



NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS NEWSLETTER



c/o Northland Public Library, 300 Cumberland Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237-5455

Volume 5 - Number 1 - August 1994

President: Virginia Skander
Vice President: Mildred Halenchk
Cor. Secretary: Gwen Glasbergen

Rec. Secretary: Steph Valentine
Treasurer: Keith Kerr
Subscription: \$12.00 per year
10 Issues from August to June

Publicity: Gwen Glasbergen
Connie Foley
Editor: Marcia Coleman

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi Everyone. Hope you're managing to stay comfortable in this heat. It's a real chore. The heat is one of the reasons we decided to hold off on the cemetery reading until fall, after it cools down and everyone is back from vacation. The Saturday for the reading will be announced in advance.

I want to thank the people who took the time to vote. The ballots were tallied at the last Board Meeting, and your officers for the coming year are: President, Virginia Skander; Vice President, Mildred Hilechko; Secretary, Steph Valentine; Treasurer, Keith Kerr. Congratulations to the other officers. We all look forward to serving NHG for the coming year.

There was a mistake in the last newsletter concerning the discount period for dues. The deadline for the discount was July 31, but because of the error, we are extending the discount period to August 31. Anyone who paid the full \$12.00 dues prior to this deadline will receive a \$2.00 refund. If you haven't yet paid your dues for the coming year, you might want to take advantage of the extended discount period.

The Board Meeting for September will be Wednesday, September 7, at 7:30 p.m. in meeting room #2. All are welcome to attend. If the library finds it necessary to move us to another room and you can't find us in room #2, look in the conference room, that's where we'll be. We usually manage to wrap up the meetings by 9:00 p.m. for any of you who might be on a tight schedule or early risers.

The speaker schedule for the remainder of the year is: August, Bill May on "The Civil War"; September, Mildred Hilechko on the "Family Search Program of the LDS"; October, Reed Powell on "Computers and Software for Genealogy". These are really great programs you don't want to miss. A lot of our new members expressed their interest in a program for beginners, and Lisa gave them an excellent program, as usual. And you didn't have to be a beginner to appreciate her great talk, it was great as a review for more experienced genealogists, there is so much to forget.

If you've ever been to the Latter-Day Saints Library in Greentree and wondered what their computer program was all about, coming to the September meeting is a must. Mildred Hilechko is an expert on using the Family Search Software which includes the Ancestral File, the IGI, the Social Security File, and the Military Index. She will show us how to use each program, what information the programs contain, and give everyone excellent handouts. We will follow this up with a field trip when the LDS Library opens again. Now it looks as though that will be November or later. And while we are on this subject, I would like to announce to our membership that the Northland Library is in the process of trying to secure a Grant to purchase the hardware needed to operate the Family Search Software program from the Northland Library. We are hoping they will be able to secure the Grant by the end of the year or early next year. At our July Board Meeting, it was agreed that our Club will supply the money necessary to rent the Family Search Software for the library. This money was already set aside for the

purchase of books. Since we have already expended \$400+ on books, we felt it would be to our advantage to help the library secure the software which will benefit our Club even more. This would mean no more trips to Greentree to secure the information we can find in our own back yard in these four programs. And Mildred Hilechko and Marion Hyle have graciously agreed to teach us how to use the computer and software when the program is put into place. They will also help familiarize library personnel with the use of the program so that they can in turn assist anyone coming in to use the system. You will be notified when we know anything further. It will be necessary for the Board to vote on this expenditure from year to year. We cannot commit NHG to anything permanent, but feel that future officers will feel as we do about the importance and value of having this program at Northland Library.

Last but not least, you were supplied with information about just one computer program for keeping track of your genealogy when Steph Valentine graciously filled in at our June meeting. Lisa Powell's husband, Reed Powell, who specializes in computers and software, will be at our October meeting to give you advice on the many different computers and software available to fulfill each individual's needs. No one program or computer fits everyone's needs, and if you are considering purchasing a computer or a software program or just not sure if you are suited to using a computer, or if you already have a computer and software package and would like to learn more about them, this meeting is a must for you. If you already have a computer and software package, please let Mildred Hilechko know what they are so that Reed can address them in his presentation. We hope you take advantage of all the excellent programs we have lined up for you in the coming months.

At the July Board Meeting, we also agreed to again sponsor a social get together for December. The field trip to the Passavant House in Zelienople with lunch at the Kaufmann House afterward last year was a great success and everyone had a great time, so we have decided to make it a yearly tradition. This year we are checking into the possibility of going to Old Economy, Harmony, or the Nationality Rooms at the University of Pittsburgh, with lunch after. The final plans and cost to participate will be announced later.

Welcome to our new members, James Henry Smith and Thomas F. Rahrig. Glad to have you with us. Hope to see everyone at our next meeting. Ginny

WHERE GENEALOGIST MEET

Wednesday, Sept. 7 at 7:30 pm - **NHG Board meeting** in meeting room #2 at Northland Library. All NHG members are always welcome at all Board meetings.

Thursday, Sept. 8 at 8:00 pm - **W.P.G.S. meeting** at the Historical Society Bldg., 4338 Bigelow Blvd., Oakland. Program: Call for program information.

Saturday, September 17 in Canfield Ohio from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm - **Heritage Quest Genealogy Road Show**. Details in the article "Heritage Quest Genealogy Road Show" on page 9.

Tuesday, Sept. 20 at 7:00 pm - **NHG regular meeting** at the Northland Library. Program: Mildred Hilechko on the "Family Search Program of the LDS."

Saturday & Sunday, Sept. 24, & Sept. 25 from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm - **Family Ancestry Fair** at the Delaware Valley College of Science & Agriculture Student Union Hall, Route 202, Doylestown, PA. Open to the public and free of charge. Includes: Speakers, Vendors and Exhibitors of Genealogy and History. For information contact: Bucks County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 1092, Doylestown, PA 18901 or call (215) 345-1397 or 345-0789.

October 12-15 in Richmond, VA - **Three Day Conference** hosted by the Federation of Genealogical Societies, P.O. Box 3385, Salt Lake City, UT 84110.

Tuesday, Oct. 20 at 7:00 pm - **NHG regular meeting** at the Northland Library. Program: Reed Powell on "Computers and Software for Genealogy."

GENEALOGY CLASSES SET

Community College of Allegheny County will offer two classes in genealogy this fall. Both teachers are members of both the North Hills Genealogists and Western PA Genealogical Society. Elissa Powell will teach on Sunday afternoons, starting September 18, from 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm at the CCAC North Campus on Perry Highway (Route 19). Nancy Singleton will be at Sewickley Academy on Tuesday evenings beginning, September 20, from 4:00 pm to 9:30 pm. Both courses are four weeks long. For more information please call CCAC at 369-3696.

QUERIES

Researching the surnames **REIS (RICE)**, **HORNUNG** and **NEUROTH** from Chambersburg, PA in Franklin Co.; **GREENWOOD**, Oswego NY, Tioga Co.; **VANOVER**, Bradford County PA near Oswego NY border; **RANDOLPH**, Bradford County PA & Tioga Co. in NY; **WHITBURN**, Scranton, PA, Lackawanna Co. Contact Jean Swick, 127 Longmount Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15214-1048.

Researching the surnames **FREEMAN**, Illinois/Sweden; **GRIFFIN**, Kentucky/Ireland; **CAMDEN**, Kentucky and **HOLBERG**, Sweden. Contact Pauline F. Goodwin, 505 Wimer Circle, Pittsburgh, PA 15237.

Researching the surname **HAUCK**, Jefferson Co. & Clearfield Co., PA and, Jefferson Co., PA. Contact Deborah MacIntyre, 313 Highland Pines Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15237.

Researching the surnames **BRADY**, Cambria & Westmoreland Cos., PA; **GRANEY**, Taylor Co., W.V & Huntington & Somerset Cos., PA; **O'MALLEY** from Allegheny Co., PA, Allegheny Co., MD & Grundy Co., Il; **RAHRIG**, Allegheny Co., MD & Franklin Co., OH. Contact: Thomas F. Rahrig, 1250 W. Braddock Rd, Cumberland, MD 21502-7511.

Seeking ancestors & descendants of Michael Anthony **MAYSCHIN** (1801-1882), married Eva Regina **LINK** (1817-1899). Children: Wendel (1838-1896); Josephine M. (1840-1928), married Egid **NEFF** in 1859; Catherine (1844-1940), married John **SCHAFFNER** and Mary (1852-1930). Please contact: Marcella Neff-Desmond, 151 North Road, Butler PA 16001.

Need any and all information on **ASPALD** family, Susan Asplad born in Butler County August 10, 1844. Please contact Dr. Dennis Pahl, 111 Court St., Penn Yan NY 14527

FREE QUERIES

Mr. Robert M. Doerr, editor of the Missouri State Genealogical Society Journal is looking for articles on Missouri which he can publish in the Journal. He can provide help on St. Louis research and will also publish your queries, *free of charge*, for Phelps Co. MO and other nearby counties. His address is Robert M. Doerr, 39 McFarland Drive, Rolla, Mo 65401-3828

BEGINNERS CORNER

Question: Are there any do's and don'ts concerning the cleaning of old gravestones?

Answer: Professional restorers sometimes use a mild bleach such as clorox, mixed one cup of clorox to one gal. of water, but it still tends to round the edge of the lettering where it meets the surface of the stone. Old gravestones cannot repeatedly bear up under such treatment without eventually eroding away. After using a bleach be sure and wash it off after a photo session so that it does not attack the calcium and start fizzing the stone away like Alka-seltzer.

Don't use Brillo or any kind of scouring pad which will round the surface structure of a stone. Use a fine grain Carborundum sandpaper wrapped around a square, flat-surfaced block of wood. It is important to rub the surface of a marble or limestone stone with a very flat object. Again this is to avoid, at all costs, rounding the sharp edges of a stone that are a primary characteristic of carving style used to identify the carvers of a stone. Removing the edges of the lettering makes it nearly impossible to tell who the stone carver was, which in turn makes it more difficult to determine where the stone came from, and therefore, where the family came from who purchased the stone (and after all, that is what you went there for, in the first place. Right?).

Don't use shaving cream or other chemical substances which may have all sorts of toxins in the form of preservatives, and salt-producing fizzies in them erasing the v-shape of the original letters and the hairline ornament the carver put in his work. Again you will get only the dates and some of the most primitive aspects of the stone when you get much more by identifying who the carver was and where the stone came from.

Every gravestone is different from every other in terms of the purity of the marble that was used, and its resistance to different kinds of pollution that occurs in different parts of the country. Treat each stone with a variety of techniques to get the best results. In addition to those techniques already mentioned, I use 1-part Pelican India Ink diluted with 5-10 parts water, in a spray bottle (this brand is acid-free, unlike Higgins and other brands), to spray a stone's background and crevices. It washes out with the first rain. Then I use a 4 in. wide, rigid, plastic or steel scrapper to gently push off lichens and other growing things. This usually leaves a black, dark brown or green, stain under the growth in the marble. Next I use the sandpaper and block to get a little marble dust worked

up on the surface of a stone. Then I push that around with my hand and rub it around into the dark-stained areas, being careful not to push it into the letter forms or iconography of the stone. After this, I blow the excess marble dust from out of the crannies and crevices and the stone is ready to be photographed. The letters will be dark and the surface will be light. Only stones that have no structural damage can respond to this or any other like treatment, and the 3-D aspects of the carver's chisel, if they are still available, will show up. If the stone's surface is clean of growth and has been thoroughly cleaned of foreign acids (bleach, etc.), and you want to see that stone again twenty years from now, if its surface is smooth, coat it with a layer of polyurethane. It will yellow only a little in five years and the protection the stone gets from acid rain more than offsets the breathing problem that stone masons talk about.

I also use powdered graphite to get very fine and obscured details. This is very expensive stuff, but will give me the name of the stone carver when it has all but been eroded away. Brush it over the faint lettering with a very soft, sable brush. Very gently, gradually scrape the surface of the stone with your 4 in. scraper until the black lettering shows up against the white marble. The results, photographically, are fantastic.

It is important to try and stay out of the troughs of the incised part of the stone. You can't really get down into the crevices without doing significant damage. I have watched modern-day stone carver/restorers make a mess out of things. If they can't do it, you sure can't do it. If you work just on the surface of the stone, the damage you might do by accident will be minimal, and you can get really great photos.

Carvers up until roughly 1840 used a 30 degree angle of their chisels to form their letters. Technical experiments at the time showed that less deep, 60-degree angles for cutting letters gave equally good results in readability and legibility. So, when do you go to get the best sunlight reflection on a stone? It depends on the age of the stone and the time of day and weather that happens to be in place when you're at the particular site. If you just found out about the place that your great aunt Cecelia's buried in after driving 500 miles, you're not about to sleep out overnight in the place just to get an AM photograph with great lighting. Be realistic. Use the techniques I have described; be gentle to the stone so that when you're the great aunt, your descendants won't think you were an amateur dingbat and they can follow what you did with a sense of appreciation for how smart and clever you were

in digging up all that stuff, and didn't leave a scarred mess behind you. Go slow, do a good careful job, and make a good photograph. Carefully done, each stone should take 10-40 min. and give great results.

The book, "A Graveyard Preservation Primer" marketed primarily through Association for Gravestone Studies (AGS) may be an introduction to the subject, but it really only deals with dated technology and does not adequately describe the variety of graveyard contexts which occur and the different types of difficulties that arise in archiving gravestone data. The list of "Don'ts" in the book however, provides a good set of guidelines to think about, but high quality photographs are an important contribution to American history. Time has become a distinct factor: whole cemeteries are being lost forever. This aspect of the problem has been in place for a considerable time and just simply copying inscriptions from the stones is not enough. Strangstad's book is very appropriate for New England cemeteries, but simply will not work at old settlement sites in New Mexico and Arizona where they routinely bulldoze entire old burial sites when they get too full of markers so that they can use the space again; or some Rocky Mountain sites in Colorado where the stones are simply 'rocks' (not nice 'fieldstones'), sometimes with lettering scratched into the surface, but which you can only get to--on foot--one month out of an entire year.

The above information: Internet - Al Divine, Visual Language Archivist, University of Wisconsin.

LIBRARY ACCESS BY MODEM

The Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana, one of the best genealogical libraries in the country, is available on-line. In order to access the On-line Public Access Catalog (OPEC) via modem, dial (219) 424-1330 with 1200 baud, 8 data bits, 1 stop bit, no parity and VT-100 emulation. You can search their card catalog of references in the Reynolds Genealogical Collection by subject, author or title.

OOOPS!

Should you find "DPS" or "Decessit Sine Prole" on your ancestors tombstone, you have a real problem, for that is Latin for "died without issue". From the Polk Genealogical Society, PO Box 10, Kathleen, FL 33840.

BOOK REVIEW

CANADA TEXT

by Jack Sanders on Internet

Two recently issued books will be of interest to Canadian researchers and those in the states with ancestors from Canada -- or ancestors who went to Canada.

Between them, "Yarmouth Nova Scotia Genealogies" and "Ontario People" catalogue many thousands of early residents. "Yarmouth Nova Scotia Genealogies" is 762 pages of genealogies, prepared by George S. Brown, that appeared in the Yarmouth Herald between 1896 and 1910. It is of particular interest to many North American researchers because most of the genealogies are of families that fled to Nova Scotia during the American Revolution. Many are descended from Mayflower colonists.

Many of us in researching Northeastern colonial roots have run across ancestors who "disappeared" during the Revolution or whose migration to Canada is well documented in land records (states often confiscated land that had been owned by the "Tories" who went north).

On the other hand, many Canadians may have run into dead-ends on ancestors who suddenly appeared in Nova Scotia in the 1770s. Either may be helped with this massive compilation, containing some 60,000 names within the 186 articles of family history that Brown had compiled. In many cases, roots are traced back to the Old World. What makes the book particularly valuable is the complete index -- more than 175 pages long -- compiled by Martha and William Reamy. "Yarmouth Nova Scotia Genealogies" is a 956-page, hardbound reference that would be essential to any serious researcher delving into the above-described families -- or into histories of Revolutionary War migrations.

It's available in better genealogical libraries, from genealogical societies, or directly from Genealogical Publishing Company, Dept. SM, 1001 North Calvert Street, Baltimore, Md., 21202-3897 (1-800-296-6687). Cost from the publisher is \$60 plus \$3 p&h.

Researchers north and south of the border may also be interested in "Ontario People," transcribed and annotated by Dr. E. Keith Fitzgerald. This book contains lists of some 4,000 people who settled in Ontario between 1796 and 1803. Many were former members of American Loyalist regiments or discharged British and German servicemen from the Revolution. They were given 200 acre grants, provided they swore loyalty to the King.

Most entries give the name, the rank if available, and where they were granted land.

The data is supplemented with a number of maps, plus author notes. There is a complete index.

The 250-page hardbound book is available from the same sources as above. Cost is \$25.

BOOK FOR SALE

Williams Brother's 1878 History of Ashtabula County, Ohio

The Ashtabula County Genealogical Society has prepared a reprint of the original volume (of some 370 pages, including illustrations) containing a complete history of Ashtabula County, and each of its townships and villages. It contains material on all phases of the county's history and includes a complete roster of all Ashtabula County men in the Civil War and War of 1812.

The Society has prepared a comprehensive index (contains 19,000 names) which is bound with the reproduction and will prove to be a most helpful tool in your research.

The book costs \$50.00 (plus \$4.50 shipping per book). Mail your check to: Ashtabula County Genealogical Society, Inc. O.G.S. #83, Henderson Library, 54 E. Jefferson St., Jefferson OH 44047.

NHG NEWSLETTER UPDATE

Mildred Halenchko is working on the index for the 1993-1994 NHG Newsletters. When the index is ready this fall Elissa Powell will be available to bind your newsletters and indexes together.

If you are not joining NHG this year and would like the index for the 1993-1994 issues, please send a SASE to: Elissa Powell, 720 Highpoint Drive, Wexford, PA 15090-7571 and she will send you your index.

There are a few 1992-1993 bound NHG Newsletters with the index that are still available. Elissa Powell is selling them for \$6.00. Some of our newer members might like having the Newsletters from the previous year.

WRITING YOUR OWN LIFE STORY DOESN'T TAKE AUTHOR'S GENIUS

By Woodene Merriman, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
Sunday, July 4, 1993

If you've been thinking about writing your memoirs - something to leave for the grandchildren, perhaps - Stanley Weintraub has two suggestions on how to get started.

No. 1. Write a letter. "Write somebody a letter dealing with one incident. Follow it with another letter. Write letters to different people, if you like. You can tell them different things."

No. 2. Take a mental walk around your old neighborhood. Draw a diagram of your street and the house where you lived.

"Draw a floor plan of the house, and take somebody on a tour. Remember the sights and the smells. Where did people shop? Was it called Uptown or Downtown? What were the streets like? Were there a lot of cars? Where was your place of worship? Did you like it?"

"As you draw, or write a letter, or both, your memory will be triggered," Weintraub says. "One memory will lead to another, and you're on your way. "Don't take time to organize. You can do that later."

Weintraub, the Evan Pugh professor of arts and humanities at Penn State University, is a cultural historian and biographer. He has written and edited more than 40 books. This fall Dutton will publish his biography of Disraeli. Now he's working on a book about the summer of '45.

Through seminars given by the university, Weintraub helps others get started writing their own biographies.

"Think of your potential audience," he urges would-be writers. Tell your grandchildren about life in a time when heavy traffic wasn't a problem, when shopping was very different.

When you write about your family, describe the people. What were they like, how tall were they, how much did they weigh?

"Memories, of course, can play tricks," Weintraub says. "What you remember is the way you think it was." You

may want to check with old photographs and other memorabilia, or the memories of friends. Check old newspapers often available on microfilm at your local library.

Old photos and your drawings make good illustrations for Weintraub does not advocate using a tape recorder for your personal history. "You're only talking to yourself, and you run out of incentive." Use a tape recorder only if you're interviewing someone else.

Computer programs on writing your life story aren't necessary, either. "Just think of the questions somebody else would ask if they were interviewing you."

After writing a series of letters and drawing diagrams of the houses and streets where you lived. You can send them or save them. Maybe an 8-year-old grandchild isn't ready for them yet, or, you might want to photocopy everything you've written so you'll have a set for different people.

Maybe you think nothing important has happened in your life, that you don't have a story to tell.

Weintraub disagrees. "Think of the value we place now on the letters sent home by Civil War soldiers. This is social history."

Besides, "you're the only one who is the custodian of your memory. When it's lost, it's lost."

WE NEED YOUR GENEALOGY SOFTWARE INFORMATION

Please send information to Mildred Halechko on what type of software program you are using for your genealogy database and the type of computer you are running the software on. She will comprise a list which will be helpful to the membership. If someone is considering purchasing a program they may wish to talk with someone that is familiar with the program.

When Reed Powell speaks in October on Genealogy software programs, he can also use this list to determine which programs would interest our current users. Please give Mildred this information as soon as possible so she can have it ready for Reed's use. Send to: Mildred Halechko, 2919 Albine Drive, Glenshaw, PA 15116.

PRESENT MEETS PAST IN LANDS MUSEUM

By Len Barcoucky, Post-Gazette Staff Writer
October 31, 1993

Step inside the log house at the Depreciation Lands Museum, and the lingering smell of wood smoke can transport you back to the frontier era of Daniel Boone and Andrew Jackson.

No more than 100 yards away, trucks and cars rumble north up Route 8 toward the Pennsylvania Turnpike entrances. Trees and sloping topography, however, screen most of the modern sights and sounds, creating almost two acres of 19th century anachronisms.

The five-member Hampton Historical Commission oversees the museum's four buildings, graveyard and small gardens. They are assisted by 65 or 70 members of the Depreciation Lands Museum Association.

The museum opened in 1973. Commission Chairman, Lib Hunter, a transplanted Mississippian who has lived in Hampton since 1969, often serves as a guide. One of her tours can take up to two hours, depending on how interested visitors seem and how many questions they ask, she said.

The Depreciation Lands were composed of portions of modern Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler and Westmoreland counties, she explained. The tract was "purchased" from the Iroquois after the American Revolution for resale to veterans. The soldiers had been paid in Continental "script", an inflated paper currency that could be used for land purchases. Think of it as the nation's first G.I. Bill.

The Indians who hunted on the Depreciation Lands, however, didn't accept the idea that their chiefs could sell it, and frontier warfare kept most of the area uninhabited until after 1794.

In that year, Anthony Wayne decisively defeated them at the Battle of Fallen Timbers, near present-day Toledo, Ohio. He had been the third general sent out by George Washington to deal with the Indians, Hunter said.

The main building is the former Covenanter Reformed Presbyterian Church, a brick-and-stone structure built between 1837 and 1839. Display cases in the former church contain both permanent and changing exhibitions.

Nearby is a graveyard full of Civil War veterans, their parents, wives and children. There are a hundred stories in the cemetery, too many of them sad: Johnnie W. LAMBIE, age 2 years, 11 months, 19 days, died Sept. 3, 1873. He was followed closely by his father, William, on October 11, age 35. Among those buried in the graveyard at the museum is Robert C. GLASGOW, who died at 23 in 1864. Glasgow was a member of the Pennsylvania Light Artillery.

In an adjoining barn is an original 20-foot Conestoga wagon. Built in 1834, in Newtown, Bucks County, the prairie schooner fills the barn and the imagination of visitors.

"Silhouettes of History" line the walls of the museum annex. They are painted wooden figures, most one-half to two-thirds life size, that illustrate the story of the land on which visitors are standing.

The fourth major building is the James ARMSTRONG log house, built in Hampton in 1803 and moved to the museum grounds in 1973. It's a house rather than a cabin, because the logs used to build it were planed on at least one side, Hunter said. Around it are traditional herb and dye gardens.

While the Depreciation Lands site is shielded from most 20th-century noises, the sounds of modern construction soon will be heard.

Money has been raised to re-create a one-room school house, and construction is scheduled to get under way as early as next month.

The Depreciation Lands Museum is located west of Route 8 at 4743 S. Pioneer Road, Hampton. It is open from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Sundays or by appointment for groups. Call 486-2187 or 486-0563. Admission is \$1 for adults and 50 cents for children. Museum memberships are \$10 per person or \$20 per family.

LAND CLAIMS NOT ALWAYS CRYSTAL CLEAR

by Stacy Niedecker
North Hills News Record 08-06-94

It was difficult for the first North Hills settlers to stake their claims on the land. They had to travel from more established areas to try and make a life on the harsh

frontier. Things were dangerous.

And once they were here....well, it wasn't always clear exactly who owned the land on which they were trying to settle.

The Depression Lands, intended for sale to Revolutionary War soldiers in lieu of salary the new nation couldn't afford, had been bought mostly by speculators.

And settlers had a number of ways to stake their claim, according to the 1975 centennial history of Avalon.

So some settlers cleared land and built their cabins. Then they applied to the land office. Unfortunately, during the time these people settled the land, it might have been sold to someone else in Philadelphia.

Take the case of unfortunate John **CHENEY**, who settled along Loweries Run in Emsworth in 1790. He cut his initials into the bark of a tree and made improvements; he even built a mill. But the legal owner, John **WILKINS**, soon forced Cheney to vacate.

And things weren't always much better for the prominent. A French and Indian War soldier who was given Neville Island for his service in the war sold his right to it to Charles **SIMMS**, who then sold part of it to Col. John **NEVILLE**.

The state, however gave the land to a Revolutionary War general. It finally turned out that Simms kept his land, the island gained the name of Neville and the Revolutionary War general received land in Erie.

FREE NJ INTERNET

New Jersey Bell and Bellcore are offering a 2-year experiment in allowing free access to Internet in 36 public libraries in New Jersey. You may tap into portions of Internet by calling the project's dial-up at 201-989-5999.

Through the Delphi BBS you can get 5 hour free time for exploring Internet by calling by modem 1-800-365-4635. After you connect, press return and at the password prompt, type in MCU311. The above information is from:the Immigrant Genealogical Society,Newsletter, PO Box 7369, Burbank, CA 91510-7369. It was printed in the April/May, 1994 issue of *The Family Tree*.

THE SURNAMES OF PITTSBURGH GRANT STREET AND COLONEL JAMES GRANT

by Hax McCullough

from The Quarterly Newsletter of the Historical Society
of Western Pennsylvania - July 1994 - Vol. 3 No. 2

James **GRANT**, born in Scotland in 1720, was nicknamed Jamie. Trained as a soldier, he lived for action, conflict, and encounter. A gallant, devoted, and courageous leader, he was often impetuous, rash, and defiant. Friends with royalty and the fashionable London crowd, Grant enjoyed good company and drink. It was said that "Grant's appetite for glory was exceeded only by his appetite for food."

Disobeying orders, Grant led an attack on Fort Duquesne on September 14, 1758. His troop was defeated, and he was captured and humiliated by the French. He was made Governor of eastern Florida and lived lavishly in St. Augustine. A member of the British Parliament, Grant said in 1776 that "the Americans would never dare face an English army...." He fought against the Americans in the Revolutionary War, in 1796 was made a British general, and later commanded successful ventures to the West Indies.

Grant died in 1806 at age 86, fat and full of honors. He is buried in a marble coffin atop a Highland bluff, having threatened to haunt the district if buried in a grave.

Grant Street extends from Liberty in downtown Pittsburgh to Fort Pitt Boulevard, forming the long side of the Golden Triangle. Work began in 1912 to remove Grant's Hill, facetiously known as the "hump" and the site of Major Grant's defeat in 1758.

PHONE DISC USA

Northland Library has Phone Disc USA which is a two volume set, East & West, of names and addresses taken from mailing lists and other sources. You may be able to find a relative that moved away some years ago and did not send a forwarding address. You may also be able to find relatives that you did not know you even had.

Ask for the two CD's at the reference desk. They will show you how to use them in their computer as they are for library use only.

WANTED PHOTOS OF CONFEDERATES

The US Army Military History Institute needs copies of your old Confederate Army veterans' pictures (preferably in uniform). At present, they have only 500 pictures of Confederate veterans below the rank of General out of a total of 80,000 soldiers. Pictures should have name, rank, company and regiment. The US Army Military Institute makes copies of these pictures and when someone writes for a copy, they have them on file. It is a good way to preserve history.

Write to submit photographs or to request copies: Department of the Army, US Army Military History Institute, Carlisle Barracks, Carlisle, PA 17013-5008.

HERITAGE QUEST GENEALOGY ROAD SHOW

On Saturday, September 17, the Heritage Quest Genealogy Road Show will be at the Community Building, 330 Oak St. Canfield, Ohio from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm. Leland K. Meitzler, editor of *Heritage Quest Magazine*, will be the speaker. He will present information on military records, census, tax lists, land records, passenger lists, naturalization papers, newspapers, funeral home records, business and employment records, Social Security Administration videotaping interviews. There will be a large supply of genealogy oriented computer programs, supplies and books available. Registration will be at 8:30 am. Coffee, tea and juice will be available during registration. Bring your own lunch. There will be door prizes. The registration fee is \$32.00 and includes the program, a one year subscription to the *Heritage Quest Magazine* (a \$28.00 value) and three free queries in the magazine. This a real bargain. For more information contact: Seminar Flyer c/o Ruth F. Welch, 650 Ohltown Road, Austintown, Ohio 44515.

You know that you're an ADDICTED GENEALOGIST if you store your clothes under the bed and your closet is carefully stacked with notebooks and journals or when you hyperventilate at the sight of an old cemetery.

OHIO DEATH AND BIRTH RECORDS

from The Highpoint Newsletter Ohio Genealogical Society - Nov. 1993, Vol. 24, No 10

OHIO DEATH RECORDS:

From December 1908 thru December 1936, the death records are located at the Ohio Historical Society, Archives; 1985 Velma Ave, Columbus, OH 43211. Certified copy is \$7.00; uncertified copy is \$3.00. Send check or money order made out to: Ohio Historical Society and mail to above address.

From January 1937 to present, death records are located in the county of origin, and also at the Ohio Dept. of Health in Columbus. Cost is \$7.00 certified and \$1.10 for uncertified. Make check or money order out to: Treasurer, State of Ohio - and mail to Bureau of Vital Statistics, Ohio Dept. of Health, P.O. Box 15098, Columbus, OH 43215-0098.

OHIO BIRTH RECORDS:

From December 1908 to present, the birth records are located in the county of origin and also at the Ohio Dept. of Health in Columbus, Ohio. The cost for birth records is the same as for death records from the Ohio Dept. of Health; as is the address. Ohio Historical Society does NOT house birth records.

Note: This information was obtained 2 November 1993 by the Editor of the Highpoint, name not given, as a result of long distance phone calls to the above locations. Ohio Historical Society, 614-297-2300; Dept. of Health, 614-466-2531.

NATURALIZATION RECORDS

From Internet By Daemon
July 7, 1993

You are almost certain to find a pre-1906 record in a county courthouse somewhere. Most of those I have tried have a card index, but beware, my grandfather's was not in the card index, but was in the actual books.

You will want to look both for the "declaration of intent" and for the actual naturalization record. I have done a fair amount of this, but have never seen one that provided more than the country of origin (I think the post-1906 records provide much more information).

AIDS FOR SLOVAK GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

from The Highpoint Newsletter Ohio Genealogical Society - Nov. 1993, Vol. 24, No 10

Harry Liggett, 544 N. Firestone Blvd., Akron, OH 44301-2254 offers to send a copy of his 4 page informational on "Aids for Slovak Genealogical Research". Send a large SASE and 1 extra .29 postage stamp for a copy. He lists the organizations helpful to researchers, professional genealogists, translator, books, ship photographs, maps, passenger lists, naturalization records, military records, research in Czechoslovakia and LDS and IGI.

In the North Hills Genealogist, August 1993, Harry has

an article giving the addresses for research as follows: Embassy of the Slovak Republic, 3900 Linnean Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20008 for applications for research; and Minister of the Slovak Republic, odbor archivnictva, Krizkova 7, 811 04 Bratislava, Czechoslovakia. After your research is completed, they will invoice you and when the invoice is paid, you will receive your information.

BUTLER: A PICTORIAL HISTORY

The second edition of butler: A pictorial History by Jean Purvis and Steve Posar is not available. The pre-publication price is \$29.95 plus \$4.00 shipping. For more information write to: Butler County Historical Society, P.O. Box 414, Butler, PA 16003-0414.

Sept. 20 - MILDRED HILECHKO - FAMILY SEARCH, LDS

**NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS
c/o Northland Public Library
300 Cumberland Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15237-5455**

**FIRST
CLASS**