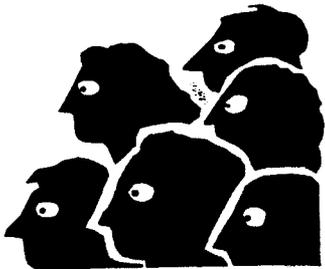


NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS NEWSLETTER



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

Volume 5 Number - 10 - June 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

Hi Everyone: Well, we finally got our summer, good or bad. Storms and high humidity aren't my idea of the ideal summer, but I guess it's better than freezing weather one day and spring the next. I hope all of you have an enjoyable and a genealogically successful summer.

I just got back from vacation looking up old family graveyards in Virginia. The two family farm cemeteries I found were not in the best of shape. At least the farmer who now owns the land the Hisey family graveyard is on built a real good fence around it. He said he trims it out every year, but hadn't gotten around to the yearly cleanup as yet. So, we weed whacked it and cleaned out all the brush for him. We found all ten stones, even though only one was completely readable and two others only partially readable. Time and weather had washed the others clean. The other graveyard we visited was a disgrace. The cows had the fence all pushed down and the groundhogs were having a field day in there. The worst part of it was, all the gravestones had been removed from this one. The story the neighbors told us was that a woman claiming to be a relative took the stones a year ago to have them ???refurbished??? and hadn't brought them back as yet. This was the main graveyard I was interested in and all my grandparents from the Holler line were supposed to be buried there, readable headstones and all. What a tremendous disappointment this was for me. I just hope the stones are returned. Even if they are, I don't know how they plan to put them back in their right places. I didn't see any indication of where they had been taken from. In another corner of the graveyard was a pile of headstones

with a different family name on them (another branch of the Hollers). We couldn't tell where they had come from either. Unfortunately, the relatives who live in the area and carry the Holler name couldn't care less about the upkeep of the graveyard, and the person who owns the land doesn't either. Luckily, the other Grandfather I was looking for was buried in a public cemetery and I was able to find his grave. Another part of my vacation involved meeting a cousin I discovered through my genealogy research. So, it really can be rewarding. Now I need a vacation to rest up from my vacation!

The next Board meeting will be July 5, 1995, at the Library. As always, the Board meetings are open to all members. Please join us and give us your suggestions and comments.

Our July speaker had to cancel and his replacement will be announced. August will be three members, Frank Thomas speaking on Croatia, Debbie MacIntyre on Preserving Photos, and Dick Strong on Using Maps for Genealogy Research. Good hunting to everyone. Ginny

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REMINDER

HOORAY!! IT IS VACATION TIME. THERE
WILL BE NO NEWSLETTER IN JULY. PLEASE
GET YOUR AUG. NEWSLETTER INFORMATION
TO MARCIA COLEMAN BY AUGUST 2nd.

WHERE GENEALOGIST MEET

Wednesday, July 5 at 7:30 p.m. - **NHG Board** meeting in the small conference room at Northland Library. All NHG members are always welcome at all Board meetings.

Tuesday, July 18 at 7:00 p.m. - **NHG regular meeting** at the Northland Library. Program: To be announced.

Wednesday, August 2 at 7:30 p.m. - **NHG Board** meeting in the small conference room at Northland Library. All NHG members are always welcome at all Board meetings.

Tuesday, August 15 at 7:00 p.m. - **NHG regular meeting** at the Northland Library. Program: Frank Thomas, Croatia; Debbie MacIntyre, Preserving Photos and Dick Strong, Using Maps for Genealogy Research.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON EXCURSION

Coopers Cabin near Butler is open on Sunday afternoons from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. during the months of May through Sept. It is a pioneer museum consisting of an original cabin built before the War of 1812 and a two story addition added after the Civil War. An interesting program, demonstration or display of historical significance is offered each Sunday. The pioneer museum is maintained and operated by volunteers from the Butler County Historical Society. For more information call (412) 283-8116 or write to the Butler County Historical Society, P.O. Box 414, Butler PA 16003-0414.

GENEALOGY WORKSHOP

There will be a workshop on Friday, July 28th at the Washington State Community College in Marietta, Ohio. There will be 9 sessions: A look Inside The Family Tree; Marietta and the Northwest Territory; The Name, The Date, and The Place; All You Need for German Research; Census; Using Revolutionary War Pensions; Citing Sources; What Proof Do I Need?. OGS members \$10.00 and non-members \$15.00. Washington County Chapter, OGS, 615 5th Street, Marietta, Ohio will be open for research from 9:00 a.m. till noon.

FAMILY ANCESTRY FAIR

Two days of special speakers and exhibitions that are FREE and open to the public.

It will be held Saturday, September 23 from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Sunday, September 24 from 10:00 am to 5:00 p.m. at the Delaware Valley College, Student Union Hall, Route 202, Doylestown, Bucks County, PA.

For more information call or write Bucks County Genealogical Society, P.O. 1092, Doylestown, PA 18901 (215) 230-9410

Elissa Powell will be attending this conference.

BUS TOUR TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

North Hills Genealogists and Western PA Genealogical Society are co-sponsoring a bus trip to Washington, D.C. The tour will be from Sunday, Oct. 22 1995 to Wednesday, Oct. 25, 1995 and is coordinated by Elissa Powell (935-6961 and Suzie Johnston (486-3904).

If you are a member of either society (or both) and would like to join us for a 3 days at the National Archives, Library of Congress and the D.A.R. Library, please call either Elissa or Suzie. The cost depends on how many roommates you have in your room. You must arrange your own rooming plans and tell the coordinators the name of who you will be sharing a room with. The Herrington Hotel is within walking distance of the three research facilities. A bus will pick us up on Sunday afternoon in the Hechinger's parking lot or at the Hilton Hotel, downtown, on the liberty Avenue side. We will return on Wednesday, leaving Washington about 4 PM with a stop for dinner in Breezewood each way.

Money is due September 10. If you do not pay by then, your reservation will go to the next person on the waiting list. You may cancel with a full refund by October 1. Checks are to be made to W.P.G. S. The total costs for 3 night stay and the roundtrip bus fare are: Quad (4 in a room) - \$106 each person; (Tri 3 in a room) - \$127 each person; Double (2 in a room) \$151 each person; Single (1 in a room) - \$253.

This should be a very successful trip and one you will not want to miss.

QUERIES

Attempting to find the descendants of William **ALLMON** (1746-1830) of Washington County, PA who had a land grant in Washington County, PA in 1787. His children include James, John, and William who came to Ohio in the early 1800's; Henry, Haman, Sarah, Elizabeth and Hannah. We are willing to trade information. Write The Allmon Project, c/o Jean Barnes, 244 Prospect St., Berea, OH 44017-2460.

Suzanna **ZIMMERMAN** b. 22 Nov. 1874, d. 5 May 1935. Michael **DEMKE** b. Aug. 1865, d. 5 Oct. 1957. They were both from Germany and arrived here ca. 1890. He worked in the Ashland Pennsylvania coal fields and they were married in Fullerton, PA in 1892. Contact Albert Webb, 2420 18th St., Cuyahoga, Falls, OH 44223-2010.

SEND A THANK YOU NOTE ACKNOWLEDGING
AN ANSWER TO A QUERY

THE SCHMIDT QUARTERLY

The Schmidt Quarterly is dedicated to the sharing of information on persons with the surname **SCHMIDT**, who were born prior to 1900. The publication will also include information relating to family line and histories build upon surnames similar and / or variable spelling and pronunciation such as **SCHMITT**, **SCHMITZ**, **SMIDT**, **SCHMIDTT**, etc.

The Schmidt Quarterly invites material for inclusion in future issues and welcomes any data you wish to send. *The Schmidt Quarterly* will not include family lines and histories built upon the surname **SMITH** and its variable spellings and pronunciations unless such information is interwoven with Schmidt data through immigration situations, court rulings, family traditions and inheritance rights, or name changes.

If there is a Schmidt or related name in your background, please share your information with others. A family group sheet may be sent with your Schmidt family information to the address below.

The Schmidt Quarterly is distributed by subscription, \$15.00 per year (four issues). For more information write: Ione Kolm Pence, Editor, *The Schmidt Quarterly*, 821 South First St., Princeton, IL 61356.

BEGINNERS CORNER

Question: If a relative was ill for many years and died in 1915, would his records still be available? What does a physician do with a patient's records after he dies? Or what happens to the physician's records after he dies?

Answer: There is nothing "official" that has to be done with such records, even today. (My father and three of my uncles are/were M.D.s) I can't say what may have happened a long, long time ago, but I can give you an idea of what happens/was happening in the past 20 years.

1) Patients (or close family of patients) are allowed to either take their records themselves or have them sent to the doctor of their choice.

2) Sometimes another doctor will "take over" or "buy out" a practice, in which case he will become the new keeper of the records. (Yes, a practice might get sold, say, if the doctor retires before his death.)

3) The doctor's family is the possessor of the records that are left (if 1 or 2 doesn't happen). After a suitable length of time, they may just toss them in the trash! **AND THAT DOES HAPPEN!!!** Yes, I know, there should be a law, but to my knowledge there is no such law to protect these records.

The above information from Internet, July 28, 1993, N. Shirlene Pearson, Texas

BOOK REVIEW

DIRECTORY OF FAMILY ASSOCIATIONS

Jack Sanders on Internet

Over the years some of my best sources of information on those distant ancestors of six, seven or more generations back has been family associations, whose more scholarly -- and perhaps fanatic -- members have already done the digging into the people I've been looking for. The trouble always was, how to find and get hold of the associations covering the surnames I was looking for.

Once again Elizabeth Petty Bentley has made my life easy. I say "once again" because Elizabeth Bentley is a compiler extraordinaire, who has produced some of the handiest, most valuable books a genealogist could want.

Witness her "Genealogist's Address Book," nearly 400, 8-by-11-inch pages of information on archives, libraries, associations, publications, registries, and societies that might lend a helping hand to the researcher. And her "County Courthouse Book" is another amazing compilation of primary sources --courthouses, city halls, town clerks, probate courts -- from which all sorts of vital records can be obtained.

Now Ms. Bentley has produced "Directory of Family Associations," offering names, addresses, phone numbers, publications, and other data about nearly 5,000 surname organizations in the United States.

Ms. Bentley must have an iron tongue -- she licked more than 5,000 letters to associations to confirm their existence and activity (18% came back as undeliverable) in her effort to put together this comprehensive, 318-page, softcover book. The result is an alphabetical archive of associations, well cross-referenced with sources of spelling variations.

Believe it or not, despite the fact that it is basically a huge list of names and addresses, the directory also makes entertaining reading. For instance, would you believe that there is an association for the **JUNK** surname, and that it publishes the "Junk Journal." The **JUSTICE** family newsletter is known, most appropriately, as "Justice for All." The **JOYCE** family publishes "The Voice of Joyce" while the **CORLEW** family does the "Corlew Clues" (try saying that one five times fast!). The **CASE** family does "The Brief Case" while the **FOOTE** families keeps it to one word, "Footprints."

If the book has a failing, it is in the lack of a clearly advertised address to which to send Ms. Bentley additional or updated listings. Several blank pages were bound into the back of the book -- it would have been nice to have those as forms on which one could mail in data for subsequent editions of the book. Of course, you can always write the publisher, but a form that's easy to photocopy and fill out would facilitate additions and updates.

Anyone delving into multiple families from the past who is looking for sources of expertise in their surnames will find Ms. Bentley's book a treasure trove. Just issued by Genealogical Publishing Company, "Directory of Family Associations" should be available soon in libraries, better bookstores, and from genealogical societies. Or it can be ordered directly from the publisher (Dept. SM, 1001 North Calvert Street, Baltimore, Md., 21202, 1-800-727-

6687) at \$29.95 plus \$2.50 postage and handling.

Incidentally, Ms. Bentley's other two books, cited above, are also available from the same sources at the same price.

BOOK FOR SALE

The Miami Valley Genealogical Society announces a pre-publication price of \$30.00 plus \$2.19 Ohio sales tax for Ohio residents for a soft bound book, \$5.00 extra for a hardbound book. The 575 page book includes all the records of the Miami County Ohio Recorder's books 1807-1863. Send check to: P.O. Box 1364, Dayton, OH 45401-1364.

THE HISTORY BEHIND THE SIEBERT NAME

In the January 1994 issue of the NHG newsletter there was an article on *The History Behind the Siebert Road Name*. The following is an update on the information contained in the article.

In 1935 the **SIEBERT** farm was purchased by the **KIRCH** family. "The farm included 16.4 acres of rolling land from the Thompson Run Road to Goldsmith, the highest point."

Excerpts from an article by Cheryl Redmond in the Berkeley Hills Civic Association newsletter, Winter 95.

SOMETHING FISHY

The Family Tree Vol. VI No. 2 April/May 1995

Certain Scottish surnames were considered unlucky by fisherman. In one village alone, those with the names **ROSSE**, **CULLIE** and **WHITE** were said to have been banned from going to sea. If men with such an unlucky name worked for the fisherman ashore there were often denied wages when the catch was meagre. If they were even caught looking at the fish ness or boats, or were met early in the morning, it was a bad omen. An old story relates how to some such unlucky men happened to come across one another early one morning. Because they were so steadfast in their belief that such a meeting was unlucky, no one fished that day.

WEALTH OF RESOURCES AT LEIPZIG CENTER

The Week in Germany, Spring 1995

Interest in family history and genealogy, experts say, is booming in Germany today after a long period of comparatively slim interest in the subject. Perhaps no one is feeling the effects of this revival of curiosity more than the staff of the Deutsche Zentralstelle für Genealogie (German Center for Genealogy) in Leipzig (Saxony). Last year, according to the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, they fielded some 3,000 inquiries from around the world. Some came from lawyers hoping to untangle property claims, many from amateur genealogists seeking help in tracing their ancestry. All were drawn to the Center's unrivalled source materials for research in eastern Germany and the parts of Pomerania, Prussia and Silesia that were once Germany.

The center does not undertake genealogical research in response to such inquiries, but it will help everyone interested in making use of its resources. The list of such resources begins with an extensive library of publications on family history covering the entire German-speaking world. Then there is the collection of 100,000 personal documents. Third, the Center began a genealogical card index in 1921 that today provides basic information on 1.4 million people.

Perhaps the most important of the Center's holdings, however, is the collection of 16,000 church registers dating back to the 16th century - some originals, some copies and microfilms - that belonged to the Third Reich's Office of Family Relations (*Reichssippenamt*). Church registers commonly record births, baptisms, marriages and deaths within a particular parish. German clergy first began keeping such registers in the 16th century, and the practice continued until civil authorities took over responsibility in the 19th century. The registers come from what had once been the eastern provinces of Germany, parts of what is today western Germany and parts of other countries occupied by the Third Reich. During the years of the Cold War, Westerners often had great difficulty carrying out genealogical research on families from these regions, the Leipzig, originally founded in 1904, was closed for part of the postwar period and re-opened in 1967.

As noted, the Center will not provide you with your family tree, but it can tell you if it might have materials of use for your own genealogical research. The more specific knowledge you have about where in Germany your family

came from, the more likely they will be able to help you. Similarly, you stand a better chance of success if you can trace your family back to the period covered by the church registers, i.e. to the early or mid-nineteenth century. The address of the Center is Kathe Kollwitzstr. 82. 04109 Leipzig (tel. 03 41/401 11 13). It is scheduled to move to new quarters later this year.

IS YOUR HISTORY AT RISK

Trinity, Vol. 16, #4, Dec. 1994

The following guidelines should be helpful in preserving your personal history.

PREPARATION OF MATERIAL

Remove staples, paper clips, rubber bands and transparent tape.

Flatten materials as much as possible without damaging them. Oversize documents should never be folded to fit standard files, but instead laid flat in large drawers or acid-free folders.

Use acid-free paper to photocopy documents that are very fragile or may be handled often, or encapsulate the documents in mylar.

Write on the back of photographs only with a soft lead pencil. File upright in unbuffered, acid-free folders with negatives filed separately.

Disassemble scrapbooks and photo albums and reassemble on acid-free paper using mylar corners. Or photocopy the lay-out, then number and file in acid-free folders. Interleave with acid-free tissue if disassembly is impossible. Looseleaf binders should be disassembled and the contents placed in acid-free folders. Consider microfilming extensive files.

STORAGE

Acid-free file folders and boxes should be used to contain loose papers and documents

A fireproof cabinet, closet, or safe is a good storage place. The atmosphere should be neither very dry nor humid, about 65 degrees F, and 50% RH. The area should have a low level of lighting and should be away from pipes that might burst or a basement that might flood.

ANCESTRAL PURSUIT

by Mary Jean Jecklin

Coast to Coast, November-December 1994

Researching your family history is like playing a game. If you don't know the rules, you won't get anywhere.

Old fashioned photos of my grandfather Jecklin picture a typical immigrant -- hardly a man of mystery. But, as I've tried to find out more about him, he's led me on quite a chase. While I still haven't answered all my questions, I've learned a lot about digging for family roots by visiting some of the biggest and best genealogical research centers in the United States. Here's a look at them and how they can help you trace your own ancestors.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES, Washington, D.C.

"Come with as many facts as possible, including the correct spelling of names," stresses Susan Cooper, public affairs specialist at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. That's good advice, considering that there are between three and four billion pieces of paper in the Archives, and only about 10 percent of that has been transferred to microfilm. "The more information you bring with you when you sit down at one of the 91 microfilm readers," says Cooper, "the more you can take away."

To get acquainted with the Research Room, located on the fourth level, watch the 10-minute slide show on how to get started doing genealogical research. The program explains that the National Archives contains four primary groups of records: census records, military service and pension records, ships' passenger arrival records and federal land records.

Most people start their research by looking at the 1920, 1910 and 1900 census records. Less than 1 percent of the 1890 census records were saved after a fire burned the Department of Commerce building in 1921. Because of confidentiality restrictions, census records aren't opened until 72 years after a census is taken. The 1930 records will be opened in 2002.

Ships passenger arrival records date to 1800. Before accessing these records, you should know your ancestor's port of arrival and, if possible, the approximate date of entry and the ship's name.

To find out if you have an ancestor who acquired land directly from the federal government in one of the 30 public-land states, it's necessary to know your ancestor's

full name, the state where land was acquired, and whether the land was acquired before or after 1908.

Military service and pension records provide details on service in the U.S. military before World War I; the years after WWI are not open to the public. To make the most of this information, it'll help if you know your ancestor's full name, his approximate period of service, and the state from which he entered the service.

Remember: If you don't have the basic information to start with, you'll have to backtrack, gathering data by consulting family members, looking at the family Bible or other family papers, or sifting through records maintained by town or city halls, county courthouses, state and local archives, historical and genealogical societies, libraries and state adjutant generals' offices.

Sound daunting? Don't be dissuaded. The National Archives is where Roots author Alex Haley did some of his family research, igniting his - and many other Americans' - enthusiasm for searching for ancestors.

If you can't go to Washington, 13 regional archives await you in Anchorage, Seattle, Chicago, Kansas City, Fort Worth, Denver, Philadelphia, New York City, Atlanta, Waltham, and Pittsfield, Massachusetts, and Laguna Niguel and San Bruno, California.

MORMON FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY

Salt Lake City, Utah

Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, or Mormons, have gathered together the most extensive genealogical records in the world, more than 1.9 million rolls of microfilm, 385,000 microfiche sheets and 250,000 books, because they believe that "ancestors can and do respond to the love extended to them through this [genealogical] work."

Start your research in the state's 1911 Hotel Utah, elegantly restored and transformed into the Joseph Smith Memorial Building. In the Family-Search Center, more than 200 computer stations have catapulted genealogical research into the 21st century. These computers help people become comfortable with doing research. It's also easy to do a preliminary search to find out whether someone else has already researched and recorded your "pedigree."

After visitors learn the research ropes, they head to the five-floor Family history Library. This building contains the labors of hundreds of people who've roamed the planet

since 1938, photographing family records in numerous languages. Copies of registers, census and military records, passenger lists, land and probate records, family and local histories, indexes, periodicals and other research aids are all available. To get started, there's an information desk and volunteers who are very willing to help, but they won't do your research for you. As when visiting the National Archives, it's important to bring any information you have with you. Expect crowds during the summer months.

It's not necessary to go to Salt Lake to use the resources accumulated by Latter-day Saints. There are 2,000 Family History Center branches, typically attached to Mormon churches, in 62 countries around the world.

If you want to share your discoveries with others, link your information to other information in the file, coordinate your research with others or preserve your genealogy permanently, and you like using a computer, order the software program called Personal Ancestral File for organizing and managing genealogical information (\$35).

ELLIS ISLAND IMMIGRATION MUSEUM

Ellis Island, New York

Everyone interested in genealogy should visit the Ellis Island Immigration Museum in New York Harbor. From 1892 through 1924, approximately 12 million immigrants landed there. They were the ancestors of 40 percent of the present U.S. population.

The National Park Service does a memorable and moving job explaining the immigrant experience, using a variety of exhibits, movies, and self-guided tours through the historic buildings. It's hard to keep a dry eye in the third-floor "Treasures From Home" exhibit, displaying some of the personal possessions immigrants brought with them. Oral histories accompanying the exhibits recall the anguish of leaving home and the anticipation of arriving in America. Sitting on one of the original wooden benches in the Great Hall (or registry room), where newcomers waited anxiously for their names to be called for processing, is another emotion-filled experience.

Genealogists are disappointed that plans to enter into a computer the records of the 12 million people who passed through Ellis Island have stalled because of insufficient funding. However, fund-raising efforts are ongoing, but more than \$6 million is still needed, according to public-affairs officer Manny Strumph. The names of those who have contributed \$100 or more to the Statue of Liberty

Ellis Island Foundation appear on a special Wall of Honor.

To use the Ellis Island passenger lists, researchers must consult microfilm lists at the National Archives or a Mormon genealogical library. Passenger lists from 1820-1957 are by date of arrival and name of ship. Time-saving indexes by passenger name are available for some periods of time: 1820-1846, 1897-1943, and 1944-1948. Unfortunately, there is no index to the years 1846-1897.

TEXAS SEAPORT MUSEUM, Galveston, Texas

When Ellis Island staff members were considering how to computerize their passenger lists, they asked the Galveston Historical Foundation for advice, says GHF representative David Bush.

GHF's Texas Seaport Museum has two computers, available to visitors, that list the names of the 117,000 immigrants who passed through the Galveston port between 1896 and 1951. In 1907 the so-called Ellis Island of the West was the fourth largest port of entry in the country. Immigrants who passed through Galveston were primarily from central and eastern Europe and they settled in an arc from Denver to Chicago.

Bush says GHF believes its computerized list is the only one of its kind in the country. He explains that it took six people 7,000 hours to enter the 117,000 names into the computer. But the work was worth it. On the first day the computers were available to the public a man came in, typed in his ancestor's name and learned when his family arrived in Galveston.

Whether it takes just a moment or years of digging through genealogical records, when your ancestor's name comes up on the screen, the thrill makes all the effort worthwhile.

TRACING YOUR ROOTS

Here's where to get started.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES, Microfilm Reading Room 400, Seventh Street and Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20408, (202) 501-5410, Year-round hours (closed Sundays and federal holidays): 8:45 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday and Wednesday, 8:45 a.m. - 9 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, 8:45 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. Saturday. Books and materials are sold on site. Other Washington libraries with genealogical materials include the Daughters of the American Revolution Library, the National Genealogical Society Library, and the Harold

Leonard Stuart Memorial Library in the Society of the Cincinnati's Anderson House.

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS, Ancestral File Operations Unit, Family History Department, 50 E North Temple Street, Salt Lake City, Utah 84150, (801) 240-2584, and Family Search Center, Joseph Smith Memorial Building, 15 E South Temple Street, Salt Lake City, Utah 84150, (801) 240-4085, Open Monday through Saturday: May 31 - Labor Day, 8 a.m. - 10 p.m., Labor Day - Memorial Day 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Family History Library, 35 N West Temple Street, Salt Lake City, Utah 84150, (801) 240-2331, Year-round hours: 7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. Monday, 7:30 a.m. - 10 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

ELLIS ISLAND IMMIGRATION MUSEUM, Ellis Island National Monument, Ellis Island, New York 10004, (212) 883-1986, Open daily: 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. How to get there: Ferries depart daily at regular intervals from Battery Park in lower Manhattan, heading first to the Statue of Liberty and then Ellis Island, where admission is free. Purchase Circle Line ferry tickets (adult/\$6; seniors/\$5) at Castle Clinton National Monument in Battery Park. Because parking is limited around Battery Park, take a taxi or public transportation to the park. Arrive early to avoid crowds. The first ferry for the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island leaves Battery Park at 9:30 a.m.; the last at 4 p.m. The last ferry leaves Ellis Island at 5:45 p.m. The Circle Line also runs boats to Ellis Island from Liberty State Park in Jersey City, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. For ferry information, call (212) 269-5755.

TEXAS SEAPORT MUSEUM, Pier 21, Galveston, Texas 77550, (409) 763-1877, Open daily, except Thanksgiving and Christmas: 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. summer, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. winter.

NHG DONATES BOOKS TO NORTHLAND LIBRARY

We have donated four hard cover volumes of *The German Church Records of Western Pennsylvania* to Northland Library. They were presented in memory of Hilda Vey Homrighausen and Katherine L. (Weltzien) Scalise, mother of Elissa Scalise Powell.

Vol. 1 1772-1991 The baptisms of **MEYER**, **LUETGE**, and **WEBER**. Oldest Lutheran and Reformed records in Western Pennsylvania, includes

Westmoreland, Fayette & Washington counties. 200 pages.

Vol II 1792-1804 Baptisms of **STECK** and **WEBER**. Includes Westmoreland, Allegheny and Armstrong counties for this period. 310 pages.

Vol III 1805-1812 The Lutheran and Reformed records in Westmoreland and Armstrong counties for this period. As in the second volume, confirmations are included. 250 pages.

Vol IV 1813-1820 Lutheran and Reformed baptisms in Westmoreland and Armstrong Counties.

PRODUCT ALERT UPDATE

Last month we ran an article on companies that were misleading the public about their products. The following as an update on that situation.

On March 23, 95, the National Genealogical Society and the Federation of Genealogical Societies requested that the Consumer Protection Division of the U.S. Postal Service conduct a new investigation of Halbert's Inc., publisher of a series of surname books, for false representation of its products.

National Genealogical Societies and Federation of Genealogical Societies studied brochures and books compiled by Halbert's, Inc., one of a number of companies offering products masquerading as genealogy. A 120-page report was prepared showing that Halbert's (also known as "Family Book Offer" and "Historic Book Offer") misrepresents its products.

It is against the law to use the U.S. mails to collect money for schemes or devices by means of false representation. Halbert's signed a Consent Order in 1989, agreeing not to represent its books as the history of a family, its name, or heraldry. The report concludes that Halbert's continues to make these representations.

To help, write to Consumers Protection Division, U.S. Postal Services, 475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW, Washington, D.C. 20260-2100. If you buy a surname product represented as being about your family, but whose distinguishing feature is a list of people with your surname, you can return it for a refund. If you have not received a refund within six weeks, complain to the Consumer Protection Division.

NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS

1995-1996 MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Please fill out the information application below. When submitting this application, please make out a check for \$10.00 (before August 1) or \$12.00 (after August 1) payable to "NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS". All memberships run from August through the following July. Members receive the monthly newsletters, 10 issues a year; are entitled to submit unlimited free queries to the newsletter to request specific assistance with their research and are entitled to attend filed trips sponsored by NHG. The newsletter also contain a Beginners Corner; a list of dates and places for genealogical club meetings, seminars and conferences; Book Reviews; news of local genealogical and historical interest and other items.

Mail your completed application and check to the following address:

**North Hills Genealogists
c/o Northland Public Library
300 Cumberland Road**

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION *NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS*

Name:		Home Phone:	
Street Address:			
City:		State:	Zip code:
Date of Application:			

If desired, please list the surnames you are researching and the locality. For example, Smith, West Virginia; Jones, Beaver County; Brown, McCandless Township, Allegheny County, Etc. This information will be included in a future newsletter.

BITS AND PIECES

WHITE HOUSE SALUTES YOUR REUNION

The Family Tree, Vol. VI No. 2, April/May 1995

The White House will recognize your reunion! Send a letter a minimum of four weeks in advance to Carmen Fowler, Room 91, The White House, Washington DC 20500. Be sure to include the name of your family, date of event, reason for the reunion and name of the contact person.

SWISS PUBLICATIONS

Publications of assistance to those working on their Swiss genealogy include the *The Swiss Journal* (ISSN 0039-

7474), published twice monthly from 548 Columbus Ave., San Francisco, CA 94133; *The Swiss American Review*, delivered weekly from Karl Vonlanthen at 800-424-2923; *The Swiss Connection*, 2845 North 72 nd St., Milwaukee, WI 53210.

CARRY ME BACK TO OLD VIRGINY

Ancestors Unlimited, McCook, NE via *Mahoning Meanderings*, Vol. 19, No. 5, May 1995

Until 1786, all children in Virginia, regardless of their religious affiliation, were required to be baptized in the Episcopal Church, which was the "State Church" and the Parish Registers can be found in the Virginia State Archives at Richmond, Virginia giving names, births by dates and parents' names.

July 18 - TO BE ANNOUNCED

Aug. 15 - THOMAS, MACINTYRE & STRONG

NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS

c/o Northland Public Library

300 Cumberland Road

Pittsburgh, PA 15237-5455

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