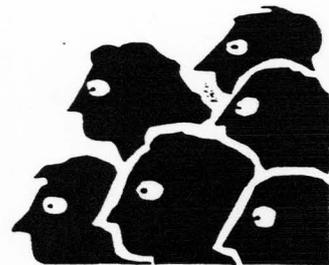


NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS NEWSLETTER



% Northland Public Library, 300 Cumberland Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15257-4555

Volume 9, Number 1 - August, 1998

President: Gary Schlemmer

Treasurer: Patsi Lee

Cemetery Project: Ginny Skander

Editor: Donna Booth

Vice President: Sylvan Kretz

Membership: Steph Valentine

Book Committee: Marion Hyle

Subscription: \$12.00 per year

Secretary: Marcia Coleman

Liaison: Elissa Powell

Queries: Sylvan Kretz

10 issues August - June

Welcome to the North Hills Genealogists' 1998-1999 year of programs and fun! NHG continues as an informal group of friends helping each other in growing their family trees and tracing ancestors. Our newsletter helps their efforts with news of upcoming events, sources of family information, and family queries submitted by our readers. Many small tasks go together to make this group worthwhile and fun, and we encourage you to take an active part with our new slate of volunteer officers and board members.

Vice President Sylvan Kretz brings with him both an enthusiasm for genealogy and the experience of working with another local club. As the new query editor, Syl will assemble specific reader requests for the newsletter.

Treasurer Patsi Lee takes the role of tracking the revenues and expenses which go into delivering a newsletter and contributing to the Northland Public Library's genealogy-related books. As Vice President last year, she had also coordinated and booked many of our monthly programs. Sherry Brady leaves this job in good hands after two years of impressive presentations.

Secretary Marcia Coleman brings with her the skills so well implemented in her role as newsletter editor for the past four years. We have received many compliments on her work! In close touch with our deliberations, she is happy to direct newcomers to NHG meetings and contact information. Debi MacIntyre retires from this role after two years of service and innovative publicity for NHG.

Newsletter Editor Donna Booth picks up the challenge in a smooth transition from Marcia. She has been active in genealogy and NHG meetings. Please welcome Donna and her energy with your supporting articles, interest and time!

Membership Chairman Stephen Valentine graciously continues tracking renewals, issuing reminders, and keeping the constantly changing membership rolls and mailings organized. Among his other roles over several years, Steph has made sure that each subscriber gets this newsletter.

NHG Liaison Elissa Scalise Powell, C.G.R.S., brings expertise with contacts to other genealogy organizations and in responding to reader requests for specific genealogical information.

Although NHG cannot maintain a genealogical database of its own, a polite request (S.A.S.E. required) usually garners some good pointers on local research.

Cemetery Reading Chairwoman Virginia Skander and Research Chairwoman Elissa Powell keep our "Pioneer Cemeteries of Pine and Richland Township" book on track. Ginny, Lissa, and YOU are essential to the completion of this valuable heirloom project.

Thanks also goes to each of several others who keep this gang together and help deliver the goods. As for myself, I have much to learn about genealogy, and I hope to improve along with you. Perhaps working on that will help us focus on programs that advance our learning while remembering the needs of those just starting off in search of great grandma and grandpa... and to help our new friends make those connections. Best wishes for your search!

Gary Schlemmer

WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

Tues, September 1 at 7:00 PM - **NHG Board Meeting** - Cafeteria, Passavant Hospital, which is on the lower level. All members welcome to attend.

Tues, September 15 at 7:30 PM - **Regular NHG Meeting** - Northland Library.

WPGS PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Thurs, September 10, 7:30 PM - Edward J. Redmond, reference librarian for the Library of Congress Geography and Map Division



NEW OFFICERS

President:	Gary Schlemmer
Vice President:	Sylvan Kretz
Treasurer:	Patsi Lee
Secretary:	Marcia Coleman

COMMITTEES

Liaison:	Elissa Powell
Membership:	Steph Valentine
Cemetery Project:	Ginny Skander
Queries:	Sylvan Kretz
Book Committee:	Marion Hyle
Newsletter Editor:	Donna Booth

A special thanks to Lois and Bill Daviess for making sure the Newsletter gets to the printer and ready for distribution.

Thank You

As NHG begins a new year, we want to take a minute to thank Marcia Coleman for all her hard work as Newsletter Editor over the past years. One member recently told me that it is the best newsletter he gets. Thanks Marcia for doing such a great job. I hope, as the new Editor, I can count on your help and guidance.

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 the Clark House Quarterly, published by the 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.

ERIE COUNTY

Erie County was formed from Allegheny, March 12, 1800, but was not judicially organized until April 1803. The original townships were Northeast, Harbor Creek, Mill Creek, Venango, Greenfield, Union, Broken Straw, Conneautte, Waterford, Le Bouf, Fairview, Springfield, Conneaut, McKean, Elk Creek and Beaver Dam. Beaver Dam, Broken Straw and Conneautte have been absorbed by subdivision and the names have disappeared. The first court house was built in 1807, but was destroyed by fire in 1823, and with it the county records so valuable to the genealogist and historian.

Many early settlers came from New York State and New England but the greater number came over the trails from more settled portions of Pennsylvania. The first occupants were the Erie or Cat, Indians. The Eries were destroyed as a nation by the Iroquois about 1655. Tradition credits a few of the tribe with having escaped to the far west, and many years after came up the Ohio, crossed the country and attacked the Senecas. The battle took place near Buffalo. The Eries were completely annihilated, their bodies burned and the ashes buried in a mound near the old Indian Mission Church.

Thomas Rees resided in Harbor Creek Township in 1806; Captain Martin Strong states there were but four families living in Erie County in 1795; they were Reed, Talmadge, Miles and Baird. July 25, 1796, the Harrisburg and Presque Isle Company formed for the purpose of settling and improving the country. The company consisted of Thomas Forster, John Kean, Alexander Berryhill, Samuel Laird, Richard Swan, John A. Hanna, Robert Harris, Richard D'Armond, Samuel Ainsworth and Wm. Kelso. The operations of this company in the early days brought a large number of settlers from Dauphin, Cumberland and other counties of that locality.

The first pastor to settle there was Rev. Johnston Eaton of Franklin County. His church was built near present Manchester in 1807, and was the mother Presbyterian Church of the others in the region. The Coovers came from the Susquehanna at an early date. The Grahams came in 1802. Kincaid was the surname of another pioneer family.

"Mad" Anthony Wayne, who broke up the troublesome Indiana Tribes of the west was sent by the government to conclude a treaty with them in 1796. His mission finished, he embarked in a schooner at Detroit for his home in Chester County, Pennsylvania, but became so ill he was taken ashore at Erie. They sent for his doctor but General Wayne died, December 15, 1796, in the block house at Erie. "Bury me at the foot of the flag staff, boys", was his last command, and his wishes were carried out. Thirteen years later his son came from the Chester County home and had the remains returned to the community General Wayne had loved.

In 1792 Pennsylvania bought the celebrated triangle for about one hundred and fifty thousand dollars, giving her nearly 50 miles frontage on Lake Erie. Prior to this date there had been many

disputes about the territory which was claimed by New York, Massachusetts and the Six Nations.

Presque Isle Historical Park is one of the state's popular summer resorts. The block house where General Wayne died has been reconstructed. The whole section is full of historical lore as well as recreational opportunities.

BEGINNERS CORNER

First Stop for Tracing Roots Can Be In Pittsburgh

North Hills News Record, April 27, 1996

Where to get help tracing your family tree:

Pennsylvania Room, Carnegie Library, 4400 Forbes Avenue, Oakland 622-3114
Materials available include census records from 1790 to 1920, an index of Allegheny County death notices from 1786-1913 and 1968 to present and marriage notices from 1786 to 1929. The Pennsylvania Room also houses the Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society's materials as well as bound volumes of county and family histories. Other departments offer a microfilm library of Pittsburgh newspapers dating to 1786. (call for hours)

Senator John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History Center, 1212 Smallman St., Strip District 281-2465. Home of the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania. Library and archives are on the sixth floor. The collection includes a computerized catalog, photographic archives and material on local families. The library has governmental records for Pittsburgh (1806 to 1938) as well as city directories (ed note: actual books, not micro-film) that list residents and their addresses from 1815 to 1950s. Admission for members is free. Call for hours and admission fee.

LDS Family History Library 46 School Street, Greentree 921-2115

Family History Library, 255 Browns Mill Rd, Evans City, PA 16033 (724) 482-2129

Holdings include the Family History Library Catalog (FHLC), the International Genealogy Index (IGI) and Family Group Records Collection (FGRC). You are able to order in film from Salt Lake City. Call for hours.

INTERNET LINKS

Hessen, Germany - a site for people with ancestors from Hesse, Germany. Has links to other pages

<http://www.web.nstar.net/~dwat6911>

Military Records for Genealogy

<http://www.sky.net/~mreed/military/military.htm>

Ohio Historical Society - Has more than 67,000 pages of documents on their web site, including Death Certificate Index for the period 1913-1927 and 1933-1937 with more on the way and a Ohio Newspaper Index.

<http://www.ohiohistory.org>

<http://www.ohiohistory.org/dindex/search.cfm> (Death Certificate Index)

Thanks to Peg Duffy for this information.

(Ed. Note: I have used the Death Index and found numerous of my Ohio ancestors. You can order copies of the death certificates from them.)

Ohio Information - This is a great source for looking for information on ancestors from Ohio. Through this site and its mailing list, I have been able to get a copy of a genealogy written by one of my gr-gr-grandfathers as well as other information. Page for each county.

<http://www.infinet.com/~dzimmerm/>

Donation to Northland Library

At the June, 1998 meeting, President Gary Schlemmer presented Sandra Collins, new Librarian at Northland, a copy of the recently released book - **PRINTED SOURCES - A GUIDE TO PUBLISHED GENEALOGICAL RECORDS.**

IS YOUR COMPUTER MILLENNIUM READY?

The following article is from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter, and is copyright 1998 by Richard W. Eastman and Ancestry, Inc. It is re-published here with the permission of the author.

Have you read all the stories about computers being ready (or not ready) for the year 2000? Some of these stories are sensationalized, but the underlying problem is real: many computers will not operate properly on January 1, 2000. How about your computer? Will it function 18 months from now?

The Millennium Bug may lurk in any of three locations on a personal computer: in software applications, in the operating system or in the BIOS, the basic instructions that govern the computer's operation.

Once turned on, a PC relies on its BIOS (basic input/output system) to check the data stored in the system's real-time clock (RTC). The operating system then grabs the date and time from the RTC, and applications draw date information from the operating system.

In the next 18 months I hope to test all the leading genealogy programs for Year 2000 compliance and will be writing about my findings.

Other applications should be checked with the program's manufacturer, and there is a good chance such information can be found on the World Wide Web.

Luckily, diagnosing hardware and operating system susceptibility proves a bit more straightforward. Anyone using a PC clone might face problems if the system relies on a Pentium processor or an older chip. Some Pentiums, 486s and their predecessors are not century date compliant. Machines with more recent Pentium chips or Pentium II processors should have no hardware problems.

A tiny diagnostic software utility may be downloaded free of charge from the Web site of the National Software Testing Laboratories. Once extracted, this program is only 13,552 bytes. The free YMARK2000 program can be downloaded from <http://www.nstl.com/html/ymark2000.html>. The program temporarily sets the computer's internal clock to read 10 seconds before the millennium and then monitors its ability to roll over to 2000.

YMARK2000 only checks your computer's hardware and BIOS, not its operating system or any application programs. If you run Microsoft Windows, you may not have a problem. Windows 98 and Windows NT 4.0 should have no century date problems. Windows 3.1 and older revisions of Windows 95 may need to be upgraded in order to avoid problems. Microsoft maintains a Web site with information on the millennium readiness of all of its products at: <http://www.microsoft.com/year2000>.

Apple Macintosh computers have always been ready for the year 2000. Mac owners can feel smug that once again their system proved to be superior. Even the original Macs introduced in 1984 are fully Year 2000 compliant.

Actually, all Macs will have trouble in the year 29,940. I don't think any of us need to be too concerned about that.

(Ed. Note: we will continue to follow this)

QUERIES

Compiled & edited by Sylvan Kretz, Query Editor

SHERRY, Allegheny County, PA, **HIRSCHFELD**, Allegheny County, PA. Contact: **Frances Fink**, 460 Lowries Run Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237-1231

McCRACKEN, Dr. John, Pittsburgh, PA.
McDADE, James, Pittsburgh, PA.
Contact: **Virginia Lewis**, 4752 Graywood Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90808-1019. e-mail vlewis154752@aol.com

MARTEWICZ, Allegheny County, PA. Contact: **Therese Hursen**, 1837 Hedwig Drive, Allison Park, PA 15101

ENGLISH, Allegheny or Butler County, PA,
GROETZINGER, Allegheny or Westmoreland County, PA, **MENOLD**, Allegheny, Butler or Mercer County, PA, **VOGLE**, Washington County, PA, **HOLMES**, Washington County, PA or West Virginia, **DOWLER**, West Virginia. Contact: **Margaret E. (Peg) Duffy**, 14 S. Spring Road, Westerville, Ohio 43081-2445



Don't forget to fill out your Membership Application and pay your 1998-1999 dues so you don't miss any issues of the Newsletter. Dues are \$12.00 per year.

How To Kill An Organization

From the Rocky Mountain Buckeye Newsletter, April/May 1997

1. Don't pay your dues on time, then complain when you're not included on the current mailing list.
2. Stay away from meetings, without excuse.
3. If you do attend, find fault with those who are active.
4. Decline office or appointments to a committee.
5. Become angry if you aren't elected or appointed.
6. If you are elected, don't attend board meetings.
7. If you do attend one, say nothing until it is over, then sound off on how things should be done.
8. Don't volunteer for any of the organization's projects.
9. When the old faithfuls do all the work, accuse them of being a "clique."
10. If you change your address, don't tell anybody, then complain when you don't receive your mailings.

German Cemetery Headstones

From Hessen-L@rootsweb.com web site

Most cemeteries in smaller cities and towns do not have their own caretaker. It is a German custom that relatives take care of the graves. Also, after 30 years the headstones are removed and after a few more years other people are buried in the same graves. Most cemeteries are under the jurisdiction of the city, and not the church.

(Wouldn't this make a cemetery reading project difficult?)

Dedication of Marion Cemetery

From the *Marion (Ohio) Republican* November 11, 1868;
found on the Marion, Ohio Website (excerpts from article)

It is hardly necessary to remark that previously to the commencement of this enterprise, the want of a new, more commodious, and more tasteful place of burial for the dead, further removed from the immediate vicinity of the village was greatly felt. The old burying ground had served its day and generation, and fulfilled its mission. It is true that many lingering memories cluster around its enclosure. There many of "the rude fathers of the hamlet sleep." But these interesting and we may say even sacred reminiscences could not serve to shut out entirely the fact, that in the growth of our town it had become too near the houses of any of our citizen, too near for the purity of the atmosphere, and too near for the purity of our veins of water which feed the neighboring wells, running as they do, over a superficial bed of limestone.

Not only was it too near the village, but its dimensions were too contracted to admit of its being used, for any length of time for the purpose which it was originally intended.

The lots themselves, too, although suitable to the circumstances and the time in which they were laid out, were too small and many of them too inaccessible to admit of that growing taste for embellishment with trees, shrubs, and flowers, which marks the spirit of our time, and which is so evident a token of refinement in feeling; seeking, as it does, to transform the cold, angular, barren and gloomy spot of earth, into graceful lawn which shall be a place of cheerful, pleasant and even attractive resort.

The depth of the soil, moreover, in the old burying ground is such that many of the graves cannot be sunk over 2 feet and a half without

blasting the rock, and many are the bodies in that graveyard now, which are not covered with earth over twenty inches, and this within the corporate limits of the village of Marion.

These reasons, more or less known by our citizens, gave rise to the call on all sides for efficient steps to be taken for the purchase of ground for a new cemetery. Our public papers urged, too, the fact that great attention was paid to new and spacious cemeteries in other villages not larger than our own. And that a decent pride or respect for our own village should lead us not to be behind our neighbors, or behind the age in which we live.

The whole amount of land within the Cemetery enclosure is about 17-1/2 acres. About 2-3/4 acres of this were sold to the Catholic congregation, for their exclusive use as a cemetery. Also an arrangement was made with the township of Marion, of the following nature: In as much as the whole people of the township were, in a measure, as much interested as the associated corporation, as it was a public enterprise and of no more benefit to the members than to every other citizen, and as the law allowed the purchase of five acres by the Trustees of the township, it was considered right that the public should bear a portion of the preliminary burden, and should become interested to the amount of \$500. This would enable the Trustees of the Township to set apart such a portion as they might see proper for the use of the poor, as required by law, and retain the remainder for sale. As the portion selected by them occupied a central position in the cemetery, it was acknowledged by them to be proper that the whole grounds should be subject to those reasonable regulation and laws which are common to all cemeteries and which would produce unity in its supervision. The township, in this manner, assists in the enterprise,

in this manner, assists in the enterprise, furnishes a portion of ground for the use for the poor, and retains another portion for future sale.

It must be remembered that we are purchasing land for the use of the present generation, but in part at lease for posterity. They at least will thank us, if there should be found some now who think that our ideas are too extensive and magnificent. Fifty years hence these grounds will be considered limited. It has been the common fault, the result we may add of a common delusion, incident to the frailty of human feeling, to anticipate that the advancing army, pressing on to the grave, will, it may be, march forward henceforth, with unbroken ranks and straggling columns, rather than with the accelerated and augmented tide that derives impetus from increased population. Deceive not yourselves with the thought that the dead will not multiply. The common experience respecting all graveyards, even of the one in our own village, and of all cemeteries, is, that in a few short years more land is wanted for the accumulating nation of the dead. More land, where the mute remains shall be safe from the vandalism of so called public improvements, which not infrequently lay their iron track directly through our most venerable graveyards, and carelessly throw aside the dust of those whose member has passed away. The belief and the judgement of our association is, that we have not too much land, especially when we consider that our cemetery is designed to accommodate a larger scope of country, and a wider circle of those who shall need a final resting grave from the toils of life.

Nor are those portions properly regarded as waste which are unfit for burial. The groves that will spring up, the flowers and shrubs that will be cultivated in these parts of the grounds will but minister to a rational regard and respect for the memory of those who are gone. They will

contribute to give variety, interest, even though a mournful interest, to the passing loiterer, whose feelings may be softened and subdued by the rustle of the trees or the delicacy of the flowers, while he muses upon the mutations and uncertainties of life, the past, the present and the future, secure from the intrusions of a busy, a heedless, a selfish world.

Of that class of chronic grumblers and fault finders, whose natural proclivity is to complain of every new idea and every new enterprise, and who are therefore incurable, we have nothing to say but to express the hope that when they reach their final home on earth they may rest in peace.



Volunteers are needed for our on-going cemetery readings. Contact any Board member to sign up.

The following was received from Ginny Skander.

Virginia C. Skander was accepted as a member of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, Elliott Gray's Chapter, VA, for the service of her Great Great Grandfather, William H. Koontz, during the Civil War as a Private in the 12th Virginia Calvary, Company E. He enlisted 24 September 1862 in Rippon, Jefferson County, Virginia, and was discharged on disability for Scrofula (TB) on 22 October 1862.

CONGRATULATIONS, GINNY!!

Hints for Courthouse Research

From the *Clark House News* of the Historical & Genealogical Society of Indiana County (PA) June, 1998

1. If you want to get more respect and help from the courthouse clerks .. always dress in business attire... carry a briefcase.. and NEVER head straight for the marriage and will records.. ALWAYS look at all land records first!!! (Don't laugh. I tried this in three NC County courthouses and the clerks about fell over one another trying to help me!) Months before it was hard to get an answer from anyone while wearing jeans and sneakers. Now they must think I'm an attorney instead of a researcher.

2. If you are in a "burned county" check to see if any reconstructed records remain, and search surrounding counties for any info.

3. When you are reading deeds, wills, estates, etc. always check out at least five pages before and after your record for ones that were recorded on the same day as your ancestors. This often shows relationship or near neighbors that came to the courthouse together.

4. When checking censuses, ALWAYS record at least one dozen neighbors that resided on every side of your family. These are the families that your man married into!

5. If a child was bound out it was almost always on the FATHER'S side of the family -- and many times, the child was illegit.

To forget one's ancestors is to be a brook without a source, a tree without a root.

Chinese Maxim

Wars Fought by our Ancestors on American Soil

Thanks to Grace McVay for passing along this information

1636-1637	Pequot War - New England
1642-1653	Iroquois - New England, Acadia
1675-1676	Bacon's Rebellion - Virginia
1675-1676	King Philip's - New England
1676-1678	War In North - Maine
1688-1691	Leisler's Rebellion - New England
1689	Glorious Revolution - New England
1702-1713	Queen Ann's - New England
1711-1712	Tuscarora - Virginia
1740	King George's - Virginia & Georgia
1745	Louisbourg - New England
1754	Fort Necessity - Ohio
1754-1763	French & Indian - New England; VA
1782-1787	Wyoming Valley - Pennsylvania
1794	Whiskey Insurrection - Pennsylvania
1790-1795	Northwestern Indian - Ohio
1807	Chesapeake (Naval) - Virginia

Message from the Editor

As I take on the job of Newsletter Editor, I would like to ask for your help in continuing to make this an interesting and useful newsletter. If you have any information you feel would be of interest to the members of NHG, please forward it to my attention.

If you have any suggestions for topics you would like to see in future newsletters, please let me know. I want to make this newsletter both interesting and useful to the members of NHG.

You can reach me by email at:
DJBooth@worldnet.att.net or by mail at the
library's address (marked to my attention)

Donna Booth

NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS

C/O Northland Public Library

300 Cumberland Road

Pittsburgh, PA 15237-4555

FIRST CLASS

ANCESTORS

If you could see your ancestors,
All standing in a row.

Would you be proud of them?

Or don't you really know?

Strange discoveries are sometimes made,
In climbing the family tree.

Occasionally one is found in line,

Who shocks his progeny.

If you could see your ancestors,

All standing in a row,

Perhaps there might be one or two,

You wouldn't care to know.

Now turn the question right about,

And take another view.

When you shall meet your ancestors,

Will they be proud of you?

Arthur Unknown

GOLD RUSH FEVER

From the *Rocky Mountain Buckeye*, Volume IX, Number 6,
February/March 1998

If your ancestor is missing from the 1850 census
-- check California. About 50,000 people traveled
overland to California goldfields. Remember gold
was discovered there in 1849. Another 50,000
came by ship to California ports. By 1855, about
23,000 had left California to go back east. Over
3,000 Virginians were in California in 1850.

QUIZ

What changes in the Newsletter each year?

(answer next month)