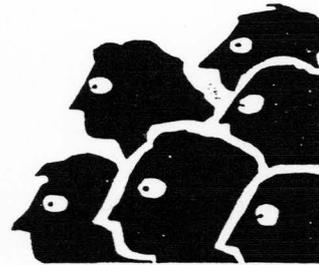


NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS NEWSLETTER



% Northland Public Library, 300 Cumberland Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237-4555

Volume 9, Number 2 -September, 1998

President: Gary Schlemmer

Treasurer: Patsi Lee

Cemetery Project: Ginny Skander

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Secretary: Marcia Coleman

Liaison: Elissa Powell

Queries: Sylvan Kretz

10 issues August - June

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It was summer, and there was a free day to go ancestor hunting. My son, Josh, and I decided to chase a few threads of evidence just in case they might lead to his great-great grandparents out there somewhere in "Canada". Maybe the wilds of North York would give up the secret. But anyone familiar with suburban Toronto could tell you that finding any wilds in that megalopolis would be as unlikely as finding a single stone just waiting there with all the family connections carved on it! This was to be stab in the dark. Very unprofessional.

The usual procedure is to track backward one generation at a time while collecting birth, death, and other records. Parents and their localities may be identified on similar records of the younger generation. The documentation is key. But this line had stopped with the great-grandfather Robert Andrews' death record citing an 1858 birth to Benjamin and Margaret in "Canada". A rather large place, eh? Years ago, my brother-in law Danny found a list of Robert's siblings, including a Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Diceman of "Canada", which had omitted the sisters' given names. Still a large place.

Enter the Canadian internet. Thanks to many, the head of household index for the 1871 Ontario census can be found there. Finding a "Ben" of about the right vintage, the census reels for York County, Ontario were borrowed into The Carnegie from Ottawa. Several bleary-eyed hours later, one "Benjamin" showed up, but his wife was "Mary", there was no "Robert", and the names of the kids next door were a better fit. Cross referencing with the Ontario Cemetery Finding Aid (OCFA)) however, a Ben and Margaret did show up in Maple Cemetery, Vaughan Township, which is near the census location of the former Ben. (OCFA indexes the cemetery readings of the Ontario Genealogical Society by name only; no dates are shown.)

Our first stop after the long trip that day was at the North York Public Library and its OGS book for Maple United Cemetery. The book directed us past miles of bulging suburbia to a country highway which led to the village of Maple and its little cemetery. There, as advertised, first stone of the fifth row, was a small obelisk. Its four sides were crammed with the names of eleven

souls, including five children of this Ben and Margaret Andrews. Around to the left side was "Elizabeth Andrews, wife of Adam Diceman"! Adam, himself, was listed on the next side. Suddenly, this piece of rock, in its little island of solitude just minutes away from the maddening crowd, had revealed everything we needed to be absolutely convinced. Paper proof may come later, but this was the right place.

Often it pays to go off the beaten path to assemble pieces of the family puzzle. And special thanks go to those who have made some of the clues accessible and have given of their time to put similar local records into a form that others can use. (Try OCFA at:

<http://www.island.net.com/OCFA>

or 1871 Ontario census index at:

<http://www.archives.ca.db.1871/Introduction.html>)

They made our day. May your hunt into the wilds go well, too.

Gary

WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

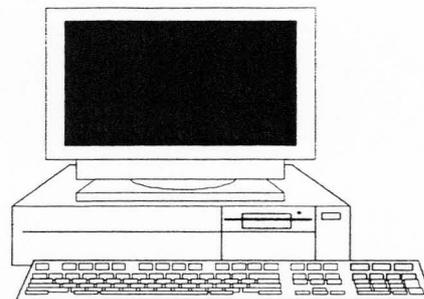
Tuesday, Oct. 6, 7:30 PM, **NHG Board Meeting** - cafeteria, North Hills Passavant Hospital, lower level. All members welcome to attend.

Tuesday, Oct. 20, 7:00 PM, **Regular NHG Meeting** - Northland Library - "Photos of the Old North Hills from the Carnegie's Archives" - presented by Marilyn Holt of The Carnegie's Pennsylvania Department

Saturday, Oct. 8, 7:30 PM, **WPGS Meeting** - Carnegie Lecture Hall. Dr. Anthony Sutherland of Harrisburg will speak on "How to Research Your Slovakian Roots". Dr. Sutherland is the editor of the Slovakian newspaper JEDNOTA and has been an archivist and teacher.

Sympathy

We would like to express our sympathy to the family of **Robert Arthurs**, a member of NHG since 1995. Bob died on August 18. Bob and his wife live in Charleroi, PA.



NHG e-mail ADDRESS

We now have an e-mail address for club communications and for providing information on our book **Pioneer Cemeteries of Hampton Township, Allegheny County, PA**. It will also be used to notify subscribers of upcoming events and changes in plans, such as the forced cancellation of July's regular meeting. Any inquiries to that address will be forwarded to the appropriate board member. To receive notices from that list, send your e-mail address to:

pioneerbook@Juno.com

BOOK REVIEWS

Guide to Homesteads & Other Federal Lands

A basic book to help genealogists and other researchers go through federal lands and homesteads. It will help the researcher locate, identify and obtain copies of the records created for patented or canceled federal land claims. Price \$12.95 plus \$2.95 s&h. Order from: James C. Barsi, Nuthatch Grove, P.O. Box, Fort McKavett, TX 76841-0055

(from the *Rockey Mountain Buckeye*, Volume IX, Number 6, February/March, 1998)

BEGINNERS CORNER

The following was taken from "The Highpoint", Vol. 29, No. 5, May, 1998 by Howard Hill.

Queries: A Basic How To

1. **Follow the guidelines established by the publication.** Some publications have word limits, some want the query on letter size paper. The Internet has a standard way of formatting the header.
2. **What are you looking for?** Birth certificate? Parents? Information about other family members? Let the reader know what you are looking for.
3. **One Surname per query.** Each query should concentrate on one surname. Other surnames should be given to help identify wives, parents, etc., but the concentration should be on one surname.
4. **Give enough information to identify the people.** Most people do not provide enough information. If needed put in your best guesses, but note that they are guesses. This also lets a reader know what you already know about the family.
5. **Do not give too much information.** This is a fine line to walk. General guidelines - the more common the name the more information to give. My preference is to include birth or death dates; name of spouse, birth/death dates optional but possibly useful; and at least one of the children's names along with the number of children. Parent's names are included if trying to link parents to children.
6. **Do not abbreviate.** Does that w/o mean wife of, widow of, or without? Spell out each word, let the publication use their own abbreviations.

GETTYSBURG SOLDIER REMAINS AN UNKNOWN

The following is from the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, July 3, 1998, Page B-3

Arthur B. Fox is writing a book about the Civil War era in Pittsburgh and Allegheny County and is seeking descendants of Casper Carlisle who was born in 1841 in Bakerstown, Richland Township. He enlisted in Pittsburgh on October 8, 1861 in Capt. Robert B. Hampton's Company, Pennsylvania Light Artillery, which later became Independent Battery F. Military records indicate the 21-year old stood 5 feet 10 inches tall, had a light complexion, gray eyes and light hair. A moment of greatness found him helping a wounded horse drag a cannon around the battlefield at Gettysburg. For his heroism 135 years ago, on July 2, 1998, the Union Army Private was awarded the Medal of Honor, becoming the only Allegheny County resident to receive that award in the pivotal battle of the Civil War.

Today he lies in grave 317 in Mt. Lebanon Cemetery, beneath a nearly illegible marker and a Medal of Honor plaque placed there in 1991 when he was rediscovered by a pair of military historians.

Anyone with more information on this veteran is encouraged to contact Mr. Fox at 412-344-7761.

(the above was submitted by Lissa Powell)

CENSUS RECORDS

Some Do's and Don'ts with Census Records

From "Census Records - Getting the Most Out of Them" by Dan Murrows, Orange County, NY Genealogical Society.

DO take note of all of your surnames in the county and pay close attention to the neighbors of your ancestors.

DO study all possible census years for your family.

DO copy down all information from all columns and the top of the page.

DO believe that all census records are important -- even the earlier ones.

DO make use of the Veteran's column in the 1840 census.

DO use the 1890 Veterans (and widows of Veterans) Schedules

DO use the state census records.

DO study the enumerator's handwriting so you can make comparisons

DO watch for families split onto two pages with the surname not repeated at the top of the next page.

DO try to find your ancestors in every census taken in their lifetime.

DO check family histories and other sources of neighbors who might have come from the same state to locate a town of residence if you cannot determine that information on your ancestor.

DO remember that when searching an entire town for an ancestor, the town enumeration may be split and not kept together on the film -- cities are often listed separately from the town they are connected with.

DO take note of real estate and personal property values to determine if a deed or will search is appropriate.

DO use maps in conjunction with your census searching.

DO search across state, county and town lines if your ancestors lived near a border.

DO go back and look again at census records to see what you might have missed -- especially if you have learned of new surnames (maiden names) or other family connections.

DO consider typographical errors when using indexes -- know the keyboard and what letters could have been punched in by mistakes.

DO NOT stop with Soundex finds - do look at the original record.

DO NOT assume census indexes are correct or complete.

DO NOT assume spellings are as you think.

DO NOT assume relationships are exactly as stated.

DO NOT assume a wife is the mother of all or any of the listed children.

DO NOT assume ages listed are correct.

DO NOT believe all census data to be true and correct.

1930-1990 CENSUS DATA

The following information was submitted by Lissa Powell

A branch of the Census Bureau will assist researchers in obtaining census records from the 1930-1990 federal returns for any person for whom you can supply proof of death. Age Search will, for \$25, search any two census records. The search is limited to the person for whom you are requesting information, but you may ask for other family members to be included for a \$2 per person fee. The full line of information from the census return will be provided with payment of a \$6 fee. The basic fee includes an official document stating the person's name, age, place of birth, citizenship, and relationship to the head of the household. Form BC-600 (required) can be obtained from Bureau of the Census, Age Search, P.O. Box 1545, Jeffersonville, IN 47131 or any Social Security office.

QUERIES

THOMPSON, Josiah V., Uniontown, PA,
THOMPSON, William R., Allegheny County, PA,
THOMPSON, Archibald Purdy, York County,
PA. **THOMPSON GENEALOGY** (27 volumes
compiled prior to 1933 by Josiah V. Thompson).
Contact: **Robert Shaub, 350 Railroad Ave.,
Shrewsbury, PA 17361 or e-mail
farmersdaughter@cyberia.com**

KAHLER, Munhall, PA, **CADMAN**, Allegheny
County, PA/ Contact: **Ruth L. McCartan, 9380
Cromwell Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15237**

JENKINS, PATTERSON, West Virginia/SW PA.
DONOHUE, SW PA/Ohio; **TRAYNOR**, SW PA.
Contact: **David Donohue, 108 Recreation Drive,
Baden, PA 15005**

**BITTNER, KESSLER, WETZEL, MIKULSKI,
KUZMA, NOWAK.** Contact: **Delores M.
Bittner, 4252 Sample Court, Allison Park, PA
15101-2644**

WILLOUGHBY SCHOOL

The following was received from NHG member
Peg Duffy.

A *News Record* article (21 Feb. 1073. page 14)
shows a picture of the entire student body of
Willoughby School (all 25 of 'em!) in 1916. I
have the post card edition of that as well as one
that I assume to be the following year with 20
students as well as the teacher. The later one
shows an oil derrick in the background (maybe
gas, not oil?) I would appreciate being put in
contact with others having family connections to
Willoughby.

As always, thank you! Peg Duffy
pegduffy@netwalk.com

GERMAN TOWN SEARCHING FOR DESCENDANTS

Residents of Siddinghausen, Germany are looking
for people whose ancestors may have emigrated
from that area, for the city's 1200th
anniversary in 1999. Community members are
working on a book about Siddinghausen's history
and may be able to help residents track their
ancestry. Common names from the area include
Wilgenbusch, Menke, Schurrmann, Finger,
Weber, Herting, Stohlmann, Haase, Berghoff,
Schluter, Westermeyer and Pape.

For information contact Claudia Wellen via email
at cjwellen@t-online.de or write to:
Wiltrud Schluter, Honkerfeld 9, 33142
Buren-Siddinghausen, Germany.

(received from Lissa Powell)

HELP WANTED

Volunteer(s) needed to prepare a brief summary
of each month's program to be included in the
next month's newsletter. If you can help, please
contact any Board member.

Do you belong to other genealogical groups? Do
you get a newsletter from them or other
information? If you do, consider sharing that
information with the members of NHG. If you
find an interesting article or a good source of
information, please pass it along to the editor to
be used in future issues of the NHG newsletter.

NEW RESEARCH LOCATION

The A.D. White Center for Regional and Family History is opening in September in Burgettstown, PA. A.D. White was an educator, as well as a genealogist/historian on the northern Washington Co. area. After his death in 1994 (at age 99!) a group was formed to preserve and expand on his research. This new center is the result of that effort. The focus is on northern and western Washington County, southern Beaver County, and western Allegheny County, in PA; northern West Virginia panhandle; adjacent Ohio counties of Belmont, Columbiana and Jefferson.

The collection includes hard copies of census records for 14 Washington County townships, seven each in Beaver and Allegheny; Brooke, Hancock and Ohio counties in West Virginia; and (through 1859) the three counties in Ohio. There are also over 40 volumes of tri-state obituaries, 100 published genealogies, several hundred family files from the tri-state area and cemetery readings. For more information on hours of operation, etc. contact Ken McFarland at 724-947-0925.

PITTSBURGH TOURIST CAMP

Taken from Lewis' Pittsburgh Guide - 1940s

For the the use of automobile tourists a high, dry and shady spot has been selected in Schenley Park adjoining the Matinee Club's Race Track in which has been placed convenient hydrants, facilities for cooking and a supply station conducted by the City to furnish oil at cost and the free use of camp stoves and other conveniences to those who desire to spend a few days in Pittsburgh. The location is easily reached from the Forbes Street entrance by driving past the band stand and turning to the right. The Wilmont St. Bridge entrance leads direct to it.

WE LOCATE "LOST" VILLAGES!

Germany, Austria, Hungary, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Sweden, Denmark, etc. Precise location and copy of map provided. Send \$10.00 per place-name and SASE to Omega Translation Services, P.O. Box 745, Iowa City, IA 52244-0745

Ginny Skander found this service and sends the following message: I found this advertisement in the Everton's Genealogical Helper and wrote to them for help in finding the town of Silva where my grandfather was born in Yugoslavia (Croatia). I found the town a few years ago with the assistance of Frank Thomas (NHG member) and wrote to the administrative officer there. I was informed that there was no one with the surname Skander/Skender in that vicinity during that time period. Therefore, I figured I had the wrong town, and have continued to look for it elsewhere. This service sent me a map showing the town I had already found. I e-mailed them to inform them of what had transpired previously, and they proceeded to send me a list of the towns in the general vicinity where they found the surname Skender in the telephone books they accessed on-line. This would indicate that my surname did exist in that vicinity of Croatia after all, and perhaps I did have the correct town to start with. In addition to the map, they sent me a history of the town and the general vicinity. I have to say that they have gone the extra mile in order to give me my money's worth and fulfill my request. If you are looking for a "lost" town, you might want to give them a try. Happy Hunting.

Answer to last month's quiz

The masthead on the newsletter. One year the faces of the people are an outline, the next year filled in. Did you figure it out?



WEB WANDERINGS

(note: all start with <http://>)

Map Collections

rs6.loc.gov/ammem/gmdhtml/gmdhomr/html

Lutheran Roots

[www.aal.org/lutheran roots](http://www.aal.org/lutheran%20roots)

American Civil War Genealogy Sites

www.rootsweb.com/~acwroots/index.html

Bureau of Land Management

www.glorecords.blm.gov/

Allegheny County, PA

www.rootsweb.com/~paallegh

The Obituary Daily Times

www.rootsweb.com/~obituary

This site has more than 2 million obits from around the world since it began four years ago.

Subscribe to the mailing list by sending your SUBSCRIBE message to:

GEN-OBIT-L-request@rootsweb.com

Sample Copy of 2000 Census

This site has a sample copy of the 2000 census.

To comment on it, you can contact, Director, Bureau of Census, Washington, DC 20233

www.census.gov/dmd/www/content.htm

Correction to Hesse, Germany website given last month: [http://web.nstar/~dwat 6911](http://web.nstar/~dwat6911). Sorry for any problems this may have caused.

GENEALOGY CLASSES

Elissa Scalise Powell, CGRS will be teaching a beginning Genealogy class at CCAC, North Campus for 5 weeks, beginning Sunday, September 27 from 1:30 to 4:30 for \$35. One week will include a field trip for hands-on help. For more information, please call CCAC at 412-369-3696 by September 18. Course number YCA007-12N.

MEDICAL DOCTOR INDEX

From the *Rocky Mountain Buckeye*, Dec. 1996/January, 1997, Volume VIII, Number 5

An index to every known medical doctor in America from 1607 to the present is kept by the National Institute of Health Library, 9000 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20892. Write for information and/or send the name of the MD in your family. Enclose a SASE.

TRINOMIALS

From *Heritage Quest* magazine, Issue #74, March/April 1998, Genealogists Notebook column

Trinomials are literally "three names": a first or given name; a middle name (the mother's surname); and a last name (the father's surname).

DOCUMENTATION: The hardest part of genealogy.

TRY GENEALOGY: You can't get fired and you can't quit.

From the *Rocky Mountain Buckeye*, April/May, 1998, Volume X, Number 1

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.

FULTON COUNTY

While Fulton County was not erected until 1859, it is by no means among the recently settled sections. It was taken from the part of Bedford known as Ayr Township. It is believed that Ayr Township dates back to 1758, when it was a part of Cumberland County. It extended north from the Maryland line and embraced a part of Huntingdon County.

The earliest land title in the valley is believed to be a warrant dated November 6, 1749, granted to David Scott, but was not surveyed until 1760 after it had been settled for some time. It was in 1757 that a report was made stating Indians had attacked "the house of William Linn, residing on Tonoloway Creek in Ayr Township, killed and scalped his eldest son, a man of twenty-three years of age, took another son away with them of seventeen years of age, and broke the skull of a third son of twelve years of age, scalped him and left him for dead, of which he afterwards recovered."

Fort Littleton was located in the northern end of the county, and was one in the chain of government forts dotting the country from eastern Pennsylvania to Fort Pitt.

The settlers in Great Cove and along Aughwich Creek were mostly Scotch-Irish. The widow Margaret Kendall, with her sons, John and Robert, were among the earliest, and she was the first white person who died a natural death in Great Cove, and her death occurred in 1750.

Their surname is still found there with Owens, Taggart, Patterson, Sloan, McConnell, McClean, Wilson, McKinley and Alexander.

The first permanent settlement in Wells Valley was made by Alexander Alexander who died there in 1815. The first physician to settle in this valley was Dr. David Wishart, a Scotsman, who first settled in Hagerstown, MD. The names of Hardin, Wright, Moore and Stevens are also found here.

Big and Little Tonoloway Settlements were embraced in Bethel Township after its formation in 1773 while it was still Bedford County. Here appears the names of Brown, McCrea, Linn, Mann, Critchfield and Leech.

A tract of land was granted William and Daniel McConnell by warrant dated 1762, and it was here the town of McConnellsburg was laid out in 1786. Adjoining the McConnell tract was one warranted to James Galbraith.

The Revolutionary War services of these pioneers are little known for they are woven in the annals of Bedford and Cumberland Valley. Another interesting story of this old "new" county concerns a "mine" found by the earliest settlers from which tradition credits silver with having been mined there. The mine was opened at Sideling Hill and consisted of a deep shaft, cased with timber which was then in a decayed condition when found. That was really mined is not known for the oldest settlers only knew the stories told by their ancestors. Some of the earliest surveys refer to "an old mine."

Fulton County, Pennsylvania adjoins Washington County, Maryland (taken from Frederick, 1776) and of course before the running of the Mason-Dixon Line the southern part of the county was affected by "Maryland's Claim".

THE SURNAME ORIGIN LIST

From *Family Chronicle, The Magazine for Families*
Researching Their Roots
May/June, 1998, Vol. 2, No. 5

There are four main categories of western surnames. They are as follows:

FIRST NAMES - First names, or patronymics, are surnames which are based on the first name of the father, and are common in all European countries. Patronymics are formed either by simply taking the father's name and adding it at the end of one's own (i.e., John William), or by somehow indicating the child's relationship to the father.

EDMONDS - (British) - son of Edmund

LOCALITY NAMES - Locality names are derived from some sort of geographic feature associated with an individual. These names can be either locative, meaning based on a specific place name (i.e., John Lincoln), or toponymic, meaning based on a particular topographic feature (i.e., John Ford).

CAWTHORN - (British) - by the cold thorn bush

OCCUPATIONAL NAMES - Occupational names are simply names derived from the bearer's occupation. These names are fairly easy to understand in most cases. If your name is Barber, one of your ancestors was a barber. Some apparently obvious occupational names aren't what they seem, however, A Farmer did not work in agriculture but collected taxes, and Banker is not an occupational surname at all, meaning "dweller on a hillside". Status names such as Freeman also fall into this category.

ABBOTT - (British) worked at the house of an abbot

NICKNAMES - Nicknames are perhaps the most fascinating surnames - though they are not always flattering to one's ancestor. Some people may never have realized that their surname is in fact a snide comment about their character or appearance.

BARSH - (British) - Boar - looked or acted like a boar.

(Ed. note: If you have not tried this magazine, I strongly recommend it. It has very good articles and information.)

TOMBSTONE EPIGRAMS

Found on Maggie's Ohio Mailing List

Here lies
Johnny Yeast
Pardon me
For not rising

Sr. John Strange
Here lies an honest lawyer,
And that is Strange

I told you I was sick

Under the sod and under the trees
Lies the body of Jonathan Pease.
He is not here, there's only the pod;
Pease shelled out and went to God.

Here lies an Atheist
All dressed up
And no place to go

NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS

C/O Northland Public Library

300 Cumberland Road

Pittsburgh, PA 15237-4555

FIRST CLASS

OCT. 20 - PHOTOS OF THE OLD NORTH HILLS - MARILYN HOLT

IRELAND POPULATION CHANGES

Antique Week, August 31, 1998

Between 1780 and 1841, the population of Ireland increased by 172 percent to more than 8 million. Information is scarce because births were not registered until 1864 and, although 10-year census began in 1821, the first figures considered accurate are those of 1841.

Circumstances favorable to population increases were present, the main one being the plentiful supply of nutritious potatoes, a diet which compared favorably with the English diet of bread and cheese. Couples married young and a piece of land was usually obtained from the property of one of the parents in order to build a house and grow potatoes.

The 1841 census figure may underestimate the situation. Good local knowledge was needed to track down evicted communities living in thatched huts along lanes, under trees and in caves. A relief officer with a thorough knowledge of Clare, tested the census in that county and found the population to be one-third greater than recorded. The population before the Famine may have been over 9 million.

The next census was taken after the Famine in 1851 and the population had dropped to 6.5 million. A loss of at least 2.5 million had occurred in the previous six years.

A Family's Love Shelters Like a Tree