

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

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**President: Keith Kerr**

**Vice President: Gary Schlemmer**

**Treasurer: Steph Valentine**

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**10 Issues from August to June**

**Publicity: Gwen Glasbergen**

**Liaison: Connie Foley**

**Editor: Marcia Coleman**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*"Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown"*

King Henry IV, Part II, Act III

I must admit, I was daunted by the office of the President. A great position, heavy with responsibility with little or no reward. However, I was assured by our previous President Virginia Skander, that although we all serve as volunteers, certain perks are available to the President. I am now awaiting the arrival of the Presidential limousine, the Symphony subscription and the Steeler box tickets. They must be delayed. Until they get here, I must depend on your support to carry on the progress of the North Hills Genealogists.

Ginny Skander must be congratulated on the success of her administration and her steady leadership that has brought us a widening reputation among our genealogical colleagues. President Skander has also brought us to the brink of our first book publication. I hope to carry on in her fine tradition.

I know everyone will want to help to publish our first book, to help continue our fine speaker programs, to support our first rate newsletter, to participate in our field trips and add to continued growth and success.

Join us at the next Board Meeting as weighty issues are discussed, our vast treasury is dispersed, and calendars are scrambled.

Our September General Meeting should be fun. When I

think of the French and Indian War, I am reminded of "The Last of the Mohicans" and the novels of Zane Grey set in our area. It's hard to imagine that just two hundred and fifty years ago this region was so wild and dangerous. A deadly contest was being waged against hostile forces and brutal nature. Bring some children. I'll bet they will enjoy the presentation.

The Presidential Limousine still has not arrived. While I'm waiting let me remind you that suggestions on speakers and book purchases are always welcome. I'll see you in September.

Keith

### FIELD TRIPS

**LDS Library - Greentree**  
Friday, Sept. 8th at 10:00 a.m.  
limited to first 10 members

**West Virginia Regional Library**  
**Morgantown**  
Saturday, Oct. 7 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sign up at the NHG meetings or  
Contact RoseMary Miller - 364-6686

## WHERE GENEALOGIST MEET

Thursday, Sept. 7 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.

Friday, Sept. 8 at 10:00 a.m. - **Field Trip to LDS Library, Greentree.** Reservations needed as it is limited to the first ten members. Contact RoseMary Miller at 364-6686..

Thursday, Sept. 14 at 8:00 p.m. - **W.P.G.S meeting** at the Carnegie Library, Oakland. Program: Introduction to our new home at the Carnegie and walking tour of the Library with Marilyn Holt.

Tuesday, Sept. 19 at 7:00 p.m. - **NHG regular meeting** at the Northland Library. Program: Keith Lamer, A French - Indian War Soldier.

Saturday, Sept. 23 & Sunday Sept. 24 from 10:00 a.m. both days, to 6:00 p.m. Sat. and 5:00 p.m. Sunday - **Family Ancestry Fair** at the Delaware Valley College, Student Union Hall, Route 202, Doylestown, Bucks County, PA 18901 (215) 230-9410. Elissa Powell will be attending.

Saturday, Oct. 7 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. - **Field Trip to West Virginia Regional Library** in Morgantown, W. Va.

Saturday, Oct. 14 - **W.P.G.S.** Field trip to Homewood Cemetery. Limited space, reservations needed.

Tuesday, Oct. 17 at 7:00 p.m. - **NHG regular meeting** at Northland Library. Program: Reid Stewart on Ireland.

Saturday, Oct. 21 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. - **Conference "Relative Theories - A Military Experience"** at the Church of the Covenant on Rt. 136 in Washington, PA. Contact Lisa Powell at 935-6961

Tuesday, Nov. 21 at 7:00 p.m. - **NHG regular meeting** at Northland Library. Program: Round Table Discussion.

December **NHG meeting** will be a social outing, tour and lunch. Date and location will be announced this fall. There will be no newsletter in December.

## QUERIES

Researching families of Margaret E. Scarbrough **COREY** (1896-1985), daughter of Addisc **SCARBROUGH** and Lillian **BEHANNA**, in the Elrama/Donora, Washington County area. Contact Gary Schlemmer, 342 Overbrook Road, Valencia PA 16059.

## BEGINNERS CORNER

**Question:** Does one of the PAF utilities compare FR data to determine differences?

**Answer:** FAMCHECK 1.21 (Jul. 1989) won't compare to FR data files but does data consistency checks within one FR file and then outputs a report. Which file has "better" data is still your call. To my knowledge there is no program that compares two files in the way you described.

FAMCHECK does the following: Error checking utility for data in PAF 2.0-2.2 files. Checks ages of bride and groom at marriage, that death follows birth date, children's birth date against parents' marriage date, age at death, burial promptly follows death, children birth order against birth date, and a number of other logical check. Not all flagged items will be errors, but aids in finding typographical and other logical errors that always seem to creep in.

Operates on some default parameters (among others): ages of husband and wife at marriage 16 and 14, respectively; birth dates are after marriage of parents; maximum ages of father and mother at birth of child are 70 and 50, respectively; children should be in birth order; no one lives over 100; no children born of a father who died more than one year earlier; christening dates are after parents' marriage date; burials not more than one year after death. Outputs sorted list by MRIN.

Order: Larry M. Rayburn, 2519 E. Meredith Drive, Vienna, VA 22181-4037; Tel: 703-281-4030; mail (include SASE) or Netmail: Larry's Lookout Point - 1:109/356.3561. Freeware. \$5 S&H from author. Version 2.0 being developed as shareware. Source code in C available for user-customization. Available on many BBS' as: FAMCHECK.ZIP

**Editors note:** Questions concerning the above information should be directed to Steph Valentine as your editor is still learning about computer programs.

## BOOK REVIEW

### BURKE'S AMERICAN FAMILIES

by Jack Sanders, Internet

Arthur Meredyth Burke has been long known for the Peerage series he edited, along with books on the Landed Gentry, General Armory, and "Commoners," all aimed at British families. But Burke once also published several books of American families' roots, long out of print. Now Genealogical Publishing Company has just reprinted the 1908 edition of "The Prominent Families of the United States of America," making much old data available to new searchers.

Typical of Burke, the book is arranged as roots of prominent individuals living at the time of publication. In each case, the pedigree of the person's surname is then provided.

According to the publisher, "of the three great Burke's volumes produced on American families, this present one is generally thought to be the most authoritative." It provides hundreds of pretty detailed pedigrees, but it does not cite sources of any of the data -- except for the "pedigreed" person himself.

Thus, this book is a handy source of lines of the cited families, and good jumping-off points for further research. And since most of the cited lines date from the 1600s, they represent ancestors of millions of Americans today.

There are nearly 200 lines traced in the book. Among the surnames are **ALEXANDER, ALLERTON, ANDERSON, ARNOLD, ASHBY, BARCLAY, BARNARD, BARNWELL, BEEKMAN, BIDDLE, BLAKE, BROOKE, BULKELEY, BULL, CANDLER, CARLISLE, CARNEY, CARROLL, CARTER, CHASE, CHAUNCEY, CLINTON, COALE, COLLINS, CONVERSE, CONWAY, CRADOCK, CURTIS, DALLAS, DANIEL, DAVIES, DAVIS, DAY, DODGE, DRAPER, DUNCAN, EARLE, EVANS, FIELD, FISH, FITZGERALD, FITZHUGH, FLAGG, FLINT, FLOYD, FOX, FRENCH, FULLER, GARNETT, GOODRICK, GORDON, GRANT, GREENE, GRISWOLD, HAWTHORNE, HAYNE, HENRY, HILL, HOSMER, HOWARD, HOYT, JAMES, JAY, JESUP, KINGSBURY, LATHROP, LIVINGSTON, LOCKWOOD, LONGFELLOW, LOW, MALLORY, MATHER, McCAWLEY,**

**MIDDLETON, MINOT, MORGAN, MOSELY, MUNFORD, NELSON, NICOLL, PAGE, PARKER, PARSONS, PEARCE, PECK, PELL, PENDLETON, PETERSON, PLUMB, POMEROY, RICHARDSON, ROBERTSON, ROBINSON, RUSH, SALTONSTALL, SANDS, SARGENT, SCOTT, SEABURY, SHERMAN, SMITH, SULLIVAN, SUMNER, TEMPLE, THOMAS, TILGHMAN, TOWER, TRUMAN, TYLER, VINTON, WADSWORTH, WALLACE, WARD, WETMORE, WHITNEY, WINSLOW, WOLCOTT, WOODS,** and many others.

It appears that all of these families are traced to the European roots -- most to England though some came from Ireland, Germany, France, and Holland. Most also appear to be 17th Century East Coast settlers.

"Prominent Families" should be in libraries, or it may be purchased from many genealogical societies or directly from the publisher (Dept. SM, 1001 North Calvert Street, Baltimore, Md., 21202-3897; 1-800-727-6687; \$35 plus \$2.50 postage & handling).

## BOOK FOR SALE

Douglas R. Lyons has written a book entitled Green Township Cemetery Inscriptions. This book contains a complete listing of burials in three of the five known cemeteries in Green Township, Beaver County, PA. St. Luke's Cemetery known as the Georgetown Cemetery, Hookstown Cemetery known as the Little Red Meeting House Cemetery and Old Mill Creek Cemetery. It also contains burial recorded from the Beaver County death records from 1893 through 1906, records from the Welch Funeral Home in Hookstown, PA and information from the author's personal research. Printed on heavy weight white paper and color coded. To order send \$25.00 to Archives and Chronicles, 1680 Palomino Dr., Henderson, Nevada 89015 or A8 202 Morningside Dr., Wintersville, Ohio 43952, or call 702-564-6900.

## CONFERENCE

"Relative Theories - A Military Experience" On Oct. 21 from 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Church of the Covenant on Rt. 136 in Washington, PA.

## A WORD OF THANKS

I want to thank everyone who helped me while I was your President for the past two years. It takes team work to make any organization a success, and I had a great team working with me. My personal thanks to the other officers, Keith Kerr, Mildred Halechko, Tom Wiley, and Steph Valentine; Newsletter Editor, Marcia Coleman, and her staff, Deborah MacIntyre, Shirley Kelly, Helen Kalan, Pat McCully, Grace and William McVay, and Sherry Brady; Publicity, Gwen Glasbergen; the Book Committee Chair, Marion Hyle, and her staff, Gary Schlemmer, Rosemary Miller, Elissa Powell, and Keith Kerr; Field Trip Chair, Rosemary Miller; Club Contact, Connie Foley; FGS Delegate, Elissa Powell; Cemetery Project Volunteers, Grace and William McVay, Pat McCully, Conrad Slanina, Sally Hough, Keith Kerr, David Lesser, Sam Nicoltra, Elissa Powell, Margaret Young, Barbara Gierl, Janet Fazio, Bernice Broniechi, and Gwen Glasbergen.

As you can see, you had a lot of good people working toward making your Club a success. I hope they, as well as many more of you, continue to give such great support to your Club and its officers. I enjoyed being your President and look forward to many more enjoyable years as an active member of our Club.

Thanks again to all of you. Ginny

## SURNAME INDEX

Anyone submitting a query to NHG regarding information contained in our Five Generation Chart Book and Surname Index Card File should address their query to my attention at the following address: Virginia C. Skander, North Hills Genealogists, c/o Northland Public Library, 300 Cumberland Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237. I will check our records to see if I can match you up with one of the surnames contained in our file and get back to you. If you don't hear from me within a reasonable amount of time or encounter a problem with reaching me, please feel free to call me at (412) 443-1460 to inform me of the problem. Due to the time involved with searching through our files, it will not be possible for me to handle queries over the phone, so please send your requests in writing. Shortly copies of our Surname Index Card File will be available for research at the Northland Public Library. You will be notified when this becomes available.

## NEW ENGLAND GRAVE MARKERS

By: Derick Hartshorn

**GRAVEN IMAGES:** These are a few of many motifs found on gravestones with some of the commonly held interpretations of their symbolism.

- Angel, Flying - Rebirth, Resurrection.
- Angel, Trumpeting - Resurrection.
- Angel, Weeping - Grief and Mourning.
- Arch - Victory in death.
- Arrow - Mortality.
- Bird - Eternal life.
- Bird, Flying - Resurrection.
- Book - Representation of a holy book: i.e. the Bible.
- Breasts (Gourds, Pomegranates) - Nourishment of the soul; the Church.
- Columns and Doors - Heavenly entrance.
- Crown - Glory of life after death.
- Cup or Chalice - The Sacraments.
- Dove - Purity; Devotion.
- Dove, Flying - Resurrection.
- Drapes - Mourning; Mortality.
- Flame or Light - Life; Resurrection.
- Flower - Fragility of life.
- Flower, Severed Stem - Shortened life.
- Garland or Wreath - Victory in death.
- Grim Reaper - Death personified.
- Hand, Pointing Up - Pathway to heaven; Heavenly reward.
- Hands, Clasped - The goodbyes said at death.
- Heart - Love; Love of God; Abode of the soul; Mortality.
- Hourglass - Passing of time.
- Hourglass, Flying - Time flies.
- Lamb - Innocence.
- Lion - Courage; The Lion of Judah.
- Pall - Mortality.
- Pick - Death; Mortality.
- Rod or Staff - Comfort for the bereaved.
- Rooster - Awakening; Resurrection.
- Scythe - Death; The divine harvest.
- Seashell - Resurrection; Life everlasting; Life's pilgrimage.
- Skull - Mortality.
- Skull/ Crossed Bones - Death.
- Skeleton - Life's brevity.
- Snake (Tail in Mouth) - Everlasting life in heaven.
- Spade - Mortality; Death.
- Sun Rising - Renewed life.
- Sun Shining - Life everlasting.

Sun Setting - Death.  
 Thistle - Scottish descent.  
 Tree - Life.  
 Tree Sprouting - Life everlasting.  
 Severed Branch - Mortality.  
 Tree Stump - Life interrupted.  
 Tree Trunk - Brevity of life.  
 Tree Trunk Leaning - Short interrupted life.  
 Um - Immortality (ancient Egyptian belief that life would be restored in the future through the vital organs placed in the um).  
 Weeping Willow Tree - Mourning; Grief; Nature's lament.  
 Winged Face - Effigy of the deceased soul; the soul in flight.  
 Winged Skull - Flight of the soul from mortal man.  
 Wreath - Victory.  
 Wreath on Skull - Victory of death over life.  
 Wheat Strands or Sheaves - The divine harvest.  
 Unadorned graves may be Quaker. An additional clue to Quaker gravestones is that they usually use no names of months (example: the third day of the tenth month; 3 10 mo).

#### Graven Images Bibliography

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Forbes, Harriette Merrifield- "Gravestones of Early New England and the Men Who Made Them, 1653-1800". The Pyne Press, Princeton, New Jersey, 1927 reprint, softcover. Currently out of print but can be found at libraries.

George, Diana Hume and Malcolm A. Nelson- "Epitaph and Icon: A Field Guide to the Old Burying Grounds of Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard and

Nantucket". Pamassus Imprints, Orleans, Massachusetts, 1983. \$12.95, softcover.

Gillon, Jr., Edmund Vincent- "Early New England Gravestone Rubbings". Dover Publications, Inc., New York, 1966. Currently out of print but can be found in libraries.

Jacobs, G. Walker- "Stranger Stop and Cast an Eye: A Guide to Gravestones and Gravestone Rubbing". The Stephen Greene Press, Brattleboro, Vermont, 1972. \$4.95, hardcover.

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Tashjian, Dickran and Ann- "Memorials for Children of Change: The Art of Early New England Stonecarving". Wesleyan University Press, Middletown, Connecticut, 1973. \$20.00, hardcover.

Wasserman, Emily- "Gravestone Designs: Rubbings and Photographs from Early New York and New Jersey". Dover Publications, Inc., New York, 1972. Currently out of print but can be found in libraries.

Willsher, Betty and Doreen Hunter- "Stones: 18th Century Scottish Gravestones". Taplinger Publishing Company, New York, 1979. \$7.50, softcover.

Williams, Melvin G.- "The Last Word: The Lure and Lore of Early New England Graveyards". Oldstone Enterprises, 186 Lincoln Street, Suite 705, Boston, Massachusetts, 02111, 1973. \$3.25, softcover.

#### Publication

The Association for Gravestone Studies, 46 Plymouth Road, Needham, Massachusetts, 02192. \$5.00 individual membership, \$25.00 family membership. Annual publication: **MARKERS**. Quarterly newsletter.

*Courtesy of:* Schell and Elayne Alexander 13200 Doty Avenue #220 Hawthorne, California 90250

**Tidbit.....** Do you know why all handkerchiefs are square? On June 2, 1785, King Louis XIV of France decreed: "The length of handkerchiefs shall equal their width throughout my entire kingdom." L. M. Boyd, Crown Syndicate

## A TRIP BACK IN TIME

by Marcia Coleman

Several years ago my grandfather's genealogy journal came into my possession. This is not just a journal full of birth and death records. This journal is also full of little tidbits of information such as how someone died or their occupation, physical description, personality, etc. I have read and re-read this little journal and now I feel as if I really know some of these folks.

This summer I had the opportunity to visit England. I was not on a "genealogy hunt" as I was traveling with my nephew and husband, but I was still able to have an "ancestral experience" that was something really special. One of the ancestors that I had read about in the little journal was William Noyes; b. ca. 1568, m. Anne Parker and d. 1616. The following is what was written in the journal about him.

"Was rector of Cholderton, County, Wilts, Eng. Matriculated at University College, Oxford, Nov. 15, 1588, age 20 years and was graduated B.A. May 31, 1592. Written on the front of the Cholerton Parish Register, which was started in 1651, is as follows: "Mr. William Noyes, rector of Cholerton about 30 years, departed this life 1616."

Before leaving the U.S. I sent a letter to Oxford University with the above information and asked if they could verify any of the information and/or explain the various spellings of the town. They wrote back stating that yes he had graduated from University College and also that the name of the town had changed spellings over the years with Cholderton being the correct modern spelling.

I examined every English map that I could find here in the U.S. and was unable to discover even what county Cholderton was situated in. I looked at all the road maps that came with our rental car and again was unable to find the town. As much as I wanted to see Cholderton it was beginning to look very doubtful that I would ever be able to locate this town. Near the end of the trip we found a very detailed map of Wiltshire and discovered that when we had gone to Stonehenge that we were very close to Cholderton.

On our last day in England we went first to Oxford University and found University College which is the College that Rev. Noyes graduated from. We walked along the cobblestone paths where young William Noyes probably walked when he was a student. It was quite

thrilling. But the biggest thrill came later in the day when we found the town of Cholderton and discovered that it probably had changed very little in the last 300 years. The entire present day town probably had under thirty buildings and the center of the Cholderton had just a handful of homes, a church and graveyard. Cars are not allowed to drive on the narrow cobblestone street that passes by thatched roof homes on its way to the church and cemetery.

After parking our car and crossing the main road we walked straight back in time as we walked up the lane toward Rev. Noyes's church. The gravestones in the church yard were so old that you could no longer read the writing on most of them. As I looked around I began to wonder if I was looking at Rev. Noyes grave or at the graves of people from his church that he had buried. A sign on the church said that it was open only one Sunday a month. I wish I could have gotten inside the church, but that experience I am saving for my next visit to England.

*Editors note:* This is what I was doing when I had a month long break from the newsletter. I have another break in December, I wonder where I could go then?

## HINTS FOR BETTER QUERIES

by Elissa Scalise Powell C.G.R.S.

Queries are how we ask for information, be it in a conversation, in a personal letter or as an ad in a genealogical publication. They are a valuable way to let people know of our particular family interests in the hope that a connection may be made. Placing queries in the newsletter of the genealogical society in the area where the ancestor lived could yield a goldmine in family information and new relatives. Or it could be a dud. The difference could be how you phrased your request.

Take for example the following request that I received as a personal letter. Keep in mind that according to USA Today for 31 July 1995 the five most common surnames in the U. S. are 1. Smith, 2. Johnson, 3. Williams, 4. Jones and 5. Brown.

" I am doing research on my family tree and wonder if you would like to share any information you might have on the Johnson family. I am at a stand still with Benjamin who was thought to have been born in 1801. Any help could get about any of the Johnsons would be appreciated. I would be more than happy to pay for the postage and copying fees. And sharing all information I

have also. I would appreciate your reply with any Johnson news...not just Benjamin of course, some how it all may piece together. Sincerely, Susie Johnson Anderson, 151 Buena Vista Drive, Colville, WA 99114."

So why won't I answer her? 1. She did not include a Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope. 2. I have no Benjamin Johnson in my tree. 3. I know nothing more about my Margaret Johnson Gravatt than she had John and Johnson Gravatt in the 1750's in Monmouth county, NJ. 4. I don't even know what part of the county her Johnsons may have lived in to supply any extra data related to this popular surname. 5. She does not say how she found my name so that I can write to her from that point of view.

So what did Ms. Anderson do that was correct? 1. She offered to share data and pay for postage and copying costs. 2. She called it 'research on my family tree' so it sounds friendlier than 'genealogical research.'

What can you learn from this? 1. Target your audience. Tell them how you came to write to them. 2. Give specifics, *especially* place names, but not so much as to lose the point of the query. 3. Offer to share your data with correspondents. 4. Include a SASE if you really want a response and offer to pay for cost involved in duplicating and getting the material to you. 5. Tell your correspondents that you will keep their data on file and if someone else writes you with their line, you will let them know. And then do it!

Queries can bring such wonderful surprises if they reach the right audience. I have found long lost branches and so many new cousins, my Christmas card list has doubled! So if you have a Benjamin Johnson in your line, rumored to have been born about 1801 somewhere in this world, please write to Ms. Anderson and tell her why I did not respond to her request.

## BORN AT SEA

*The Family Tree*, Vol. VI, No. 3, June/July 1995

If you have an ancestor born at sea aboard a British vessel from 1656 to the present, a source of information is St. Dunstan Parish, London, England. If at least one parent was Irish, and the birth was between 1864 and 1920, records may be obtained from the Registrar General, Custom House, Dublin, Ireland.

## TOWN NAME REMAINS MYSTERY

Excerpts from an article by George Swetnam,  
North Hills News Record, May 1, 1995

The mystery of Chicora is as deep as it was when I first ran into it nearly a quarter of a century ago, although it has taken a new turn. Chicora is a pretty town of 1,310 people and a lot of history.

The area, located in the extreme northeastern corner of Butler County, has had three names over the years. Two have been around for more than a century — one for the borough, the other for the post office.

The town was first settled by the **HEMPHILL** and **BARNHART** families in 1795. The town was laid out in 1836 on some of Hemphill's land. It had grown up around its two principal industries, a distillery operated in 1803 by James Hemphill and a water mill built the same year on Buffalo Creek by Abraham **LASHER**. Later, Philip Barnhart replaced the mill with a larger one, and although the town chose the name Millerstown, it was generally called Barnhart's Mill for many years.

Under the two names, Millerstown and Barnhart's Mill, it remained a sleepy village of about 200 until 1873, when an oil well on a nearby farm came in with a production of 250 barrels a day, and word spread among prospectors. By the end of that year, the town, with a population of 3,000, reached its peak.

But a problem arose with the name: There was a Millerstown in Perry County and the mail got mixed up. After an effort to become Barnhart's Mills, petitioners suggest Chicora.

Now where did Chicora come from? The word isn't in the dictionary. There is a chicory, a pretty wayside flower, whose roots are ground and mixed with coffee, but no Chicora.

Back in Chicora, I found Edward F. **UBER**, running the hardware store that had been in his family since oil boom days more than a century ago. Of course he knew the answer: The town was named for the Chicora, a battleship that used to run on the Great Lakes from 1869 to 1914. He even supplied a picture.

That settles one mystery. But it leaves another: Why did the good folks of the town name it for a Canadian battleship which never was within 100 miles? Even Mr. Uber could not answer that one.

## WHAT'S IN A NAME

by Ann Summers

*The Highpoint*, Volume 24, Number 5, May 1993  
Originally from *Genealogy by Computer Society* and  
printed in *Erie Co. Connection*, April 1993.

More on Patronymics: The dictionary defines the term as: "A name received from a paternal ancestor, especially one formed by a prefix or suffix, as in Johnson, the son of John, or Fitzgerald, the son of Gerald." As well as the English suffix "son" and the Norman prefix "fitz", the Welch used "ap", "mob", "ab", or "vap", as a prefix to indicate son; the Anglo-Norman and Welsh in Ireland used "Mac" or "Mc". Some other European Ethnic groups used suffixes, such as the Russian "witz" and the Polish "sky" or "ski", which also mean son.

The Welsh sometimes appended the names of ancestors as far back as the 6th generation, such as "David ap Howell ap Evan ap Rhys ap Richard ap John." Obviously, this system could get quickly out of hand. These designations became shortened; David ap Howell became David Powell and Evan ap Rhys became Evan price; or John ap Hugh became John Pugh and Richard ap Evan became Richard Bevan.

The Welsh later began to add "s" to the father's baptismal name to create the Welsh equivalent of the English "son" patronymic, such as John Hughes or Richard Evans.

Children born out of wedlock often had the name of "Fitz" added to the mother's or reputed father's name (Obviously the Norman influence). Royalty or other high placed person often sired a child out of wedlock, and it was not a disadvantage at that time to claim the connection.

The Irish "O" is also a patronymic and used before a progenitor's first name, signifies grandson or other descendant. Other suffixes indicating progeny are the Teutonic "ing" such as "Whiting" or "Browning", the German "kin" or child; hence "Watkin" for son of Wat or Walter, "Wilkin" son of Will or William; the German "ling," meaning something young or little; Darling, Gosling; or the Anglo-Saxon "let" from "lyt", meaning little; Bartlet, Barret; or "ette" (middle English meaning small, or feminine); Barnette, Leverette.

"Cic," "cock" or "cox" are also diminutives meaning little or son. Hitchcock, son of Hig or Hugh; Wilcock, son of Wm., Babcock, son of Bob or Robert.

## IRISH POTATO FAMINE TO BE NOTED

by James F. Clarity for *The New York Times*, Mar. 1995

For the first time since the devastating potato famine of the 1840's Ireland will be marking the 150th anniversary of this event that defined the history of Ireland as it is now known. The famine reduced Ireland's population by a third to it's present level of about 5 million. It also nurtured hatred for the British colonial masters and let do violent secret societies, one of which ultimately evolved into the Irish Republic Army and caused the guerrilla war in Northern Ireland. Since southern Ireland became independent 74 years ago, the famine has been largely ignored by the government and by academics and writers - out of horror, guilt over the role of some of the Irish and a disinclination to irritate Britain over it's role.

But this year Ireland will officially acknowledge the great tragedy for the first time. The blight starved 1 million people and forced 2 million others to immigrate to America, Australia and Britain, forming an Irish diaspora now estimated at 70 million. Irish President Mary ROBINSON took the lead in deciding to confront history. She said in one of her rare speeches to both houses of the Parliament in Dublin that "commemoration is a moral act." She was careful not to refer specifically to the British role on the famine, but she praised those who are now examining the causes and responsibility.

There is now a Famine Museum in Strokestown. At the museum recently Rosemary CUNNINGHAM, 27 year-old sociologist, talked with visitors. She told them that one of her ancestors was found dead of starvation and fever during the famine. She said the famine has been ignored because the largely uneducated victims either died or emigrated, leaving no accounts of their suffering. In Ireland, there was shame over those who exploited the situation, taking land from the starving farmers who had been evicted.

## PA'S HISTORICAL BURIAL PLACES PRESERVATION ACT

*Forum*, Vol. 7, No. 2, Summer 1995

The Historic Burial Places Preservation Act (9 P. S. sec. 211) was approved April 29, 1994, and took effect six days later. The act incorporates the definition of a historic burial place and also defines a "burial ground

authority." It limits the power of a municipality to condemn a historic burial place; any use other than that of a burial ground must be approved by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. It restricts the removal of a gravestone or a burial without Court approval and creates new criminal offenses (second degree misdemeanors) for those who, with out authority of the owner or a descendant of a deceased or a historic burial ground authority, intentionally destroy, mutilate, deface or remove any tome, monument, gravestone or other structure or any portion or fragment thereof, including any fence or railing or other enclosure for the historic burial place. It is also a misdemeanor to posses or sell or offer for sale or attempt to sell any monument, gravestone, other structure, or any portion of fragment thereof, if one knows that it has been unlawfully removed from a historic burial place. [Christian Earl Eaby, wiring in Pennsylvania Mennonite Heritage 18:2 (April 1995)]

## CIVIL WAR PENSIONS

*The Highpoint*, Vol. 25, No. 9, Oct. 1994

Pension files for the Union Civil War soldier are at the National Archives, 7th and Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington D.C. 20408. You may obtain a copy of the pension file by mail using NATF Form 80. The charge for a selected part of the file is \$10.00. Do not send money until you are requested to do so. If you want the entire file, write "Please copy entire file" on the form 80. In response, the National Archives will send you a selected part of the file plus a form 80a that tells you the copying fee for the rest of the file. Fill out and send in the Form 80a to obtain the rest of the file. Questions about this procedure should be addressed to the General Refence Branch, (NNRG) at the above address.

To get a form 80, call 202-501-5400 between 8:45 am and 5:00 pm Monday thru Friday or write to the address given above. A free brochure, Military Service Records in the National Archives of the United States is also available. Use a separate Form 80 to request a copy of a soldier's military service file. To obtain copies of other Civil War Military records (court martial file, etc.) write a letter to the Military Reference Branch (NNRM) at the address given above. You may also examine and copy military service files, pension files and other records in person at the national Archives.

*You know you are an Addicted Genealogist when you have more interest in what happened in 1695 than 1995.*

## NEW PUBLICATIONS FROM THE FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY

*The Family Tree*- Vol. VI, No. 3, June/July 1995

The Family History Library has published two new research outlines that describe the methodology, major resources and archives used for doing research in two major countries: Ireland Research Outline (948 pages) and Germany Research Outline (52 pages). These guides are \$.75 each.

The library has also published two brief letter-writing guides to help researchers obtain records from non-English speaking countries: French Letter-Writing Guide (8 pages) and German Letter-Writing Guide (7 pages). These guides are \$.25 each. The guides briefly describe where major genealogical records are kept, where to write for them and how to write an appropriate letter. The guides also contain sentences (in English with foreign translation) to help researchers write a letter in the appropriate language.

These publications are available at your local LDS Family History Center or call 1-800-240-1430 for a list of available publications and ordering information.

## NEW GENEALOGY LIBRARY

Excerpts from *The McMichael Family News*

Nearly everyone has heard of Denver's new airport that opened late and over-budget; but have you heard of Denver's "Big New Library which opened on time and within budget?"

It has nearly 1.5 million items in its collection which makes it the eighth largest public-library collection in the United States.

Long known for its Western History department, the library boasts a beautiful two-story circular area for this department on the fifth floor. Also on the fifth floor is the heavily used genealogy department and the conservation collection. The Western History collection alone contains 75,000 catalogued books and pamphlets and a 500,000 photo collection that is accessible by subject or photographer and viewable by a computer screen.

The genealogy room has a spectacular view of Denver's Civic Center Park and two meeting rooms. More importantly, the genealogy collection has 40,000 volumes of records and 60,000 pieces of microfilm.

## **BITS AND PIECES**

### **FADING FAX**

*Gleanings*- June 1995, Vol. XIX, No. 4

FAX copies may start to fade after only a week in storage. After a period of several weeks or a couple of years they may be illegible. The speed of fading depends on the amount of light to which the copy is exposed. Always make a photocopy of the FAX for permanent storage.

### **GENEALOGICAL HINT**

*The Highpoint*, July 1995

If you are preparing to read old handwriting or script, a good source or help is any of the new publications for this purpose; or you might peruse a used book store for such

a book. An old book on German handwriting is particularly helpful when reading German tombstones. Many mistakes are made because a researcher doesn't realize the differences between new and old letters.

### **HELP FROM RUSSIA**

*The Family Tree*, Vol. VI, No. 3, June/July 1995

The Russian Baltic Information Center works with the historic archives in St. Petersburg and Moscow and provides genealogy research in the archives, document retrieval and translations. The center is located in St. Petersburg and also maintains an office in the United States. Write W. Edward Nute, Coordinator, Russian-Baltic Information Center - 907 Mission Ave., San Rafael, CA 94901 or call 1-415-453-3579.

**Sept. 19 - Keith Larner**  
**"A French-Indian War Soldier"**

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