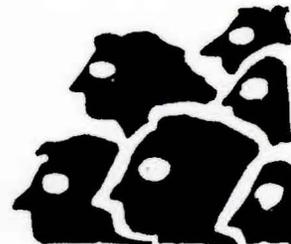




# NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS NEWSLETTER



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

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Summer is here and I hope your vacations and research trips will be fruitful. We will have our July meeting at the Shaler library and will NOT be producing a newsletter then. We will get back to Northland and the newsletter for our August 27th meeting. The board has been discussing what types of programs to arrange for next year. Your input is very important, so let us know your likes and dislikes! Is there more of something or less of another that you'd like to see? We do plan to repeat some of last years lectures such as the Soundex code for census research, Irish research and a beginners evening.

We also will have our dues renewal information in the newsletter that will be available at the end of August. Look for it and renew promptly!

We wish to thank Bill May and all 90 (!) of you who attended our last meeting to hear Bill explain his ancestor's 3 years in the War of the Rebellion. Bill was quite impressive in his full wool uniform of the Union. Thanks to all of you who contributed to the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites, Inc. (PO Box 1862, Fredericksburg, VA 22402). We were able to give Mr. May \$106 for this effort to save the battlefield sites in Virginia, Maryland & Pennsylvania from developers.

## NEXT MEETINGS

The next meeting of the North Hills Genealogists will be at the Shaler Township Library on Tuesday, July 23 at 7 PM. Lesle Dunn who is a librarian at Shaler will guide us through their genealogical collection which is said to complement, not duplicate, the collection at Northland Library. Please join us in Shaler for a wonderful meeting! We will resume meeting at Northland Library on August 27 at 7 PM.

## BEGINNER'S CORNER

**Q:** My ancestors didn't seem to leave a Will that would describe to whom they were leaving their property. Is there some other record that would describe relationships at the time of one's death?

**A:** When you ask a county clerk for a Will and your request comes up empty, this does not mean that there are no papers concerning your ancestor in that county office. A Will is just a part of the file called a Probate Record. Although a Will is usually part of the Probate Record, it is not usually the only item. The Probate Record will also contain declarations of debt and other claims on the estate, a property list of the estate, disbursements made and the relationship of the person, the newspaper advertisements for claims against the estate and any other papers concerning the settling of the estate by the executor. If you write to the County Clerk with a SASE and request the contents of the Probate Record you are likely to get more information. So much in fact, that you may want to write first for a cost estimate of duplication. A lot of County Clerks tend to be quite literal with requests. If you ask for a Will, they'll only look for a Will. And most often if there was no Will there will still be a Probate Record. And sometimes the rest of the Probate Record is more interesting than the Will.

In the absence of a Will, always check for a land transaction. Years ago people would give everything they had over to their children before they died. They would do this for payment from their children of having all their needs taken care of in the older years. Or the passing of property at the time of death would be recorded in the land transactions, sometimes with the day and place of death listed.

**Q:** I have always heard the tradition that the MACs are the Scots and the MCs are the Irish. Is there any truth to this?

**A:** I am fairly sure there is no distinction between Mc and Mac. Both are used in Scotland and Ireland. Mc is merely an abbreviation of Mac which means 'son of' in the Gaelic. In Ireland, you do get O' preceding surnames, e.g. O'Donnaille. The O' isn't short for 'of' or anything like that. The apostrophe is a misplaced accent and used to be written: S. This means 'grandson of' or 'male descendent of' in Irish I believe.

Most Gaelic speaking women don't use 'Mac' in their surnames. After all, they're not the son of anyone. The female equivalent of 'Mac' is 'Nic'. In Irish, this is Nm. Women can also insert an 'h' as the second letter of their surname (there's a Gaelic grammatical reason for this which I won't go into here). Women can also have 'Bhan' (in Scots Gaelic) or 'Bean' in Irish Gaelic inserted before their hereditary name to signify 'wife of'. e.g. M'iri bhan NicDhrmhnaill = Mary wife of a bloke called MacDonald.

Many Gaels are proud of their ancestry and can recite the last three generations off the top of their head without too much difficulty. This 3 generation tree has the same name in Gaelic as your surname. So if you ask someone in Gaelic what their surname is, you may get either their surname or the last three generations of their family tree.

On the minus side, there are a lot of people with the same name in certain parts of the Highlands and Islands. So much so, that there is a tradition of assigning a nickname to a person to uniquely identify them. This practice is virtually universal in the Gaelic speaking areas and British Telecom have even produced phone books based on nicknames(!) Some of them are daft - there's a Donald MacDonald in Lewis called 'Black bag' for instance because he had a black bag when he went to school!

MacDonald can also be spelt many ways. MacDonald (English) MacDhrmhnaill (Gaelic - men) NicDhrmhnaill (Gaelic - women) Drmhnullach (literal meaning: MacDonald) an Drmhnullaich (of the MacDonald)

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## PHOTO EQUIPMENT LOAN

One of our members, Bob Schroeder, who spoke to us in April on the subject of photographing old photos, offers his photo stand and lenses on loan for a two week period. Please contact Bob at one of our meetings or at 935-1340 to schedule your time. Bob is sure to have some tips for you on how, how much and where to find photographic supplies locally.

## SOCIAL SECURITY DEATH INDEX

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints has death information from the Social Security Administration accessible from their computer. This information includes deaths that were reported to the SSA especially for the years 1963 through 1988. Some deaths previous to 1963 are also included. This may seem too recent to help research ancestors, but remember the SSA didn't start until 1936 so a lot of people born in the 1880's to 1900's might show up in this index. There are some known errors such as one death reported in CA had CO as the state abbreviation. Information includes date of birth (full month & year), state where SSN was applied for, date of death (full or month/year) and state (alone or with town and even zip code). You can search by the whole name of the person, by exact surname or by sounds-like surname (to capture spelling variants). You can print the information to the printer (for a small per-sheet fee) or to a computer disk that you bring with you for use on your home computer later. The Social Security Death Index is public domain information and also can be had for a price. Automated Archives of Orem, Utah (801-226-6066) sells the computer compact disks for \$169.00 per disk and the entire set consists of 10 disks. They will also rent disks for the price of \$25.00 per month. It seems to be a bit cheaper to just use the Death Index at the local LDS Churches who are equipped with a computer.

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### From the North Hills News Record for April 26-29, 1991 REMEMBERING by Mary Wiley

Once upon a time all this territory from the Allegheny River to the Butler County line was Pine Township. First Ross and then the other townships cut away until we have the borders that we know today. It's hard to decipher the names of property owners from the old map I have, even with a magnifying glass. However I shall try to list as many as possible. The Pine map has an inset of an area called Brinton's Station apparently located at a point where the P. & N.W. Railroad double-crossed a wide bend in Paris Creek. It's impossible to read the names in the settlement, but surrounding property owners included John Dalzell, Dickens, Showaldt, Mulligan heirs, Col. Midler and his heirs, H. Meyer, John Black.

Property owners east of Pine Creek (South to North) included: John Miller, Andrew and Sb. Emmett, Henderson, Jos. Kelly, A.W. Marshall, Spang Chalfont Co., C. Gibson, A. McClintock, Jno. McMarten, Jn. Logan, Mrs. McAlloy, Ht. and Jn. Campbell. Also Thos. and Jn. Crawford, Wm. Dunlap, J. Zimmerman, P. and A.J. McCord, J. Owens, J. Stoup, J. Conlon, J. Wallace, H. Parris, H. Crawford, Mrs. Rogers.

In the area around the Wexford Post Office were Fisher, Anders, St. Alphonsus R.C. Church, Brooker and Gorin. Also west of Pine Creek were F. Duncan, Wm. Byer, J. Plankinton, Jno. and Wm. Reynolds, Wm. Emmett, Mrs. Coles, Mrs. Nicholson, Jas. Thompson's heirs, H. and P. McClurrey, A. Gaugler, R. Burton, Pierce, Wm. Logan, H. and Lewis Vogel, And. and St. English, Mrs. M. Davidson, Osborn heirs, Wm. Bowers, S. and Thos. Graham, P. Fay, Alex. and N. Lurling, Rt. Kennedy, St. and Jno. Marshall, Heinz, Jno. Biddle, Geo. Westlake and J. Kennedy.

I know this list is incomplete and that there are misspellings. I wonder sometimes if I should even attempt to reprint them. Then I decide that there are enough correct to let present day residents find ancestors among the early settlers.

Sue Page wrote a booklet "Wexford, Then and Now" in 1950 sponsored by the Wexford Volunteer Fire Co. She tells of Indians of the area - a Mingo chief named James Logan and others: George White Eyes, Pisquetomen, King Beaver and King Shingas. Shingas played both ends against the middle - the French on one side, the English on the other and usually a poor settler in the middle. There were good Indians, too, and many tales are told of white family members, captured by the Indians, who didn't want to leave their captors when freedom was offered.

Early settlers of the area included William Gibson, William Langhead, John McCord, Samuel Beatty, John Fowler and Francis Deery. Fowler was the first justice of the peace and, because there was no office in Pittsburgh, rode a mule to Philadelphia to record deeds. Deery started the first school in the area in 1800. Postal service was begun in Wexford in 1928. For nearly 100 years it was the only post office between Pittsburgh and Zelienople.

**From North Hills News Record for May 3-6, 1991:  
REMEMBERING by Mary Wiley**

Last week, I tried to list the early property owners of Pine as I could read them on an old map. I mentioned a history of Wexford written by Sue Page in 1950. Since I first saw that history at the News Record office, I have become quite friendly with Sue. She recently gave me a personal copy of her history and I am sure she will have no objections to my quoting from it. Thomas Rogers is credited with being the first settler in the 1790s but records indicate that Thomas Mallerson settled here in the latter part of the 18th Century on what came to be known as the Lurling Farm on Pearce Mill Road.

Mallerson was born in Groton, Conn. in 1753 and migrated to the Wexford area in his late 20s. He served in the

Revolutionary War in the 7th Connecticut Regiment. He and his wife, Ame, reared eight children: two boys, Elisha and Thomas Jr.; and six girls, Ame, Cynthia, Philinda, Thankful, Permelia and Lucinda.

Before the turn of the century, John Logan came from County Donegal, Ireland, and settled in an area adjacent to the Rogers and Mallerson properties. The area was largely agricultural. Sue mentions the following large farms: The Edward Shenot farm on the road to Bradford Woods in Marshall; the Charles Shenot farm on the Warrendale Road which became the pattern used by the United Nations for farming all over the world; the Michel's farm just over the McCandless border; the Brooker farm nearby; the Clarence Huggins farm on the Warrendale-Bakerstown Road, and Ben Paul Brasley's Shalom farm where, in addition to agricultural products, there were many projects in aid of medical experimentation.

In the heart of Wexford, the Cole Bros. farm furnished many products to local residents, as well as the people of Pittsburgh through an outlet in the Farmer's Market. Other farms were the V. B. Haefner farm at Haefner Corner which specialized in stock feed; the C. R. Utz farm on Wallace Road; Treesdale Farm which grew fruit on a commercial basis; two Altmyer farms on the Wexford-Bayne Road; Soergel Brothers' Fruit Farm; the Steigerwald Brothers' Farm; Andrew Grosick farm, Henry Schwenderman Farm on Route 29 and the farm of Rudolphs, adjoining the Brooker farm.

The first postmaster in the Wexford Post Office established in 1828 was Martin Byrne at a salary of \$4.04 per year.

**From North Hills News Record for May 17-21, 1991:  
REMEMBERING by Mary Wiley**

I always welcome letters for or about my columns. I particularly asked for any corrections on the list of names on the map of early settlers in Pine. I was very happy, therefore, to receive the following letter from Harry Monnier of Gibsonia.

"In your article about Pine Township,... you indicated that Brinton's Station, an inset on the Pine Township map, is in Pine Township and on the P & NW Railroad. I assume that you looked at a 1876 Atlas on Allegheny County reprinted in 1988. As I see it, the inset shows Brinton's Station as being on Turtle Creek. The maps of Wilkins and North Versailles Townships show Turtle Creek as being their border at Brinton's Station. In this Atlas maps of the townships of Shaler, Ross, McCandless, Hampton, Richland and Pine show the P & NW (Pittsburgh and North Western) Railroad.

"According to an article that I read, the P & NW Railroad was built up Girty's Run from Millvale to Evergreen. Bankruptcy halted it there. It was reorganized as the P & W (Pittsburgh and Western) Railroad and built up Pine Creek from Etna while maintaining service to Evergreen to keep the charter. The topographical map of the New Kensington Quadrangle to a scale of 162500 shows a railroad ending at Evergreen. A map in the 1876 History of Allegheny County shows a railroad to Evergreen and a proposed route from there to the Butler County Line. Where can what looks like an old railroad grade be found in eastern Pine Township? I would like to see it."

It would have helped if I had seen the complete reprint of the 1878 Atlas, which I have not been fortunate enough to see. I guess I was trying too hard to fit Brinton's Station into Pine. The map clearly shows the P & NW Railroad just inside the eastern border with Richland. There are several unnamed creeks that cross the railroad line. I'm wondering if the railroad line to Evergreen that he mentions is the little private line started by the residents of Evergreen Hamlet. After it was sold to a private owner, it did run up to Evergreen. My thanks to Mr. Monnier for straightening things out.

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## HERITAGE QUEST

A lot of people at our last meeting didn't seem to mind our president reading an article from Heritage Quest magazine (PO Box 40, Orting, WA 98360-0040). They produce 6 magazines a year (about 125 pages each) for \$28.00. Each issue has between 15 and 25 genealogical articles - some are general "how-to" and some are specific to a region. They also have queries and book and periodical reviews. They also sell genealogical books, sometimes at a discount.

The article read was from the May/June 1991 issue (#34), page 11, "Genealogy: A Philosophical View" by Alice Tschiggfrey. Alice wonders why do genealogy and hits upon its integration with life, itself. It reads in part:

"I became more interested in our country's history - and the history of Europe - where my ancestors lived, toiled, fought wars, and died. I have a better grasp of the whole subject of history now, and am more aware of events that take place around me in today's world. When I see strife, hunger and diseases in the past, I can appreciate these same problems today.

"When I see the plight of our veterans, I can compare with past wars and realize how men have always suffered to defend their homes and country.

"I became newly concerned with health problems, causes of death, and hereditary traits. Medically, I am smarter now. I am more appreciative of every child born, and more perceptive when people die.

"I am a better citizen than before. Genealogy has given me an understanding of how important the politics of governments are and how they have changed many of my ancestor's lives, whether they were rich or poor. I vote in all elections now, and my one vote is for all my ancestors who had no voice in such matters.

"When I attend family weddings and funerals, I am much more attentive and polite - now that I know how I am related to all the faces. Because of my genealogy interests, I can correspond and visit with many kin across the land or sea who thought they were forgotten.

"My trust in my religion is unshakable, more than ever. I perceive how long my ancestors have kept their traditions, and how many suffered to defend their rights to practice their faith in the way they wished. I have studied the source of my faith, and I will not break the chain, in honor of them.

"I have more respect and regard for 'old things.' Heirlooms, antiques, documents and priceless old photos have a deeper meaning for me - whether they're in my possession or not. (I've begun to preserve mine better, and ask others to do so, too.) I've acquired new considerations in the care and handling of certificates, records and photos of today, because they may be unattainable tomorrow. The elders of my family merit the same reverence. They are living history.

"Genealogy has brought out the best in me and has given me more self confidence than anything else in my life. I know better now who I am, by knowing who my people were. It has broadened my life and understanding, and maybe some reasons for my being here at all. It has given me an opportunity to meet interesting people, and I have visited remarkable places. I have found 'lost' relatives. It has brought me into the computer age, (though I have not yet fully arrived.) I've learned to read and write a foreign language, the one my ancestor spoke, and even sharpened skills in English.

"In addition, it has taught me organization. Not only in my paper work, but in my mind, too. Life flows much easier. I feel I have a better handle on things now. In studying the past, I have become more attuned to today and the future."

## **THE READERS' CORNER by Robin Schooley**

This month we are focusing on local history. Local histories are often wonderful sources of genealogical information. They give you a feel for the place and times in which your ancestors lived. Often, too, they are filled with biographical and genealogical data. But reader beware, do not accept what is written as Gospel. When you find your ancestor named in a local history, be sure to verify the information with hard evidence (i.e. original records.)

Now with that in mind, I give you a list of just some of the local histories that are available for you to examine at our own Northland Library:

**A PENNSYLVANIA CHRONICLE: THE HISTORY OF MARSHALL TOWNSHIP** by Judith A. Oliver (1988)  
call #974.885 OL3

**HISTORY OF BRADFORD WOODS** by Ann M. Jenkins (1985) call #R974.885 j41

**THE ROSS TOWNSHIP-WEST VIEW PENNSYLVANIA STORY: A BRIEF HISTORY OF A NORTH HILLS COMMUNITY** by Edward G. Williams (1976)  
call #R973.886w67 (Request at reference desk)

**STRINGTOWN ON THE PIKE: TALES AND HISTORY OF EAST LIBERTY AND THE EAST LIBERTY VALLEY OF PENNSYLVANIA** by Fulton Stuart Collins, Jr.  
call #974.886 C69

**HOMESTEAD: THE HOUSEHOLDS OF A MILL TOWN** by Margaret F. Byington (1910; repr. 1974) call #974.886 B99

**NOT FAR FROM PITTSBURGH: PLACES AND PERSONALITIES IN THE HISTORY OF THE LAND BEYOND THE ALLEGHENIES** by Clarence E. McCartney (1936) call #974.8m11

**THE HISTORY OF PITTSBURGH** by Sarah H. Killkelly (1906) call #R974.886 K56

**THE SHADOW OF THE MILLS: WORKING CLASS FAMILIES IN PITTSBURGH 1870-1907** by S.J. Kleinberg (1989) Call #974.886 K67

**LIVES OF THEIR OWN: BLACKS, ITALIANS AND POLES IN PITTSBURGH 1900-1960** by John Bodnar, Roger Simon, & Michael P. Weber (1982) call #974.886 B63.

**BY MYSELF, I AM A BOOK: AN ORAL HISTORY OF THE IMMIGRANT JEWISH EXPERIENCE IN PITTSBURGH** (1972) call #974.886 N21

**PITTSBURGH OF TODAY: ITS RESOURCES AND PEOPLE** by Frank C. Harper 4 vols. (1931)  
call #974.886 H11

**THE STORY OF PITTSBURGH AND VICINITY: ILLUSTRATED** edited and published by the Pittsburgh Gazette Times (1908) call #974.886

**A BICENTENNIAL HISTORY OF PITTSBURGH AND ALLEGHENY CO.** 3 vols. by George Swetnam & Charles A. Locke (1955) call #974.886 Sw4

**HISTORY OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY** Warner & Co. (1889)  
call #R974.885 H62 (Request at reference desk)

**MEMOIRS OF ALLEGHENY CO., PENNSYLVANIA** 2 vols. (1904) call #R974.885 N81

**GENEALOGICAL & PERSONAL HISTORY OF THE ALLEGHENY VALLEY** John W. Jordon, ed. (1913)  
call #R974.8J76

**GENEALOGICAL AND PERSONAL HISTORY OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA** John W. Jordon, ed. (1915)  
call #R974.8J76

**GUIDE BOOK TO HISTORIC PLACES IN WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA** (1938) call #974.8w52

**PEN PICTURES OF EARLY WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA** edited by John W. Harpster (1938) call #R974.8 H23

**PENNSYLVANIA WOMEN IN HISTORY: OUR HIDDEN HERITAGE** Janice H. McElroy, ed. (1983) call #974.8 ou7

There are many other titles in addition to these. There are also pamphlet files which include historical information on many other local North Hills communities such as McCandless, Hampton, Shaler, Pine, Ross and Franklin Park. Additionally, there is **THE HISTORY OF FRANKLIN PARK BOROUGH** by Charles Soergel. By inquiring at the local township municipal buildings, you may be able to obtain or purchase local histories of the area.

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## **BEST SELLER**

The U.S. Government Printing office "New Books" list has the following book, which is one of their best sellers: "Where to Write for Vital Records: Births, Deaths, Marriages & Divorces", 1990, 31 pp. S/N 017-022-01109-3. \$1.75  
Address is: Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402-9325.

## INTERVIEWING OLDER FOLKS

by Ted Swift and Jennifer Bull

Genealogy has a sense of urgency about it. No one is getting any younger and before memories, documents, and photographs all fade away, we need to be able to "capture" them. "Every older person is a personal library burning" is one way to put this. That is why we start with ourselves, in genealogy, writing down our own memories, and then progress backward. The following hints should help you interview people and get what you need from them.

\*\* First of all, think of things that would be hard to get by other drier, more official means later on. You can get exact dates from county records offices later, but you need to get names, vague places, and approximate dates as soon as possible. Some of it might be incorrect, but even so, it will provide very valuable hunches later. \*\* Get the random family traditions. "Our ancestors came on the Mayflower" may have originally been "our family came on the third ship to arrive in New England after the Mayflower", "Three brothers came over from England" may have been "our immigrant ancestor had three sons". While the family oral traditions may be wildly inaccurate quantitatively, they have a grain of truth to them and may be qualitatively similar to the "true" story. After some reassurances, you might even get them talking about the family skeletons. I think the skeletons are the best part. Jog their memory by asking them about family traditions you've heard. They might say "Oh no, that's not how it went, Such-and-so is what really happened, and furthermore..." and out will come a priceless story. \*\* Get names of other old relatives. They may have died, but they may also have living descendants who have box after box of precious old records. At the very least, you will get to know new cousins. It's often as hard to trace DOWN a family tree as to trace UP it. I have valuable correspondences with distant cousins who I either traced down laboriously in city directories, or simply stumbled across. It would have been much easier to get a sketchy idea of these people right from the horse's mouth. \*\* Ask if people were named after prominent ancestors. My father didn't know how he came to have his given name (Ward). A few years after he had died, a cousin of his told me that their common grandmother had been trying to join the DAR and that my father had been named after some guy in the Revolution. As it turned out, my great grandmother wasn't on the DAR's books, but a previously unknown half-sister was, and looking through DAR records gave me many generations of help, including a Ward Swift in Sandwich, Mass. \*\* Ask if there was a family tradition of naming children after specific grandparents (as is traditional in

Germany, I believe). Ask about church affiliations, as this may help narrow down where people got married, etc. \*\* Use a tape recorder if possible and if your subject is comfortable with it. They may feel they have to be formal, that every word must be Meaningful, Profound, and Immortal. Assure them that it's just to free you from taking notes, and that you want to be informal and conversational. Make sure the microphone is switched on, that you have a blank tape, etc. I once spent a whole day interviewing a woman only to discover that, though the tape was running, the microphone wasn't enabled! Test it out at home first. \*\* Don't spend too much time planning your interview so that it's Just Right: As the commercial says, "just do it". I spent a year getting my notes together on one side of the family, only to discover that a wonderfully ancient relative had died only 6 months earlier. If you get to them soon, you can come back later when you've formed some new questions and (with luck) they've rattled loose additional memories. \*\* You may consider the efficacy of asking your questions again and again. If you asked an old relative a list of questions a year ago, ask them again now; the answers may well be different, and that will tip you off not only to areas of ambiguity but also to particular problems of memory.

\*\* For another approach to interviewing consider talking to two subjects that would have the same memories, i.e. sisters, husband and wife, etc. The arguments of the "facts" makes it very interesting and gives more clues to the real truth.

\*\* After having previously spoken to your subject about family stories and traditions and other "drier" facts (i.e. where such-and-such was born), try a different approach. Choose one ancestor, such as a paternal grandfather and for 15-20 minutes, talk (on tape) about what they remember about their grandfather or remembered hearing about him - what he looked like, how he acted, if he was sick often, how often they saw him, how he occupied himself. You can walk away with brief, but personal, insights into a man you may have spent hours researching. While you may not have gathered any more "facts" or pushed your tree back another generation, you have gained more in those 15-minute interviews than any census record ever would have revealed. Plus, having the double benefit of having a tape on which someday your descendants can listen to their great-grandmother describe their great, great, great-grandfather.

\*\* Don't tire your subject out. Several short interviews are better than one long one when your subject just starts to agree with you or says they "don't remember".

\*\* Be persistent but not pushy. People who don't want to talk about the past need to be reassured of your motives and need to get to know you over a period of time. I had a reluctant immigrant grandmother who did not want to tell me about the old country or their trip here. Seems that as a 16 year old girl, she didn't want to come to this country, but her family came anyway. She still isn't comfortable with that decision almost 70 years later, but at least now she'll talk about it!

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## NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

If you were wondering which genealogical societies to join, you would want to consider ones near your home so that you can attend informative meetings and get general help. You also need to belong to ones in your research locales, as these are where your ancestor's records will be uncovered. You may also want to consider the National Genealogical Society; 4527 Seventeenth St., North, Arlington, VA 22207-2399.

So for the annual dues of \$30, what do you get?

1. A quarterly journal, "National Genealogical Society Quarterly" with articles of genealogical interest. The recent quarterly included the following articles: - Finding River People on Western Waters. 17 pp. - Tracing Free People of Color in the Antebellum South: Methods, Sources, and Perspectives. 17 pp. - David German (1796-1867) and Family of Shelby County, Indiana. 20 pp. - From Marshfield, Massachusetts, to Pitt County, North Carolina. 1 p. Also included were 20 pages of book reviews, and the table of contents and index for the full year (as this was the last issue of the year.)
2. A bi-monthly (that is, six times a year!) newsletter, "NGS Newsletter" with news about the society, genealogy, etc. The issue at hand has a long article about copyrights, an update on what the library in Salt Lake is up to, etc. Also four pages of queries. (Free to members if less than thirty words.)
3. The Research Service. Back in 1988, this cost \$2.00 per request, plus \$5.00 per hour for research. The description at the top of the instruction sheet says, "The NGS Research Service volunteers will search the holdings of the NGS Library, which include Family Histories, Manuscript Collections, Bible Records, State and Local Histories and the NGS Members Ancestor Charts (MAC) files." They say requests are researched on a first-come, first-served basis, and usually require two to four months. More information about this service can be obtained by writing the address above.
4. Library Loan Service. This was just (1 January 1991) opened to all members. Before, one had to pay an extra premium to participate. Fees have also been changed. To obtain order forms with the new fees, send a SASE to NGS Library Loan Service 4527 17th St., N. Arlington, VA 22207-2399 To determine which books are available for loan, send \$15.00 (\$15.68 in VA) for the NGS Library Book List to NGS Library 4527 17th St. N. Arlington, VA 22207-2399 They really do have an extensive collection that they are willing to share by mail. (By the way, the New England Historical Genealogical Society also has a library loan service.)
5. Correspondence Course in Genealogy available. "Genealogy: A Basic Course" is designed both for beginners and for experienced researchers who wish to upgrade their knowledge and skills. Lessons cover use of the major groups of genealogical source records; extracting, documenting, interpreting, and evaluating genealogical evidence; and organizing and maintaining family records.
6. Computer Interest SIG which has its own newsletter. Sign up for the CIG/SIG separately when you become a member of NGS.
7. Cassette tape recordings of NGS programs at the National Archives are available for loan to members for \$3.00 each.
8. Publications, charts and forms for sale.
9. Members Ancestor Charts (The MAC file) made up of family group sheets helps you to contact others who are interested in your surnames.
10. And of course their library! You may visit the library and use their resources for a daily fee. Write to them for hours and directions if you find yourself in the Washington, DC area.

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## NEXT ISSUE OF THE NEWSLETTER

Your next issue of the North Hills Genealogists Newsletter will be printed at the end of AUGUST. We do not have a newsletter in July and December in order for your editors and publishers to enjoy a summer vacation or the winter holidays. Please look for us again at the end of August when we will have information on how to renew your membership for the 1991-1992 year. We hope you enjoy our efforts and welcome any comments or article submissions at any time. You can write us in care of Northland Library.

## AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

By Sue Budlong

Recently I responded to the ad in the Jan-Feb "Genealogical Helper" regarding the AMA's Deceased Physician Masterfile (1878-1969). I sent them a "test case," requesting a search for a doctor about whom I already had a good deal of information. As requested in the ad, all I sent them was first name, last name, time period, and location. (Just for grins, I added the middle initial and the fact that the doctor was listed in city directories as having office hours in his home.) I sent my request (and my \$15.00) on 26 March, and received the reply on 1 April. Here is what I received: A cover letter from Fred W. Hunter, senior research analyst, describing the enclosures and saying no other information had been found. He also suggested four places for further research, all of which would be excellent. (I've used two of them, plus a substitute for the third. The fourth was a local board of medicine, which was new information for me.) The enclosures were photocopies of two index cards. The first was typewritten and was a copy of his (very brief!) obituary as it appeared in JAMA (Journal of the American Medical Association). This was cross-referenced to the volume and page on which it appeared, and footnoted to explain certain obscure information in the text.

The second was handwritten and looks like a membership card. It lists the doctor's place and year of birth; his education, including high school; and his professional affiliations. Here I picked up two new pieces of information: that he was a member of the AMA, and that he was an examiner for a life insurance company. As I said, I already knew most of the information provided by the AMA. But it took me weeks to find his approximate date of death (by consulting consecutive city directories until he disappeared, then scrolling through five months of a daily newspaper to find his obituary), pin down the alumni department of his medical school, etc. If you don't have access to such sources, or if you're in a hurry to learn basic details about a physician who died within the dates indicated (1878-1969), it would probably be well worth your \$15.00 to write to the AMA! For those who haven't seen the ad, you should send the basic information I've described in the first paragraph, plus your check, to: AMA Library and Archives, Post Office Box 10623, Chicago, IL 60610, ATTN: Graham Hastings. Request information from the Deceased Physician Masterfile. The ad says this file contains information on more than 350,000 deceased U.S. physicians. "Database information usually includes date of birth, date of death, medical school attended, place of practice, hospital affiliation, and obituary. This file is incomplete from 1878 to 1905 but comprehensive from 1906-1969."

## POLISH ADDRESSES

The Polish State Archival Administration has many records which have not yet been microfilmed. You may write to the state archives headquarters in Warsaw to determine whether any state archive or local civil records office has the records you need. The address is: Naczelną Dyrekcją, Archiwów Państwowych, ul. Długa 6 skr. poczt. 1005, 00-950 Warszawa, Poland. Some vital records from the former Polish territories ceded to the Soviet Union after the Second World War, especially those of the ethnic Polish population, are included in the so-called Zabuzanski collection. The older records of this collection are at the Main Archive of Ancient Documents (Archiwum Głównie Akt Dawnych) in Warsaw: Archiwum Głównie Akt Dawnych, ul. Długa 7, 00-950 Warszawa, Poland. The more recent vital records in the Zabuzanski collection (those less than 110 years old) are held by the presidium of the National Workers Council (Dzielnicowa Rada Narodowa) in Warsaw: Urząd stanu cywilnego, Prezydium Dzielnicowej Rady Narodowej, Nowy Świat 18-20, Warszawa-Srodmiescie, Poland. Many records of the former German populace, especially Evangelical records, are scattered throughout Poland and East and West Germany in various church and state archives. The society of Eastern German Family Researchers has a "church-book information center" which may help you determine the present location of specific vital records: Arbeitsgemeinschaft Ostdeutscher Familienforscher e.V., Kirchenbuchauskunftsstelle, Sperlingstr. 11a, 4236 Hamminkeln 4, West Germany. Military records are in the Main Archive of Ancient Documents (Archiwum Głównie Akt Dawnych) in Warsaw.

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## MAIDEN NAMES By Don Wilson

The following article is quoted from the Illinois State Genealogical Society Newsletter - quoting the Effingham IL GS and originally the Minnesota GS: "Source of Maiden Name "Deeds: In the lower left hand corner of most deeds, you will find signatures of two to four witnesses. The first one is always from the husband's side. The next one is always from the wife's side. That is to protect her 1/3 dower right under the law. Nothing you ever use will give greater clues to maiden names than witnesses to old deeds. "Mortgages: In the 1800's and before, it was traditional when the daughter got married, as a part of her dowry, for the father to either cover the loan or carry the note for his son-in-law. If you know the husband's name but not the wife's maiden name, find out to whom they are making their mortgage payment. About 70% of the time, it will be her father."

## FREE BULLETIN NOW REQUIRES DUES

In a previous issue of the North Hills Genealogists Newsletter, we said you could get free issues of "Genealogy Bulletin" by the Dollarhide Systems, 203 W. Holly St., Bellingham, WA 98225. We have just received word that due to the increase cost of printing and mailing they are now having a Charter Membership drive for \$6.00 per year for this quarterly publication. If you send your \$6.00 in now, you will receive this years two remaining issues plus four issues next year. The current issue (No. 10) has the following articles: Find the Place... Then Find Your Ancestors; My Ancestors Were Worse Than Your Ancestors!; Getting The Most From Your Society; Using the Genealogical Event Queries; and 2000 queries submitted by 118 people.

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## WESTERN PA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

The Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society Membership Renewals are due now. You can become a member of this fine organization for \$20 for an individual and \$26 for a joint (2 members, 1 address). After July 31, these become \$25 and \$31 respectively. For these dues you receive a monthly newsletter and a quarterly magazine. The monthly meetings held at the Historical Society on Bigelow Blvd. are informative and a good opportunity to meet other genealogists. They also have "interest groups" that meet separately, such as the German group, and the New England group. The WPGS will move in a few years with the Historical Society to a seven-story building nearer downtown. Next time you go into town on the new highway system, just look to your right as you go over the Allegheny river on the Veterans bridge. You will see a red brick building with a lumber company sign painted on it that will be renovated and made into display areas, offices, meeting rooms and, of course, the wonderful library. We look forward to more news about this new, convenient facility.

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## BEST BOOK BUY

One of the best books for your bookshelf is "*Unpuzzling Your Past: A Basic Guide to Genealogy*" by Emily Anne Croom, 1989. This 184-page second edition is available from Betterway Publications, Inc., PO Box 219, Crozet, VA 22932 for \$9.95 (plus \$2.50 shipping). It has many forms that are ready to photocopy, including ones for each federal census year. The appendices have a glossary of terms, relationship chart, bibliography, selected libraries and archives in each state and for several countries, territorial and state census listing. Plus 18 chapters of step-by-step genealogical discussions!

## CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIETY

The Czechoslovak Genealogical Society (a branch of the Minnesota Genealogical Society) is the largest Czechoslovak genealogical group in North America. The society is for anyone with ancestry in this area including: Bohemian, Moravian, Silesian, Rusin, Hungarian, Slovakian, German, Ruthenian, or Jewish. Members receive a welcome packet of information, a quarterly newsletter (12 - 16 pages each), and access to the rental of video-taped workshops. They have quarterly meetings and research materials for sale. They have a library of books, maps, family and church histories, with donations always greatly appreciated. They are an international, not-for-profit, non-political, and non-sectarian, educational organization. Individual membership is \$10, family is \$15. For more information, write: Czechoslovak Genealogical Society, PO Box 16225, St. Paul, MN 55116.

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## MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE

If you have not received all your back issues of the North Hills Genealogists Newsletter, please give Lissa Powell a call (935-6961) or write to us in care of Northland library. This issue is our 8th and final production for our first publication year (1990 - 1991). The others are October, Nov/Dec, January, February, March, April, May. We do not have a newsletter in December or July. All have interesting tidbits of information to help you with your genealogy. We hope to keep producing the same kind of newsletter next year, but our expenses are increasing to about double what it has cost us this year. The Board is trying to decide the best way to break even: 1) Increasing dues to cover all costs of the newsletter, publicity, speakers and book donations to Northland; 2) A partial increase in dues and asking for donations at each meeting. Please let us know how you feel! We need to know how best to serve your needs! We also have decided to sell the periodicals donated to us by George and Gretta Johnson in order to buy a genealogical book that we all can use through the Northland Library. Please see Lissa Powell, if you have any favorites among the list printed in the February newsletter.

You may also have noticed that our meeting room at Northland seems to be getting "smaller". It's not your imagination; we are growing in numbers. The board is also looking into using the larger meeting room, but that means changing our night from the fourth Tuesday since the large room is already booked then. The third Tuesday is open starting September 17. Again we would like to hear from anyone with an opinion either way.

Next Board Meeting is Tuesday, July 16, 1991 at 7:30 p.m. in one of the meeting rooms at Northland Library.

## OUR SURNAME EXCHANGE LIST

Last month we started to hand out a prototype of the form for the Surname Exchange List (SEL). In this month's newsletter you will find the final format and a set of instructions for filling it out. Please feel free to copy the form as much as you like or ask an officer for more forms. One of the advantages to using this format is that in the future, we can more easily take our data and exchange it with other groups. Other advantages are that the Date Range gives one more flexibility and the Record Type gives the source of the information, thereby weighting its reliability. Please turn your forms in by our August 27th meeting. We will publish the entries in our newsletter, so the earlier you turn in, the sooner we can advertise your surnames for you! We will publish part of the list each month in our newsletter.

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMISSION** Here are some tips in using and submitting your ancestors to the Surname Exchange List. Since there is no limit to the number of entries you can submit, consider refining the information per the suggestions below.

**o Surname, Given.** The names are listed in alphabetical order by surname, then given name. Look for alternative spellings of a name, then compare the submitter's number to see if other entries from the same person may be for members of the same family.

**o Genealogical Event.** The "event" is a birth, marriage, death, or residence. The "b" (for birth) can be used for a baptism, christening, or any other reference to a person's birth. The "m" (for marriage) can be used for reference to a person's marriage, either implied or actual. The "d" (for death) can be used for death or burial records, or reference to a death from some other source. The "r" (for residence) can be used for any other event. For example, a deed record may not give any information about a person's age, marriage, or death, but simply indicates that on a certain date a person lived in a certain place.

**o Year and Range of Years.** The year of the event is critical information and should not be left blank. If you do not have any reference to the year ... guess! An imprecise year can be shown easily, because we provide you the means to show a range of years, using the plus or minus spaces to the right of the year. For example, if the event were a year of birth for a person shown in the 1800 census and the person was in the "26-44" age group, a year of birth would be about 1756 to 1774. The span of years can then be represented with "1765 plus or minus 10 years" on the submittal form.

**o Place of Event.** A place can be shown by starting with

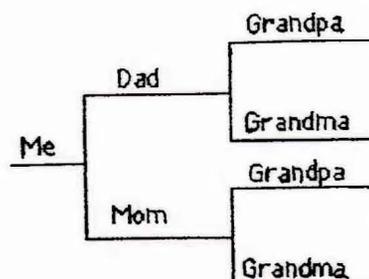
the country or state first, using standard two or three-letter codes. (For example, MA equals Massachusetts, ENG equals England, etc.) Next, follow the state or country with a smaller jurisdiction, either town, city, county, parish, district, or other named sub-division.

**o Type of Record.** This section can be very critical in understanding the source of the information. For example, you may have a birth reference for a person from a census, as well as a birth reference from an obituary. The "Type of Record" is not a repeat of the "Event", because genealogists can find reference to births on death certificates, and many other sources besides birth records.

**o Multiple entries for the same person.** More than one entry for a person helps identify a person more precisely. For example, you may submit several entries for the same person, i.e., one for a birth, one for a marriage, one for a residence, or one for a death. If a person lived in more than one state, and had a common name such as John Thompson, it will be more useful to a reader to see more information to compare with their own records.

**o Marriage links.** It is possible to indicate a spouse in the "Type of Record" field. Let's say you want to show a person's marriage year and place for one line. Follow that with another entry for the same person, same event, same year, but in the "Type of Record" space, indicate the name of the spouse.

# NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS



# SUBMITTAL FORM

## FREE Genealogical "Event Queries" Section

(Will be published in a future issue of the newsletter.)

Use this form to submit one-line type queries. See the sample entry below for reference. Note that you should start a Place of Event with the state or country. Use two-letter codes for states, and up to three letters for countries. For example, GER for Germany, ENG for England, and so on. You may submit as many entries as you wish, but there is space below for only ten (10) entries. For more than ten, make a copy of this form as many times as you wish.

Submitter's Name & Address:

Do Not Write in This Space, For Office Use Only

Group No.

Person No.

SURNAME, Given Name(s)		Sample Entry	(b, m, d or r)	Event	Year	(range)
						+ or -
JOHNSON, William Allen				r	1842	10
Place of Event	PA	Armstrong Co		Bible	Recd	

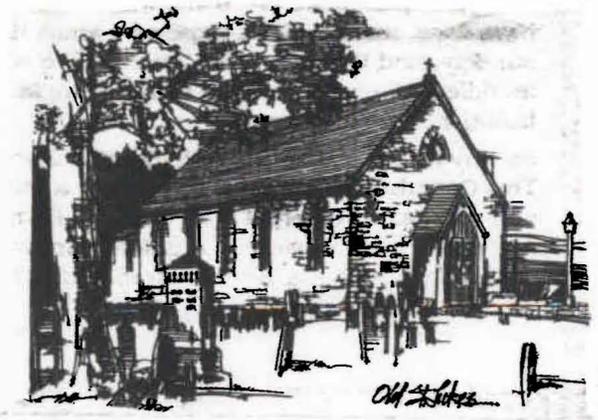
SURNAME, Given Name(s)				Event	Year	+ or -
Place of Event						
SURNAME, Given Name(s)				Event	Year	+ or -
Place of Event						
SURNAME, Given Name(s)				Event	Year	+ or -
Place of Event						
SURNAME, Given Name(s)				Event	Year	+ or -
Place of Event						
SURNAME, Given Name(s)				Event	Year	+ or -
Place of Event						
SURNAME, Given Name(s)				Event	Year	+ or -
Place of Event						
SURNAME, Given Name(s)				Event	Year	+ or -
Place of Event						
SURNAME, Given Name(s)				Event	Year	+ or -
Place of Event						
SURNAME, Given Name(s)				Event	Year	+ or -
Place of Event						

SEND COMPLETED FORM TO: North Hills Genealogists, Northland Public Library, 300 Cumberland Road, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15237

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## OLD ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Summertime means four time at Old St. Luke's Church, Woodville. Every Sunday from 1:30 to 4 p.m. in June through August, this frontier church and burial ground will be open for guided tours of this first Episcopal Church, and first pipe organ, west of the Allegheny Mountains. The church is located off Greentree Road, Scott Township, near the intersection with Rt. 50, and only one mile from Exit 12 on I-79. This pioneer church was founded in 1765 when Capt. David Steele established a British garrison beside Chartiers Creek. Early patrons included Major William Lea, who bequeathed the land, and Gen. John Neville, the local Inspector of Revenue under President George Washington. The burial ground was first used in 1795 and the grave of Jane Lea, first white child born and baptized in this region, and the graves of Revolutionary War soldiers and first settlers are included. In July, in cooperation with the nearby Neville House and the Oliver Miller Homestead, Old St. Luke's will observe Pioneer Days. Each site will welcome children, respectively on July 15, 17 and 19. On Sunday July 21, the 197th anniversary of the Whiskey Rebellion will be jointly observed at the three sites.



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### AUGUST MEETING

At our August 27 meeting at Northland Library, Judy Oliver will speak on "Court House Records". Judy is the author of "A Pennsylvania Chronicle: The History of Marshall Township", available in the Northland library or for purchase at the Marshall Township Municipal Building. We will meet at 7 pm, with our program beginning at 7:30 pm.

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NEXT MEETING: JULY 23, SHALER TWP LIBRARY, 1822 MT ROYAL BLVD, GLENSHAW AT 7 PM

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The North Hills Genealogists  
c/o Northland Public Library  
300 Cumberland Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15237-5455