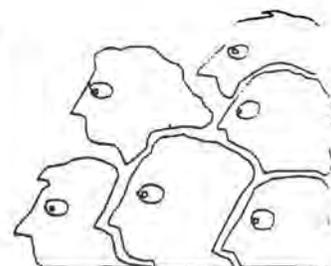


NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS NEWSLETTER



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

Volume 8 Number - 2 - Sept. 1997

President: Gary Schlemmer
Treasurer: Sherry L. Brady
Queries/Sales/Publicity: K. Kerr
Book Committee: Marion Hyle

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Subscription: \$12.00 per year
10 Issues from August to June

Secretary: Debi MacIntyre
Cemetery Project: Ginny Skander
Liaison: Elissa Powell
Editor: Marcia Coleman

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We are moving into the fall season, a change of pace, and a little different approach to all of our activities. Without a school schedule to constrain it, the summer was less structured by outside influences. There were days away, picnics, visits to the past or present family 'home', and family reunions. For some of you, it meant getting to one of those little local historical societies which just happened to have a drawer full of your stuff, tracks left by generations of your family who may have lived in that area. (Imagine that! Being there in the daytime when it was actually open!)

For me, summer also meant going to an extended family reunion for the first time in many years. It seems that back in the 1920s, three of my great grandfather's sons moved away from the homestead. While my granddad stayed in the Punxsutawney / Indiana, PA area, they went off to industrial opportunities in the Beaver Valley. Now that branch of the family - whom I didn't know at all - had announced another reunion and I was determined to show up lest yet another year pass, after which I might never get to it.

In short, I met a lot of people I liked, 'discovered' what seemed to be ancient ancestral photographs that I didn't know existed, and generally had a great day. Unfortunately, turnout has been declining, and this was also to be the LAST annual reunion. Hopefully someone new can pick up the load and "tell me it ain't so". Anyway, I'm sure glad I made it to this one.

Now that most are back to a real world schedule, we look

closer to home as we continue work on the family tree. This is a good time to take that informal genealogy course at the community college. And North Hills Genealogists monthly programs will aim to go beyond entertainment to provide tangible hands-on tools useful for both beginner and experienced researcher alike.

Take this month's program, for example. Perhaps you have already done some research in the local courthouse. Now picture yourself and that courthouse or parish in a foreign land - and one still recovering from civil war! Would you - could you - get your answers? That's the story that Frank Thomas brings after another venture into homeland Croatia. There is much practical advice here.

Next month's program will feature a look at the many rich resources of the National Archives which go far beyond the better known census and military records. Another program will explain vital records and offer a roundtable discussion with fellow researchers to air specific successes and problems. Later, a presentation on military records sources will be paired with a demonstration of U.S. Civil War soldiers' equipment, lifestyle, and legacy. All of this is to say that we are working to provide programs about the past which are both interesting and useful. Meanwhile, you are freed to concentrate your actions on the more important present, from which all future and (soon to be) past accomplishments are built.

Take part in the discussions, share with your families, and offer your suggestions. All of us can benefit from that.

Thanks for your participation.

Gary

WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

Mon., Sept 22, at 7:30 p.m. at the Northland Library. The program, "Your Own Detective Story; The Hows and Whys of Genealogy,"

Mon. & Tues., Sept. 29-30 - A workshop, "Viewing Your Collection Through the Eyes of a Conservator", will take place at the Senator John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History Center. Contact Jeff Allen at 454-6376 for further information.

Tues., Oct. 7 at 7:30 p.m. **NHG Board Meeting** at Debi MacIntyre's house. All members are welcome to attend.

Thur., Oct. 9, 7:30 p.m. **WPGS meeting** in the Carnegie Lecture Hall. Program: Audrey Iacone on "Researching Using National Archives."

Sun., Oct. 19 to Wed., Oct. 22 - **Field Trip to Washington, DC**. The bus is full, but if you are in the area, please join us at the Harrington Hotel or in the research facilities.

Tues., Oct. 21 at 7:00 p.m. - **Regular NHG meeting** at Northland Library. Program: Audrey Iacone on "Researching Using National Archives."

Thur., Nov. 13, 7:30 p.m. **WPGS meeting** in the Carnegie Lecture Hall. Program: Phyllis Brown Delaney, C.A.L.S.(Certified American Lineage Specialist) President, Ohio Genealogical Society "What Proof Do I Need: Techniques For Lineage Society Research."

Tues., Nov. 18 at 7:00 p.m. - **Regular NHG meeting** at Northland Library. Program: "Informational Blurb" on a research topic and the Roundtable Discussion.

Sat., Dec. 6 - **December Social**. Trip to the Senator John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History Center with a lunch at a nearby restaurant, following the tour. Details to follow.

GENEALOGY CONFERENCES

Planting the Seed, A Workshop on Genealogical Research, will be held on Saturday, September 20 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Garden and Civic Center Bldg., Greensburg, PA. For Reservations send a check for \$25.00 to WCHS, 951 Old Salem Road, Greensburg, PA. Lunch is on your own. For more information call (412) 836-1800. *(Details in Aug. 97 NHG Newsletter.)*

The **Second Annual Central Indiana Genealogy Conference of the Genealogical Society of Marion County** will be held Saturday, September 27, 1997. For more information write to Genealogical Society of Marion County, Attention: Conference, P.O. 2282, Indianapolis, IN 46206. *(Details in Aug. 97 NHG Newsletter.)*

The **Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International Conference** will be held on October 1-4, 1997 at the Radisson south Hotel (Bloomington MN). For further information about the conference call the Czechoslovak Information Hot-Line (612) 645-4585 or access their home page at : <http://members.aol.com.cgsi> *(Details in Aug. 97 NHG Newsletter.)*

The **14th Irish/Scots-Irish Family History Conference** will be held in Pottstown, Pennsylvania October 10 and 11, 1997. It will be held at the Pottstown Chapel at 93 Mangers Mill Road, Pottstown, PA. Pre-registration is required. For details and a registration form contact Joseph P. Reiley Jr., 19 Laurel Road, Boyertown, PA 19512-8013. [E-Mail JPReiley@aol.com] Pre-registration is on a first come, first served basis ONLY. *(Details in Aug. 97 NHG Newsletter.)*

Virginia Genealogical Society Fall Conference: The VGS announces "Treasuring Virginia Records: Preservation and Access," will be held October 17 and 18, 1997, at the new Library of Virginia, 800 East Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23219-1905. For details, please contact the Virginia Genealogical Society, 5001 West Broad Street, Suite 115, Richmond, VA 23230. *(Details in Aug. 97 NHG Newsletter.)*

19th Annual Family History Conference, sponsored by the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society and the Lancaster County Historical Society, will be held on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, October 30-November 1 at the Holiday Inn/Lancaster Host Hotel and Conference Center, Lancaster, PA. Eakle, President of the Genealogical Institute of Salt Lake City, will discuss "American Migrational Patterns" of cooperative and religious groups, including migration-oriented records. She will also conduct three workshop: "Migrational Patterns into the central United States," "Planning a Research Trip to Your Place of Origin," and "Evaluating Genealogical Evidence." A program and further registration details are available from Lola M. Lehman, Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society, 2215 Millstream Road, Lancaster, PA 17602-1499 (include SASE). Phone (717) 393-9745; Fax: (717) 393-8751. Registration deadline is October 15..

QUERIES

Compiled, edited and typed by Keith Kerr, Query Editor

PHENICE/PHENICIE, Sandy Lake, PA; **BURNS**, Pittsburgh, PA; **JACKSON**, Somerset City, PA; **FULKERSON**, IN and OH; **GIBBONS**, Ireland; **COSTELLO**, Ireland; **LINDER**, OH. Contact: *Bette Fulkerson, 9500 Park Edge Drive, Allison Park, PA 15101-2031*

VANOVER, NJ; **GREENWOOD**, Owego, NY; **REISS**, Lancaster, PA. Contact: *Jean and John Swick, 127 Longmount Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15214-1048.*

BRADLEY, Mary Ann, Charles and Daniel, Wilkinsburg, PA. Contact: *Eileen Bradley Terjak, 7832 Old Perry Highway, Pittsburgh, PA 15237.*

MCMICHAEL, Clarion County and Crawford County, PA; **KERR**, Huron County, Ontario. Contact: *Keith M. Kerr, 431 North School Street, Pittsburgh, PA.*

MCGATES/ MACGATES, KY and VA. Contact: *Darlene B Kerr, 431 North School Street, Pittsburgh, PA.*

HORN, Allegheny County, PA; **SCHMITT**, Allegheny County, PA; **MARCK, MARK**, Western PA; **REYER**, Allegheny County, PA; **FERREN**, Allegheny County, PA. Contact: *DR. Richard C. Horn, 1932 Derby Drive, Santa Ana, CA 92705-2577*

SHEPPARD, Hamilton, born Ireland in 1827, Allegheny County, PA, **GRAY'S IRON LINE**, steamboat company. Contact: *William H. Sheppard, 15 East Sutton Avenue, Moorestown, NJ 08057.*

SCHOPPER, NY and Germany. Contact: *Dorothy Ann Schopper, 20 Marquette Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15229-1752*

UHLMAN, Ross Township, Allegheny County, PA,; **GIGER**, Allegheny County, PA, **MAIER**, Allegheny County, PA; **MILLER**, Ohio Township; **SPRINGSTON**, Rock Port, IN. Contact: *Beverly Springston, 605 Calais Drive, Apt 210, Pittsburgh, PA 15237.*

HIGBEE, Allegheny County, PA; **GORDON**, Allegheny County, PA; **MULLEN**, Allegheny County, PA; **ZINCK**, Allegheny County, PA; **STEFANKO**,

Allegheny County, PA; Contact: *Barbara A. Schmitt, 4022 Cook Road, Gibsonia, PA 15044.*

SCHOFIELD, **SCOURFIELD**, **SCOFIELD**, PA, Wales. **COLLINS**, PA, Wales, Bristol, England; **BEAVER**, PA, Germany; **SUTER**, PA; **TAYLOR**, PA. **LOWMAN**, Canonsburg PA; **VESTRAND**, PA, OH. Contact *Shirley J.S. Agudo c/o Mary L. Jordan, PPG Industries One PPG Place, 4N, Pittsburgh, PA 15272.*

GROETSCH, Pittsburgh, PA. Contact: *Marcia Groetsch-Dupuy, 707 Molino Drive, Baker, LA 70714.*

HUMPHREY, Phoebe, nee **WARD**, Middletown Road, Pittsburgh, PA 1910-1920; Contact: *Marilyn J. Kowalski, N 923 Hall Drive, Stetsonville, WI 54480.*

NEWMAN, Joseph, **RABB**, John, Mary Pittsburgh, PA 1755-1804, Contact: *June Craps, 301 East Birchwood, Morton, IL 61550.*

DUGAN, **CAVANAUGH**, **GOLUBSKI**, **SAYERS**, Allegheny County, PA; **KOVACIK**, **COCHENOUR**, Westmoreland County, PA; **LOCKE**, Washington County, PA. Contact: *Nancy D. McKee, 128 Chestnut Street, Zelienople, PA 16063.*

SNYDER, Northampton, Carbon, Lehigh Counties, PA; **BUCHMAN**, **QUEEN**, **SEMMEL**, Northampton County, PA; **MADDOX**, **WALLACE**, GA. Contact: *Dorothy Snyder Zaffuto, 3238 Cramlington Drive, Gibsonia, PA 15044.*

TABOR, NJ. Contact: *Lois T. Wigton, 2907 Swansea Crescent East, Allison Park, PA 15101.*

LOEBIG, Allegheny County, PA, Albany County, NY, Hudson County, NJ. Contact: *Marie L. Loebig, 9320 Timber Trail, Pittsburgh, PA 15237.*

MARSHALL, North Side, Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, PA, Cranberry Township, Butler County, PA; **GLOVER**, Allegheny, Butler, Washington Counties, PA; **BARNHART**, Butler County, PA; **GILLILAND**, **DAVID**, **BARNETT**, Butler County, PA. Contact: *Goldie L. Barnhart, 5271 Skylark Ct., Cape Coral, FL 33904-5870*

POLAND, **ERVIN**, **BALLARD**, **DEMORY**, **WHEELER**, **HOLMES**, **WALLACE**, **JONES**, **GERMAN**, **SNYDER**, **WARD**, OH; **CHARLTON**, **WILKINSON**, **BELSINGER**, **CUSTER**, **MCKIBBIN**, **YONKER**, **WAGNER**,

STRAYER, SNYDER, REAM, SHECHAM, HENDERSHOT, GRAHAM,, STILLWELL, ZIMMERMAN, THOMAS, STEVENS, FISHER, , PA. Contact: *Donald A. Poland, 8228 Post Road, Allison Park, PA 15101.*

ALBRIGHT, John,(d. 1843), Greenville Township, Somerset County, PA; **CUNNINGHAM, or CONNEGHAN John or Patrick,(late 1880's),** Allegany County, MD; **BAKER, Jonathan (1850's-1870's),** Greenville Township, Somerset County, PA. **HINER, Sarah (1870's),** Somerset County, PA, Allegany County, MD; **MURPHY, Mary Ann (late 1880's)** Allegany County, MD. Contact: *Mary Lou Wilson, 3945 Shepard Road, Gibsonia, PA 15044.*

BEGINNER'S CORNER

Question: What does Pedigree mean?

Answer: Pedigree - the term comes from the French words *ped de grue*, which means "foot of a crane." French families of old kept family trees, but that's not what they called them. They thought the look of a genealogy chart - small at the top and branching out at the bottom - looked more like the webbed foot of a bird than the roots of a tree. Any Frenchmen who came from a family prominent enough to have a family tree was said to have a *ped de grue*.

Taken from *The Best of Uncle John's Bathroom Reading*.

BOOKS REVIEWED and FOR SALE

Pioneer Cemeteries of Hampton Township, Allegheny County, PA

This cemetery listing book documents the final resting places of many settlers of the area. It includes not only complete readings for the Pine Creek, Depreciation Lands, and Hampton Cemeteries, but also the lot owners' book for the latter and a guide to the other cemeteries in Hampton Township. Each stone has been recorded exactly with dates, relationships, epitaphs, stonemasons' names, and other notations such as the condition of the stone or whether any other marker or a photo of the deceased was present. An everyname index includes maiden names when known. This hard bound, library-quality book is over 200 pages and contains many photographs of the gravestones, history of the area and

maps.

The regular price of \$19.95 is discounted in a pre-publication sale until September 30, 1997 to \$14.95 plus applicable tax, postage and handling as follows: Before September 30th: PA residents mailed \$19.00, PA Residents pickup \$16.00 and Libraries and Outside PA \$17.95. After 30, 1997: PA Residents mailed \$24.35, PA Residents pickup \$21.35 and Libraries and Outside PA \$22.95. Send your name, address and payment to: the North Hills Genealogists, c/o Northland Public Library, 300 Cumberland Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237-5455.

VIRGINIA 1790 CENSUS

An index to heads of households in the state of Virginia for the 1790 Census year contains surname and given name of head of household and a statistical breakdown of additional family members. This particular census index identifies some 38,000 heads of household. Published by Washington Government Printing Office, 1908

INTERNET LINKS

National Park Service U.S. Colored Troops Database:

<http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/usct.html>

Internet Sources of German Genealogy:

<http://www.bawue.de/~hanacek/info/edatabase.htm>

For Italian Genealogy visit:

<http://www.italgen.com>

Genealogy Resources in Europe:

<http://pmgmac.micro.umn.edu/Europe.html>

Danish Surname Database

<http://www.danbbs.dk/~jensg>

Afrigenas

<http://www.msstate.edu/Archives/History/afrigen/>

Major bookstore is online.

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com>

Canadian Genealogy Resources:

<http://www.iosphere.net/~jholwell/cangene/gene.html>

For the history of early American newspapers and some sample pages, visit Colonial American Newspapers at:

<http://weber.u.washington.edu/~vgillis/>

The Oregon Trail and those who traveled it, visit:

<http://www.ukans.edu/kansas/seneca/oregon/mainpage.html>

The Oregon-California Trails Association

<http://bobcat.etsu.edu/octa/>

For a free trial issue of Ancestry magazine go to:

<http://www.ancestry.com/home/free.htm>

The Indiana Jones page of family research in southern Indiana:

<http://www.erols.com/crmoney>

Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies Inc.
(A.I.G.S.)

homepage: <http://www.alphalink.com.au/~aigs>

The Utah Genealogical Association, a world-wide non-profit organization since 1971, provides educational opportunities for genealogists at all levels through conferences, a quarterly journal and newsletter, and local chapter meetings:

<http://www.infouga.org>

Ancestry, Inc. announced that its web site (<http://www.ancestry.com>) under the "Ancestry Times" section, will now: Sponsor Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter.

The U.S. National Archives and Records Administration has introduced an online "Soundex Machine." The Soundex is a coded last name (surname) index based on the way a name sounds rather than the way it is spelled. Surnames that sound the same but are spelled differently, like SMITH and SMYTH, have the same code and are filed together. The Soundex coding system was developed so that you can find a surname even though it may have been recorded under various spellings. It is used in many U.S. census records and immigration records. Knowing a surname's Soundex code is an important first step in genealogy research. The National Archives has recently introduced a cute "Soundex Machine" online on their Web site. You can find the correct Soundex for any surname. Look at:

<http://www.nara.gov/genealogy/soundex/soundex.html>

Association of Professional Genealogists (APG), a professional association for all genealogists supporting high standards in the field of genealogy. Site contains membership benefits, APG's brochure "So You're Going to Hire a Professional Genealogist," and forms to join APG and to order the newly published "1997-98 APG Directory of Professional Genealogists":

<http://www.apgen.org/~apg/>

O'HARA TOWNSHIP'S NAMESAKE

Excerpts from "O'Hara namesake had rich history" by George Swetnam, *North Hills News Record*, June 1996.

Until almost a century and a quarter ago, Indiana Township was gigantic., so large that in 1872 a move was

started to have it subdivided. On June 8, 1875, the courts cut off enough of Indiana Township to create three new ones, including O'Hara.

O'Hara Township was named in honor of James O'HARA, one of Pittsburgh's most famous men who had one time owned the land that came to bare his name.

He was born in Ireland in 1752 was both wealthy and well educated. He settled first in Philadelphia in 1772. He became an Indian trader in the area around Pittsburgh. He enlisted in the Army as a private and later became a captain. When the war ended he married a Philadelphia girl and moved back to Pittsburgh, where he ran several business's.

In partnership with Isaac CRAIG, he became Pittsburgh's first glassmaker. He also invested heavily in real estate - at one point he almost became bankrupt, but returned to solvency through the work of James ROSS.

O'Hara died in 1819 and is best remembered at the grandfather of Mary SCHENLEY, the runaway bride who carried off Pittsburgh's largest fortune to England, but who endowed many of our city's institutions.

The first settler in what is now O'Hara Township appears to have been James POWERS, for whom Powers Run Road is named.

NEW NEWSLETTER COLUMNS

In August we introduced two new columns, NHG "MEMBERS IN THE NEWS," a column of NHG member's accomplishments, and "BRANCHING OUT," a column where NHG members can print their genealogical successes, frustrations or just interesting experiences.

Send your contribution to NHG Newsletter Editor, 1950 Lammerton Drive, Allison Park, PA 15101 or e-mail to coleman3@ix.netcom.com

CEMETERY READING PROJECT

We are again launching into a new cemetery reading project which will result in our second publication. In October we will begin reading cemeteries. Prior to the first excursion there will be a "HOW TO DO MEETING". Date and location to be announced.

SEVEN GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR FAMILY RESEARCH

by Judith Saul Stix, St. Louis, Missouri FGS Forum Vol. 7, #1, 1995

A friend who is an insomniac turned on his television one morning before dawn and listened intently to a commentator giving advice on bringing up children. This is the gist of what was said: Pray for luck.

That is also the **first of my principles** for researching family history-Pray for Luck. Looking into the past and tracing one's ancestors is an adventure into the unknown. There is no way to know what documents, what stories, even what artifacts may appear along the sometimes straight, sometimes twisting path. But this is exactly why the journey may become a joy.

My **second principle** is Be Persistent. Write a second letter; make a second call. My research began with an attempt to find the family of my grandmother. Connections with them had lapsed more than 50 years earlier. After a long search, I received the name of someone to write to, but he did not reply. Months later, when I wrote again, he had returned from a long season away and promptly called me, putting me in touch with every member of the Schloss clan in three of its five branches.

Third, Don't Think You Are Alone. One member of the Schloss family had meticulously compiled a family tree. Another cousin had done the same for the family of my paternal grandmother, the Prices. A pen pal put a big chunk of my genealogy on computer for me — something I couldn't do. At various times, three people I didn't know at all sent me photographs of family graves in Baltimore, Cincinnati and New York. The last had to clear the stones in an overgrown, neglected, vandalized Bayside Cemetery on Long Island.

Fourth, Be Skeptical. My mother had meticulously kept a baby book for me, and in it she had written down my family tree-getting almost all of it wrong. For example, she had the name of her own grandfather as Isaac Lipka. I now know for certain that his name was Nathan. I have found him documented in 16 different permutations of his last name.

It has been said that there is an almost 20 percent error rate in census data. Information should always be scrutinized carefully and corroborated whenever possible. Nathan Lipka appeared in the 1880 census as Emil Lipker, the extra r throwing off the Soundex code by

which he record was accessed. I found him, nevertheless, by being skeptical, not believing he wasn't there, and persisting. From his address in the city, I was able to recover the census record.

Even carefully made family trees should be rechecked. I knew from letters that I was related to the Schloss family, but my great-grandmother Carolina Schloss Lipka did not appear on the family tree. How I fitted into it was a conundrum. Eventually, documents from Germany enabled me to prove that she was one of five siblings, only four of whom appeared on the genealogy. She had made the mistake of dying young. Another great-grandmother, Sarah Baylson Price, also died young, and she had been omitted from a Baylson family tree.

Fifth, Be Patient. There may be long waits to obtain documents for which you have written or microfilms that you have ordered. Some individuals are slow to reply or never reply. The documents for which you have waited are not the ones you need. Patience and persistence must go hand in hand.

Even after you have done a great deal of work and sent out many queries, you may lack a sense of what to do next or simply feel burned out. It may be time to sit still and let things come to you. In one month alone, after a dry period, four things came to me. An Atlanta cousin found a descendant of our great-grandfather Price's brother, while a cousin in Oregon received five documents of the Bass family from Pusalot, Lithuania. At the same time, the Mormons came through with the left-hand pages of Nathan Lipka's town synagogue records-only the right-hand pages were available five years earlier.

Also in that month, a letter came from a woman who mistakenly believed that I had done a great deal of work researching my husband's family. Though inquiring, she also gave us interesting new information.

Sixth, Organize. At some point, you will want to distill everything you have garnered into a single family tree, or set of trees, or into a book or album. No one else can easily go through your material and make it coherent. An organized product, or several of them, make it possible to share what you have found-the eventual goal of almost all collectors. But do not wait for perfect completeness to give form to your gatherings.

Also, do not wait until you are ready for some final result. Organize on a computer, in loose-leaf binders, or in files but sort as you go along. Pattern bits of data as you get them, which helps both to find them again and to study

them. For example, from my file on the Saul family in census and directory, I have a page on which I charted family members and a family business with addresses in Washington, DC, in the 1890s. This enabled me to see a neighborhood pattern. It also enabled me-and it came as a complete surprise-to discover that the original name they used in America was not Saul, but Sholsky. This change came not at Ellis Island or Castle Garden, but after the family had lived in America for more than 15 years.

My seventh and last principle is Visit The Sites. I like to say that what I do is family history, not genealogy, though making family trees and timelines is always useful. I want to enrich my story with data on where they lived, what they worked at, how they looked, the way that they are a part of everyone's story. In Cincinnati, for instance, I learned that my husband's family lived across the street from William Howard Taft, later president of the United States.

I can't explain why I wanted to go to Germany to visit Lindenschied, the tiny town in the Hunsruck where my great-grandmother, Carolina Schloss, was born. I already had a description from a cousin and many documents. Nevertheless, the urge was irresistible. And was it just luck that while there, I was put into contact with two amateur historians who lived in nearby towns? One was the unofficial historian of Lindenschied, who possessed old maps that showed exactly where my family had lived in 1860. The other, a young man interested in Jewish history, had in his collection the actual documents-not just copies-of the declarations in which my family adopted the names Stiefel and Schloss in 1808. This happened under Napoleon, and the documents are in French. They are not official German records, and I never dreamed of finding and seeing them.

I come back to my first principle: Pray for luck. (Judith Saul Stix is a poet and author of biographical and other non-fiction articles.)

Editors Note: Thanks to Ginny Skander for finding this and typing it for our use.

EUROPEAN CENSUS INFORMATION

The Family Tree, April/ May 1997, Vol. VII, No. 2

The first census for France was 1801; Saxony was 1815, Austria was 1815; Bavaria - 1818, Prussia - 1810, Spain - 1789, Great Britain - 1815, Norway - 1815, Sweden - 1749, Greece - 1836, and Switzerland - 1860.

DO YOU KNOW YOUR NAME-DATES?

Excerpts from an article by John W. Heisey, *Antique Week*, Jan. 11, 1993, Page 28

In the U. S., dates generally appear as figures, such as July 12, August 20, etc. For some celebratory days we use a descriptive name - July 4 = Independence Day, December 25 = Christmas Day and January 1 = New Year's Day. As long as we are doing research involving American dates and times this is no problem. But -- what happens when our research takes us to foreign countries, and we are working with other than official records? That is why it is important to take time to learn as much as we can about the names that represent certain dates in different countries.

Because descendants of immigrants from German-speaking countries constitute the largest single non-English-speaking group, we will examine a few of the German name-dates which are likely to be encountered in records.

Fastnacht Day - Shrove Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday

Maria Himmelfahrtstag - August 15 - commemorating the ascension of the Virgin Mary to heaven. Protestant groups in PA Dutch areas of the US called it "Mary goes over the mountain."

Gruendonnerstag - Green Thursday - the day before Good Friday

Karsamstag (southern Germany) and **Karsonnabend** (northern Germany) Holy Saturday, the day between Good Friday and Easter Sunday

Himmelfahrt or **Christihimmelfahrt** - Ascension Day

Pfingsten - Pentecost or Whitsuntide - 50th day after Easter

Fronleichnam - Corpus Christi day in Catholic areas of Germany

Sankt Niholaustag - December 6 - St. Nicholas Day - day when saint supposedly brings presents to good children

Weihnachten - Christmas

Heilige Abend - Christmas Eve - Holy Eve

Sankt Silvester - December 31 - observed in Catholic areas denotes actual start of the celebration which ends on Shrove Tuesday

Throughout Catholic regions of Germany and German-speaking areas of Switzerland, every day of the year has a

saint's name. To make things more confusing, some dates shared the same saint's name. Most German towns and cities have patron saints and are, even today, usually considered holidays.

By knowing the names that individuals or family used for certain days may help you determine the correct homeland, ethnic background, religion and language.

An excellent source on related information is Dorothy Gladys Spicer's **Festivals of Western Europe** (New York: H.W. Wilson Company, 1958.)

Editors note: Thanks to Donna Booth for reading, editing and typing the above article.

NHG MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

The following information was taken from an article entitled "Civil War Veteran Finally Gets Gravestone" by Georgene Gallo, *North Hill News Record*, Sept. 5, 1997.

Pat McCully of Hampton is naturally drawn to stories and ideas that hold historical significance. History is something she studies by reading and researching. She has also traveled to Ireland where much of her family history lies.

Recently she had the opportunity to play a role in the unfolding of some of her family history. It began when she learned, by chance, that gravesite headstones can be obtained for deceased veteran of the U. S. Military at no charge to their survivors. Immediately she made up her mind to honor her great-grandfather William John McCALL who had served his country during the Civil War.

McCully knew where her great-grandfather was buried. His unmarked grave was part of a family plot in Greenwood Cemetery on the Kittanning Pike in O'Hara. The site also includes the graves of her great-grandmother, her grandmother and grandfather and other members of the extended family. With the help of a cousin she obtained copies of several items that documented the life of William McCall — things such as his will and his Army enlistment and discharge papers.

These last two had to be sent to the Department of Veterans Affairs which soon acted on her request. McCully selected a small stone that would rest flush with the ground. The Gravestone was delivered to Greenwood

Cemetery where it was cemented in place. The cemetery installed the stone absolutely free. "they were so nice," McCully said.

What she did for the memory of her great-grandfather. "brought him very much to life for me," McCully said. Thanks to the military papers and the will, McCully can almost see the man in her mind. According to enlistment papers, he was 5 feet, 6 inches tall, with a dark complexion, dark hair and dark eyes.

She can place him, on the day of his discharge, in Ethan Allen, VA. Although his home had been in Butler, he lived in Millvale for a time and was a plasterer by trade.

His will described his assets and earthly goods in detail. He had a "well worn rug" valued at \$2, four chairs which were said to be worth \$5 and a rocking chair worth \$2. His net worth, distributed to his heirs in increments of about \$2 a piece, was \$14.13.

McCully knows such documentation is priceless and should be treasured by families lucky enough to possess it. And even more priceless are the relatives whose lives connect us to the past. McCully's grandmother, daughter of William McCall, was born in 1872 and lived to be 93. During her lifetime she witness the birth of automobile, airplanes, electricity, radio, television and the first man on the moon.

McCully has other family history which date even farther back than the Civil War. She learned of Samuel McCall, who fought in the Revolutionary War, and a relative named Ann Means WASSON who was captured by an Indian tribe.

She is engaged in research that will surely bring to light stories about people named DILLON, her maiden name. So far she has learned they were "famine immigrants" who arrived from Ireland. She can trace them to Iowa, where the men of the family worked building the railroad. The Dillon's history during the 1870's is elusive, but a decade later they can be traced to Pittsburgh.

1996-1997 NHG NEWSLETTER INDEX

The index for the 1996-1997 NHG newsletters is now available. You may pick up your free copy at the meeting or send a long/legal No. 10 SASE to North Hills Genealogists, % Northland Library, 300 Cumberland Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237.

THE GENEALOGY WIFE

They think that I should cook and clean.

And be a model wife

I tell them its more interesting

To know of grandpa's life.

They simply will not understand

Why I never go to bed...

I'm busy living my own life,

And two hundred other years instead.

Why waste the time we have on earth

Snoring and asleep?

When we can fight off Indians

And sail upon the deep?

We've preachers and lawmen,

Soldiers, more than a few...

And yes, a few old scoundrels

And a bootlegger or two.

How can a person find this life

An awful drudge or bore?

When they can live the lives of all

Those kinfolks who came before?

A hundred years from now

And no one will ever know

Whether I did the laundry...

But they'll see our Tree and glow...

Knowing their dear old granny

Left for prosperity

Not clean hankies and weeded flower beds

But a completed Family Tree!

So let the bills go unpaid,

I've better things to do...

And forgetting will make the records

And provide a descendent with a clue,

To the way their old great great granny

Grasped the branches with glee

And let the bills go hang while she hung upon the Tree!

Editors Note: Thanks to Elissa Powell for sending this our way.

HELP WANTED

The Publicity Committee is looking for an individual that would be willing to make a monthly flier for the libraries. The fliers would list our current meetings and programs. The flier needs to be "eye catching" so it will show up on library bulletin boards. Please contact Debi MacIntyre at 369-0805.

REGIONAL NATIONAL ARCHIVES MAY CLOSE

John W. Carlin, Archivist of the United States and former Kansas Governor, is working on a plan to close all of our regional archives and to build two mega archives, perhaps in Washington, D.C. or somewhere in California or Kansas.

The plan calls for all of the microfilm in the present archives to be deposited in the university archives and public libraries; neither of which has the space nor staff to accommodate the millions of researchers who use the regional archives. Presently the regional archives have trained professional staff persons in place. We urge you to write to Mr. Carlin: The National Archives, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001

(The above is from the Mercer County Past Times for September 1997 via The Searcher, So. Cal. Gen. Soc., July 1997)

Commentary by Elissa Powell:

Why should we be concerned with what happens to the regional archives of which the two closest to Pittsburgh are Philadelphia and Chicago? Just for the reasons stated above and because then the only other facility we do enjoy, the main archives in Washington, D.C., will become so overcrowded as to become unusable. The National Archives in Washington has 100 microfilm viewers and when we take a bus load of 47 enthusiastic genealogists there for three-days we would like to be able to use them. (That is also why we don't take two bus loads!) Do write to Mr. Carlin and express your dismay at this possibility and tell him as a tax payer that this is not the place to cut the expenses.

CENSUS RECORDS

Columbine CO Newsletter, 2nd Quarter, 1997 via Rocky Mountain Buckeye, Vol. IX, No. 2, June/July 97

The 1820 and 1830 Wisconsin census records are with the census records of Michigan. The 1860 Nevada census is included with that of Utah. The 1860 schedules for the present state of Oklahoma are with those of Arkansas, which was then Indian lands. The 1860 census records for the present state of Wyoming are with those of Nebraska. The 1860 schedules for Colorado are included in the Kansas census.

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

FIRST CLASS

OCT. - NATIONAL ARCHIVES - A. IACONE

BITS AND PIECES

RUSYN FAMILY HISTORIES

The New Rusyn Times, Vol.4, #2, March-April 1997 via
JOTS, June 1997, Vol. XXIII, No. 10.

The Society has found more published Rusyn family histories including: Joseph and Helen Petro. *History of the Pipa and the Petrun/Petro Families*, from Banske and Sacurov Zemplyn County, who settled in Cleveland, Uniontown, and Brownsville, PA and Dennis Baca. *The Gresocks of Chambersville*, from Slovinky Spis County, who settled near Punxsutawney, PA.

For more information contact: The New Rusyn Times, A Cultural-Organizational Publication of the Carpatho-Rusyn Society, 125 Westland Dr., Pittsburgh PA 15217.

SEARCHABLE DATABASE OF A NEW YORK NEWSPAPER 1788-1817

The New York Weekly Museum, also known as the Impartial Gazette and Saturday Evening Post, and Ladies' Weekly Museum, was printed in New York from 1788 to 1817. It contained foreign and domestic news, a "Poet's Corner", occasional short stories, and a "Moralist" section.

This index is a compilation of the Marriages and Deaths recorded in the journal and contains about 20,000 entries. Information concerning cause of death, next of kin, place of marriage, and occupation are also listed. The information can be found at:

<http://www.itsnet.com/~pauld/newyork/>

Thanks to Grace McVay for passing this along.