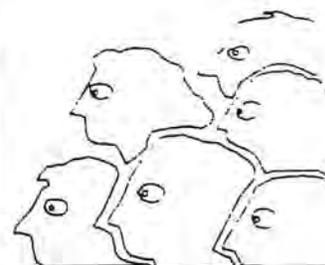


NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS NEWSLETTER



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

Volume 8 Number - 8 - April 1998

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

Vice President: Patsi Lee
Membership: Steph Valentine
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

It seems that nearly everything that we do in genealogy is intertwined with the broader scope of human experience. Likewise, some interests of other people can be of great help to the genealogist. Last month that thought was reinforced when I attended a local historical society meeting, hoping to get some help on locating cemeteries for our next book on Pine and Richland Townships.

The group is at the northern edge of our area and several miles north of Hampton Township, where NHG's first cemetery readings were done. As the members discussed their progress on various projects on hometown history, they spoke often of names from the past. It struck me that many of those surnames have been repeated in the town and road names over a large area around here -- Gibsonia (Gibson), Criders Corners, Glasgow Road, and on and on. It also struck me that most of the surnames mentioned that night also appear in our Hampton Township readings! Though not quite next door, the two localities are close enough to have been home to many of the same extended families.

Several people looked through our book and commented on the ancestors they had found there. And others offered suggestions on where we might find some of the "lost" family cemeteries for our next reading. Their enthusiasm and accomplishments were impressive. Officially in operation for just four years, they have organized a community centennial celebration and opened their own historical museum!

So, while the genealogist studies the relationships of people in a family, the local historian studies the people in a place. The two often overlap. If you haven't already done so, you might do well to consider the local history society for some of your attention. You could benefit directly or just come away knowing that you have helped save some personal history for someone else. And, probably, you will experience the same hospitality that we at North Hills Genealogists hope to convey to our guests. My thanks and regards to the Valencia Area Historical Society for the many kind words and assistance. The cookies were good, too.

Gary

WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

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.

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

Tues., May 5 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., 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. Contact Butler County Historical Society at (724) 283-8116 or PO Box 414, Butler, PA 16003.

Thurs., May 14, 7:30 p.m. - **WPGS Meeting**, program Bill May of Butler, PA: "A Visit From A Civil War Soldier". See article on page 73.

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

GENEALOGY CONFERENCES

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

Don't forget to send your queries to Keith Kerr, c/o Northland Public Library, 300 Cumberland Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237-5455

BEGINNER'S CORNER

Question: What is A Primary Source Record and what is a Secondary Source Record?

Answer: "**Original Sources**" consist of information recorded at the time of the original event by a person who had personal knowledge of that event. Town clerk's records, ministers' records, tax rolls, immigration records and military records are all examples of original sources.

A "**Secondary Source**" is information recorded in later years by someone further removed from the event. A genealogy book printed in the twentieth century listing names and dates of 200 or 300 years earlier would be an example of a secondary source. All sources are susceptible to errors. It is possible to have errors even in primary sources. However, secondary sources almost always have a higher error rate.

A third type of record can be interpreted as either a primary source or a secondary source: a transcribed copy of an original document. Original records may exist in a form that is difficult to read or perhaps impossible to photograph. In many cases, someone later transcribed the original records and published the results electronically or on paper.

BOOKS REVIEWED & FOR SALE

MAP GUIDE TO AMERICAN MIGRATION ROUTES

The "Map Guide to American Migration Routes" is written by Bill Dollarhide. The book is 41 pages and includes an index. If your ancestors migrated during the great American westward expansion, chances are they traveled these routes. The book tells when the roads were built, explains why they were established, and describes the typical trials and tribulations of travel on these roads in horse-drawn wagons containing a family's worldly possessions. This book will appeal to historians as well as genealogists.

The roads described are:

Colonial Roads to 1750
The Boston Post Road and the King's Highway
The Lancaster Road
The Fall Line Road
The Great Valley Road
The Pioneer's Road
The Upper Road

Colonial Roads, 1750-1775
Braddock's Road
Forbes' Road
The Wilderness Road
New York Migrations

Roads to the Ohio Country
Zane's Trace
The Nashville Road
The National Road

Roads to the Old Southwest
The Natchez Trace
The Federal Horse Path
The Ways South After 1815

A list of Notes and References is also included. Of course, it is well illustrated with maps.

Again, it is a small book at only 41 pages; but it has a modest price tag, \$9.95. The "Map Guide to American Migration Routes" is published by Heritage Quest, Inc., PO Box, 329, Bountiful, UT 84011-0329 Look at: <http://www.heritagequest.com>. for on-line information. Orders may be sent to: sales@heritagequest.com.

This article is from Eastman's On-line Genealogy Newsletter and is copyright 1997 by Richard W. Eastman and Ancestry, Inc. It is re-published here with the permission of the author.

CATHOLIC VITAL RECORDS OF CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA

This series covers the parishes of the present-day Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, namely those situated in the counties of Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Center, Clinton, Fulton, Huntington and Somerset. Records are presented in the order in which they appear in the parish registers. Each volume includes an index to those persons baptized,

married or buried. Volumes are printed in 6" x 9" format and are hard-bound. Volume One spans 1793-1839, PA price \$30.74; Volume Two spans 1840-1849, PA price \$30.74; Volume Three spans 1850-1857, PA price \$42.93; Volume Four spans 1858-1864, PA price \$45.84; Volume Five spans 1865-1869, PA price \$42.93. All prices include postage, handling and state tax. Due to decreasing stocks of volumes 1 and 2, they are only available to purchasers of the entire set. Future volumes are planned. Checks and money orders may be addressed to Rev. Albert H. Ledoux, 11007 Montgomery Road, Beltsville, MD. 20705-2815.

INTERNET LINKS

SARATOGA BATTLEFIELD DATA ON-LINE

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Heritage Hunters, a society "dedicated to the study and preservation of genealogical and historical materials in and around Saratoga County, New York", is in the process of creating on-line databases on the World Wide Web. While several databases are under construction, one of the more popular ones is the Saratoga Battlefield database of combat participants.

If you have ancestors in the area, you also might want to visit the same site to look at some of the other partially-completed databases available:

- * Saratoga County, NY Cemetery Surname Index
- * Waterford, NY Rural Cemetery Records
- * Clifton Park, NY Cemetery Records
- * Halfmoon, NY Cemetery Records
- * Briggs Cemetery Records
- * 1790 Census, Saratoga Towns
- * The Schuylerville Standard
- * Durkee's "Reminiscences of Saratoga"

Addresses

Western PA Genealogical Society's website at:
www.clpgh.org/clp/Pennsylvania/wpgs.html

Searchable MI Death Index (1867 - 1875) so far.
GENDIS = MI Gen. Death Indexing System:
<http://www.mdch.state.mi.us/PHA/OSR/gendis/index.htm>

An excellent site devoted to Italian genealogy is called "Italian Genealogy? Start Here!" It has a lot of information on genealogy, as well as Italian family surname research. Free query, listing and agent services are also available at:

<http://www.daddezio.com/italgen.html>

Cape Cod Genealogy:

<http://www.vineyard.net/vineyard/history/allen/allenhp.htm>

Dublin, Ireland Directory of 1850 - a complete list of surnames is available on this site:

<http://homepage.tinet.ie/~plough>

The Internet Genealogy Class at VU put a page together for a class project. It includes informational genealogy links to Polish, German, German-Russian, German-Prussian, Prussian and Irish genealogy:

<http://www.geocities.com/SiliconValley/Haven/1538/index2.html>

Professional research services for United States, Norwegian, and Danish research:

<http://www.linesearch.com>

Rockingham County (New Hampshire) Genealogy Project:

<http://www.geocities.com/heartland/1706>

Saskatchewan Genealogical Society:

<http://www2.regina.ism.ca/sgs/>

BOOKS DONATED TO NORTHLAND LIBRARY BY NHG

NHG President, Gary Schlemmer, presented these books by at our regular meeting on March 17 to the staff of Northland Library.

Pioneer Cemeteries of Hampton Township, Allegheny County, PA by the North Hills Genealogists, 1997. .

The Genealogy Sourcebook by Sharon DeBartolo Carmack, CGRS, 1997. This is the book Lesle Dunn wanted us to buy instead of paying her for our January meeting.

Silent Heroes Among Us by James Clements, editor, 1997.

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY 'S NEXT MEETING

Mr. Bill May, a Butler county teacher, is presenting "A Visit With A Civil War Soldier" on Thursday evening, May 14 at 7:30 p.m. at the Carnegie Library Lecture Hall, 4400 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA. This program is free and open to the public and may be of particular interest to students who are studying the Civil War, or would like to see a wonderful storyteller describe another time. Mr. May recreates his ancestor who had enlisted from Butler into the Civil War and describes the life of a soldier from the time they were transported from Pittsburgh on the river to what it was like to eat "hard tack." He explains their uniform and how they made ink from a powder. Mr. May, being a teacher himself, can relate to people from ages 7 through 97 while bringing accuracy and humor to his stories.

YOUR FAMILY TREE

Heritage Quest, #59 by Janet Elaine Smith via *Rocky Mountain Buckeye*, Vol. III, No. 3, Aug./Sept 1996

When you are searching for facts in your family tree, you must go beyond the leaf which bears the name. You must go out on a limb and then follow the sap that runs through the trunk clear down to the roots. The key to your true family history lies in more than the name. Search for other similar names and eliminate all other possibilities before you settle on one person. Remember, it's not all in the Name! "Mary, Mary, quite contrary, how does your garden grow?" Seven Marys! All in one family! Oh the poor descendent! I hope they have everything well-documented in advance! Have fun playing the name game.

GERMAN-ENGLISH TRANSLATOR

As a free-lance I have translated numerous birth, baptism, marriage and death records, village histories, biographies and personal letters. I can read older German typefaces and handwriting. Andrew J. Witter, 2056-255th Street, Donnellson, Iowa, 52625. Phone/Fax (319) 835-3960, e-mail ajwitter@juno.com

Editor's note: NHG has had no experience with this translator and does not endorse any specific services. This is listed only as a possible place for you to look for help.

GENEALOGY LETTER WRITING

The Genealogical Helper, July-Aug. 1991 via
Rocky Mountain Buckeye, Vol. IX, No. 2, Jun./Jul. 97

SIX DO'S:

1. Do type your letter when possible.
2. Do your homework before you write.
3. Do cite your sources for everything you say.
4. Do mention different spellings of places and names you have seen.
5. Do include family group sheets and/or ancestor charts.
6. Do enclose a SASE and do offer to pay a reasonable fee.

SIX DON'TS

1. Don't ask impossible general questions. (Two questions seem much too often are "Give me all the information you have on my ancestors," or "Tell me all you can about the history of my town.")
2. Don't present your opinions as facts without clear proof.
3. Don't leave out important things just because they are familiar to you (How likely is it that your ancestors will be equally familiar to the reader of your letter.)
4. Don't neglect to consider that all person and places are duplicated by name somewhere.
5. Don't forget to say where else you've looked and why and who else has looked at your problem for you.
6. Don't forget to thank your correspondent for any help that maybe be provided, and ask for a referral to others who may be able to give you further assistance.

WHAT BONES ARE YOU?

Yakima Valley Genealogical Society
via *Clark House News*, Dec. 97

Someone said the membership of an organization is made up of four bones:

There are the **WISHBONES**, who spend all their time wishing somebody else would do the work. There are the **JAWBONES**, who do all the talking but very little of anything else. Next come the **KNUCKLE BONES**, who knock everything that everybody else tries to do. And finally, there are the **BACK BONES** who get the load and do the work.

1998 - 1999 NHG CANDIDATES

GARY SCHLEMMER, Candidate for President

Gary writes that he and wife Jessie reside in Middlesex Township, while son Joshua now lives in Buffalo. He enjoys working on the NHG board either as continuing president or other capacity, and hopes to see more members giving a hand there. He sees NHG as a group of friends helping each other with their genealogy -- their enthusiasm and cooperation makes it fun. Gary was involved in the successful completion of our first book and is currently deeply involved in the preparations for our second book.

VICE PRESIDENT: We are currently looking for a candidate for the position of Vice President. If you are interested or know someone else that might be interested in the position, please let Keith Kerr or Ginny Skander know. The election ballot will appear in the May newsletter and the elections will take place at the June meeting. New officers take over at the August Board meeting.

PATSI LEE, Candidate for Treasurer

Patsi lives in Ohio Township with her husband Jeff and their two children. They have been in Pittsburgh 14 years, North Carolina is her place of origin. Genealogy has been a interest of hers since High School but during the last several years she has become more serious in her quest. She has been a member of NHG for three years. She has been our Vice President for the last year and has provided us with many interesting and diverse programs for our 1997-1998 monthly meetings. Patsi has been involved in the NHG book publication as well. Other hobbies are cross stitch and needlepoint.

MARCIA COLEMAN, Candidate for Secretary

Marcia lives in McCandless Township with her husband Robert and her youngest child, a son majoring in journalism at IU. Her interest in genealogy was prompted by the early death of her parents and the vast quantity of family records she inherited. A "true beginner" is how she describes herself. She joined NHG to find out what to do with all the records and how to add to them but has spent the last five years as your NHG Newsletter editor. She loved the job as editor but felt it was time to move on to new challenges and experiences. Besides genealogy her interests include the Risky Rookies Investment Club where she is treasurer and the Greybrooke Garden Club.

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 April 1997, Vol. XVII, No.2 and October 1996, Vol. XVI, No. 4. Below is the continuation of the history.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY

Westmoreland County was erected from Bedford in 1773. The majority of settlements in this county were founded along Forbes Road, at Fort Pitt, (now Pittsburgh), and along Bouquet Road. The lands northwest of the Allegheny and the Ohio Rivers were still Indian ground, and Fort Pitt was an outpost on the western frontier.

Hannastown on the Forbes Road was the county-seat then, and the first courts were held in the tavern of Robert HANNA, who was to play an important role in politics and defense. The town was composed of log cabins (about 30) and a fort. Arthur St. CLAIR was prothonotary and William CRAWFORD was the justice who presided at the first session of court. Both men had previous experience in Bedford and Cumberland Counties.

The townships contained in the new county were: *Fairfield*, in which was Fort Ligonier and the home of Arthur St. Clair; *Donegal*; *Huntington*; *Mount Pleasant*, along Braddock Road; *Hempfield*, along Forbes Road; *Pitt*, location of Fort Pitt; *Tynone*, this one held a tract of land owned by General George WASHINGTON and family and was the home of Christopher GIST, frontier scout; *Springhill*; *Menallen*; *Rostraver* and *Armstrong* which embraced part of what is now Indiana County and was locality known to pioneers as the "Derry Settlement."

Men from eastern Westmoreland County served in the 8th Regiment of Pennsylvania Militia and were enlisted at Hannastown, while those living in the southern part and along the Monongahela Valley enlisted in the 9th and the 13th Regiments of Virginia during the Revolutionary War.

Fort Ligonier existed as early as 1759 and was rebuilt in 1777 to a larger size, and was widely known as a refuge

for settlers. Fort Palmer, on land owned by John PALMER, was between Ligonier and what is now New Florence. Fort Pomeroy was named for John POMEROY who was one of the first settlers in the county. He had James BARR and James WILSON as neighbors. Fort Wallace on the farm of Richard WALLACE, near Blairsville, is often mentioned in the history of this section. Bushy Run was a fortification near Harrison City, at the home of Andrew BYERLY the pioneer. John McKIBBEN lived near Fort Hand, in use in 1777. Redstone, near Brownsville, was in use about 1759, and is in Monongahela Valley. These are only a few of the pioneer forts scattered over the area at that time.

The Redstone Baptist Association began in Southwestern Pennsylvania in 1776. Land was deeded for an Episcopal Church in Pittsburgh in 1787. With the German settlers came the Lutheran Church such as Harold's, 1772, and Brush Creek, 1780. The Redstone Presbytery held its first meeting in Pigeon Creek Church in 1781, but records show preaching took place through out the county at an earlier date. (1775 and 1776). The first Catholic priest to visit settlers of Westmoreland came in 1789, and services were held at Fort Shippen.

Hannastown was burned by the Indians in 1782. Greensburg was laid out after that time and is now the county seat. The original records were saved from the fire and may be seen at the courthouse.

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Pine Creek Twp., created in 1806, by an Act of Assembly, and taken from the district of the same name in Lycoming Co., embraced all of Jefferson Co. until 1818. Jefferson is bounded on the north by Forest and Elk Counties; on the east by Elk and Clearfield; on the south by Indiana and on the west by Armstrong and Clarion. Brookville, the county-seat, was laid out in 1830.

For years large tracts of land in good locations were held by rich proprietors at a distance who would neither improve their lands nor sell them to those who would. For some time lumbering was the chief occupation, and companies, from New York and New England bought huge tracts of pine timber on Red Branch Creek and Clarion River. The shrewd Yankees estimated the value of the land by the tree while the Pennsylvanian still figured its worth by the acre. Thus many of its families can be traced back to New York or New England states because of the lumbering while others migrated

extended down to the river. William Penn resided here with his family in 1700-1, but died in England and did not enjoy the retirement for which he had provide in the new land. The Manor was restored in 1938.

The very nickname of Pennsylvania, The Keystone State, has its origin in the earliest days of our nation when, as the geographical center or the thirteen colonies, it held the "keystone" position among them. Here, in Philadelphia the Articles of Confederation were drafted, the Declaration of Independence was drafted and signed and the Constitution of the United States written- The First and Second Continental Congress met here as well.

IRISH IN LIVERPOOL?

The Family Tree, Apr./May 1998, Vol. VII, No. 2

It is believed that 70% of all Irish immigrants changed ships in Liverpool, England. If you know the name of the ship the Irish famine immigrant took out of Liverpool, write to Merseyside Maritime Museum, Pier Head, Liverpool, England L310W.

THERE ARE SO MANY WAYS TO SAY "IT"

Histo-Report, Punxsutawney, PA , Nov. 1997, Vol. XVII, No. 3

There is no shortage of terms for a child born out of wedlock. Some of the therms found in British birth registers include: Bantling, base, base-born, bastardus, begotten in fornication, lovechild, come by chance, in sin begotten, son of no certain man.

OLD LAND MEASUREMENT UNITS

Occasionally you'll run across units of measure that are unfamiliar to you. Below are a few definitions of old-time units of measure.

A **FOOT** was the length of Charlemagne's foot, modified in 1305 to be 36 barleycorns laid end to end.

An **INCH** was the width across the knuckle of King Edgar's thumb, or obviously 3 barleycorns.

A **YARD** was the reach from King Henry 1's nose to his royal fingertips, a distance also twice as long as a cubit.

A **CUBIT** was the length of the arm from elbow to fingertips.

A **MILE** was 1,000 double steps of a Roman legionary. Later, Queen Bess added more feet so the mile would equal eight furlongs.

A **FURLONG** was the length of a furrow a team of oxen could plow before resting.

An **ACRE** was the amount of land a yoke of oxen could plow in one day.

A **FATHOM** was the span of a seaman's outstretched arms; 880 fathoms make a mile.

The metric system, on the other hand, uses the **METER**, defined precisely as 1,650,763.73 wavelengths of orange-red light emitted y the krypton-86 atom, or originally oneten-millionth the length of longitude from the North Pole to the equator. The meter is exactly 39.37 inches - or, that is some 118 barleycorns.

The above information is from an article entitled **ORIGINS OF OLD-TIME MEASURING UNITS**, *Old Farmer's Almanac via Rocky Mountain Buckeye*, Vol. IX, No. 5, Dec. 97/Jan. 98

An **AR** (plural is Ars and abbreviation is A); is a German land measure and still in current use. It is equal to 100 square meters or approximately 120 square yards (actually 119.5993)

A **HEKTAR** (hectare: abbreviation is ha); a land measure equal to 100 Ars or approximately 2.5 acres.

A **JOCH** An archaic German land measure of approximately 60 ars or approximately 1.5 acres. Joch was used originally to designate the area a team could plow in a day. The German word Joch, like the English word Yoke, comes from the Latin iugum (yoke).

A **MORGEN** An old German land measure equivalent to between approximately .6 and .9 acres, depending on locality. Originally Morgen was used to describe amount of land a team could plow before noon.

The information from an article entitled **ANTIQUUE UNITS OF LAND MEASUREMENT**, *Champaign County Newsletter*, April 1997 Via *Rocky Mountain Buckeye*, Vol. IX, No. 2, June/July 1997.

northward from more thickly settled counties. In recent years it became the home of families interested in coal mining.

The Chinklacamoose, ("where the moose meet") Indian trail passed through the county extending between the present sites of Clearfield and Kittanning. It is believed that David and John MEAD, of near what is now Sunbury, Northumberland Co., where John kept a tavern, were the first white men to make a trail through this section. Encouraged by Sen. George Washington's report to Gov. DINWIDDIE of Virginia, telling of rich lands still unoccupied in what is now Venango and Crawford counties, the Mead boys decided to explore that locality themselves. In 1788, they passed through Jefferson Co., (then Northumberland) to become settlers of present Crawford Co. Pioneer settlers followed the Mead trail to find home sites in Jefferson County.

Joseph BARNETT, a Revolutionary Soldier, of Dauphin Co., his brother, Andrew and his brother-in-law, Samuel SCOTT, came here in 1797 to a place called Port Barnett. The families came and established homes in 1800.

The pioneer road into Jefferson County was the Indiana and Port Barnett Road. The Court appointed, in 1808, Samuel LUCAS, John JONES, Moses KNAPP and Samuel Scott, of Jefferson County, and John PARK and John WEIR of Indiana County to view and report to the Court. The road is believed to have been built in 1810. Moses Knapp owned a mill on Big Mahoning Creek.

Taxables in the county in 1807 were: Joseph BARNETT farmer and distiller; John DIXON, weaver; Elijah M. GRIMES, laborer; Lewis HEEB, farmer; Peter JONES blacksmith; John JONES, farmer; Moses KNAPP, farmer; Samuel LUCAS, tailor; Thos LUCAS, farmer, grist and sawmill; Wm. LUCAS, tailor; Ludwig LONG, farmer and distiller; Alex'r McCOY, farmer.; Jacob MASON, laborer; Stephen ROLL, cooper; Dan'l ROADARMIL, farmer; John SCOTT, Sr., farmer; Samuel SCOTT, miller, saw and gristmill; John SCOTT, Jr., farmer; Adam VASTBINDER, farmer; Jacob VASTBINDER, (single man) farmer; John VASTBINDER, (single man), laborer; Fudge VAN CAMP (colored), farmer; horses - 23; cows - 35.

CHESTER COUNTY

Chester County was established by William PENN within two months after his arrival in 1652. It first included

Delaware County, and except for a small part of Philadelphia and Montgomery, all of the territory southwest of the Schuylkill River to the limits of the Province. It was the first of the three counties formed. West Chester is the present county seat. In 1729, Lancaster county was formed providing the western boundary and in 1752, Berks County was erected forming the north and northwestern limits. Philadelphia County was on the east and northeast until the erection of Montgomery County in 1784. Here is Valley Forge where WASHINGTON spent the winter of 1777-75 with his haggard, half-starved army of colonists; here is Brandywine of Revolutionary fame, and Paoli recorded in history because of the Paoli Massacre.

Philadelphia city and county history really begins with the charter for the Province executed by Charles the Second to William PENN, dated 4 March 1681. The first record of the name given the city is in a warrant for land dated 10 July 1682. Philadelphia County was reduced in this manner: Berks County was formed from Philadelphia, Chester and Lancaster in 1752, and fits into the map north of Lancaster, and west of Chester and Montgomery counties. Montgomery Co. took up another portion of Philadelphia County in 1784 and is found between Bucks and Chester Counties. Thus the largest county of the three became the smallest. By 1700 the city of Philadelphia had increased from 80 dwellings of the first year to 700 homes and over 4,000 inhabitants. It is known as the "City of Brotherly Love," and is the "Cradle of Liberty" for there the Declaration of Independence was adopted July 14, 1776.

Buck County took its name from that section of England from whence came a number of passengers who arrived on the ship Welcome. The northern boundary extended to the Kittatinny Mountain, "or as far as land might be purchased from the Indians." It was reduced by the formation of Northhampton County, in 1752. Doylestown is the county seat. The famous "Walking Purchase" from the Indians, 1737, was arranged in Bucks County. It was to include land as far back as a man could walk in three days. Three white men, including Edward MARSHALL, accompanied by some Indians started the trek. The two whites gave up, and most of the Indians left the group saying they were cheated after asking the white men to walk not run. When Marshall stopped at the hour the walk was to be terminated, it was estimated he had covered 86 miles. The purchase was complete by drawing a line from this spot to the Delaware River. Here William Penn had erected the Manor of Pennsbury. It was a magnificent mansion-house, 60 x 40 feet, with offices and out buildings, fronting on a beautiful garden which

ORIGINAL INSURANCE DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE

by Paul S. Valasek *Antique Week*, Mon. Mar. 9, 1998:

The Polish Roman Catholic Union of America, a fraternal insurance group, is making available the original mortuary and death claims that are in approximately 800 legal-sized boxes to individuals who would like their ancestors' files. The records have been computer imaged for posterity and the originals are now being offered to the public on a first come first served basis.

The names of over 100,000 claimants dating from the 1890's through 1940 are available in cooperation with the Polish Genealogical Society of America through their web site (www.pgsa.org). Look under the category, Databases, and specifically PRCUA records. Type in the necessary information as requested, and if serendipity is with you, matching an individual or family surname will be accomplished. Print out the information and send the appropriate fee, \$43 postpaid for non-members, \$33 postpaid for PGSA members, for each file requested. These are the original files and not photocopies or reprints.

Each file basically consists of the following information. The original jacket which lists basic information about the individual on the cover. Inside is usually an application form for the insurance, an original death certificate from the time frame of the individual, and a large, decorative certificate of insurance which not only is suitable for framing, but usually carries the inked signature of the insured. Any and all correspondence is included dealing with the claim, with this material varying significantly in both quality and quantity. Correspondence from the insurance company and family members, as well as the family's representatives, are included whenever these papers were an integral part of the claim. Most files will consist of 4-5 individual pieces of paper, but some can number 20-25. Original letters from relatives in Poland, and on occasion, birth certificates as well as marriage certificates may be included in these files. A number of files will also have funeral bills and statements from undertakers.

Files were generated from many states, those of course having large Polish, Russian, German-Polish, Austrian-Polish, and Russian-Polish communities in them. The majority of claims thus far viewed are either from Illinois or Pennsylvania. Others include New York, Ohio, Connecticut, New Jersey, Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin, Massachusetts.

RESEARCH PROJECT 19TH & EARLY 20TH CENTURY WOMEN

Sharon DeBartolo Carmack, CGRS, is gathering information on nineteenth and early twentieth century women (of all races and nationalities) that will result in several articles and ultimately a book. Of specific interest are the topics of alcohol and drug use (e.g., patent medicines, laudanum, opium, morphine); cases of being institutionalized in an insane asylum; and birth control methods or medical "recipes." She would appreciate a short, biographical sketch of the woman and supporting data from diaries or journals, family papers and letters, recipe books, oral history or family lore, or from any other sources that reveal one or more of these topics. To submit to the research study or for more information, contact Sharon at P. O. Box 338, Simla, CO 80835; fax (719) 541-2673; email: sdcarmack@kktv.com.

Elissa Scalise Powell found a couple of handwritten "prescriptions" tucked in an ancestor's day book dating from 1875-1917 which Sharon was very interested in. Perhaps you have something tucked away that will contribute to this original research.

A COMPUTERIZED TOMBSTONE

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Some people want to go quietly, but Dorothy Schaffer of Saint Louis wants to go digitally. "I didn't want my kids to remember us as old tired mom and pop," she says. She and her husband, Lester, have enshrined their final message on the closest thing yet to a talking tombstone, a computer at Belle Rive cemetery in Creve Coeur. The Wall Street Journal calls it "a kind of ATM of the dead."

The computer is not installed in a stone in the cemetery. Instead, it is in a stainless-steel obelisk in a public room off the cemetery's central office. It has a computer screen bearing the mathematical sign of infinity. After typing commands on the touch-screen pad, an image of the couple appears on the screen. Mrs. Schaffer's voice, in stereo, emerges from the machine: "Whenever you listen, you'll hear the voices of your ever-loving mother and dear dad. Mrs. Schaffer contemplates the effect on her family as they punch her up when she is no longer around: "I can hear them say, 'Oh, Mom!'"

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

FIRST CLASS

MAY - Luanne Eisler, 19th Century Newspapers

BITS AND PIECES

SWEDISH HELP

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

If you are working on Swedish heritage, you might consider a subscription to *Sweden & America*, 2600 Park Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55407. It is a magazine filled with current Swedish culture and a fascinating look back into this proud heritage.

NATIONAL ORDER OF THE BLUE & GRAY

The Family Tree, Vol. VIII, No. 3, June/July 1997

If you have an ancestor who rendered civil or military service to either or both the Confederate and Federal Governments during their life time than you may be eligible to join the National Order of the Blue and Gray.

For information on this hereditary society contact: L. E. Kielman, Adjutant General, 9 Osborne Ave., Catonsville, MD 21228.

SOME CENSUS ABBREVIATIONS RE. NATURALIZATIONS

Foothills, via *Rocky Mountain Buckeye*, Vol. IX, nov. 5,
Dec. 97/Jan. 98

Under the "naturalization column" on the 1900 U.S. Census Records, you may have seen the abbreviations "NA", "PA", and "NR". "NR" means naturalized. "PA" means that the naturalization process has been started, but the person hasn't completed the process. Most homesteading acts required the homesteader to be a citizen or in the process of becoming one. It is probable that a person listed "PA" completed the process in the county listed. "NR" means not recorded or not reported.