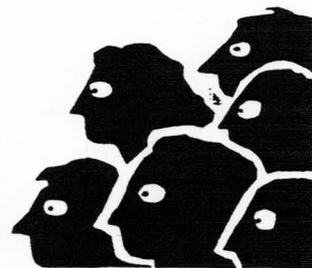




NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS NEWSLETTER



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

Volume 9, Number 3 - October, 1998

President: Gary Schlemmer

Vice President: Sylvan Kretz

Secretary: Marcia Coleman

Treasurer: Patsi Lee

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Liaison: Elissa Powell

Cemetery Project: Ginny Skander

Book Committee: Marion Hyle

Queries: Sylvan Kretz

Editor: Donna Booth

Subscription: \$12.00 per year

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e-mail pioneerbook@juno.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our last board meeting gave me a very good feeling about our group (again). Perhaps you have noticed something like that too, especially after our regular meeting in August.

You may not have realized that our scheduled August speaker, who was to talk about Civil War camp life and veterans' records, had cancelled that very morning because of illness! After reflecting on how far ahead we need to schedule speakers, though, there still was neither panic nor anxiety about it. A half dozen calls to some members confirmed both no-shows and others volunteering to help at the meeting; the library offered to provide a VCR or whatever.

The result? The show went on! A short video covered the essentials of finding and using veterans' records. Donna Booth and Ginny Skander shared research examples. And Patsi Lee came with a table full of Civil War books, handouts, and a full presentation on them which sounded like the product of long preparation, not just the hour or two available that day. A discussion followed as the whole NHG team got into it.

Back to the board meeting. Volunteers: Thanks to six of them, we can announce that we can support a hospitality luncheon during the regional society's conference next June. They also decided to hold this year's Christmas social on Saturday, December 5, with a tour of the Harmony Museum's log cabin and buildings of the bygone (German) Harmony Society. It will be followed by a luncheon just two doors away; antique lovers can then go on their own to tour the local shops. (Details later) Next, the gang continued planning next year's meetings. We ended the board meeting both tired and pleased with the progress made.

Some things that you may want to do? At regular meetings, particularly November 17, offer to help others with tips on their specific research problems. Submit material to this newsletter, or even write a summary report of the previous meeting so that others can read it here (See Donna). Help with the next cemetery book by finding their records or reading old gravestones with us. Make sure that the historical content of our book which names many local pioneer families, *Pioneer Cemeteries of Hampton Township, Allegheny County, PA* is

preserved by making it less rare!

QUERIES

The latter comment means distributing as many copies of the book as possible so that its records are likely to survive - we already know that many of these pioneers' gravestones won't. Maybe a friend, relative, or history buff would be happy to get a copy! The project was intended from the start to make a permanent record and be NHG's contribution to the pool of data from which we recreate our family histories. It had a good start; now it has to be widely accessible to be of use.

Both NHG and the family tree grow well when the little jobs are covered. Thanks for taking a part in it.

Gary Schlemmer

WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

Tues, Nov. 3, 7:30 PM, **NHG Board Meeting**, cafeteria, North Hills Passavant Hospital, lower level. All members welcome to attend.

Tues, Nov. 17, 7:00 PM **Regular NHG Meeting**, Northland Library - Solving Those Special Problems in Your Family Tree: Listen or share with others who have been there. An all-NHG cast! (new format for the old roundtable)

Sat. Nov. 28, 10 AM - **WPGS Meeting** - Carnegie Lecture Hall. Computer Day. Entire program will discuss computers and genealogy.

Sat., December 5 - **NHG CHRISTMAS OUTING AND LUNCH** - Tour of Harmony Museum followed by lunch at the Harmony Inn. Visit the bygone German Harmony Society buildings. Details in next month's newsletter.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW! BE SURE TO JOIN US FOR OUR HOLIDAY OUTING!

WILSON, George, Moon Twp, PA, **LAPPE**, Allegheny City, PA, **WILEY**, Pittsburgh, PA. Contact: **John H. Wilson, 414 Golden Grove Road, Baden, PA 15005**

DOLPHIN, Scranton and Pittsburgh, PA. Contact: **Norine Benzenhoefer, 2684 Pointview Drive, Allison Park, PA 15001-3025**

SCHROEDER, (brother of Carl), Allegheny City, PA (1887-1915). Contact: **Robert Schroeder, 471 Wexford Bayne Road, Wexford, PA 15090-8904**

KING, BRADLEY, Cambria County, PA, **WEIS, SCHOENBERGER**, Allegheny County, PA. Contact: **Eileen Terjak, 7832 Old Perry Highway, Pittsburgh, PA 15237-2001**

BROWN, McCandless Twp., PA, **COOK**, Sharpsburg, Allegheny County, PA, **STAUDENMAIER**, Allegheny County, PA. Contact: **Nancy Staudenmaier, 2568 Matterhorn Drive, Wexford, PA 15090-7962**

OSTERLE, Reserve Twp., PA, **LEY, GAERTNER, ZELIK, CIPRIANI, COLOMBO**, North Side Pittsburgh/West View/North Hills, PA. Contact: **Gary Gaertner, 433 Nedham Court Wexford, PA 15090**

NHG accepts queries from members and non-members. To submit your query, send the information to the North Hills Genealogists, Attention: Query Editor, % Northland Library, 300 Cumberland Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237-4555. Queries will be published as space permits. NHG does not do individual research.

BEGINNERS CORNER

Rookey Mountain Bucoeye, Vol. VIII, No. 6, December, 1997/January 1998; Vol. VIII, No. 4, February/March, 1997; Vol. IX, No. 1, April/May, 1997; Vol. IX, No. 3, August/September, 1997

20 Ways to Avoid Genealogi Grief

1. Always note sources of information that you record or photocopy. If from a book, write the name, author, publisher, year of publication, ISBN or ISSN, and also the library where you found it (or else photocopy the title page.)
2. Talk to your older-generation relatives (before they're all gone and you're the older generation!). Even a distant relative can be a goldmine of information about your ancestors.
3. Make photocopies or keep backups of all letters and e-mail messages you send. This will save you from wondering which of your correspondent's questions they have or haven't answered.
4. Don't procrastinate in responding to letters and messages you receive. If you don't have time to write a detailed reply, send your correspondent a short note or post-card to acknowledge receipt and tell him/her approximately when you'll send them a more complete reply. Then be sure to write them back as you've promised.
5. Make frequent backups of your computer disks. Store your backups and photocopies of your irreplaceable documents where you work or at someone else's house.
6. When searching for relatives in records, don't pass over entries that are almost but not quite what you are looking for. For example, if you are searching for the marriage of John

BROWN and Mary JONES in 1850, make a note of the marriage of John BROWN and Nancy SMITH in 1847; this could be a previous marriage in which the wife died shortly after.

7. When writing to libraries or to genealogical or historical societies in your areas of interest, ask them for the names and addresses of out-of-print booksellers in the area. Write to the booksellers and ask if they have any old local histories or family histories pertaining to the area.
8. Remember that just because it's in print, it ain't necessarily fact! Information in recent family histories is often based on that from older published works. If the older books are incorrect, the wrong information gets repeated and further disseminated.
9. The earlier the time period in which you are researching, the less consistent our ancestors were about the spelling of their surnames. Also, some of them were illiterate and couldn't tell a record keeper how their names should be spelled.
10. Family traditions of close connections to famous people are usually false, but there may be a more obscure relationship involved. Perhaps the famous person spent a night at your ancestor's inn instead of (as the legend goes) marrying into the family.

We will continue this series in next month's newsletter.

Willoughby School

In last month's newsletter we published a request from Peg Duffy. Her mailing address was not included.

Peg Duffy
14 S. Spring Road
Westerville, OH 43081-2445

DC Wire

Keith Kerr, Reporting

"Libraries are not made; they grow"

Obiter Dicta, Birrell, 1900

Being early is the key. I exit the Capital South Metro station at 9:00 AM. Up the "hill" one block and down one block is the Library of Congress. I've left myself enough time to go one more block down Independence Ave to "Hill Street Brews" for some energizing and delicious caffeine. I sit outside in the cool DC morning. The large coffee is \$1, pastries are available. The house blend is very special. I check my stuff, to make sure I'm ready for a good day of research. I've forgotten pencils, but I can pick some up at the Library. Everything else seems to be in order. I know what I want today. I have a time and area. I'm ready to go.

The "research entrance" is tucked away on 2nd Street. It opens at 8:30 AM. At this entrance, I enter the G level of the Library. I go straight to the Genealogy and Local History room. (A new researcher will stop and obtain a photo ID at registration on the left). The ACCESS computer spits out printed sources for my time period and my geographic area. A cemetery record, a personal history, a government study look like new and potentially rich resources. I fill out the little three part forms (all government forms have three parts) to request these items. It will take an hour or an hour and a half to retrieve my requests. Even this early, when few people are around, it takes time to locate items in this vast installation (a new researcher can take this time to check the "family histories" available or shelf read at this Section). I go upstairs on the elevator to 1. This is the main reading room floor. Every time I enter the Jefferson Rotunda I am thrilled and renewed all over again. I pump some money into my LC Copy card to get ready to record new findings.

The research staff here are the best. I check with a friendly looking sort at the desk to clear up some questions I have on some old city directories. At this time of the morning, only serious people are here. It's just me and some congressional staffers. The desk staff are more than officially helpful. They seem to take personal pleasure in insuring my success. I gain a new avenue to pursue in the "rare books room". I go up one floor to this special experience. Even if this item is not helpful, the process of viewing and handling such old material is worth the effort. After this pleasure, I check in the underused "microfilm room". As usual, there is only one other person using this facility. The machines work. The air is cool and dark. I do not understand why more people are not here. Two hours have now passed. Time to drop down to the G floor again to check my requests. Of the five slips, four have returned with printed possibilities. I work until 1:00 reading, copying and note taking. Now is the time to take the elevator down to B.

The B level has tunnels that connect the Jefferson Building with the Adams Building and the Madison Building. Down here are also lunchrooms and snack shops. A quick Coke and a turkey sandwich and I'm ready to go. I check some rare maps in the "map room" and an 18th century magazine in the "periodical room" in the Madison Building. After this, I'm on my way back through the underground passageways to the Jefferson Building. A little shelf reading in the great Rotunda and, before I know it, it's time to go. I go back to the computer and my new researcher desk friends to create a new book request list for the next time. This will save valuable effort in the new day.

Back at "Hill Street Brews", time for a draught. I quickly look over and evaluate the day's findings. It has been a good day. The copies can be read. I feel good and I'm ready to go again another day. I hop back into the Metro

station and I'm on my way home.

Library of Congress Tips:

Go Early: Few people and no competition affords easy access to materials and personal help.

The LC Staff are great: These people are very friendly and they take all inquiries seriously. They are looking for a challenge. Use this resource, you may be surprised at how helpful they can be. Remember this is a huge library. You need a guide.

Use the Microfilm Room: No one is ever using this resource. The staff is helpful and quick to retrieve films. This is the only way to go if multiple series volumes are to be perused.

Don't Get Lost: The underground walkways are convenient. There is no need to wander around on the street in the DC heat. Pay attention, however, to where you are going. There are different levels as well as different buildings.

The LC Staff are great, but they do not cooperate with other departments: Each department is a separate fief. Research staffers do not seem to have contact with any other personnel in a different section. The "pecking order" seems to go by floors. The top being the 'rare books' experts, next floor down, 'the main room' people with a side tolerance of the 'microfilm group', down to the 'genealogical personnel' (this is definitely *steerage*). Lower still are the sub-basement 'map people' and others. I am certain no "mapper" has ever spoken to a "rare".

Have a Plan: As with all research, a little pre-planning will avoid time consuming wandering and frustration. This is a vast facility and you cannot just read books on a shelf. Access

to almost all helpful material we genealogists will use is by request. This does take time. Plan to generate more than one set of requests or be ready to use "waiting time" for *hands on* work in the microfilm or map rooms. Keep money on your Copycard. Then you don't have to take time out in the midst of copying some good stuff, to run upstairs to the card machine, and loose your copy machine.

The Library of Congress is made for research:

The *Access* computer allows research by subject, geographic area, and time period. Be ready for all sorts of surprises.

Have Fun and Expect Rewards: Avoid problems; there is really no parking on Capital Hill. Take the METRO and relax. Use your time for detective work. Remember, whatever you want, should be here somewhere.

Your DC reporter, Keith

Look for more reports from our DC Report, Keith Kerr in future issues of the Newsletter.

FRENCH ANCESTRY

Antique Week, September 21, 1998

When the French traced their ancestry, they used a standard family tree to trace their family lines. A three pronged symbol suggesting the shape of a tree came to represent genealogy. Because it looked like the track of a crane's foot, the symbol was called "pied de grue" or pedigree.



WEB WANDERINGS

(note: all start with http://)

National Society of the Sons of the American
Revolution was founded in 1889

www.sar.org

Library, Madison, Wisconsin
Has the largest collection of North American
items, including the largest collection of
newspapers

www.shsw.wisc.edu/

State Historical Society of Wisconsin Library
Madison, Wisconsin

Their card catalog is on-line. Use search and
browse

www.wisc.edu/shs-archives

Library of Congress Local History and Genealogy
Reading Room

[lcweb/loc.gov/rr/genealogy](http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/genealogy)

Ohio Information

cgi.rootsweb.com/~genbbs/indx/Oh.html

Genie Angels - a network of "angel" volunteers
who assist each other in obtaining documents for
genealogical research without paying exorbitant
prices or encountering long delays

www.geocities.com/Heartland/Flats/6878

COURT REJECTS CLINTON CENSUS PLAN

AP, Richmond, VA, September 24, 1998

A SECOND panel of federal judges has rejected the Clinton administration's plan to use a statistical sampling method for counting people in the 2000 census.

The U.S. District Court panel in eastern Virginia on Friday agreed with a conservative public interest law firm that claimed in a lawsuit that scrapping the actual head count method used since 1790 would be illegal.

The court said the Census Act prohibits statistical sampling for the purpose of apportioning congressional seats.

The Census Bureau had planned to use a sampling method intended to correct the undercounting of minorities in previous years. It estimates that 4 million people were overlooked in the 1990 census.

Under its plan for 2000, a traditional head count by mailings and door-to-door surveys would be used for 90 percent of the population. The sampling would be used to estimate the remaining 10 percent, often minorities and inner city residents who traditionally support Democrats.

Billions of dollars in federal funds are allocated on the basis of how many people live in each state and city, and shifts in population can lead to the redrawing of House districts. Friday's ruling was the second Federal court to strike down the plan. Three judges in Washington also ruled against the administration in a lawsuit filed by the Republican-controlled House of Representatives. Arguments will be heard by the Supreme Court on November 30.

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.

MERCER COUNTY

Mercer County was formed in 1800 from Allegheny and is bounded by Crawford on the north; Venango on the east, with the southeastern corner just touching Butler. Lawrence is on the south and the western border touches the state of Ohio. It was named for Gen Hugh Mercer, army surgeon with Washington in the Braddock campaign, who died of wounds received at the Battle of Trenton, 1777. Mercer, the county seat, was laid out in 1803 on 200 acres of land presented for the purpose by John Hoge, of Washington, PA, who owned large tracts in this vicinity.

Traveled routes through northwestern Pennsylvania passed to the east of Mercer county, so that section was slow in being settled. In the fall of 1795, after Wayne's victory over the Indians, surveyors started their work and settlers soon followed. Benjamin Stokely who came with the first party of surveyors, remained alone when they returned home, and was the first white man to spend the winter there.

The first county commissioners were Andrew Denniston, Robert Bole and Thomas Robb; sheriff Wm. Byers; corner James Braden, prothonotary James Findley, who was also clerk of courts, register and recorder. Hon. Jesse Moore was judge of the circuit and Alexander Brown and Alexander Wright were commissioned as associate judges.

The first court house and jail were constructed of logs with the jail on the first floor and the court room on the second, reached by an outside stairway.

The first six townships were Salem, Pymatuning, Neshannock, Wolf Creek, Cool Spring and Sandy Creek.

The first road was between Meadville about 1816, and the second one between Mercer and Butler. Trading was done at Erie, Bellefonte and Pittsburgh. Mining coal first began in Shenango Valley and around Stoneboro. The steel industry moved into Sharon. Thiel College, a Lutheran institution is located at Greenville.

The Mercer county residents were called upon frequently to hurry to the defense of Erie where Perry's fleet was being built during the War of 1812. A rifle company known as the Mercer Blues, commanded by Capt. John Junkin, served under Gen. Harrison and spent the winter of 1813 at Ft. Meigs. At one time when an emergency arose there is said to have been only one man, Cunningham Sample, left in the county with the women and children. He was too old to volunteer. Another time the call to arms came on Sunday after the people had gathered for church service. The sermon was interrupted and the minister given the message to be delivered. The benediction soon followed and the men hurried to the defense of our county. At another time news of a threatened invasion came in the middle of harvest, but the response was immediate. John Findley dropped his sickle in the field, hurried to his home and got his gun and with what provisions his wife had on hand put in a haversack, hastened away. Six weeks later he came home and found the sickle where he had left it. Wood was chopped, grain milled, etc. by young boys left in the community in such times. That was the spirit of Mercer County!

BLACK SHEEP IN THE FAMILY

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.

Do you have any ax-murders, traitors, thieves or other notorious villians lurking in your family tree? I bet you do; almost everyone has one or more "black sheep" ancestors. And these scoundrels are what makes genealogy research so much fun! If you can find such a rascal in your ancestry, you may qualify for the International Black Sheep Society of Genealogists.

Jeff Scism, of San Bernardino, CA, formed the Internet group a year ago, and launched its web site in January. Starting with two dozen members, the society now has 125 members. The rules are simple: You must have someone in the family, preferably in your direct lines, who's a dastardly, infamous individual of public knowledge and ill repute". Stuffed shirts with pure blue blood ancestry need not apply. I like this society already!

Ideally, you should be able to claim descent from kidnappers, armed robbers, assassins, thieves who stole "any item of fame", members of infamous gangs, and anyone involved in witchcraft or among the FBI's "Most Wanted." "Weirdness counts", says Scism. He even has a catchall category for ancestors causing "extreme public embarrassment", such as Lady Godiva.

"If you're doing genealogical research, and you find nothing but blase people, it's really boring and you're going to quit," Scism says. But "if you do this long enough, you will find you have a black sheep in your family that nobody talks about."

Despite the passage of time, sometimes centuries, a few members don't want their full names linked to scoundrel relatives. So only their first names are listed on the Web site.

Researching back to the 10th century, Janni Belgum of Calgary, Alberta, found a Norwegian earl nicknamed "Skull Splitter." A rather bloody Viking, she figures. Fast-forwarding several centuries, Diana Fisher of Corvallis, Oregon, acknowledges John Billington, whom she places on the Mayflower in 1620, as well as on the blacklist: the first colonist hanged for murder.

In the "public embarrassment category, one member claims descent from James Durham. He was a preacher in Wells, TX in the late 1800s who tried to re-create Jesus' walk on water. To pull off a "miracle", Durham slipped a board just below the surface of a pond and left. While he was gone, two boys sawed the board almost in half. When Durham took his first step before a big crowd, the board broke and he got dunked.

Take a look at:

<http://homepages.rootsweb.com/~blksheep/index.html>

and make sure your Soundblaster card is hooked up.

CENSUS DOES EXIST!

Family Tree Topper, Vol. VI, No. 1, Feb/Mar, 1995

The 1800-1810 census for Washington County, Ohio - long thought lost, does exist and has been filed on Family History Library film #940/916. The original enumerators copy is at Marietta, Ohio.

Every pedigree is a working hypothesis.

QUARANTINED

The inhabitants of this place have been stricken with GENEALOGY FEVER, an infectious and deadly disease

SYMPTOMS

BLOODSHOT eyes from excessive exposure to computers and microfilm and microfiche readers;

SORE FINGERS from writing, typing and filing;

HEART PALPITATIONS at the sight of gravestones or old trunks filled with letters, pictures, and memorabilia;

POCKETS AND FILES filled with pencils, pens, and notepapers;

ERRATIC SPEECH patterns punctuated with dates, places, and names of pilgrims and princes; and

NERVOUSNESS AND COLD SWEATS while awaiting the arrival of the daily mail.

INCURABLE!!!

Note on Census Page

Antique Weekly, September 28, 1998

Census take penciled in the following note on record: "He was cradling oats the day I was there. He told me he was on his third wife and thought he would want about two more to see him through."

Other things may change us, but we all start and end with the family. Anthony Brandt

REVOLUTIONARY WAR VETERANS

Loyd DeWitt Bockstruck's "Family Tree" column, *Dallas Morning News*, Sept. 26, 1998

Do you know which state in the United States has more Revolutionary War veterans buried in its soil? It might be surprising that it is not one of the Original Thirteen. It is Ohio.

Bounty land reserves for soldiers in the Continental Line were in the Buckeye State, so veterans from every state moved west. Ohio could be reached from Pittsburgh via the Ohio River Valley as well as by land via the Cumberland Gap and the Wilderness Road blazed by Daniel Boone.

Wars Fought by Our Ancestors on American Soil

Continuation of list from August, 1998 Newsletter
Information from Grace McVay

1677-80	Culpepper's Rebellion, Carolinas
1775-83	American Revolution
1798-1800	War with France - Naval
1812-15	War of 1812
1838	Mormon - Missouri
1844	Mormon - Illinois
1860-65	War of Rebellion (Civil War)
1898-99	Spanish-American - Cuba
1899-1902	Phillippine Insurrection - Phillippine Islands

WANTED

Your research stories. Your finds, great sources, and yes, your "brick walls" and how you knocked them down. Send your stories to the editor. Share your successes.

NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS

C/O Northland Public Library

300 Cumberland Road

Pittsburgh, PA 15237-4555

FIRST CLASS

DATED MATERIAL

**NOV. 17 - SOLVING THOSE SPECIAL PROBLEMS IN YOUR FAMILY TREE -
AN ALL-NHG CAST!**

PIONEER CEMETERIES OF HAMPTON TOWNSHIP, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PA

This cemetery book documents the final resting place of many settlers of the area. It includes not only complete tombstone readings for the Pine Creek, Depreciation Lands, and Hampton Cemeteries, but also the lot owners' book for the latter and a guide to the other five cemeteries in Hampton township. Each stone has been recorded exactly with dates, relationships, epitaphs, stonecarvers' names, war veterans and other notations such as the condition of the stone or whether any other marker or a photo of the deceased was present. An everyname index includes maiden names when known. This hardbound, library-quality book on acid-free paper has over 200 pages and contains many photographs of the gravestones, histories of the cemeteries and maps.

Send orders to North Hills Genealogists. Price:

PA residents, \$24.35, mailed; PA resident \$21.34, pickup; Libraries & Outside PA \$22.95

A MUST FOR GENEALOGISTS, HISTORIANS AND LIBRARIES