



# NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS NEWSLETTER



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

Volume 5 Number -8- Apr. 1995

**President:** Virginia Skander  
**Vice President:** Mildred Halechko  
**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

First I want to thank our members who put on last month's program. They were all great, and many members came up to me after the meeting to tell me how much they enjoyed the three topic format and expressed their desire to have more such meetings in the future. We would love to do more programs like this, and anyone interested in presenting a short program they feel the membership would enjoy, please let us know. We would be more than glad to arrange for another multiple presentation.

Also, if anyone knows of a graveyard which hasn't been read, or one that has been read but is still active and hasn't been read for a long time, please let us know about it so that we can consider it for a future project.

We are always looking for new ideas to assist our members with their research. If you have any suggestions, please feel free to express them to any of the officers or feel free to come to the Board Meetings which are held each month. We love to see members attend them as well as our general meetings.

We are also looking for volunteers to assist with the Newsletter. Due to illness, the McVays will be unable to continue the wonderful job they have been doing for us on the Newsletter Staff, and we need a volunteer to fill in for the time they will be unavailable. Volunteering doesn't mean you're locked into a position for life, and it doesn't mean you and you alone have to do that job. If for some reason you have a problem with fulfilling a duty, there is

always someone there to assist you in getting it done or taking over for you. Our volunteers are greatly appreciated, and we all work together to provide our members with a club they can enjoy and be proud of. Wouldn't you like to play a more active part?

We're looking forward to T.J. Galbraith's always great presentation in May on Scottish Roots. T.J. is a member of NHG, and we appreciate her volunteering to do this for the club. June will be Mary Wohleber who is always a big draw. This time she will be talking about "Gathering the fragments before they are lost". How well I can relate to this subject. I'm in the process of trying to preserve three 100+ year old charcoal portraits of my great great grandparents I found stuck away in my Mother's cupboard which are deteriorating terribly. As each day passes, more and more documents and other materials are slowly disintegrating, in our own cupboards as well as the government's. So much to do and so little time to do it. Good luck to us all.

The next Board Meeting will be Monday, April 24 at 7:30 p.m. in the small conference room. All are welcome.

## FIELD TRIP

On April 29, 1995 we will be going to the Western Reserve Library in Cleveland. The all day tour will begin between 9:00 and 9:30 a.m. Parking is expensive so we will have carpools. You can brown bag your lunch or buy it at the library. Sign up at the meeting or call Rosemary Miller at 364-6686.

**President: Virginia Skander**  
**Vice President: Mildred Halechko**  
**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

First I want to thank our members who put on last month's program. They were all great, and many members came up to me after the meeting to tell me how much they enjoyed the three topic format and expressed their desire to have more such meetings in the future. We would love to do more programs like this, and anyone interested in presenting a short program they feel the membership would enjoy, please let us know. We would be more than glad to arrange for another multiple presentation.

Also, if anyone knows of a graveyard which hasn't been read, or one that has been read but is still active and hasn't been read for a long time, please let us know about it so that we can consider it for a future project.

We are always looking for new ideas to assist our members with their research. If you have any suggestions, please feel free to express them to any of the officers or feel free to come to the Board Meetings which are held each month. We love to see members attend them as well as our general meetings.

We are also looking for volunteers to assist with the Newsletter. Due to illness, the McVays will be unable to continue the wonderful job they have been doing for us on the Newsletter Staff, and we need a volunteer to fill in for the time they will be unavailable. Volunteering doesn't mean you're locked into a position for life, and it doesn't mean you and you alone have to do that job. If for some reason you have a problem with fulfilling a duty, there is

always someone there to assist you in getting it done or taking over for you. Our volunteers are greatly appreciated, and we all work together to provide our members with a club they can enjoy and be proud of. Wouldn't you like to play a more active part?

We're looking forward to T.J. Galbraith's always great presentation in May on Scottish Roots. T.J. is a member of NHG, and we appreciate her volunteering to do this for the club. June will be Mary Wohleber who is always a big draw. This time she will be talking about "Gathering the fragments before they are lost". How well I can relate to this subject. I'm in the process of trying to preserve three 100+ year old charcoal portraits of my great great grandparents I found stuck away in my Mother's cupboard which are deteriorating terribly. As each day passes, more and more documents and other materials are slowly disintegrating, in our own cupboards as well as the government's. So much to do and so little time to do it. Good luck to us all.

The next Board Meeting will be Monday, April 24 at 7:30 p.m. in the small conference room. All are welcome.

## FIELD TRIP

On April 29, 1995 we will be going to the Western Reserve Library in Cleveland. The all day tour will begin between 9:00 and 9:30 a.m. Parking is expensive so we will have carpools. You can brown bag your lunch or buy it at the library. Sign up at the meeting or call Rosemary Miller at 364-6686.

I want to welcome our new members: **Denise Bettermann, Darlene Phillips, Jennifer M. Reissaus, Gwen D. & Keith R. Larner, Diane L. Clawson and Ruth I. McCartan.** Welcome aboard and happy hunting. Hope to see all of you at the upcoming meetings.

Anyone running for office should submit a small blurb about themselves for the Newsletter to be run next month. Please submit them to Marcia Coleman before the April 24 Board Meeting. This is the deadline for the next Newsletter. A vote will be taken for new officers in June. A ballot will be included in the Newsletter. We urge everyone to vote. The results will be announced in July, with new officers taking over in August. Anyone wishing to run for office should let Lisa or Rosemary know. We would like to see many more people participate in this process. Participating in running this club is very rewarding, and I wish more people could experience the satisfaction I have felt during my two years as your President. It's a great club with a lot of great members resulting in a great experience for anyone involved in its operation. I hope all of you are as satisfied with the great work our officers and volunteers have done as I am. Thanks to all. Ginny

## WHERE GENEALOGIST MEET

Friday and Saturday, April 21 & 22 - **Ohio Genealogy Society Annual Conference** in Toledo, Ohio. There will be Scottish, English, Irish, Hungarian and Native American Research; Land and Court Records; Historic Preservation; National Archives; Heritage Corridor; Document Conservation Local History Computers and much more. Call Elissa Powell at 935-6961 or write OGS, P.O. Box 2625, Mansfield, Ohio 44906.

Monday, Apr. 24 at 7:30 p.m. - **NHG Board meeting** at Northland Library. All NHG members are always welcome at all Board Meetings. This is the May Board meeting and it is being held early because the Library will be closed the last two weeks in May.

Saturday, April 29 between 9:00 and 9:30 a.m. - **Tour of Western Reserve Library.** Carpools are being formed, Brown bag or buy lunch. For more information call Rosemary Miller at 364-6686.

Tuesday, May 9 at 7:00 p.m. - **NHG regular meeting** at the Northland Library. Program: T. J. Galbraith will be speaking on "Scottish Research." Important note: The

**May meeting is one week early** due to the closing of the Library later in the month.

Thursday, May 11, at 8:00p.m. - **W.P.G.S. meeting** at the Carnegie Library. Note the change in the meeting place, also please call for meeting details. The books belonging to W.P.G.S. have been moved to the Carnegie Library from the Historical Society.

Tuesday, June 20 at 7:00 p.m. - **NHG regular meeting** at the Northland Library. Program: Mary Wohleber speaking on "Gathering Fragments Before They Are Lost."

## WPGS GENEALOGY CLASSES

To be held at the Carnegie Library Building, 4400 Forbes Ave., Oakland. All classes are on Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Fee: \$40.00 for term; \$8.00 per session.

April 22: Jay Miller: "Military & Pension Records"

April 29: Helen Harriss & Eden Harriss: "Wills, Deeds, & Courthouse Material"

May 6: Helen Harriss: "Church & Cemetery"  
Eden Harriss: "Archival Preservation"

May 18: Lesle Dunn: "Passenger Lists, Naturalization & Vital Records."

Class size limited. Pre-reservation by check to WPGS Education Committee. Send to PO Box 99518, Pgh. PA 15233-4218. For Information: (412) 361-2698.

## QUERIES

Researching the surnames: Peter **FEY** born approx. 1801 in France, arrived in New York July 3, 1828 with wife and son. Lived in Indiana Twp. area. George **STALEY** b. ?, died in Indiana Twp. June 1850, wife's name was Brigetta, Rebecca, Peggy. Rudolph **BOSSERT**, d. Indiana Twp. March 1830. Please contact Joyce A. Purdue, 4107 St. Thomas Dr., Gibsonia, PA 15044.

Looking for some much needed information. In the 1880 census, my 3rd Great Grandfather, David **McINTYRE** was living in West Deer Twp. with his wife, Mary and

grandson Andrew. He was about 75 years old at that time. We are hoping to find someone who could tell us where they are buried and anything else they know about them. David's son John is my 2nd Great Grandfather and he settle in Irwin. They came over together from Scotland in 1849 and then they went different directions. I have called some cemeteries up that way to no avail. Please respond to Norman McIntyre, Box 343 A RD #2, Saltsburg, PA 15681, phone number (412) 327-7064.

I am looking for the descendants of Samuel ENGLISH/Elizabeth McLANE and Christopher GROETZINGER (Trinity Lutheran Church). My roots are in the North Hills and I am willing to exchange information. Please contact Peg Duffy, 14 south Spring Rd., Westerville, OH 43081-2445, (614) 890-2955.

## VIRGINIA-WEST VIRGINIA QUERIES

*The Highpoint*, Vol. 26, No. 2, Feb. 1995

All queries free for West Virginia or Virginia; as many as you like; as often as you like. No more than 50 words; Name and address may be in addition to your query. Do not do any abbreviations; print or type your query. Back issues are available for a price. Write Bette B. Topp, 1304 W. Cliffwood Ct., Spokane, WA 99218-2917.

## BEGINNERS CORNER

The following questions pertain to the Privacy Act and the Freedom of Information Act.

**Question:** What are the differences between the Privacy and Freedom of Information Acts?

**Answer:** The federal government has files on almost every US citizen. The Privacy Act prevents release of information that would invade an individual's privacy. For instance, a living person's Social Security number (SSN) or type of discharge (honorable or dishonorable) from the military cannot be released. The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) directs that all information from the files of the federal government be released to anyone who asks for it. Exceptions are made under the Privacy Act to protect our national defense or some investigative information for law enforcement agencies

**Question:** Can I get information on someone else from the federal government?

**Answer:** Yes, if you make the request to the appropriate federal agency under the Freedom of Information Act.

**Question:** How long does it take and what does it cost to get information under the FOIA?

**Answer:** The agency from which you request information must acknowledge your request within 10 working days. In reality, few agencies comply with this provision. Expect to wait weeks or months to receive information. Exceptional cases may take years. Some agencies charge for copying costs.

**Question:** What information may I receive if a person is deceased?

**Answer:** In most cases, upon death, the Privacy Act no longer applies. The Social Security Administration will release a deceased persons date of birth, date of death, SSN, and place of death. The Department of Veterans Affairs also releases date of death, service number, SSN and date of birth.

**Question:** Do the Privacy and Freedom of Information Acts apply to the states, private businesses and individuals?

**Answer:** No. These laws apply only to federal executive agencies - not to federal courts or Congress. Many states have their own privacy and "open records" laws. It is not against the law for a business, military reunion group, veterans association or an individual to release someone's address, SSN, or any other identifying information.

**Question:** With all the restrictions and bureaucracy, aren't there better ways to get information?

**Answer:** Numerous commercial databases list addresses, telephone numbers, SSNs and dates of birth. But often, you must make use of the FOIA to obtain some identifying information that will assist you in locating an individual.

For additional information on acquiring information from the federal government, consult *How to Locate Anyone Who Is Or Has Been In the Military: Armed Forces Directory*. for a free brochure and information on databases write to the nationwide Locator, PO Box 39903, San Antonio TX 78218.

The above information was printed in *Reunions*, Volume 5, Number 2, Winter 1995.

## BOOK REVIEWS

### PENNSYLVANIA BIRTHS, PHILADELPHIA CO., 1644-1765

Review by Bob Blair on Internet, 06-27-94

This is Humphrey's fifth volume in a series compiled to facilitate access to early, mostly unpublished church records for eastern Pennsylvania. Settlement in the upper Delaware Bay near the present city of Philadelphia commenced about 1640, about 40 years prior to William Penn's creation of that city and county; thus giving Philadelphia some of Pennsylvania's oldest records.

Philadelphia was the principal port of immigration into the American Colonies in the 18th Century. Thus, the progenitors of many early American families first set foot on American soil in this Pennsylvania capital and records for many of those immigrant families can be found in this city's and county's church registers. In fact some entries in Philadelphia's church registers specifically note the infant was "born at sea" or the parents were "newcomers." Given Philadelphia's port status, undoubtedly many families had children baptized in Philadelphia prior to relocating to other Pennsylvania counties or neighboring colonies.

The early church registers for Philadelphia show that in less than 100 years this city had become rich in ethnic diversity. Included among its early residents were immigrants from Sweden, England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, Germany, Switzerland, and Holland. Evidence for this last year of this work shows that if English was the first language for this city, German was its second because 59 percent of the total births recorded in 1765 were found in German church registers.

The more than 17,000 recorded births in this work are arranged alphabetically by surname thereby facilitating easy reader access. 567 pp., 6x9 inches, acid free paper, hard cover, case bound, \$42, includes postage.

This book may be purchased by mail from Blair's Book Service, Rt. 2, Box 186-A, Woodstock, VA 22664,

## GOOD NEWS

Bill McVay is out of the hospital and is at home recuperating from his recent surgery. Bill's address is 308 Tadmar Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15237.

## OLD ALLEGHENY ARCHIVES

S. Greene Drucker, President proudly announces the publication of the *Old Allegheny Review*. OAR will appear three times a year beginning with the premier issue on June 1, 1995. Each issue is at least 64 pages in length printed on archival stock.

OAR contains rare and entertaining materials including: popular Allegheny fiction, a prominent family profile, a business or industry profile, vintage advertisements, 19th c. crime reports, social gossip & news and special sections highlighting ethnic communities, schools, retail establishments and social institutions.

With each issue you'll discover even more reasons to love Old Allegheny.

Price per issue is \$15.00. You can become a charter subscriber and save 33%, you'll get all three issues for \$30.00. Charter subscribers will also receive 10% discount on tours, seminars and all other publications.

After June 1, the price will be \$40.00 a year so become a charter subscriber now and save.

Make checks payable to: Old Allegheny Archives, 10 Allegheny Center Ste. 118, Allegheny City, PA 15212-5224. (412) 323-9740.

## BOOKS FOR SALE ON OLD ALLEGHENY TOPICS

A series of books researched & written by S. Green Drucker using rare materials will be published by the Old Allegheny Archives. The books will be limited to editions of only 500 copies.

Subscribers to *The Old Allegheny Review* will be given buying preference. Any remaining books will be offered to the public.

The following titles in preparation are:

**Topic #1 - Prostitution in Old Allegheny.** An analysis of a rarely examined social evil. Includes a report of the infamous Commission on Morals report. Based on magistrate and police court records unseen for 88 years.

Actual names & addresses from public document, newspaper reports, etc. will make this title "*a new dimension in genealogical research.*" It will be available in early July, 1995, \$19.00 soft cover.

**Topic #2 - Old Allegheny's Parks.** A chrestomathy of Allegheny's extraordinary public park system with emphasis on the commons. Includes a reprint of the 1869 Parks Commission report, Charles Rohleder's masterful history of park statues and monuments, and Howard B. Stewart's detailed land acquisition research. It is illustrated with 19th c. pen & ink sketches.

*"At long last, a comprehensive books on Allegheny's crown jewels...her parks."* Available September, 1995. \$19.00 soft cover.

**Topic #3 - The Rape of Old Allegheny.** An epic urban tragedy culminating in the disappearance of PA's third largest city. Heroes & villains identified. Political & financial intrigues examined.

*"Reaches a startling conclusion no less surprising than the finest detective novel."* Two volumes. Volume 1 available in late fall, 1995. \$19.00 per volume, soft cover.

To reserve your copies write or call Old Allegheny Archives, 10 Allegheny Center Suite 118, Allegheny City, PA 15212-5224. Tel. (412) 323-9740.

## PLACES TO SEARCH

*Reunions Magazine*, Vol. 5, No. 2, Winter 1995

**Colleges/Universities:** If library or alumni association personnel are unwilling to help, remind them that Federal law allows them to release information about current and former students including address, phone numbers, major date and place of birth and attendance dates.

**Telephone Companies:** One thing often overlooked is that operators can search an entire area code for a listing for the person you are searching for.

**Federal Aviation Administration:** If you believe the person you are looking for might have been a certified pilot, you might obtain an address from this agency by providing a name and date of birth.

**Post Office:** If you know a former address of the person you are trying to locate, it's possible to obtain a new one

if a change-of-address was filed within the last 18 months. You will need to complete a "Freedom of Information" request form, available at the post office. There is a three dollar fee.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The nominating committee reports that the following people have agreed to run for office for the 1995-1996 year. President, Keith Kerr; Vice President, Gary Schlemmer; Treasurer, Steph Valentine and Secretary, T.J. Galbraith. If anyone else would like to run for an office, please contact either Elissa Powell, 935-6961 or Rosemary Miller, 364-6686

## SUMMER CLASSES FOR ADULTS

The Summer Institute for Extended Learning is a series of non-credit courses taught by LaRoche College's experienced faculty and designed especially for older adults (fifty and older). Cost is \$42 a week or \$195 for all five weeks. Classes meet from 10:00 a.m. to noon.

Micro Computers Basic	July 3-6
<u>The History of the "Steel City"</u>	<u>July 10-13</u>
Fundamentals of Watercolor Painting	July 17-20
The Power of Classical Music	July 24-27
Health Issues for Older Adults	July 31-Aug. 3

To register contact the Office of Adult and Part-time Studies, LaRoche College, 9000 Babcock Blvd., Pittsburgh, PA 15237, phone 367-9359.

## CEMETERY STATISTICS

*The Family Tree*, Vol. IV, No. 6 Dec. 93/Jan.94

Tennessee has the greatest density of cemeteries in the US - at 30 per 100 sq. miles. Alaska has only 16 cemeteries, fewer than 0.1 per 100 square miles.

Geography Professor Wilbur Zelinsky of Pennsylvania State University says that population density is often correlated with cemetery density and that a recently settled areas tend to have fewer cemeteries, because they have bigger, commercial ones.

## CATHOLIC SCHOOL BUILT IN 1845

Excerpts from an article by Kathleen Brenneman,  
Cranberry Eagle, Feb. 1, 1995

When St. Wendelin School was founded, the area was being settled by German immigrants pushing northward in Butler County. Then, as now, the lush green hills were used for farming.

Today, the school halfway between Butler and Chicora, is the oldest operating school in the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh. The school marks its 150th anniversary this year.

According to Sister Zita Green, principal, Carbon Center's first residents around 1830 or so were immigrants from southern Germany's diocese of Trier or Treves. They were from near Sarrbruecken, which was known as Sankt Wendelin.

The school was found in 1845 when residents hired George MUELLER to teach their children. "In 1849 Mueller talked the people into acquiring six acres," Sister Zita said. "They built what I guess was considered a decent log building."

The parish buildings remain on those first six acres. The first building also served as a chapel, with Mueller or an occasional circuit riding priest ministering. In 1857, a small addition was made to the log building.

The congregation didn't have a regular pastor until 1863 when the Benedictines of St. Peter's in Butler agreed to send a priest one day a month to Carbon Center.

Parish growth prompted the congregation to construct a church building. In 1876, it was dedicated and the former building was used as a school. In 1912, a new two-room school building was constructed.

Sister Zita, along with her nine siblings, attended that school. "At that time, every parishioner sent their children here," she recalled.

She left the school in 1941, one of five eighth grader graduates. She estimated that there were about 40 students in each of the rooms. Grades 1 through 4 were downstairs; grades 5 through 8 met upstairs.

The two room building remains. Two additions from the 1950's added five classrooms. There is now office space, a staff room and a small library.

Grades 7 and 8 no longer meet at the school, but a preschool has been added. Enrollment in pre-kindergarten through sixth grade is 112 students. Six full-time and one part-time teacher staff the school.

## MAKE HEIRLOOMS PART OF YOUR FAMILY HISTORY

by Russell D. Earnest, Russell D. Earnest Associates  
September 20, 1993

Your aunt by marriage, now divorced from your uncle, owns a favorite vase you always admired in your grandmother's house. And your mother's neighbor somehow ended up with her loveseat. Worse, you can't find your grandfather's pocketwatch, and strangers now own the many old family photographs your brother-in-law sold for the frames at his garage sale.

How did all that happen? Mostly, it happened because families lose sight of the importance of heirlooms. They often view heirlooms as "old things" that are forever under foot and take up storage space.

Yet, no matter what the heirloom, it can never be replaced, and no matter how hard you try, you can't turn similar objects into heirlooms. You may substitute an old vase identical to Grandma's, but you'll always know deep inside, your ancestors never really touched it.

Heirlooms are part of our family history, yet few pass down through families in a systematic way - that is, well-documented. Instead, we tell our young children a war medal belonged to great grandfather Jones who fought in World War I. And we expect them to remember. Realistically, few people - even avid genealogists - recall all the information about their families without writing the information down. So, why expect members of the family to accurately remember oral history connected with heirlooms?

Instead of leaving histories about heirlooms to chance, carefully document each heirloom and acquaint future generations with these keepsakes so they appreciate them. By doing so, you ensure heirlooms remain in the family where they will be cherished as more than just "old things".

*THIS IS NOT CLUTTER, THESE ARE MY  
ANTIQUES, MY HERITAGE!!*

## THE PITTSBURGH THAT NEVER WAS

By Brian O'Neill, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette  
September 26, 1993

In the mountainous part of Virginia 'twixt Tennessee and Kentucky, about an hour's drive from the nearest interstate, Big Stone Gap straddles the three forks of the Powell River. It's a little town that thought it would be Pittsburgh when it grew up.

You don't have to know anything more about its isolation than the shortcut I was told to take when I wanted to get there from Roanoke, Va.; Go into Tennessee and come out again.

But the hills are drop-dead gorgeous and it is, perhaps, a measure of the region's innocence that a store on the Orby Cantrell Highway proclaims without irony: Weber City Drugs; Back to School Sale.

A little more than a hundred years ago, folks in these parts figured they were going to be "The Pittsburgh of the South." A former Confederate general, John Daniel **IMBODEN**, had impressed Western Pennsylvania businessmen with a speech about "untouched coal and iron beds" in Wise County, Va.

Soon, speculators from as far as England were dropping bucks faster than local hens dropped eggs.

I'd never head of a town aspiring to be Pittsburgh. Sure, Birmingham, Ala., called itself "The Pittsburgh of the South," but I always figured the nickname came after steel mills went up, in the same way a fellow is called Curly after he loses his hair.

But the Big Stone Gap Herald said in the hopeful spring of 1880, "Beyond a shadow of a doubt, Big Stone Gap will be one of the mightiest manufacturing cities and railroad centers on the continent."

Geologist John **PROCTOR** wrote glowingly of the "great water pass through the mountains (that) will necessitate a concentration of railways" and the "abundance, quality and variety of iron ore."

Tens of thousands of acres changed hands. Then reality set in. The Powell River is a relative trickle compared to the three rivers of Pittsburgh, and the iron ore pulled from around Stone Mountain proved insufficient for the size of the dream. The boom busted, Big Stone Gap's iron furnace died when the new century was young.

As Bill **HENDRICK** wrote in a history of the town's early years, "The twin toll railroad tunnels (through Black Mountain into Kentucky's coalfields) were never built. the grand hotel fizzled."

Only the story remains, told lovingly by the Southwest Virginia Museum.

It took over a three-story mansion of marble fireplaces and red-oak ceilings, built in the 1880s by Rufus Ayers, a land speculator and politician. It's on Poplar Hill, where the grand homes were to go.

Big Stone Gap never got the hotel, the major league sports, the symphony, the international airport. In this little town, you get your Sunday newspapers from Bristol and Kingsport, Tenn.

But Big Stone Gap also didn't get the pollution or the trauma of steel's collapse in the 1980's. It did all its crashing a hundred years ago.

Pittsburghers would recognize how houses seen from the highway hug the hills and the ethnic names for neighborhoods (Italy Bottom), but not much else.

Did museum manager Janet Blevins, who moved to town from southcentral Virginia eight years ago, ever wish this were Pittsburgh South?

"No thanks," she laughed. "No disrespect to you guys, but no thanks."

The population is "knocking right on the door of 5,000," Blevins said. And when she awakens, "Out of any window of the house I look there's a mountain."

High Knob, a few miles away, where the 3,000-acre game reserve and country club was to be, still offers a view of five states and as the Herald reported "a broader, grander panorama of picturesque scenery can scarcely be found outside of Switzerland." But you don't have to join a club to enjoy it. It's part of Jefferson National Forest.

Yes, sir, this is a place eight hours from Pittsburgh by car, a hundred years by ambition. "I don't know that we've ever had a mad rush from Pittsburgh," Blevins said when I checked the museum guest book for familiar place names.

Funny thing is, she didn't sound disappointed.

## BEATITUDES OF A FAMILY GENEALOGIST

BLESSED are the great grandfathers who saved embarkation and citizenship papers., For they tell when they came.

BLESSED are the great grandmothers who hoarded newspapers, clippings and old letters. For these tell the story of their time.

BLESSED are the grand fathers who filed every document, For this provides the truth

BLESSED are the grandmothers who preserved family bibles and diaries, For this is our heritage.

BLESSED are the fathers who elect officials that answer letters inquiry, For to some this is the only link with the past.

BLESSED are the mothers who relate family tradition and legends to the family, For one of their children will surely remember.

BLESSED are the relatives who fill in family sheets, even with extra dates, For to them we owe the family history.

BLESSED is any family whose members strive for the preservation of records, For theirs is a labor of love.

BLESSED are the children who don't say, "Grandmother you told us that story twice today, For eventually they will remember.

## CORRECTION

It has been brought to our attention that the information in the February article entitled "Free Word Lists" is not totally correct. Grace McVay received a letter from the Family History Library stating that the lists are currently out of print but that they have tentative plans to reprint them in the future.

When the lists are ready, it will be announce through the *News of the Family History Library* which is sent to all major genealogical societies and newsletters or periodical publications. At that point they will be available to all researchers through the Distribution Center of the Family History Library and they will be also listed in the "Publication List."

*Editors note:* We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused any of our readers.

## CALL FOR PAPERS

The Federation of Genealogical Societies and the Rochester Genealogical Society announce "In Your Ancestors' Image: A Conference for the nation's Genealogists," to be held in Rochester, New York, "The World's Image Center," 14-17 August 1996. Roger D. Joslyn, Program Chair for the 1996 FGS/RGS Conference, has issued a call for papers. This call is an invitation to all interested parties to submit suggestions for lecture topics that they would be willing to present at the conference.

Each of us is the collective image of our ancestors; therefore, a wide variety of topics will be presented. Tentative plans call for lectures in the following areas: Basic Research Procedures, Research Methodology, United States - General, New York State, Canada, Immigrant Origins, Genealogical Society Support, Technology and Computers and Professional Genealogy.

A form with further details for submitting proposals is available from: Roger D. Joslyn, C.G., F.A.S.G., P.O. Box 4061, New Windsor, New York 12553-0061. The deadline for receiving topics proposals is **31 August 1995**.

## FAYETTE FAMILIES

*The Highpoint*, Vol. 26, No. 2, Feb. 1995

Attention families with ancestry in Fayette County, PA: A new genealogical society has been formed in Fayette County. Dues are \$10.00 per year. Send to : Fayette County Genealogical Society, c/o Mary R. Apicella, Treasurer, 77 Seventh St., Uniontown, PA 14401. Include your lineage chart. They plan to meet monthly between April and November and put out a newsletter four times a year in Jan., April, July and Oct.

## PERMISSION TO DUPLICATE

The form on the following page is valuable to anyone who wishes to preserve their genealogical material. Simply copy your work, send it to the address noted in the upper left corner of the form. Your work will be microfilmed and a copy of the microfilm sent free of charge to you upon request. **BE SURE TO ATTACH A LETTER TO THAT EFFECT.** You may also enclose a check for \$9.00 for each extra microfilm you may wish to order.

Send To:  
Carmen Neely  
Patron Microfilming  
35 North West Temple Street  
Salt Lake City, UT 84150

## PERMISSION TO DUPLICATE

The Genealogical Society of Utah requests permission to duplicate the following work(s) for patrons doing genealogical research.

Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Author: \_\_\_\_\_ Creation Date : \_\_\_\_\_

If granted, this permission:

- a. Authorizes the Society to make copies of the work(s) for use in the Family History Library and, in order to meet patron requests, within the Society's genealogical research system. This system includes: the Society's family history centers and other facilities owned or controlled by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, other libraries and research institutions with which the Society may establish cooperative agreements, and controlled circulation to qualifying individuals.
- b. Authorizes the Society to produce and distribute indexes or other research aids based on the contents of the work(s).
- c. *Authorizes / does not authorize* (circle the appropriate word) the sale or transfer of copies to other organizations or individuals without your written permission.

The Society does not presume to acquire any right to the work(s) named above, beyond those specifically mentioned in this permission.

As the copyright owner or the copyright owner's legal representative I am fully authorized to *grant / deny* (circle the appropriate word) this permission.

Additionally, I *grant / deny* (circle the appropriate word) this permission for ALL works I have created or will create, of which the Society has or will have in their collection.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Please print your name.

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Society use only

Contract no. \_\_\_\_\_ Project no. \_\_\_\_\_ Roll no. \_\_\_\_\_ Item no. \_\_\_\_\_ CCF no. \_\_\_\_\_

## **BITS AND PIECES**

### **CENSUS DOES EXIST !**

*The Family Tree*, Vol. VI, No. 1, Feb./Mar. 1995

The 1899-1810 Census, Washington Co., Ohio - long thought lost, does exist and has been filmed on Family History Library film #940/916. The original enumerators copy is in Marietta, Ohio.

The Austin Genealogical Society Newsletter from time to time reprints helpful information gleaned from other genealogical newsletters. Here's one from the May 1993 issue. I can't vouch for its accuracy. "The New Jersey Archives: The N.J. Archives Dept. of State Archives & Record Mgmt., Trenton, NJ 08625, will provide information on wills prior to 1901, colonial deeds,

colonial marriage bonds, and some military records for the American Revolution. Source: Genealogical Aids Bulletin, Miami Valley Genealogy Society, Ohio."

### **NEW ADDRESS & NEW PHONE NUMBER**

Registry of Vital Records and Statistics  
Massachusetts Department of Public Health  
Second Floor, 470 Atlantic Avenue  
Boston MA 02210-2224.

The fee schedule remains unchanged. For research hours, counter hours and for fees for researching and copying vital records, in person and by mail; please phone (617) 753-8600.

**May. 9 - T.J. Galbraith, Scottish Research**

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

**FIRST**  
**CLASS**