398)
This book indicates that a 100 page book "Family Folklore", a collection and discussion of family stories, expressions, traditions, photographs, and memorabilia, is available by writing to:

Folklife Programs
L'Enfant 2100,
Smithsonian Institution
Washington, DC 20560.

The cost is \$3.00. Please make check payable to the Smithsonian Institution.

"Where to write for Vital Records: Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Divorces"

Order Number 170T \$1.50 (22pp 1987)
Obtain copies of birth, death, marriage, divorce certificates. (U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services.)
(DHHS publication number (PHS) 87-1142)

"Your Right to Federal Records"

Order number 449T \$.50 (18pp 1984)
How to use the Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act to obtain records from the federal government.
(Department of Justice and US. General Services Admin.)

MASSACHUSETTS MILITARY MUSEUM

by Tom Reilly and Dick Miller

The Natick Archives are organized under the Massachusetts National Guard and they have a collection of uniforms, artifacts, weapons, papers and documents dating from the Revolutionary War up through the Vietnam War. They have a very large collection overall but with the state budget crunch they aren't able to do the preservation required.

The Archivist is a civilian named Jim Fahey who was recently honored as the 'Man of the Year' at a joint dinner by the Boston and Central Massachusetts Civil War Round Tables.

They have many, many original papers and documents relating to Massachusetts during the Civil War including copies of correspondence by the Massachusetts Secretary of State, muster rolls, etc. One such paper is the original letter from Col. Robert Gould Shaw reporting on transportation arrangements as the 54th Massachusetts left Camp Readville and headed south to their destiny at Fort Wagner, South Carolina (a.k.a. the movie GLORY).

Their emphasis is on Massachusetts but they also have military material from other states, such as Civil War records for Minnesota Officers. They also have copies of the entire MOLLUS Civil War original photos housed at the U.S. Army Military History Institute in Carlisle, PA. Most of the individuals are officers or high ranking NCO's. Very few privates or corporals are in the collection.

The Natick Archives are open to the public for historical research, by Appointment Only, Monday through Friday, 8:30 am to 4 pm and the third Saturday of the month, 8:30 am to 1 pm (budget permitting). They are having an Open House on Saturday, June 15th, 1991 from 9am to 4pm.

For more information and a brochure on their holdings:
Massachusetts Military Div. History Research and Museum
Massachusetts National Guard Supply Depot
Building 2, 143 Speen Street
Natick, MA 01760-2599
(508)651-1776

JULY MEETING AT SHALER LIBRARY

Our July meeting will be held at 7:30 pm on Tuesday, July 23rd, at the Shaler North Hills Library, 1822 Mount Royal Blvd., and **NOT** at Northland. In case you missed the above line, **there will be NO July meeting at Northland Public Library.** Leslie Dunn will provide our members with an orientation to the genealogical sources available at the Shaler Library.

SHALER CHURCH CLOSED

*North Hills News-Record, Friday, April 26, 1991, page 11:
(original article has picture with it)*

St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Shaler had its final service on Sunday, April 28, 1991. A declining, elderly membership forced the closing of the church. Membership has declined from 130-140 people 20 years ago to the current 45 mostly retired people. A move to the suburbs by younger members is one reason for the loss, said the pastor, the Rev. Ann Miller Smith. Other churches will receive the furnishings of the church, such as the carillon will go to Christ Lutheran Church in Millvale. The property will revert to the synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

The church was started 130 years ago by the Rev. John G. Mueller, who came to Bauerstown at the beginning of the Civil War. He gathered a few Lutheran families and held services in German in the Bauer and Sauter homes. A small frame church costing \$1,500 was built and dedicated in 1861 on land given by Martin Bauer. That building was about two blocks north of the current church on Evergreen Road, which was dedicated in June 1900. The congregation was known as the United German Evangelical Protestant Church of Girty's Run until 1926, when the name was changed officially to St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church.

LOUISIANA RECORDS BY FAX

From the Lake Charles American Press

The Vital Records Registry is accepting FAX requests for Louisiana birth, death, and Orleans Parish marriage certificates. FAX requests may be sent 24 hours a day, seven days a week to (504) 568-5391, according to Joel Nitzkin, M.D., D.P.A., Director of the Office of Public Health, Department of Health and Hospitals. Nitzkin suggests that requests be made on standard Vital Records Application forms available from Parish Health Units. However, written requests in letter format will be accepted as long as adequate information is provided, he said. Requests must be signed and should include birth, death or marriage facts, a statement of relationship to the registrant, home and office telephone numbers and a VISA or Mastercard number with expiration date. A copy of a birth certificate costs \$8 and a birth card, death certificate or Orleans marriage certificate costs \$5. If no record is on file, a search fee equivalent to the cost of one copy of the record will be charged. Once a request is received, it is normally processed in less than two weeks. To obtain birth records over 100 years old and death records over 50 years old, write to Louisiana State Archives, P. O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9125. For more information, call (504) 568-5172.

**RESEARCH IN EASTERN
EUROPEAN COUNTRIES**
by Michel Mayer-Cremieux
in "Revue Francaise de Genealogie"

The following people answer queries, but no one has made any statistics on their answering rates yet! Letters in English are accepted. Enclose three International Reply Coupons (available at the post office for \$.90 each). And remember patience will get the job done.

Jewish history and genealogy questions (be specific):

Michel Mayer-Cremieux
15 Avenue du 8-Mai-1945
95200 Sarcelles, France

Estonia: Samuel Lazikin
Kulimanni Str. 12-48
200036 Tallinn, Estonia

Latvia: Vatalij Kricesvki
Streliujeku Str. 11-4
226010 Riga, Latvia

Lithuania: Dr. Bronislovas Vonsavicius
Deputy Director
Main Archival Administration
Mindaogo 8
Vilnius, Lithuania

Poland: Naczelnia Dyreckja Archiwow
Panstwowych
ul. Długa 6
SKR Poczta 1005
00-950 Warszawa, Poland

Czechoslovakia: Director
Stani Ustredni Arch. V
Praze Malastrana, Karmelistska 2
118 01 Praha 1, Czechoslovakia

USSR: Boris Ivganovich Kaptelov
Central State Archives
Bol'shaia Pirogovskaia ul. 117
119817 Moscow, USSR

The USSR State Archives are undergoing a complete Perestroika (re-organization), therefore you could wait a bit before writing to them.

RELIGION IN EARLY WEXFORD

from "Remembering"

by Mary Willey, North Hills News-Record, May 10-13, 1991:

"In Sue Page's booklet, "Wexford - Then and Now," she wrote that the religious life of the community centered around three denominations. The first church in Pine was the Cross Roads Presbyterian Church on Wexford-Bayne Road. It was founded in 1827 when the first building was constructed. Records show, however, that services were held in homes in the community for several years prior to this time.

The next church was St. Alphonsus Roman Catholic founded in 1835. This congregation also existed as a religious group many years before a log building was constructed in property donated to the parish by Ambrose Schaeffer.

A third church, Salem Methodist, was built in 1852 with a record of service dating from 1844. Salem was originally situated where the present Dutilh Church is established and was known as the Little Plains Church. To be nearer their homes, members of the Methodist church moved their meetings to a room in the home of Andrew English. Membership increased rapidly and the group moved to the barn and grove. A site on the land of Jane Emmett near Pearce Mill and Bayne Roads was selected for the first permanent structure.

When the Harmony Interurban street car service started through Wexford, the congregation decided to move nearer to the street car line to enable more people to attend services. A site on Sunny Hill Manor Road was chosen and the cornerstone was laid July 20, 1924.

The first building housing Cross Road church was a 30-foot log structure built for approximately \$200. A second structure was built in 1809. The building in use in 1950 (when Sue wrote her book) was erected in 1897.

St. Alphonsus also has had three buildings: The first, a log structure was destroyed by fire several years after its dedication. This building was quickly replaced by a building of bricks made from local clay. The present church was built in 1889 with an addition in 1910.

In early years there existed a Baptist group and a United Presbyterian congregation. A decline in nearby population caused the Baptist group to disband and the United Presbyterians split over the use of songs or Psalms in its service. One section moved to the location of the Warrendale United Presbyterian Church and the other moved to Valencia.

The first pastor at Cross Roads was a Rev. Mr. Campbell whose initials or first name were not recorded. The Rev. S. T. Mollinger was the first priest at St. Alphonsus."



Yes, as a member of the North Hills Genealogists, I plan to attend the trip to the Depreciation Lands Museum at 4743 South Pioneer Road, in Hampton [Please return this form to the address on the newsletter or to one of the officers by MONDAY, JUNE 10th.)

Name:	Home phone:
I am interested in car pooling to the Depreciation Lands Museum: Yes ___ No ___	
I am interested in serving as a car pool driver: Yes ___ No ___	