

NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS NEWSLETTER



%Northland Public Library, 800 Cumberland Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15257-4555

Volume 9, Number 5 - January, 1999

President: Gary Schlemmer	Vice President: Sylvan Kretz	Secretary: Marcia Coleman
Treasurer: Patsi Lee	Membership: Steph Valentine	Liaison: Elissa Powell
Cemetery Project: Ginny Skander	Book Committee: Marion Hyle	Editor: Donna Booth
Program: Melinda Merriman	Subscription \$12 per year	10 issues - August - June

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The way a crow
Shook down on me
The dust of snow
From a hemlock tree

Has given my heart
A change of mood
And saved some part
Of a day I had rued.

Robert Frost, 1923

As in "Dust of Snow" quoted above, every once in a while something abruptly changes our plans. The "snow" goes down the back of our neck and suddenly our cozy position becomes ? exciting! Sort of like our board meetings when our next scheduled speaker cancels out. So, in case you haven't been to a board meeting recently, here's a little update of some things to expect.

First, we celebrated the good time that 23 of us had with our Christmas social at the Harmony Museum on December 5 - an entertaining look into pioneer life, good food and perfect weather!

A seasonal note from Northland Library's facility coordinator made our day. Not only do we have a great monthly meeting room, but the library even appreciates the NHG programs and cooperation! (and neatness)

Expect that we will NOT be hearing about the Special Collections of the Hillman Library anytime soon. They are moving out of the library! That's why February's program has changed.

February 20 will be our first FIELD TRIP of 1999. The Saturday tour in the warmth of the Photo Antiquities museum in old Allegheny City will show people and places as they appeared in the past -- and how old family portraits can be restored for display on the family room wall.

The March program will introduce us avid genealogists to use of the published Pennsylvania Archives. Then, besides our April meeting, a SECOND field trip will again car pool to the Western Reserve Historical Society Library in Cleveland. Find those other states' censuses and lots of regional resources there on April 17.

Much later on hosting a conference luncheon on June 24, on continued readings for another Pioneer Cemeteries book, and other dusts of snow. For now, well, I just wanted an excuse to use that poem. Take care, and Punxsy Phil wishes you a happy Groundhog Day.

Punxsutawney Gary

WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

Tues, Feb. 2, 7:30 PM - **NHG Board Meeting** - cafeteria, North Hills Passavant Hospital, lower level. All members welcome to attend.

Sat., Feb. 13, 10:00 AM - **WPGS Meeting** - Carnegie Lecture Hall. Ron Grim of the Library of Congress Maps Division will present two lectures. (See separate article for more details)

Tues, Feb. 16, 7:00 PM, - **Regular NHG Meeting** - Gary Link speaking on "Genealogical Resources in Allegheny County Government".

Sat. Feb. 20, 1:00 PM - Field trip to Photo Antiquities, North Side. See article on page 6.

BEGINNERS CORNER

Beginning Genealogy classes at two north Pittsburgh area community colleges will be taught by Elissa Powell, CGRS. A four-week class will be held on Saturdays from noon to 3 pm beginning January 30, 1999 at the Butler County Community College, Cranberry Campus. For more information call 724-287-8711.

A five-week class will be held on Sundays from 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM at Community College of Allegheny County, North Campus, beginning February 21, 1999. For more information call 412-369-3696.

QUERIES

Compiled and edited by Sylvan Kretz. Query Editor

SHERIFF, GEIDEL, Contact: *Suzann Frishkorn, 1587 Anderson Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15209-1000*

HORN, Peter (grandfather and g-grandfather both named Peter), Wald-Amorback, Hesse, Germany/Pittsburgh, PA; **SCHMITT, Joseph**, (b. 8/22/1820, d. 1903), Hulthouse, Moselle, France/Allegheny City, (parents: Rosalie Schoener and Michael Schmitt), Contact: *Richard Horn, 1255 Cabrillo Park Drive, Santa Ana, CA 93701*

AHALERS, AUPAKE, DONCH/DOENCH, LADEBU. Contact: *Thelma Eberhardt, 2521 Hopkins Church Road, Sewickley, PA 15143*

GOLUBSKI, Pittsburgh, PA; **DUGAN**, Cork, Ireland; **SAYERS**, Kerry, Ireland; **LOCKE**, England; **LEE**, England; **COCHENOUR**, Westmoreland County, PA. Contact: *Nancy McKee, 128 Chestnut Street, Zelenople, PA 16063-1005*

Submit queries to North Hills Genealogists, Attn: Query Editor, % Northland Public Library, 300 Cumberland Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237-4555.

NOTE: NHG does not do individual research.

"To be ignorant of what occurred before you were born is to remain always a child. For what is the worth of human life unless it is woven into the life of our ancestors by the records of history?"

Cicero

A NHG MEMBER'S STORY

We asked for NHG members to submit stories of their research. The following is the first of what we hope will be many more.

SEARCHING FOR GRANDFATHER JOHN GEORGE WILL'S DATE OF DEATH

Betty W. Hoge, NHG member

My father's parents, Cora May Aumack and John G. Will were married on April 24, 1900. Their union produced four sons, John Anderson, born in 1901; William Robert (my father) born in 1903; Edward Aumack (later nicknamed Pete) born in 1906; and James Henry, born, I think in 1911. For Cora, it was not a happy marriage and she filed for divorce when Dad was somewhere around twelve years of age. The divorce was a bitter one, but she finally won her divorce in 1920.

Prior to the divorce, John was a successful businessman who, along with his stepfather, Mr. Roth, owned and operated a meat market in the Pittsburgh and North Side markethouses. After the divorce, he lost the business and it is at this point that the story of his whereabouts becomes muddled. You see, because of the nature of the divorce, Grandfather John's name just wasn't mentioned, and so we grandchildren never knew him or anything much about him. However, I did recall little bits and pieces I had heard over the years: he went to live in McKeesport with a sibling (Uncle Fred, a Lutheran pastor?) and worked in a butcher shop; he lived with his sister Amelia Magill in Crafton or Elliott; and shortly before his death, Uncle Pete told me his father was living and managing a hotel in Lewistown, PA, where he died, but was laid out at a funeral home in Elliott. No one seemed to know or remember when he died, but I knew, by process of elimination that it had to be sometime between 1926 and 1937.

Since by this time anyone who would have known anything was no longer living, I began my search for the d.o.d. by submitting a request to Vital Records in New Castle for the year 1935 for Allegheny County. Result: no record. I then submitted one for 1932, Allegheny County and one for 1932, Mifflin County (for Lewistown, PA). Result: no record. At the same time I started reading newspaper obituary microfilm at Carnegie Library for 1926, but found it to be a formidable task and decided to use this as a really last resort.

After talking about my problem with several genealogists, among them Ginny Skander, (NHG), I decided to check the Allegheny County Estate Index in the hope he had left a will or some document pertaining to his estate, assuming he had one. At the same time, I wanted to check the Family Division to see if they had a cutoff date for his support payments for James. The Family Division was not available the day I was there and so I proceeded to the Prothonotary's office to check the Estate Index. While doing so and discussing it with the clerk, a lady who was doing research overheard us and joined in to offer some suggestions. She turned out to be Jean Gregord, a well-known genealogist and member of WPGS. When she learned John was a Lutheran, she asked if I had checked with his church. I had written to St. Luke's Memorial Evan. Lutheran Church on Federal Street Extension, as that was my grandmother's church and they were married by a minister from that church -- they had no record. I had also written to St. John's Lutheran Church on 40th Street, as that was in the Will family neighborhood, but they had no record and referred me to a Zion Lutheran Church further in toward Pittsburgh. I wrote to them, but have never received an answer. I had also written to the columnist George F. Will, after reading his column concerning his father, who I think was my Dad's first cousin, but have never received an answer. (All of these inquiries did

include a SASE). So, Jean said that I should check the cemeteries. I had checked with Allegheny Cemetery, Uniondale Cemetery, Highwood Cemetery, and one in Homestead; also, the Weiterhausen/St. Paul's Cemetery on Troy Hill and the Ridgelawn Cemetery on Troy Hill and a few other small cemeteries I can't remember. Jean said that it was possible the family had been members of First Trinity Evan. Lutheran Church, downtown Pittsburgh, which had later moved to Oakland and had their own burial ground called the Oakland Cemetery. Sometime in the 1970's this ground was made into a parking lot and the interments were removed to the Mt. Royal Cemetery. She said the cemetery should have a record and the church records were on microfilm in the archives at Hillman Library. However, before doing this, I called the Pennsylvania Room at the Carnegie Library and asked if they had a cemetery reading of the Oakland Cemetery. Their reply was that unfortunately, no reading had been done, but the Hillman had it on microfilm (mostly in German) #75:4.

A call to the Mt. Royal Cemetery produced the information that the Oakland Cemetery records indicated burials for F. Will, Infant Will, and John G. Will, but that was all the information they had. So, that didn't help much except to spur me to Hillman to read that microfilm. And I am so glad I did! There is much information on this microfilm which I did not have time that day to get into, but I did find valuable information on my great grandparents' marriage, among other things. However, I found no burial for John G. Will. I searched and searched, but could find nothing. After spending all day there, I went home feeling very disappointed. Later that evening, after spending more time mulling over all this, I thought, "Well, the reason his name isn't in the Church records is because the Church didn't bury him!... but he was buried in

his father's burial plot." The next day I went to the office of the Mt. Royal Cemetery. A somewhat surly man denied my request to see the file record, but did agree to check it for me. He returned with three 5x8 file cards and SHOWED THEM TO ME. There was one for F. Will, Infant Will and John G. Will. I became so excited when I saw John's card and asked the man what the numbers 1 9 2 8 were, and he replied that it was the year of burial!!! I couldn't believe it. Came straight home and sent off another form to Vital Records for Allegheny County/Mifflin County, 1928. About three weeks later, I had my reward as Grandfather John G. Will's official death certificate, with much valuable information, arrived in the mail.

This has been the toughest nut to crack so far in my genealogical research, but I have learned and it has been worthwhile. The odd part is that I now feel a closeness to this grandfather I never knew and a real sorrow for him for all that he lost and the loneliness and bitterness he must have known in the later years of his life.

What a great success story! With all the "digging" being done by NHG members, we know there are more stories like this. We would love to feature your success (or failure) in upcoming issues of the Newsletter. Send your story to North Hills Genealogists, Attention: Newsletter Editor, at the address on the first page.

Remember, the Newsletter is by, for, and ABOUT the NHG members. Submit your story today.

GENEALOGY WITHOUT DOCUMENTATION IS MYTHOLOGY

RONALD E. GRIM LECTURE

WASHINGTON WIRE

Keith Kerr, reporting

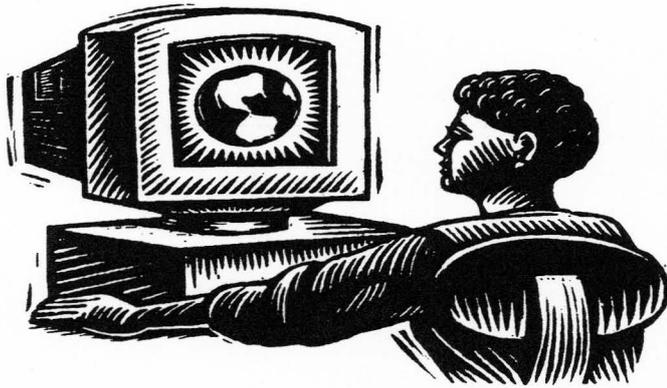
On Saturday, February 23, 1999 at 10 AM to 12:30 PM in Carnegie Lecture Hall, Ronald E. Grim, Specialist in Cartographic History in the Geography and Map Division of the Library of Congress will present: "Getting Started: How Can Maps Help Me. in Genealogical Research?" This is an introduction to how maps can help you locate your family. The second lecture is "Using Maps to Document German Immigration and Settlement in North America". Ron Grim received his B.A. in history and geography from Muskingum College, New Concord, OH and his M.A. and PhD degrees in historical geography from the University of Maryland. His publications include: "Historical Geography of the United States: A Guide to Information Sources" (Detroit: Gale, 1982) and co-editor, "World Directory of Map Collections", 2nd ed. (Munich: Saur, 1986) and "Images of the World: The Atlas Through History" (Washington: Library of Congress; New York: McGraw-Hill, 1996) as well as numerous book reviews and articles in geographical, historical and map librarianship serials and publications. He has curated four Library of Congress exhibitions including one which opened in Dresden, Germany in 1994 entitled "Deutsche in Amerika: Die Einwanderung im Kartenbild" and his most recent (1997) "Celebrating the Portuguese Communities in America: A Cartographic Perspective". Mr. Grim is a part-time instructor at the University of Maryland and Montgomery College, Rockville, MD. He has lectured widely on the use of maps in genealogical research to local groups in the Washington, DC area, as well as the Family History Society of Arizona and the annual conference of the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society.

"Travel, in the younger sort, is a part of education; in the elder, a part of experience."

Francis Bacon, 1725

Vacationing to the DC area? Making the research trip? Here are some tips to maintain sanity in the "Delmarva" area. First, this is not an auto friendly town. The beltways are a mess. The streets are a jumble. The drivers are awful. We must remember this city was designed by L'Enfant, a mad Frenchman. There are circles, squares and diagonals. There are no easy access streets or highways. All lettered streets and numbered streets start at the Capital in a grid formation radiating out like a spider web. Therefore, there are two "First" Streets, two "Second" Streets, and so forth. Likewise, there are two "A's", "B's", etc. The qualifying delineation comes from their compass location from the Capital axis. NW, NE, SE, SW are the clues. All streets are cut by diagonals designated by state names, i.e., Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Wisconsin, etc. Every Civil War general or admiral has a park which cuts into avenues like a square or circular bottleneck that jams traffic and baffles commuters. Near the "Mall" presidential monuments create a loop de loop traffic pattern that defies logic. Save time and money by using the Metro.

There is a Park and Ride convenient to 270 where parking is free on weekends and holidays. Parking can be free during weekdays also if you can leave the lot by 3:00 PM. Purchasing a Day Pass can give you a fare card for any number of trips, ie, from the Smithsonian to the Archives to the Library of Congress and back to the Archives. Use your valuable time for research and not searching for a parking place.



WEB WANDERINGS

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

Funeral Home Website

www.yelobk.com/ybfd/us_directory.html

Genealogy Website for Children

www.rootsweb.com/~cogenweb/cokidss/

Allegheny City Society Home Page

trfn.clpgh.org/acs/

General Land Office (GLO) - Federal land patents

before 1908 - States of Alabama, Arkansas,

Florida, Indiana, Louisiana, Michigan,

Mississippi, Missouri, Minnesota, Ohio and

Wisconsin

www.glorerecords.blm.gov

National Society, Daughters of the American
Revolution

www.dar.org

National Society of the Sons of the American
Revolution

www.sar.org

The War of 1812

www.multied.com/1812/

PHOTO ANTIQUITIES FIELD TRIP

February 20, 1999

Our field trip to Photo Antiquities in old Allegheny City is set for February 20 at 1:00 PM.

Cost will be \$5.00 per person, preferably paid in advance. We need to confirm the number attending by February 17.

You can bring in 1-2 old photos and they will help you with identification (time period, etc.) The presentation part of the tour of their facility will take approximately 30 minutes. This will be done for the whole group. We will then be broken down into smaller groups for the tour. You will be welcome to stay after the tour and browse on your own or ask more questions.

Photo Antiquities is located on East Ohio Street, North Side, directly across the street from Mellon Bank. It is on the second floor, above Pittsburgh Camera Exchange. There is on-street parking and also a metered lot behind the Mellon Bank (your best bet).

Directions: From the North Hills, via 279: Exit at East Street. Go to light at East Ohio Street third light). Turn right onto East Ohio St.. Turn right at the corner just before Mellon Bank and go to next corner. Turn left to enter the parking lot. Walk back to East Ohio Street (sidewalk beside bank). Photo Antiquities (Pittsburgh Camera Exchange 531 East Ohio St.) will be directly across the street.

From the West: Follow North Avenue to Cedar Ave (at AGH) and turn right. Turn left one block before East Ohio Street to reach the parking lot.

(Ed. note: This is an amazing museum and the people are very helpful.)

SURNAME INDEX CARD FILE

Did you know that NHG's Surname Index Card File is available at Northland Library? This file is available for use by other local and out-of-town researchers. Every member of NHG is urged to submit their cards for inclusion in the file. This is a great way to put your information out there for others to use and is also a great resource for your own research. As genealogists we all know the importance of checking all possible sources. Who knows, you may find a relative you never knew about. Stop and check the index. The following are guidelines for completing your cards.

1. All information should be **typed or printed**. If printed, please use **black ink**. Cards are photocopied and blue ink does not copy well. Card will **not** be rewritten for copying.
2. Each card is 3x5 inches. Leave a **1/4" margin** around all sides.
3. There is a hole at the bottom center of the card. This hole is approximately 2" from each side and extends approximately 1/2" from the bottom edge. Keep this in mind when preparing your cards.
4. One generation per card. Husband and wife should be on the same card if the information is known. You can do a cross-reference card for the wife using her maiden name.
5. **SURNAME** is to be capitalized and listed first.
6. Add birth, death & marriage dates if known.
7. Children (or other data) may be added on the back of the card.
8. No card should be submitted unless it contains (at least) one name, one place and one date.

9. Put date submitted under information.

10. Name and address of submitter **must** be included on the lower right hand corner. **No address labels please. They dry up and eventually fall off.**

See sample card on the last page of the newsletter. If you have any questions, see any of the Board members.

Get those card ready and bring them to next month's meeting.

BOOKS FOR SALE

Venango County, PA Cemetery Records and Brief Church Histories, Vol. 6.

This volume covers Frenchcreek Township. Volumes 1-5 cover other townships in Venango. Contact: The Venango County Historical Society, P.O. Box 101, 301 South Park St., Franklin, PA 16323.

The Genealogists' Handbook for Baptismal Records and Practice

and

Reconstructing Families When Church Records are Sparse

Both books written by John T. Humphrey. Order from LARJON & CO., Inc., P. O. Box 15190, Washington, DC 20003

(Mr. Humphrey will be a speaker at the WPGS 25th Anniversary seminar in June, 1999)

CEMETERY READING UPDATE

Work continues on cemetery readings for the next volume of the NHG cemetery book. Here is an update on the status of these readings.

RICHLAND TOWNSHIP

Baker Estate Cemetery

Found: Yes Read: Yes

Bakerstown Methodist Church Cemetery

Found: Yes Read: Yes

St. Barnabas Free Home Cemetery

Found: Yes Read: Yes

PINE TOWNSHIP

McCullough/Rodgers/Osborne Cemetery

Found: Yes Read: Yes

Mt. Pleasant Cemetery

Found: Yes Read: Yes

Pridgeon Cemetery (North Park)

Found: Yes Read: Yes

Salem United Methodist Church Cemetery

Found: Yes Read: Yes

Wallace Cemetery

Found: Yes Read: Yes

West Union Cemetery

Found: Yes Read: Yes

We are still looking for the following cemeteries. If you know where they are, let any of the Board members know.

PINE TOWNSHIP

Campbell or Crawford, Clover Lane off Logan Rd

Fairview Baptist Cemetery, McKinney Road and Grubbs Road

Marshall Cemetery, Old Franklin Road

McClintock Cemetery, Off State Road

Purvis Cemetery, off Babcock Boulevard

INSTITUTIONS WITH MARITIME COLLECTIONS

These institutions have information on early ships. Some have photos of those ships which can be purchased.

Peabody Essex Museum, East India Square, Salem, MA 01970

(note: I got pictures of the ships my grandparents arrived on through this museum)

The Steamship Historical Society of America, University of Baltimore Library, 1420 Maryland Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21201

Independence Seaport Museum, 211 S. Columbus Blvd. & Walnut Street, Philadelphia

Mystic Seaport Museum, Blunt White Library, Mystic, CT 06355

MAJOR PORTS OF ENTRY

Rocky Mountain Buckeye, February/March 1998

Vol. IX, Number 6

Alexandria, VA	1820-1852
Anapolis, MD	1849
Baltimore, MD	1820-1909
Boston, MA	1820-1832 & 1867
Charleston, SC	1820-1829, & 1906-1945
Galveston, TX	1846-1871
Mobile, AL	1820-1862, & 1904-1945
New York, NY	1820-1942
New Orleans, LA	1820-1945
Providence, RI	1820-1868, & 1906-1945
Savannah, GA	1820-1868, & 1906-1945

GETTING MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE OUT OF THE CENSUS

Dan Burrows, Orange County, NY Genealogical Society

This is a continuation of a series started in the
November/December, 1998 Newsletter

In the census returns that show the birthplace of an individual and the birth place of the individual's parents, much circumstantial evidence is present as to the family structure. If it shows the mother of the household's place of birth as New York but the place of birth of some or all of the children's mother as Massachusetts, one can start making other assumptions as to how many wives the husband had and which children if not all might be from another marriage.

The presence of an elderly person in the household of the same surname might indicate a parent, aunt or uncle of the husband. If the surname is different, it might be a mother or father-in-law and watch out for remarriages of this newly found grandma before jumping to the conclusions that you have discovered a maiden name for the wife.

Always take note of the families nearby (census takers usually took the houses in the order that they were situated) and also take note of any families that are housing one person of your surname of interest. The data you transcribe in doing this will very often reap rewards of family connections later down the line. Take note of the place of birth of your family and the other families in the area with the same origins whether it be the same state or country. You will often find that people moved in groups or invited friends and relatives from the former home to join them.

Taking note of the places of birth of all the children can tell a story of family movement and

judging from the length of time they lived in a particular area (perhaps three children were born in Vermont over a 10 year period), one can determine whether or not a search for a deed or other documents in that area would be worthwhile.

The education of a family can be determined from the number in a family who can read and write and if the children did or did not attend school.

The value of property and other monetary facts might give you a clue as to whether a will or other estate papers might be found. It could also help you determine whether they might be mentioned in a local history.

NHG IN THE NEWS

In the Thursday, December 17, 1998 issue of the *North Hills NewsRecord*, NHG president Gary Schlemmer was the featured North Hills Newsmaker. This nice article talked about Gary's work with NHG and also included information about our book, **Pioneer Cemeteries of Hampton Township, Allegheny County, PA.**

A second article appeared in the *NewsRecord* on Thursday, January 7, 1999. The article was titled **Piecing the Past Together; Genealogy group rebuilds history through ancestors.**

The article featured an interview with Lissa Powell and talked about the work being done by NHG on preserving the area's history by documenting the cemeteries.

**GENEALOGY: WHERE YOU CONFUSE THE
DEAD AND IRRITATE THE LIVING.**

NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS

C/O Northland Public Library

300 Cumberland Road

Pittsburgh, PA 15237-4555

FIRST CLASS MAIL

DATED MATERIAL

FEBRUARY 16 - GARY LINK
GENEALOGICAL RESOURCES IN ALLEGHENY COUNTY GOVERNMENT

SURNAME CARDS SAMPLE

OSTRANDER Eli H ·
s/o Hiram & Mary (?) Ostrander
b cr 1825 in New York State
md 10 Oct 1844, Wayne Co., NY
d 14 Apr 1891, Wexford, PA

submitted 22 October, 1991

Jane Doe
1234 Any Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15237

