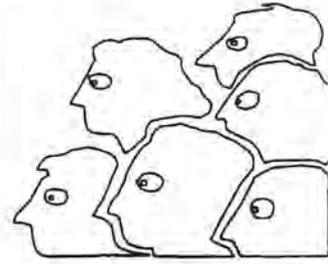


NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS NEWSLETTER



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

Volume 8 Number - 7 - March 1998

President: Gary Schlemmer
Treasurer: Sherry L. Brady
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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

At last, it's March! Even though our weather has been incredibly mild, people tended to hole up for the winter and are now eager to get outdoors or away from the house for a while. For some, it is doing early yard cleanup in preparation for gardening, or looking forward to trout season and witnessing the advent of spring along rushing streams and forest paths. Whatever else is on our list, the North Hills Genealogist in us is ready to set out on both our next cemetery reading project and on our next field / research trip to the Western Reserve Historical Society Library in Cleveland on May 2. These two activities represent opposite ends of the same process, each offering its own responsibilities and rewards. The field trip will take us to a large repository of information which, bit by bit and by many people, has been carefully gathered, recorded, published, preserved and then made available to us for the asking. The cemetery reading project, on the other hand, is NHG doing our part to record pieces of local pioneer history which may help others in their searches for ancestral resting places. Responsibilities? Both activities have them. The originator of genealogical information is responsible for accuracy and, to the extent available, completeness. The job may be painstaking and time consuming. For instance, as NHG develops "Pioneer Cemeteries of Pine and Richland Townships", we will attempt to locate all of the local markers and to accurately record every marker we find. We are still searching for some missing cemeteries and individual gravesites supposed to have been in the area - keep your eyes open for them! Also, the work should be published in a form that is retrievable and archivally safe, as is our completed

"Pioneer Cemeteries of Hampton Township". The user of these records can share his findings, identify errors or new resources to the curator, and just be careful in handling the materials so that others can use them, too. Unfortunately, many libraries have been forced to restrict access in order to protect their holdings, as noted by an NHG member after visiting the National Archives in Washington. Bill laments that so many people have damaged the very resources that had proved valuable to them! Worst of all, the torn and ink-marked pages, scored microfilm, mis-filed and stolen records may represent a permanent loss of information. The rewards? We learn much from the doing. The cemetery project leads to lots of local history, contacts with local sages and understanding the limitations of our data. Our field trips result in family finds because of the good efforts and resources of many other people. Let us respect and protect their material so that it will stay in as good a condition as we found it!

Thanks, Gary

WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

Sat., March 21 at 10:00 a.m., **NHG Cemetery Readings** at cemeteries on the Warrendale Bakers Road, near Treesdale. Call Ginny Skander at 724-443-1460 for details and directions to the cemeteries.

Sat., March 28 at 10:00 a.m., **Rain date for NHG Cemetery Readings** at cemeteries on the Warrendale Bakers Road, near Treesdale. Call Ginny Skander at 724-443-1460 for details and directions to the cemeteries.

Tues., March 31 at 7:00 p.m. - **NHG Board Meeting** at the cafeteria at Passavant Hospital, which is on the lower level. All members are welcome to attend.

Sat., April 18 at 10:00 a.m. to noon - **WPGS German Interest Group** at PA Dept., Carnegie Library.

Tues., April 21 at 7:00 p.m. - **Regular NHG Meeting** at Northland Library. "Program: NHG Basic Genealogy and Roundtable Discussion.

Thur., April 23, at 7:30 p.m. - **The Allegheny City Society Annual Meeting** at the historic Calvary United Methodist Church at the corner of Allegheny and Beech Avenues. Program: John Burt, Esq., a Commonwealth Speaker of the Pennsylvania Humanities Council will speak on "The Freedom Trail in Western Pennsylvania." Call 322-8807 to register. For more information call John Lyon at 323-1989 or Ruth McCartan at 231-1747.

Sat., Apr. 25 at 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. - **WPGS Spring Seminar** is at the Holiday Inn, Greentree. Details under Genealogy Conferences, next article.

Sat., May 2 - **NHG Field Trip** to Western Reserve Historical Library in Cleveland. Cost will be Senior adults - \$5.50 and other adults - \$6.50. Possible newcomer orientation around 9:30 - 10:00. Details at meeting.

Sat., May 2, **WPGS German Interest Group** dinner, details to be announced.

Sat., May 9 at 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. - **Butler County Historical Society & Slippery Rock Heritage Assoc.** are sponsoring genealogy sessions at Slippery Rock University. Details in future newsletters.

Tues., May 19 at 7:00 p.m. - **Regular NHG Meeting** at Northland Library. "Program: "Nineteenth Century Newspapers of Butler County" presented by Luanne Eisler of the Butler Public Library.

Thurs., May 14, 7:30 p.m.: **WPGS Meeting**, program Bill May of Butler, PA: "A Visit From A Civil War Soldier"

Thurs., June 11, 7:30 p.m.: **WPGS Annual Meeting**. Speaker and topic TBA.

TIDBIT: Northern Ireland and Scotland are only 14 miles apart at the narrowest point. *The Family Tree*, Vol. VII, No. 3, June July 1997.

GENEALOGY CONFERENCES

Everton Workshop will be held Saturday, March 28 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Workshop is sponsored by the Erie Society For Genealogical Research and will be at the Villa Maria Conference Center, 2552 West 8th Street, Erie (about 1 mile from the end of I-79). The cost of the event, including lunch and a one-year subscription to "Genealogical Helper" is \$36.75. For more information, please contact ESGR, P.O. Box 1403, Erie, PA 16512-1403. Call locally to Lissa Powell at 724-935-6961 for details. Reservation deadline was Feb. 28 for lunch but call if you are interested in just the program.

The **Ohio Genealogical Society** will hold their Annual Conference April 16-18, 1998 in Worthington, Ohio. For information, send e-mail to: ksmith@greenapple.com

An **all day workshop** will be held on Saturday, April 25. Centre County Genealogical Society will host the workshop at the State College Family History Center. Write to them for information at P. O. Box 1135, State College, PA 16804.

The **WPGS Spring Seminar** is Sat., Apr. 25 at the Holiday Inn, Greentree from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Speakers: Jim and Paula Warren of St. Paul, MN. Registration 8:30; Meeting begins at 9 a.m.; Topics include: Vital Records And Substitutes; Fundamental Tools for Family History; Untrodden Ground - Sources You May Not Have Encountered; Did You Marry Me For My Family History?; A New Spot On Your Ancestral Map: Strategies for Researching an Unfamiliar Locality; Writing Your Family History in Small, Manageable Pieces. \$30 including buffet lunch; WPGS members \$25. Register by sending a check to WPGS Spring Seminar, 479 Songo St., Pittsburgh, PA 15227-4531

Annual convention of the (U.S.) **National Genealogical Society**, May 6 through May 9, 1998, Denver, Colorado. Contact the NGS at: 98 Conference, 4527 17th St., North Arlington, VA 22207-2399.

76702.2417@compuserve.com

Genealogical Computing Association of Pennsylvania (GenCAP), Quarterly Meeting: Saturday, 9 May 1998 in Philadelphia:

<http://www.libertynet.org/~gencap>

The fourth annual **Genealogical Institute of Mid America** will be held in Springfield, Illinois July 13-16, 1998. This is a four-day series of classes. Information

may be found at:

<http://www.misslink.net/neill/gima.html>
or <http://www.tbox.com/isgs/INSTITUT.HTM>

Annual Conference of the Federation of Genealogical Societies, August 19 through 22, 1998, Cincinnati, Ohio, details not yet available.

Fifth New England Regional Genealogical Conference, October 1998 in Portland, Maine.
<http://users.rootsweb.com/~maplymou/conf/confmain.htm>

QUERIES

Compiled, edited and typed by Keith Kerr, Query Editor

HENDERSON, Mary (Doty) ca 1875-1889, 33 30th Street, Pittsburgh, PA. **HENDERSON, Armstrong**, wife: **Delia**, ca 1900, 3312 Cargill Street, Pittsburgh, PA. Contact: *John Williams, 8356 Waters Drive, Macedonia, OH 44056-1842.*

ROBINSON, Archibald, Alexander, b. 1832 and **GIBB, Harriet**, Robinson Twp, Allegheny County, PA. Contact: *Mary Suzanne Robinson Beal, 1535 23rd Street SW, Vero Beach, FL 32962.*

BEGINNER'S CORNER

Question: What is a "First Title" to land?

Answer: As an ancestor searched westward for more and cheaper land, they obtained a "first title." There were 4 steps involved.

1. Submit a petition - also called a claim, application of memorial.
2. Warrant issued - an official authorization from the government for specific acreage and permission to locate a tract (some warrants were sold at auction or traded.)
3. Plat & survey - a "legal description" is the written description of the survey.
4. Patent issues - also called a grant, or proof of ownership. At this point the land passes from the government to the individual. These records can usually be found in state land offices, U.S. Bureau of Land management, or National Archives.

Subsequently, title transactions were recorded at the county courthouse and land could pass from one person

to another through sale, trade, foreclosure, divorce and inheritance (by will or by law).

The above information came from *Heritage Quest* No. 63, pg.63 & seen in *Rocky Mountain Buckeye*, Vol. IX, Oct./Nov. 1997.

BOOKS REVIEWED & FOR SALE

HISTORY OF CLARION COUNTY, PA: 1997 reprint of the History of Clarion County, PA, by A.J. Davis, 1887. Hard cover, 800+ pages. Price \$55.00 +3.30 sales tax (PA residents only) + 4.00, if mailed. Send check to Clarion County Historical Society, 18 Grant Street, Clarion, PA 16214-1015. Write for a list of other books for sale.

TURBO GENEALOGY: A new book has been announced by Ancestry, Inc.: Turbo Genealogy: An Introduction to Family History Research in the Information Age written by John and Carolyn Cosgriff. The announcement says, "Turbo Genealogy is a handy guide to research methods for beginning genealogists. Investigative techniques and sources of information are covered, along with invaluable computer software and hardware pointers and up-to-date information on genealogical networking via computer. Turbo Genealogy offers research sources, help organizing data, helpful instruction and direction using computer applications, guidance using CD-ROM sources, and is a clear guide to computer networking in genealogy." The 206 page book sells for \$17.95 (U.S.). For more information, look at: <http://www.ancestry.com> or call 1-800-ANCESTRY

LAND & PROPERTY RESEARCH: E. Wade Hone has written a book entitled Land & Property Research in the United States. Land records are some of the oldest and best-preserved written records in the U.S., and they apply to more people in America than any other written record. It is 517 pages - ISBN 0-916489-68-x-\$44.95. Contact Ancestry at 1-800-ancestry.

THE SOURCE; A GUIDEBOOK OF AMERICAN GENEALOGY - It was written by Loretto Dennis Szucs and Sandra Hargreaves Luebking and is newly revised. The Source is a astonishing array of works from nationally known authors. It provides an intelligent and through exposure to genealogical information sources of

all kinds, the latest research techniques, and ways to utilize existing data. 834 pages - ISBN 0-916489-67-1 - \$49.95. Order from Ancestry at 1-800 ancestry.

HISTORY OF IRWIN TOWNSHIP - Sylvia Russell Coast and Faye J. Smith have edited and compiled a history of Irwin Township in Venango County entitled, Irwin Township - Older than Venango County. The second edition of the book, which contains the entire contents of the first edition, plus an addendum, explains the stories of various current and former resident of Irwin Township and Barkeyville. The book is available for \$12 + \$2 postage; PA residents add tax. Send to: Irwin Township, R.D. #1, Box 138K, Harrisville, PA 16038.

INTERNET LINKS

Addresses

Zip Code Finder

http://www.usps.gov/ncsc/lookups/lookup_zip+4.html

Ellis Island Immigration Museum - view The American Immigrant Wall of Honor. You can view a registered family name, research if one has been registered, locate a family name and/or register your family name.

www.wallofhonor.com

Allen County, Ohio has cemetery information.

<http://alpha.wcoil.com/~markg/allenco/main.html>

Mayflower Genealogy and History web page with information relating to the Mayflower and its passengers. It contains passenger lists for the 1620 voyage of the Mayflower and the 1621 and 1623 voyages of the Fortune and Anne, respectively. There are genealogies for the passengers of the Mayflower (1620) as well as their histories and an email directory of known Mayflower descendants. Crew member information is also available. Many historical documents are available via this site including the Mayflower compact, Peace Treaties, Pierce Patent, as well as the Thanksgiving Proclamation made by Abraham Lincoln in 1863. (Information from the Muskingum, Dec. 1997 via the Clark House News, Jan. 98)

<http://members.aol.com/calcbj/mayflower.html>

National Cemetery System's Home Page includes addresses, telephone numbers, burial benefits, eligibility information, headstone and marker information and more.

<http://www.va.gov/cemetery>

Genealogy source material available from the Trinity Bay area of Newfoundland, Canada. Includes population

directories, census material, and others:

<http://www.csolve.net/~mccooper>

New home page for the Montgomery Co. Chapter of the Ohio Genealogy Society located in the greater Dayton, Ohio area. This site includes a searchable surnames list of the members:

<http://members.aol.com/ogsmont/>

The Waterloo County, Ontario Genealogy Cooperative Page:

<http://members.aol.com/ernm/roots/waterloo.html>

The New Hampshire Genealogy Project:

<http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/5275/nh.htm>

NHG'S FEBRUARY MEETING

Gary Schlemmer, NHG President

An Experience in Oral Tradition. On February 17, it was our privilege to hear Mr. James Clements tell of the development of a book, "Silent Heroes Among Us", which he edited from material written by his students. We had expected to hear some war stories about Eighth Air Force veterans in World War II. What we got was the tale of how a yearly chore - the infamous English terr. paper - was transformed into a tradition that touched both the student writers and the veterans alike ... and the type of record that the family historian dreams about.

James Clements teaches senior English at the Butler High School and, as his students sometimes did, came to wish for something more interesting than the usual research ritual. He began assigning local history topics for those papers. At first reluctant, the young authors dug in to discover many interesting stories from Butler County's past. Did you know that Butler was home to the "Hoagie" trademark?; the one-time largest swimming pool in the state?; the last Indian massacre east of the Mississippi? With financial help from the Golden Tornado Foundation, 60 of these true tales became the 1994 book "Builders Dreamers Scandals Schemers", followed by another 64 in "Favorite Sons and Sons of Guns" in 1997. The students had found new interest in old "nothing ever happens here" Butler County. Somewhere along the way, one of the students opted to interview neighbors about the area's colorful past.

Others followed his example and oral history had become part of their stories. This set the stage for the day that Mr. Clements was asked to suggest a memorial or tribute to the veterans of the Eighth Air Force.

TOUR OF ENGLAND

After hearing the veteran's own story for the first time, Jim struck on the idea of having his students write a book based on their personal interviews with the unit's veterans. First fearing that the age difference between student and veteran might be too great, most would find, instead, new friendships with them. After all, the students were nearly the same age as the vets had been in WW II ! The students drove as many as four hours to meet, and talk, and tape their interviews. The vets relived their stories and offered photographs. The resulting book tells of planes, ground crews, harrowing flights, heartrending air lifts ... all from the mouths of those who had lived it.

This summary just scratches the surface of an elegant talk – you had to be there. In case Mr. Clements is wondering what to do next, many of us suggest that he take his message to as many teachers' conferences as possible. To paraphrase one NHG questioner, "I wish you had been teaching when I was in school!" (The three books are available from the nonprofit Golden Tornado Foundation of 167 Newcastle Street, Butler, PA 16001, the Butler County Historical Society, and most area book stores.)

PERRYOPOLIS PA AREA HERITAGE SOCIETY

The Family Tree, Vol. VII, No. 6, Dec.97/Jan.98

The Perryopolis Area Heritage Society is a non-profit organization with its membership open to anyone. We are known in Southwestern PA for the fact that in 1774-76 George Washington commissioned grist mill to be built on land he purchased in 1769. Only the foundation survives today, but that has been restored and is awaiting the funds to rebuild the wooden structure atop the foundation. Some names of early families are **SIMPSON, SHREVE, STRAWN, MARTIN, FULLER, and HIXNEBAUGH**. Meetings are held the 4th Tuesday of the month. There is a "Pioneer Day" celebrated the first weekend in October. For more information write to PAHS, PO Box 303, Perryopolis, PA 15473.

PA HISTORICAL SOCIETY REOPENING

The Family Tree, Vol. VIII, No. 1, Feb./Mar. 1998

The Historical Society of Pennsylvania, 1300 Locust St., Philadelphia, PA 19107 has reopened following renovations to improve public access and preservation of their collection.

The **LOWTHER** family of Northern England (Lowder, Lauder, Starkey) are from the Cumbrian Region near the Scotland border. The family is taking a tour of England from July 10 - 19, 1998 including London; Stratford; Warwick; Penrith; Lowther Church, Castle, Archive and Village; Lowthertown, Scotland; Chester; and Manchester. Only \$2,595 per person. For more information write Lowther Family Tour 1998, 1706 Ventura Place, Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464 or call (803) 884-1465 or fax to (803) 881-1997. David S. Low, Tour Director.

WHAT A PRICE FREEDOM?

Amelia Island Genealogical Society via "Family Tree", Vol. V, No. 6, December 1994/January 1995.

Here are the numbers of Americans who have died for our freedom during the following wars:

American Revolution	4,435
War of 1812	22,260
Mexican War	1,733
Civil War	498,332
Spanish-American War	4,101
World War I	116,516
World War II	303,455
Korean Conflict	54,246
Vietnam	58,665

Editor's note: Thanks to Julie Kant for typing this. It is always a sobering thought to realize that the Civil War still ranks as the most deadly conflict we have ever been engaged in. If you were to figure out war deaths as a percent of the population the Civil War would be even worse.

CHURCH OF IRELAND RECORDS

The Family Tree, Vol. VIII, No. 1, Feb./Mar. 1998

Church of Ireland records held at Cobh, County Cork, extensively cover the baptisms, marriages and interments of the families of British servicemen based in the area in approximately 1760, and these show against each entry, the name of the army unit or HM ship on which the husband served. A research fee of \$20.00, which goes to the church, is charged. The searches are done by hand so be patient. Write Commander A. Crosbie, Merville, Cobh, Co. Cork, Republic of Ireland.

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA HISTORY

In the February, 1997 NHG Newsletter (vol. 7, No. 6) we began a series on the Counties of Western Pennsylvania taken from "Your Family Tree" written by Francis Strong Helman and printed in Clark House Quarterly, published by Historical and Genealogical Society of Indiana County, July 1996, Vol. XVI, No. 3 and October 1996, Vol. XVI, No. 4. Below is the continuation of the history.

PART OF JEFFERSON NOW ELK COUNTY

Ridgeway Township, Jefferson County, was formed from Pine creek in 1826, and was named for Jacob **RIDGEWAY**, resident of Philadelphia, a large land holder in that township. The early settlers in this locality were principally from New England and New York state. Elk County was formed in 1843 and Ridgeway Township, Jefferson County, became a part of the new county. The town of Ridgeway, also named for Jacob Ridgeway, is within its bounds.

The first settler was a hunter known as General **WADE**, who came with his family and a friend named **SLADE** to the headwaters of Little Toby Creek in 1798. In 1803, after a trip east, they moved to the mouth of the Little Toby where a log house was built. In 1806, Slade met an Indian girl while on a hunting trip, and in 1809, he married her. The ceremony was performed by an Indian known as Chief Tamisqua.

Enos **GILLIS** and James **GALLAGHER** were pioneer settlers in present Ridgeway where they erected three or four log cabins and a sawmill in 1824. These men started a tannery here in 1830.

In the year 1833 there were seven families in what is now Ridgeway, as follows: Reuben **AYLESWORTH** and Caleb **DILL** on the west side of the river; Enos Gillis, James W. Gallagher, H. **KARMS**, Thos. **BARBOR** and Joab **DOBBINS** on the east side. In 1836 these establishments were found to be there: Lone Star Hotel, owned by P. T. **BROOKS**; Exchange Hotel, owned by David **THAYER**, George **DICKINSON**'s Boarding House; and these families had also arrived - Henry **GROSS**, Stephen **WEISS**, Edward **DERBY** and the **HYDE** family.

In 1834 the first bridge was put across the Clarion River. It was built of 12 x 16 inch stringers resting on cribbing. It was a toll bridge.

Ralph **HILL** came from Massachusetts in 1832, and settled at Portland Mills. With Hill was a man whose last name was **RANSON**, and after Portland became to thickly settled for Hill he moved up Spring Creek into Forest County. He was referred to as a hermit. Before his death (1859) he killed the last panther to be found in Forest County.

The first school was held in Gallagher's log cabin, in 1826, with Hannah **GILBERT** as the teacher. Later Ann **BERRY** and Betsey **HYATT** taught in the old red schoolhouse near Dillon's meat market. Later Mr. **BARNUTZ** succeeded Miss Hyatt.

For the entire township, 1827, the assessment is as follows: Aylesworth & Gillis Co., one grist & saw mill; Jas. **BROCKWAY**; Collins **BROOKS**, single man; Naphtalia **BURNS**; Nehemiah **BRYANT**; Sampson **CROOKER**; Clark **EGGLESTON** Henry **FRANCIS**, single man; Enos Gillis; Jas. Gallagher; Jos. P. **KING**; Geo. **MARCH**, single man; Wm. **MAXWELL**, single man; Jas. **McDOUGAL** Lorenzo **PREAKET**, single man; Jacob **SHAFFER**; Jno. **STRATTON**; Wm. **TAYLOR**; Jacob Taylor, single man; Alanson **VIAL** Henry **WALBORN**.

PART OF ELK COUNTY TAKEN FROM CLEARFIELD COUNTY

Elk County was formed from portions of Jefferson, McKean & Clearfield. In 1843, and this sketch will deal mostly with that section belonging to Clearfield.

A large body of land, about 1,000 acres, lying in Jefferson, McKean and Clearfield, (most of it in the latter) was presented to Samuel M. **FOX** and was offered for sale by his heirs. At that time the section could poll not more than 160 or 170 votes, and was attached to Centre Co. It had one township called Chinklacamoose. The latter is an Indian word meaning "where the moose meet."

Amos **DAVIS** was the first actual settler, who resided before 1810, on a tract north of Earley. In the spring 1810 John **KYLOR** of Centre Co. came to settle at Kyler's Corners, on the Little Toby Creek. He moved his family there in 1812. Elkjah **MEREDITH**, Jacob **WILSON** Libni **TAYLOR** and Samuel **MILLER** came about the same time. Miller and **GRIFFITH** left the next year.

In 1813, Clearfield was divided into two townships - Lawrence and Pike. By this division Chinklacamoose became extinct. The latter township became part of Elk Co. During the season one of the proprietors came into the county and made provisions for cutting roads and erecting a mill. It was two years before the mill was built, and it was the second mill in the section, first called Kersey Mill, later known as Conner's. It was superintended by Wm. FISHER of Centre Co. Settlers from various places began to arrive in the wilderness. Some never brought their families, or soon left if they did, discouraged with life in the wood."

Among permanent settlers in 1817-18 were Wm. McCAULEY, James REESEMAN, James GREEN, Smith MEAD, and Consider BROCKWAY. Mr. Brockway was best prepared to make improvements, having money and a large family of boys. They settled about four miles west of Kersey Run. Between the years of 1818 and 1823, Conrad MEYER, Libni Taylor, (first at Little Toby), John KELLAR, Joe and Philetus CLARK, Isaac COLEMAN, Uriah and Jonah ROGERS, Colonel WEBB, Milton JOHNSON, Anson VIAL and Isaac HORTON became permanent settlers. Others who came for a while and then migrated elsewhere were; Dr. Wm HOYT, John J. BUNDY, James R. HANCOCK, Chauncey BROCKWAY, James IDDINGS and Robert. THOMPSON. However, most of these men had descendants who remained in what is now Elk Co.

The first court held in Elk Co., was in December, 1843, at Caledonia. In February, 1844, the second court was held in the school house at Ridgeway. Ridgeway., the county seat was laid out in 1833 and was named for John Jacob RIDGEWAY who at that time owned large tracts in that locality. Mr. Ridgeway, engaged James L. GILLIS, a relative by marriage, and a soldier in the War of 1812, as his agent. Mr. Gillis was influential in county improvements and served as an associate judge at the first court.

REASONS FOR GENEALOGISTS TO BITE THERE NAILS

The Family Tree, Vol. VII, No. 6, Dec.97/Jan.98

A notice in the Savannah Georgian for 13 November 1828: "Married at New Orleans, Mr. Alexander Philip Socrates Amelius Caesar Hannibal Marcellus George Washington Treadwell to Miss Caroline Sophia Maria Julianne Wortley Montague Joan of Arc Williams, both of New Orleans.

HISTORICAL INFO NEEDED

Historical Information and Photos for South McKnight Road Needed

The following sections were submitted by Tom Wiley, member of NHG. Tom hopes you are able to help him in his search. If you can, please contact Tom at 486-3679 or write to him at 190 Goldsmith Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237.

NHG member Tom Wiley is looking for maps, photos, historical data, and memories about the area surrounding McKnight Road between Babcock Boulevard and Siebert Road during 1945-1955, the ten years following WW II. Tom is historian for the McKnight United Methodist Church that will celebrate its fiftieth anniversary in two years. The materials will be used in connection with an anniversary celebration and possible fifty-year history of the church.

McKnight Methodist, located in McKnight Village on the hilltop above the Red Lobster Restaurant, held its first service in a house in The Village on March 19, 1950. Property for a church site had been purchased the previous year where construction of the present building took place in 1953.

This area of Ross Township began rapid development in 1946 when McKnight Road was extended south from Babcock Boulevard to connect with East Street coming north out of the City of Pittsburgh. That is when the Nelson Run Road bridge on McKnight was built as well as the one at Babcock over Girtys Run. About that time McKnight Homes, Inc. began building houses in McKnight Village and, in 1949, the James Ross Park apartment complex, now know as Governor's Ridge, was constructed.

Siebert Road on the north end of this area was the main East-West corridor. Along it could be found the Berkeley Hills Elementary School (now Eden Christian Academy), the Berkeley Hills Volunteer Fire Company, and, at the intersection with McKnight, the Berkeley Pharmacy on one corner and the North Hills Dairy on another (now the McKnight Branch of the Post Office). Incidentally, the Berkeley Hills Lutheran Church, founded in 1947, held its first meetings in the fire company hall.

To give perspective to this Post-WW II period of rapid growth during which McKnight Methodist was founded, Tom would like to beg, borrow, or review

any maps, photographs, historical accounts, memories etc. relevant to the area and time

McKNIGHT? SIEBERT or SEIBERT?

It has long been the custom in Western PA, including Ross Township, to name streets and roads after residents living in the area. Was this the case with McKnight Road? Inquiring minds would like to know, especially the inquiring mind of Tom Wiley, who is working on a "genealogy" of the lower McKnight Road area.

The 1876 map of Ross Township, found in the Atlas of the County of Allegheny and published recently in the Fourth Quarter 1997 issue of the "Ross Township News", shows early homesteads owned by Jas. McINTYRE, Hy. SCHLAGG, Jno. THOMPSON and And. THOMPSON P. IVORY, C. GASS and Cn. Gass, B. SIEBERT and Jno. McKNIGHT.

The Jno. McKnight property is shown west of the current McKnight Road and appears to be in the vicinity of the North Hills Village Mall.

The B. Seibert homestead looks to be slightly south of present day Seibert Road near the intersection with Thompson Run Road. And, yes, the name of the old map is spelled with "ei", whereas the official township name seems to use "ie". The township map, published in the first issue of the "Ross Township Newsletter", Vol. 1, 1994, spells the name with "ie" as does the 1997 AAA Pittsburgh and Vicinity map. However, on an AAA's Pittsburgh Pennsylvania CitiMap, 1996/97 Edition it is printed with "ei". Anyone have a story about this?

Babcock Boulevard probably received its name from E.V. BABCOCK, an Allegheny County commissioner in the 1920s. The bridge on Babcock Blvd. over Girtys Run, next to the Evergreen United Methodist Church, has a plaque on it listing E.V. Babcock as a county commissioner in 1925-26.

If anyone has definitive knowledge of the derivation of these street names, particularly published references to their origin, please contact Tom Wiley.

TIDBET: The ten most common Surnames in the US are Smith, Johnson, Williams, Jones, Brown, Davis, Miller, Wilson, Moore and Taylor. From the *The Family Tree*, Vol. VII, No. 3, June July 1997.

'LOST' RECORDS RECOVERED

Keith Kerr

Fifty-five boxes of papers, slides and pictures, furniture and filing cabinets containing the history of Allegheny City were found in a storage area of an Allegheny Center commercial building. The material was 'unclaimed property'. These valuable records were slated for a Goodwill Industries store. An Allegheny County manager rescued the items when he spotted the markings "Property of Allegheny City Society".

This is another chapter in the bizarre case of the former director of the Society, Greene Drucker. A colorful and entertaining character, Drucker had revived the old Allegheny Society with the goal of collecting archives and records of Allegheny City and to establish a museum to house the artifacts. From 1992, he successfully promoted these ideals. The WPA book, "The Story of Old Allegheny City" was reprinted. A newsletter was started. By 1995, however, trouble surfaced. In a dispute with his own board of directors, Drucker 'hid' the society properties. Drucker was convicted of theft and sent to prison. He would not reveal the whereabouts of the material.

Thus a three year old mystery is solved. Valuable records have been recovered. The mysterious Greene Drucker remains an enigma.

HOMESTEADERS

Orange Co. Gen. Soc. News, Vol. 31 Issue 2, Feb., 97 via *Clark House News*, Jan. 1998

If you had an ancestor who homesteaded land under the 1862 Homestead Act, or bought it from the government, his application is probably on file. The files have a four-page questionnaire filled out by the homestead listing names of family members and other personal information. (Seven states were cross-indexed by landowner's names..) Write to Civil Archives and Records Service, GSA, Washington, SC 20409 and give your ancestor's full name and any pertinent information.

LOST: A TOMBSTONE'S HOME

A Richland Township resident found a tombstone in an old stone wall. Can you help us find its home, the resting place of " Esther Kirsch, 1896 - 1918, Mother "? Currently the stone is "residing" at the Powell residence. Call Lissa Powell at 724-935-6961

WHAT ARE NAME-DATES?

John W. Heisey, *Antique Week*, Jan. 11, 1993, Pg 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 Nikolaustag - 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.)

Editor's note: Thanks to Donna Booth for typing the above article..

BUTLER COUNTY SOCIETY REPRINTS CEMETERY BOOKS

Butler County Historian, Vol. 19, No. 1, Feb. 1998

Due to the number of requests the Society has received over the last several years, and because we have located a publisher who will reprint books in small numbers, we are in the process of reprinting the entire set of Cemetery Inventories, and the Index to all volumes. These books contain most of the cemeteries in the county [Butler] and list most of the graves in those cemeteries, with all information engraved on any headstone. This information is very helpful to anyone doing family research. The Society will use this opportunity to reprint popular out of print publications, over this year. If there is a particular book you would like to have included in our plans, please let us know by calling the office, 283-8116.

TIDBIT: Don't forget to remember your ancestors. Without them, you, wouldn't be here. As seen in the *Foothills*, Colo. Newsletter via Rocky Mountain Buckeye, Vol. IX, No., April/May 1997

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

FIRST CLASS

APRIL - ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

BITS AND PIECES

RESEARCH LOG

The Sun Cities Genealogist, Vol. XVIII, no. 3 via *Clark House News*, Jan. 1998

Recording all sources as you research may help you keep from repeatedly searching the same sources. Printed Research logs are available from many genealogical booksellers, but you can also make your own. A notebook page can be used to record the title of the source, author, page, publisher, publication place and date.

And just don't make notation when you find something. Be sure to record negative searches as well, this way you will not keep searching the same old books and reaping nothing. This research log can help create the bibliography you are ready to publish.

GRAVES MOVED BY TVA

The Family Tree, Vol. VII, No. 6, Dec.97/Jan.98

Information on graves affected by the Tennessee Valley Authority has been gathered into an alphabetical listing including 30,630 graves. There is a second set of records of the individual Reservoir Cemeteries. Eleven volumes covering the main channel of the Tennessee River from Kentucky Lake, Kentucky to Lake Loudon, Tennessee have been published. A surname search of the volumes Complete TVA Burial Records can be made for \$5.00 per surname by writing to Mountain Press, PO Box 400, Signal Mountain, TN 37377.

TIDBITS: It's thought that you can use flour to dust old, old tombstones so you can read the inscriptions. Just be sure to use plain flour - don't ever use self-rising in a cemetery. *The Family Tree*, Vol. VII, Dec.97/Jan.98