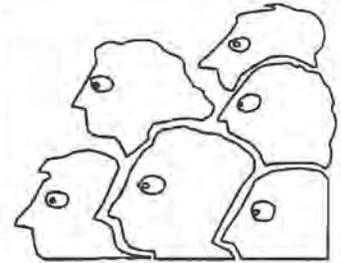


NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS NEWSLETTER



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

Volume 6 Number - 6 - Feb. 1996

President: Keith Kerr
Vice President: Gary Schlemmer
Treasurer: Steph Valentine

Secretary: T. J. Galbraith
Subscription: \$12.00 per year
10 Issues from August to June

Publicity: Gwen Glasbergen
Liaison: Connie Foley
Editor: Marcia Coleman

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"Everybody's tryin' to get into the act.

Jimmy Durante

All change, all progress is not necessarily good. New and improved is not always a great leap forward. We have all seen a fine old building or a magnificent home ripped down to be replaced by a ghastly high rise concrete parking lot or worse, an empty lot, a future home of empty beer cans and litter. Our January speaker, Mr. Ardinger, gave us a vision of the future. A future where it seems all information will be accessed by everybody. Our home computers will be our door way to endless indexes on every bit of information. Gone will be the sensual pleasure of rummaging through musty old books and unreadable ancient maps. Our computers will be able to do all the name collecting, sorting and cross checking. We will be able to construct a family history in a day that now takes us years.

The "Graying of America" will mean more and more people will be drawn toward genealogy. This may mean more businesses will be interested in compiling this encyclopedic information for us. Hopefully this will also mean more microfilm readers. After all, we have to wait our turn now.

I hope one of your New Years Resolutions was to be more active in the North Hills Genealogists this year. Soon we will be back at work on our cemetery project. We have another graveyard to read. We will have proofreading

work. We will need a printer. Anyone who knows the printing business or who has a publisher in mind would be most helpful.

Steph Valentine, after long and excellent service, will be stepping down as Treasurer this year. Give some thought to taking on this task. Come to a Board meeting and see how you can pitch-in and help in our tasks. We need all the help we can get. The Board is the engine that keeps our organization running. New people and new ideas will keep us in touch with the membership and keep us a vital and growing society.

In this cold February, we have to remember spring is coming soon. Those gray skies will be blue. That frozen ground will be lush with flowers and vegetable plants. The North Hills Genealogists will be growing too. The Steelers will be back. Keep warm.

Keith

WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

Wed., Mar. 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.

Tue., Mar. 19 at 7:00 p.m. - **Regular NHG meeting** at Northland Library. Program: Joseph Makarewicz on "Ethnic Groups in Pittsburgh."

Tue., Apr. 16 at 7:00 p.m. - **Regular NHG meeting** at Northland Library. Program: Round Table Discussion.

Tues., May 21 at 7:00 p.m. - **Regular NHG meeting** at Northland Library. Program: Jean Gregord on "German Records through L.D.S."

GENEALOGY CLASSES

EXPLORING FAMILY HISTORY

A Beginner's Course

This class is sponsored by The Genealogical Committee of The Western Reserve Historical Society Library in Cleveland, Ohio. It will be offered three times, April 13, August 10 and November 9. The class will run from 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Topics included are: Home Sources, Vital Records, Research by Mail, Basic Genealogical Rules, Charts, Forms, Organization, Supplies, Cemetery & Funeral Home Records, Types of Evidence, Documentation, Handwriting Problems, U. S. Census Records, Library Research and WRHS Library.

You will need to bring to class: Brown bag lunch, pencil, pen, paper, 3 ring notebook and any research you have done. The fee is \$30.00 which includes the textbook. Classes will be held in the Hassler Room, Western Reserve Historical Society Library, 10825 East Blvd., Cleveland, Ohio.

To register send name, address, phone number and class name and date with a \$30.00 check made out to *WRHS Gen. Comm.* to: Jeannette Grosvenor, 12860 Mayfield Road, Lot 56, Chardon, Ohio 44024-8936.

HONING YOUR SKILLS - BEYOND THE BASICS

March 2 - "*Stand Up and be Counted*" - How to locate and use Federal, State, and County censuses and indexes. Special and non population Federal census schedules.

April 6 - "*Have You Checked Out*" - getting ready for summer travel. Library attack plan. Overview of Cleveland area resources. WRHS Library. Using local resources to find records not housed in the Cleveland area. Interlibrary loan. Hiring a professional.

June 1 - "*See You In Court*" - Overview of courthouse offices and types of records found in each. Including Probate Court - estate records, guardianships, adoption, insanity inquests.

July 6 - "*Went West*" - Introduction to land records. How people acquired land. Rectangular Survey, Metes and Bounds, Homestead Act. Tax Records. Reasons for migration.

August 3 - "*Have You Read?*" - Use of newspapers, periodicals, and manuscripts (original records) to locate those pieces of hard to find information. Over-looked sources.

September 7 - "*To The Land of Milk and Honey*" - Immigration records, passenger lists, nationalization records, etc. from the Mayflower to the present.

October 5 - "*Press Enter to Continue*" - Computers and genealogy. Home computers. Computers outside the home. Research tool. Organize gathered information. Writing tool.

November 2 - "*Let It Be Written*" - No experience needed. Turn gathered data into a written story. Self publishing.

The fee is \$12.00 per class and the classes run from 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Classes will be held in the Hassler Room, Western Reserve Historical Society Library, 10825 East Blvd., Cleveland, Ohio.

To register send name, address, phone number and class name and date with a check made out to *WRHS Gen. Comm.* to: Jeannette Grosvenor, 12860 Mayfield Road, Lot 56, Chardon, Ohio 44024-8936.

GENEALOGY CONFERENCES

Family History Conference at the Youngstown Historical Center will be held on March 15 and 16 at the Youngstown Historical Center of Industry and Labor. The two-day program, which will feature presentations by both genealogists and professional historians, also includes children's activities and three open sessions for those who may wish to offer a presentation on a topic of their own choice. Mary Bowman, president of the Ohio Genealogical Society, will be the keynote speaker. For more information, or to register or make a proposal for a presentation, call Randy Gooden at 216-743-5934.

National Genealogy Society Conference in Nashville, TN on May 8-11. Elissa Powell will be attending. Call her at 935-6961 for more information.

F.G.S. Annual Conference is in Rochester NY, Aug. 14-17. The nation's genealogists will gather in upstate New York this August to enjoy four days of genealogical excitement and education. The sixteenth annual conference of the Federation of Genealogical Societies, "In Your Ancestor's Image," will feature more than 100 lectures delivered by over 70 knowledgeable experts; more than 130 booths showcasing the latest in books and supplies; preconference workshops on effective society management; and numerous opportunities to meet formally and informally with family and local historians, archivists, librarians, and leaders in the genealogical community. Hosted by the Rochester Genealogical Society, the conference program includes sessions on basic research procedures and methodology, immigrant origins, localities (including New York State and Canadian emphasis) and technology applied to genealogical interests.

To receive lecture information and registration details contact the Federation Office: "In Your Ancestors Image," P.O. Box 830220, Richardson, TX 75083-0220; e-mail 103074.1721@compuserve.com You may phone or fax at (214) 907-9727; Conference homepage: <http://www.vianet.com/~hasley/fgs96html>. Elissa Powell will be attending. Call her at 935-6961 for more information.

QUERIES

Researching **DIEDRICH/DIETRICH, JESSON, WAGGONER, ROSENSTEELE, MARKOVIC, PAWLAK, LINGLE, & SCHAD** all from Allegheny County. *Contact:* Kathy Baumgarten, 18 Elm, Plattsburgh, NY 12901.

Researching **WAGNER**, Francesca, b. 1842, Ulm Stuttgart, Germany; **WEISS/WEIS**, Joseph; **SHOENBERGER**, Maria, b. 1840, Nuernberg, Ger.; **TERJEK**, Paul; **SCHMITT**, Maria, b. Nuernberg, Ger.; **SCHOENBERGER**, Adam or George, b. 1834, Nuernberg, Ger.; **WEISS**, Frank, b. 1838, Wurrtemberg. *Contact:* Eileen Terjak, 7832 Old Perry Hwy, Pittsburgh, PA 15237.

Researching George **WILSON** (b.1807-d.2/29/1872), born Moon Twp, Beaver, PA. *Contact:* John H. Wilson, 414 Golden Grove Rd., Baden, PA 15005.

Researching **OTT, BECK/BARCK, BOEHM, WALSER/WALZER/WALTZER/WALTSER** &

BOEGEL in Pittsburgh; **COPELAND**, Elizabeth Township PA (Boston, Glassport, McKeesport, etc.) **WEYEL(S)/WILD(S)/WEYLE(S)**, McKeesport & Dravosburgh PA. *Contact:* Cora Ott, 310 Franklin St. #8, Boston, MA 02110-3100 or E-mail - ArocMae@AOL.COM

Researching **BOON(E), CLENENIN, HAYES, McCAMISH, & DONALDSON**. *Contact:* Carol Pickart, 1212 1st., Vinton, IA 52349-1719.

Researching **WOESSNER & MAURHOFF** worldwide. *Contact:* Paul N. Woessner, 103 Fairdale Ct., Pittsburgh, PA 15237.

Researching **JACKSON** in Washington Co; **ABER** in Allegheny Co.; **McCARTER, LOUTZENHIZER & DOUTAITT** in Beaver Co.; **MEYER, STILTS, HUFFMAN & RICE** in Allegheny County and **THOMAS** in NY. *Contact:* Robert & Margaret Jackson, 129 N. Milton St., Zelienople, PA 16063-1042.

Researching Nicholas & Adelia (**SENDELBECK**) **REDDINGER**, Sharpsburg, PA & Manor Township, Armstrong Co., PA; Liborius **KNAPP** & Maria Theresia (**SPETH**) **KNAPP-SCHEIBLE**, Scheible, Reserve Township, PA & Rhabanus **DEITZ (DIETZ)** & Ardinus **DEITZ**, Allegheny City, PA. *Contact:* Darlane Abel, 104 Biscayne Terrace, Pittsburgh, PA 15212.

Researching **BARCHFELD, SCANLON, DIPPER, & HEURICH** in Allegheny County; **COLE** in Marshall Twp., Allegheny County; **FOERTSCH** in Jefferson Twp, Butler County; **MELEY** in Reserve Twp, Allegheny County; **HECKERT** in Clearfield Twp, Butler County. *Contact:* Tom Barchfeld, 2550 Old Trail Road, York Haven, PA 17370.

Researching **CHILLO & NEWMAN** who died in Pittsburgh in the 1960's and 1970's. *Contact:* Barbara F. Wilson, 10507 Mamlin Drive, Chester, VA 23831.

Researching **NAEGELY** in Allegheny City, Alsace, and NY; **RAHN** in Allegheny City; **FAZIO & SHANDA** in Villa Rosa, Sicily; **WEBER** in Allegheny City & **FORNSHELL** in York, PA. *Contact:* Janet Fazio, 2861 W Bardonner Rd. Ext, Gibsonia, PA 15044-8456.

Researching **LOEBIG** in Allegheny County and NY and NJ. *Contact:* Marie Loebig, 9320 Timber Trail, Pittsburgh, PA 15237-4273.

Researching **ACKELSON (ECKELSON)** in Allegheny and Washington Counties; **McFADDEN** in Clarion and Jefferson Counties & **THOMPSON** in Erie County. Contact: Ernest McFadden, 304 Fieldstone Drive, Glenshaw, PA 15116.

Researching **BAKER, MURPHY, CONNEGHAN, O'CONNEGHAN, CUNNINGHAM, & ALBRIGHT** all of Somerset County or Allegheny County or Maryland & **TANCRAITOR & HOWAT** of Allegheny Co. PA, Germany, Austria and Yugoslavia. Contact: Mary Lou Wilson, 3945 Shepard Rd., Gibsonia, PA 15044-9408.

Looking for birth records for John **VAN AUDOLL** born in Pittsburgh PA on March 29, 1785. Also looking for information on his wife, Mary **PEGAN** around 1812 (?). Contact: Bonnie Van Ausdoll, 1205 Riverdale Rd., Rock Falls, Illinois 61071.

Researching **TANERAITOR, HORVAT** in Allegheny County and Germany, Austria and Yugoslavia. Contact: Mary Lou Wilson, 3945 Sheppard Road, Gibsonia, PA 15044.

Researching **BEAVER** in Bedford, Somerset & Westmoreland Co., **SCHOFIELD & TAYLOR** in Westmoreland Co., and **VESTRAND**, Westmoreland Co. and Michigan. Contact: Shirley Aguudo, c/o Mary Lee Jordan PPG Industry, 1 PPG Place, 4th floor, Pittsburgh, PA 15272.

BEGINNERS CORNER

Question: I have ancestors that came from the Allegheny County area. Where do I start looking for information?

Answer: Allegheny County was formed in 1788 and therefore land records (deeds) and probate (wills) go back to that time. Some birth, death and marriage records start in 1885. The Register of Wills office and marriage License Bureau are at 440 Grant St., Pittsburgh, in the City/County Building. Some miscellaneous marriage records are on microfilm at the Carnegie Library, 4400 Forbes Ave., Pittsburgh for February 1875 to June 1886. Other records that may exist for the years prior to 1885 are church records. If you have an idea of their religion affiliation and an area in which they lived, this becomes much easier. There are also naturalization records from 1798 to 1906. The earliest Pittsburgh city directory is 1813, with various volumes after that available for

research up to the 1970's. Newspapers are also on microfilm at the Carnegie Library.

Thanks to Elissa Powell for the above information.

BOOK REVIEW

by Jack Sanders, Internet

TWO BOOKS ON IRISH-AMERICAN GENEALOGY

Researchers into Irish genealogy may find these two books helpful to them.

"Irish Family History" by Marilyn Yurdan, who lives in Oxford, England, is a concise overview of how to go about seeking your Irish roots. The book begins with a rundown on Irish political and religious history and what prompted the great migrations to America and other countries, and how they took place.

Then, in clear, often light-hearted fashion, Ms. Yurdan tells how to begin your search, and describes the many sources of data both in Ireland and in the countries to which the Irish immigrated.

Needless to say, the greatest time and detail is devoted to Irish records. Many illustrations of census forms and maps of the country help explain how and where to search. There's even a chapter on visiting Ireland, describing plenty of places to visit for genealogical data and background.

The 194-page hardbound volume, indexed and with an extensive bibliography, is available at larger bookstores, better libraries, or from Genealogical Publishing Company, Dept. SM, 1001 North Calvert Street, Baltimore, Md., 21202 (toll free # 1-800-727-6687) at \$19.95 plus \$2.50 postage and handling.

While **"The Uncounted Irish in Canada and the United States"** by Margaret E. Fitzgerald and Joseph A. King also begins with a look at Irish history, its slant is more on the Irish in America. Of particular interest is extensive coverage of how the Irish helped shape American (and Canadian) history. Long chapters are devoted to early Irish settlers in the colonies, and later settlements in Wisconsin, Texas, Iowa, and California. An interesting chapter tells the Irish roots of no fewer than 20 American presidents, including Andrew Jackson (who was conceived in Ireland), Lincoln, Grant, Teddy Roosevelt,

Lyndon Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, and Bush.

Other chapters cover women in the early labor movement, a who's who of religious leaders and founders, and even a family history of singer Bing Crosby (used to demonstrate a migration from County Cork to New Brunswick, then to the American Middle West and finally Pacific Northwest).

Dr. FitzGerald, a retired New York City schools guidance counselor, and Mr. King, author of books and articles on the Irish in America and a retired California college professor, include many photos and maps, and an extensive bibliography and index in their 377-page book. It's an excellent way to gain an appreciation of the many contributions of the Irish to America, and wonderful background to help turn a genealogy into a real family history.

The hardbound book is available from P. D. Meany Publishers, Box 534, Port Credit, Ontario, L5G 4M2, Canada (1-416-274-3049) at \$36US. There is no indication of shipping charges, and they may be included in the price.

BOOKS FOR SALE

BOOKS FROM ANCESTRY, INC.

Elissa Powell will be ordering books from Ancestry, Inc. and if you have books that you wish to order please give her a list and the money. You can save the shipping charges by ordering your books on her order form. The deadline is March 1.

OHIO HISTORICAL CENTER

*Preview, Ohio Historical Society,
Vol. 5, No.1, Winter 1996*

A major renovation of the reading room and adjacent offices and work areas on the third floor of the Ohio Historical Center is scheduled to begin in early 1996. Although the center's library facilities are expected to remain open while the rehab work is in progress, those planning to use the research collections of the Historical Society's Archives/Library division during the months of February, March, April and May are asked to call 614 297-2510 prior to their visit.

FAMILY TIES

Interested in tracing your roots and recording your family history? Fairfield Inn by Marriott and AT&T offer "Generation Journey: A Kit to Connect Families." The free kit, with tips of creating a family history and worksheets for keeping family records and resources for further research, also is available in limited supply on Windows disk. For either, send a postcard to Generation Journey, Fulfillment Center, 8220 Ambassador Row, Dallas, Texas, 75247.

ARE YOU A GOOD ANCESTOR?

Jots from the Point, Dec. 1985, Vol. XII, No. 4

A good ancestor keeps certificates including birth and death certificates; records including health, military, naturalization and school; passports; newspaper and church notices; awards; photos; art and craft work; journals; bibles; diaries; baby, school and wedding books; heirlooms.

He or she dates correspondence, cares for tombstone, keeps research organized, writes or tapes the family stories, and supports family organizations.

A good ancestor dates everything, is sure that full names are included, records where material may be found and always sees that at least one other copy of important data is somewhere else.

Thanks to Elissa Powell for sharing this.

MISSOURI HELP

The Family Tree, Aug./Sept. 1994, Vol.V, No. 4

While researching Missouri records during the 1860's - 1875 and a woman is found selling property, don't automatically assume she is a widow. It could be that she was acting as the head of the family because of her husband's loss of civil rights because of his service on behalf of the South - or his sympathies for the Southern cause. In such cases, when his civil rights were restored he will once again be found handling the financial transactions for the family.

Helpful Hint: If your ancestor has a virtue name (Patience, Silence, Prudence) consider a New England heritage. via *Mahoning Meanderings*, Nov. 1995, Vol. 19, No. 9.

ALLEGHENY TO PITTSBURGH'S NORTH SIDE, A SKETCH

by Steve Pietzak, *Allegheny City Society Dispatch*,
Fall 1995

Steve, a reference librarian at the Allegheny Regional Branch Carnegie Library, wrote this easy tour of the lower North Side for new Allegheny Community students to find their way to the library.

Let's start in the 800 and 900 block of Ridge Avenue, called "millionaires's row," because of the wealthy families that owned mansions and lived there. This is now the location of the Community College of Allegheny, in the neighborhood know as Allegheny West, one of the smallest in the City of Pittsburgh.

Byer's Hall (1898) at 901-905 Ridge Ave. was formerly the home of Alexander M. **BYERS**, a wrought iron and pipe manufacture, and his son-in-law J. Denniston **LYON**, the banker. The 90 room Byers-Lyon house is in the Flemish Renaissance design. The architects for the mansion was the noted Pittsburgh firm of Alden and Harlow.

Jones Hall (1908) at 808 Ridge Ave. was built by Benjamin F. **JONES** one of the founders of the Jones and Laughlin Steel Company. The style is Tudor Revival, the architects were Rutan and Russell. The millionaire townhouse is constructed of red brick and terra cotta. It had 42 rooms and cost \$375,000 to build in 1908 .

West Hall (1911) at 809 Ridge Avenue was formerly the dormitory building of the Western Theological Seminary. The seminary was first built on Monument Hill, the area today is the upper student parking lot at the far eastern end of campus. In 1829, after fire had destroyed the building on the hilltop location the seminary constructed the dormitory using the Collegiate Tudor style.

The last of the millionaire enclave still standing in the 800 block of Ridge Ave. is the William Penn Snyder House (1911). Mr. **SNYDER** was owner of the Shenango Furnace Company, the building cost \$450,000 and was one of the first to feature a self-contained garage. The building is now occupied by the Babb Insurance Company.

Going toward the Allegheny river, below the campus, near the present site of Three Rivers Stadium and the surrounding parking lots was Exposition Park where the Pittsburgh Pirates played the first modern world series in

1903, against Boston . They lost the series.

Following Ridge Ave. to West Ohio St. you will see the large Catholic Church next to the National Aviary. This is St. Peters (1874). In the 1870's this church had its own bishop and did so until the Allegheny diocese merged with the Pittsburgh diocese. The church was attended by Arthur **ROONEY**, the former owner of the Pittsburgh Steelers.

At the end of West Ohio St. and West Commons, you'll find the Old Allegheny Post Office (1897), which is now the home of the Pittsburgh Children's Museum. This early Italian Renaissance building features a dome. Along the entrance to the garden of the museum is the portal of the now gone Manchester Bridge. On the portal are depictions of two early heros of Allegheny's early history Christopher **GIST** and Indian Chief Guyasuta.

The Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation fought to save this piece of architecture and many of the buildings of the North Side during the period when urban renewal was considered tearing down old buildings. The foundation used the old Post Office as its home in the 1970's before moving to Station Square.

Now we are in Allegheny Center Mall complex area. Across the street from the Children's Museum is the Buh Planetarium (1939) done in the Classical style. This building was the former home of the yearly Christmas model railroad display. Now the model railroad exhibit is totally computerized and can be viewed year-around at the New Carnegie Science Center. Before the Planetarium was built this was the site of the City Hall of the Allegheny.

Walking a little farther East you will find the Allegheny Branch of the Carnegie Library (1888). One of the first publicly supported that Andrew **CARNEGIE**, the steel magnate, gave to the world. This building features Richardsonian Romanesque architecture done in granite. The library was build to include a music hall which now house the Pittsburgh Public Theater.

TIDBITS: Did you ever wonder how a person who works with lead got to be called a plumber? We can get a clue from chemistry....in the periodic table, the chemical abbreviation for lead is "PB"...which is short for "Plumbum" (quite possibly misspelled) which is the Latin word for lead. The above information via the Internet, Oct., 1991.



PITY THE IRISH

Excerpts from an article by Andrew M. Greeley,
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, March 16, 1994

Research shows that they are the best educated and most financially successful gentile ethnic group in America

St. Patrick's Day draws near and the Irish, thought by many to be a pitiable and pathetic people if ever there were one, will swarm into the streets and bars to celebrate their own mediocrity and disturb the peace of respectable citizens with their noisy, drunken songs.

Of all the immigrant groups, the Irish never seem quite to have made it in America. Their religious superstitions, their contentiousness, their perverted love of wordplay, their romance with the drink, their oppressive family structures - all have combined to keep the Irish in the working and lower middle class. Some think that all they are good at is politics, and normally corrupt politics at that.

True? You gotta be kidding! In fact, unassailable and unassailed (but ignored) research evidence shows that the Irish are the best educated and the most financially successful gentile ethnic group in America, even if they haven't lost what others think are their perversities - obsession with words, legal and political skills, incorrigible Catholicism and their strange blend of fatalism and hope.

The Irish caught up with the average college attendance rate in this country in the first decade of this century and have remained above the national average ever since.

Moreover, whether East Coast media bigots believe it or not, on almost every political and social issue in the country the Irish come down on the LIBERAL side. They even tie with Jewish men for second place in their pro-feminism attitudes (Jewish women taking first place, but not by much).

The Irish can laugh all the way to their commodity brokers (who are probably Irish). They are the visible American success story. What counts to people whose

country was occupied by a foreign power for seven centuries is the success and not the visibility.

But are the Irish really respectable? At the slightest hint that we have become respectable, we Irish will be deprived of our precious privileges: the right, the time-honored and sacred right, to feel sorry for ourselves. I fear that the day has come when that right must be challenged.

In an article in the American Sociological Review, authors Hout and Goldstein establish that there were 4 million Irish immigrants to this country.

Taking into account the "natural" population increase, this should mean that there are 14 million Irish-Americans who will celebrate St. Patrick's Day next month. However, Hout and Goldstein cite census data to prove that there are 40 million Americans who claim to be Irish.

There are twice as many Irish as there ought to be. It would appear that the old saw about there being Irish and those who would like to be Irish has some truth after all. Some of these "converts" to Irishness are the children of ethnically mixed marriages, but intermarriage does not explain the increase in the Irish completely.

It would appear that for a vast number of Americans being Irish is a good thing to be, even if your claim to being a descendant of the Old Erin is tenuous at best. Even President Clinton (with more than tenuous reason) claims to be Irish.

LEADS TO IRISH ORIGINS

by Terrence Punch, Internet, May 14, 1993

Below are some points to note when dealing with the Irish and their origins: 1. More than any other culture, they tended to marry outside their group. 2. Some Irish emigrants were descendants of Irish immigrants from England, Scotland, Holland, France, etc. and so a non-Irish-sounding name may be misleading. 3. Early Irish Catholic registers may be gathering dust at the Vatican. 4. Protestants and Catholics sometimes used different names for the same place. 5. Be aware of "chain migration," nearby relatives and neighbors from Ireland would often follow the first settlers to the same location in the new land. 6. Some Irish given names are localized (Florence is from Cork and Iberius from Wexford) and some the family names are too.

EARLY MERCHANT MARINE RECORDS INDEXED 1824-1861

by Ruth Priest Dixon, C.G.R.S., *The Forum*, Fall 1993

Twenty thousand applications for Seamen's Protection Certificates filed by merchant seamen at the Port of Philadelphia¹ have been indexed by Ruth Priest Dixon, C.G.R.S. The index is now available to researchers in the Civil Reference Branch of the National Archives. (Published in 1994). A 3-by 5 inch index exists for applications for 1796 through 1823, and computerizing both indexes is the next step in the project.

"Protection" originally was authorized by Congress in 1796 to identify seamen as Americans and thus not subject to impressment by the British for the Royal Navy. This was a boon to twentieth-century genealogists. As a group, seamen were unlikely to own land and were often missed at census time. This may be the only record available for many men in this group.

The applications are a rich source of information. They give the name, age at time of application, and place of birth of the seamen. They also provide a description: height; color of skin, hair and eyes; birthmarks; tattoos; scars and disfigurements. Witnesses to the applications were often identified relative, or someone with the same surname.

Naturalized citizens provide the name of the court and date of their naturalization. Seamen who came to this country as children with their families give information on the naturalization of their fathers.

Men of color accounted for about a third of the merchant marine during this period. These applications give genealogical information for this hard to research group, often not available elsewhere. Some even cite the location and date of manumission, where it is recorded, and on occasion the name of the former master. Frederick Douglass borrowed one of these "Protections" and successfully used it as evidence that he was a free man of color when he escaped slavery in 1838.²

Notes:

1. Dixon, Ruth Priest, "Genealogical Fallout from the War of 1812," *Prologue* 24 (Spring 1992); 70-76.

2. Douglass, Frederick, *Life and Times of Frederick Douglass*. 1881. Facsimile reprint 1983, 138.

(Additional details on Seamen's Protection Certificates are in chapter 13 of *Guide to Genealogical Research in the National Archives*.)

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES SITS IN OUR BACKYARD

From *Genealogy, Pennsylvania*, Vol. 14, No. 1

by John W. Heisey

When genealogists look for materials outside of Pennsylvania, thoughts turn to Washington, D.C.—the home of the National Archives. However, some folks may decide to put the trip "on the back burner" as something to do in the future.

The trouble with such a decision is that you lose out on some necessary research data. But, don't worry. We have our own branch of the National Archives right in our own backyard.

It's the Philadelphia Branch, National Archives, at 9th and Market Streets, Philadelphia, 19107, (215) 597-3000. So take a trip to the City of Brotherly Love and make use of the "attic extension" for lots of genealogical data. This office is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the first and third Saturdays.

This branch holds a surprisingly large amount of information from a variety of national records, and you'll be glad to know that it contains microfilm copies of all federal censuses of the United States from 1790 to 1920.

Certain censuses of the past included "special schedules" with additional information. For example, in 1820 there was a Census of manufactures, and the Philadelphia branch office has a copy. They also have microfilm copies of the national census agricultural schedules of Pennsylvania from 1850 through 1880.

In addition, as can be expected, much information about maritime activities at the port of Philadelphia is available at this office. This data includes records of ship movements in and out of the port and immigration records from Philadelphia from 1800 to 1919, plus registers of aliens in the area from 1798 to 1812 for the U. S. District Court of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Of special interest to genealogical researchers are the indexes to naturalization petitions from individuals who were naturalized at Philadelphia between 1795 and 1963, Pittsburgh between 1820 and 1953, and Scranton between 1901 and 1958. Similar records are also on file for naturalizations at Baltimore, MD and Wilmington, DE.

The National Archives branch office has indexes of passengers who arrived at Philadelphia between 1800 and 1948. [plus indexes for passengers who arrived at Baltimore and other ports.]

Those researchers who are seeking information on participants in America's wars may find the Philadelphia office's holdings disappointing. For instance, they have little concerning the War of 1812, since neither service nor pension records for this war's participants have been placed in the NARS branch.

However, concerning the American Revolution, the Philadelphia office has a microfilm listing all the Revolutionary War Pensions and Bounty Land Warrant Applications from 1800 to 1900. Note that these records pertain only to pension and bounty land records. They do not mention every individual who served during the war. Nor is there a breakdown of names to designate men who only served from Pennsylvania.

Things look brighter when we research the Mexican War and later wars. For instance, the Philadelphia office has complete service records for men who took part in the Mexican War units from Pennsylvania.

At this office you'll find separate indexes to names of men who served in the Union Army in the Civil War for, Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. Also on hand are separate indexes to names of Confederate soldiers from Maryland and Virginia. There is even a complete record of men who had enlisted in the United States Regular Army between 1798 and 1914. Remember, though, that this information only pertains to indexes and service records, and not to pension records.

Some unusual national records available at the Philadelphia office include the United States Direct Tax of 1798 for Pennsylvania and the Internal Revenue Assessment List for Pennsylvania for the period of 1862 and 1866. You will also find such Internal Revenue records for Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia.

As the Philadelphia NARS branch services not only Pennsylvania but also Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia, data is on hand for these other states too. There is also a large amount of material on microfilm in categories that I have not mentioned.

A helpful book is available that shows what records are on file in each of the NARS offices, and the book shows

what pertains specifically to Pennsylvania and other adjoining states. The book's title is *The Archives: A Guide to the National Archives Field Branches*, and was compiled by Lorette D. Szucs and Sandra H. Luebking (Salt Lake City: Ancestry Publishing Company, 1988). Large libraries all across Pennsylvania and throughout the United States have this book in their collection.

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OHIO VITAL STATISTICS

by Charles Arp, *Preview*, Ohio Historical Society
Vol. 5, No. 1, Winter 1996

There are several important dates researchers must keep in mind when using Ohio vital statistics. The first is 1867, the year in which the state first required public officials in each of its eighty-eight counties to maintain birth and death records. The second is December 1908, at which time a department of state government, the Bureau of Vital Statistics, first began keeping birth and death records. The third is 1949, the year in which marriage records — kept by officials at the county level since 1803 — were first maintained on a state-wide basis by the Ohio Division of Vital Statistics.

Marriage records were among the first public documents created and maintained by county officials in the Northwest Territory, and the practice of recording marriages — originally undertaken to ensure orderly validation of property rights in probate proceedings — continued at the county level after Ohio became a state in 1803.

There is no statewide index available for marriages that took place in Ohio before September 7, 1949. Those who are interested in researching marriages dated prior to that time need to know the county in which they occurred. Ohio's statewide marriage record file and index is located at the Division of Vital Statistics in Columbus (P.O. Box 15098, 35 East Chestnut Street, 43215). The telephone number is 614 466-2531.

Thanks to Peggy Duffy for sending this info.

Helpful Hints: If you can't find an old parent, chances are he "went west" with a son. If you have a male ancestor born circa 1840, strongly consider the Civil War. Children were often named for grandparents, both male & female. *The Mahoning Meanderings*, Nov. 95, Vol. 19.

BITS AND PIECES

ALSACE-LORRAINE RECORDS

Anne Arundel Genealogical Society, Vol. 27, No. 4,
December 1995

Some years ago a wealthy Frenchman named Andriveau hired scribes to copy all the official records of births, marriages, deaths, divorces, etc., from all the cities and districts of Alsace-Lorraine. Later many of the original records were lost, burned or destroyed. When French officials asked Andriveau to let them recopy his records, he refused. The LDS was allowed to microfilm the Andriveau records and they are now available in the Salt Lake City FHC Library but not in Europe. Maybe all the bombings of WW II did not wipe out everything after all!

Thanks to Jim Rickey for the above. Jim says "*Hi to everyone.*"

HOME PAGE ESTABLISHED

Preview, Ohio Historical Society,
Vol. 5, No.1, Winter 1996

Using WINSLO, the State Library of Ohio server, the Archives/Library Division recently established a home page of the World Wide Web.

<http:winslo.ohio.gov/ohswww/ohshome.html>

Currently composed of some 250 screens of data, the home page provides researchers with information on the division's programs, services and collections.

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