

NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS NEWSLETTER



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

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e-mail pioneerbook@juno.com

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Program: Melinda Merriman	Subscription \$12 per year	10 issues - August - June

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

May Day. It's almost here already. And right afterward, on May 9, comes that most important of secular celebrations, Mother's Day! We wouldn't have a genealogy to think about without that one Mom in particular, and the many loving ones before her. Take a moment, at any time of year, to send a note to Mom, Grandma, Aunt, Daughter or Great-Granddaughter -- special people who respond so well to those (rare) words of appreciation.

There are several things to consider this month that the extra daylight may help to illuminate. Starting with our April presentation on the "speaking" and recording of gravestones, we will immediately resume field work on the book "Pioneer Cemeteries of Pine and Richland Townships". Consider being one of several people who will come along to record these stones before they, too, pass away. Lots of attentive help is needed to record the volume of engraving out there. (My being along doesn't count much for production. My reason for doing

this - and for taking the extra time - is to catch the difficult disintegrating epitaphs before they are gone forever.)

In a past column, I noted what NHG is and is not. But have you noticed how much has been going on in this little group over the past few months? A social, field trips to Photo Antiquities and to the WRHS in Cleveland, a private resource tour of The Carnegie's Pennsylvania Dept., four presentations at the regular meetings, and NHG info tables at a Girl Scout event and at the Slippery Rock conference. There were special efforts made to create these great learning opportunities. I just wish that more of NHG attendees had used a notebook to help retain what they heard there!

Pet peeve of the month: If you had paid for two thousand of something and had gotten only 1999, would you be satisfied? So why, then, do so many think that the next millennium begins immediately after 1999 instead of after the year 2000? Twenty months to go, in my count.

I am pleased to be reading a 1914 autobiography, "Memoir and Recollection of", ... a grandson of my 3rd great-grandfather. We have often talked of writing down some of our own stories for posterity, but this guy, at the age of 80, actually did it. And he spoke at length of his (my ggg) grandfather who at one time had owned a farm in Manhattan! No, I haven't done much about writing one either, but how about writing some of your memories while you are still warmed up after finishing that priceless note for Mother's Day? Take Care

Gary

WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

Tues., May 4 - 7:30 PM NHG Board Meeting, cafeteria, Passavant Hospital. Everyone welcome to attend.

Tues, May 18 - 7:00 PM - Regular NHG Meeting - "Tips for Creating an Archival Album" - Debi MacIntyre

Tues, June 15 - 7:00 PM - Regular NHG Meeting
- Roundtable Discussion

June 25-26 - WPGS 25th Anniversary Conference - Sheraton Station Square. If you haven't registered yet, do so soon.

NHG PICNIC JULY 18, 1999 FLAGSTAFF GROVE

On Saturday, July 18, NHG will hold its first Membership Appreciation Picnic. The theme of the picnic will be **FAMILY REUNIONS**. NHG will supply hotdogs, hamburgers, buns, condiments and pop. Each participant is asked to bring a covered dish. A sign-up sheet will be available at the May meeting. Mark this day on your calendar and join the NHG Family Reunion.

CEMETERY READING

The first cemetery reading of the spring will be on Wednesday, April 28 at Cross Roads Cemetery, Rt. 910. Contact Ginny Skander at 724-443-1460 or Lissa Powell at 724-935-6961 to sign-up. Future readings will be scheduled. Watch the newsletter for dates and times. **EVERYONE WELCOME . Help with the second volume of Pioneer Cemeteries".**

FIRST FAMILIES OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

If you have been accepted as a member of First Families of Western Pennsylvania by WPGS, please send your name and the name(s) of your qualifying ancestor(s). We will be listing all the NHG members who are members of First Families in our June issue.

If you have been accepted into any other First Families group or any other lineage society, please send along that information too.

MEMBER'S QUERY ISSUE

Have you submitted your queries for inclusion in the Member's Query Issue in June? Here is your chance to get the names you are researching out to other NHG members, as well as to other genealogical groups around the country. That fifth cousin with the information you are hunting for may just be waiting to read your query. Every member can submit 1-2 queries for the June issue. Mail your queries to the Query Editor, Member's Query Issue, % NHG or bring them to a future meeting. Forms will be available at the meeting. **DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS MAY 21, 1999.**

NEW ARCHIVE DOCUMENTS HISTORY AND CULTURE OF THE ROMA

Edited and condensed from the newsletter "This Week In Germany", German Information Center, Editors: David Lazar, Margaret Dornfeld.

The new Archive and Documentation Center on the History and Culture of the Roma opened in Cologne on February 28. It is dedicated to information about one of Europe's most cliché-burdened minority groups, the Roma, and will be providing the media with historical and current information and "dismantling the negative image of the so-called 'gypsies' still prevalent in Europe. Much of the archive is devoted to information on the persecution of the Roma over the centuries. Some 3,000 books, brochures and papers are among its holdings, the largest publicly accessible Roma information center in Europe. Historical drawings, picture postcards, and some 7,000 photographs show how European perceptions of the Roma have evolved. Another 250 films and 500 records and CDs document the Roma's rich musical heritage.

Traditionally a nomadic people, the Roma are believed to have emigrated to Europe from India around the 14th century and have established communities across the continent. An estimated two million Roma currently live in the member states of the European Union, with 85,000 to 120,000 residing in Germany. In accordance with the Council of Europe's convention on the protection of minority languages, the German government is currently developing measures for the promotion of the Roma language, which is spoken primarily in the industrial areas along the Rhine, the Ruhr and the Main.

(Thanks to Gary Schlemmer for sending this interesting article along)

BEGINNER'S CORNER

Requesting Forms from the National Archives

From *Clark House News*, April, 1999

As with all government agencies, you must have the correct form to get information. You can now e-mail your request for forms to:

www.inquire@arch2.nara.gov . Put one word in the subject block "Form". In the body include the form number and the number of copies you would like.

Form 80 - Military Service and Pension Records prior to WWI

Form 81 - Passenger Arrivals

Form 82 - Copies of Census Records

Form 83 - Eastern Cherokee Application

Form 180 - Military Service Records after WWI.

Be sure to include your mailing address, not just your e-mail address.

Homesteaders

From *Clark House News*, April, 1999

If you had an ancestor who homesteaded land under the 1862 Homestead Act or bought it from the government, his application is probably on file. The files have a four-page questionnaire filled out by the homesteader listing names of family members and other personal information. Write to Civil Archives and Records Service, GSA, Washington, DC 20409 and give your ancestor's full name and any other pertinent information.

He who has no fools, knaves, or beggars in his family was begot by a flash of lightning.

Old English Proverb

(From Maggie_Ohio-L web site)

KISS ALL THE FROGS:
**Why you should consider searching
government documents for family
information**

Walt Stock, Department Head, Free Library of Philadelphia
(Thanks to Tom Wiley for passing this along)

Is it worth the time to do genealogical research using government documents? If you're a beginner probably no. But once you've got the basics done, you might have a go at the most complex but sometimes the most informative kinds of documents: government documents, laws and case reporters. Here are a few pointers.

1. Earlier in US history, especially during the 18th and 19th century, it was a common practice for a citizen to ask the legislative branch of government to pass a law or make some other ruling to right a perceived wrong. The interaction usually involved the citizen and his/her elected representatives, but sometimes an executive or judicial agency became involved. If the citizen's request was favorably considered, a "private law" would be passed or a favorable ruling made. These laws and favorable rulings can be found in published statutes/laws, minutes or journals and in agency records. If the citizen's request was either favorably considered OR not favorably considered, mention of the debate or consideration of the matter by a legislative body may be found in those government documents.

2. Important legal cases that established precedents were reported in law digests, reporters and encyclopedias. If one of your ancestors was tangled up in a legal case, and the judge's decision established a precedent at the time the case was decided you may find some interesting background material on your ancestor that is not available in any other way. Keep in mind, however, that most cases were NOT reported. It is important to note that these digests, reporters and encyclopedias are not

substitutes for the actual court documents generated in the process of the trial.

3. Governments and government officials love to make lists: pensioners, land owners, tax payers, voters, disabled veterans, educators, persons arrested by police, fires, students in schools, militiamen, just to name a few. One of the most overlooked of all interesting lists are annual reports of government agencies. Generally speaking, annual reports published by local government agencies are more informative than those published at higher levels. Especially useful are local annual reports from police, fire and education departments. These annual reports can be found at government publications depositories, local archives, local historical societies, and at the agencies concerned.

4. If there is anything that government officials like to do better than make list of other people, it is to make list of themselves. So don't forget to look at government directories. There are usually local counterparts to the US Government Manual. These can be found in a variety of places. Talk to a local government documents librarian.

One final word: Think about when and how your ancestor might have come into contact with "the system": i.e., the executive, legislative, or judicial branch of federal, state or local government. Then ask yourself what level of the government and what department of the government would have a record?

2000 CENSUS

Family Tree, October/November 1998

After completing the information on your own 2000 census form, make a copy for your own genealogical files. These census records won't be released until 2075.

(Thanks to Melinda Merriman for sending this)

JULIAN AND GREGORIAN CALENDAR

From *Genealogist's Companion & Sourcebook*, Emily Croom
(Thanks to Bernice Bronecki for sending this)

In the year 1582, Pope Gregory XIII initiated a change to the Julian calendar which had been in use for centuries. Even though the Julian calendar was very similar to our present one (having 365 days with an extra day every fourth year), it was found to be inaccurate because it had gradually fallen 10 days behind the sun's calendar. So, in an effort to remedy the problem, the Pope ordered the day following October 4, 1582 to be October 15 and not October 5. However, in order to keep accurate with the sun's calendar, the new Gregorian calendar had to omit three leap years every 400 years on the years that ended in 00 and **that could not** be divided evenly by 400. Therefore, 1700, 1800 and 1900 **were not** leap years as 400 did not divide evenly into any of those years. But the upcoming year 2000 **will** be a leap year as it can be divided by 400. The years 2100, 2200 and 2300 will not be leap years, but 2400 will have one extra day.

Another change made by the Pope in 1582 was changing of New Year's Day to January 1. Thus the Pope not only eliminated 10 days in October, he also shortened the year 1582 by 83 more days by moving New Year's Day forward from March 25 to January 1. A date noted as 16 February 1582/83 is a reflection of an adjustment to the calendar.

This change to the calendar may not be new information to you, but perhaps you are not aware that not all of the settled world heeded the Pope's directive and adjusted their calendars during October 1582. Did you know that only four countries - Portugal, Spain, Poland and France - made the change in that year. Most of the German Catholic states, Austria, some of Switzerland (Catholic), Belgium and parts of Holland waited until 1583/84 but Hungary

waited until 1587 to make the correction. It wasn't until 115 years later that the Protestant German States, in 1699, adopted the new calendar. The following year, 1700, Denmark, Norway and the rest of Holland accepted the Gregorian calendar. By the time Ireland, Scotland, England and her colonies finally accepted the change in 1752, there was an eleven day difference as a leap year had been celebrated in 1700 in Britain but not in Rome. And finally, it wasn't until the twentieth century that Asia and Eastern Europe adapted to the new calendar.

So as you can see, the elimination of 10 days in October 1582, and the adoption of January 1 as the start of the New Year certainly can be the cause of a lot of confusion for those researching their ancestors during those time periods. But, of course, that all depends upon which country your lived!

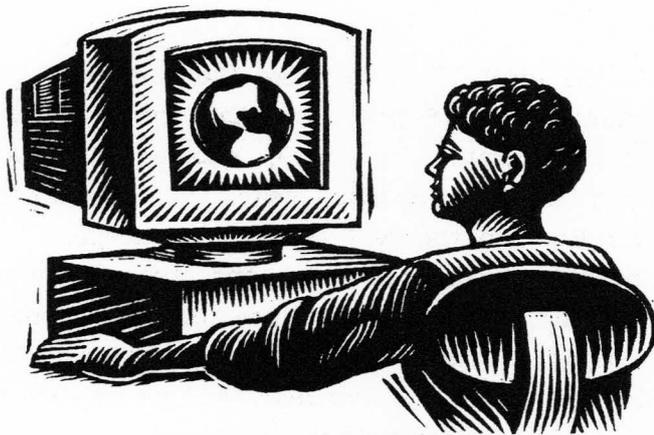
WE STILL NEED A STAMP!

From the *Rocky Mountain Buckeye*, February/March 1999

America's most popular hobby, Genealogy, has never been honored with a U.S. postage stamp. If you would like to be part of the three year process that would cause one to be issued in 2001, contact the U.S. Postal Service. E-mail at customer@email.usps.gov. The USPS web page is <http://www.usps.gov/>. Or write to the Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee, c/o Stamp Management, US Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Room 4474B, Washington, DC 20260-6756.

Adam and Eve must have found genealogy very boring.

(from Maggie_Ohio-L web site)



WEB WANDERINGS

(note: all start with <http://> unless otherwise noted)

[www.geocities.com/Heartland/Valley/5429/
greenlink.html](http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Valley/5429/greenlink.html)

Early Greene County, PA marriages, obits for
Washington & Greene County, PA

www.rootsweb.com/~usgwcens

USGenweb Census Project

Census records for various locations can be found
at this site

pages.prodigy.net/dabks/

Used genealogy books

www.jewishgen.org/ajgs/

International Association of Jewish Genealogical
Societies

www.micronet.net/users/~searcy/

researchplan.htm

Elements of a Research Plan

www.intl-research.com/migration.htm

International Research - Migration Charts

www.fortunecity.com/littleitaly/amalfi/

13/ships.htm

Immigrant Ship Information

GENEALOGY CAREERS

from Lissa Powell

Q: Are there any careers in Genealogy?

A: Yes there are. Many people make a living from genealogy. It depends on what lifestyle and expenses you have as to what a "living" might be, but you can take in money for various activities, depending on your interests, expertise and experience. Teaching, lecturing, writing books, doing research for others are just the obvious start. Becoming Certified helps not only in advertising but in your credibility in all your activities. The Board of Certification of Genealogists can tell you more. Write to them at PO Box 14291, Washington, DC 20044.

For further information get the audio tape of "Career Options for the Professional Genealogist", a lecture given by Sharon DeBartolo Carmack at the Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference in Cincinnati, OH, August 22, session number S174. You can get the tape from Repeat Performances, 2911 Crabapple Lane, Hobart, IN 46342. Phone: 219-465-1234.

10 OLDEST BOROUGHS

VIGNETTES column by Robert VanAtta,

Tribune-Review, March 21, 1999

Based on dates of incorporation as boroughs, the 10 oldest in western PA are: Pittsburgh (1794), Uniontown (1796 and reincorporated in 1805), Greensburg (1799), Canonsburg (1802), Beaver (a month later in 1802), Somerset (1804), Erie (1805), Connellsville (1806), Washington (1810), and Mercer (1814).

After them came Brownsville (1815) and Butler, Indiana and Waynesburg in 1816.

FATHER OF THE BRIDE

Submitted by Peg Duffy, NHG member

Parents of a bride know the confusion and mayhem that often are part of the plans. I can't help wondering what the reaction of great-grandfather was over a hundred years ago when my grandmother Amanda announced that she too wished to become a bride. This meant that great-grandfather would be hosting a double wedding.

Last summer, two cousins and I were guests of the current residents of the house where the ceremony reported below took place. We were accompanied by an 89 year old aunt and her cousin, age 102. Each is a daughter of one of the brides. In fact, the older woman was born in the house in 1895. The home, in continuous occupancy since its construction in the late 1860's is located in Field Club Estates, off Rochester Road.

**Excerpts from *The Gazette*, Ssturday, March 4,
1893, page 4**

The Social World

Surprise was depicted on the faces of most of the large party of wedding guests gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Groetzinger, Perrysville, Thursday evening when instead of one daughter, Miss Louise Groetzinger, being married to Mr. John King of Keowen, a double ceremony was performed, a younger sister Miss Amanda C. being wedded to Mr. Harry A. English of Pittsburgh at the same time that her sister took on the vows of matrimony. As the strains of the wedding march, exquisitely rendered as a compliment to her young friends by the pastor's wife floated through the house, the former couple entered the large parlors of the hospitable country home followed by Miss Amanda and Mr. English, presumably as maid of honor and best man who did not take the customary positions on either side of Miss Groetzinger and Mr. King,

that omission being explained as the marriage ceremony performed by the Rev. Peter Riffer, pastor of the Perrysville Lutheran Church, proceeded to completion. The true state of affairs, however, was known to the family, but had not leaked out to all their friends and acquaintances.

All the guests assembled partook of the bounteous wedding supper which was served later in the evening, the wedding ceremony having been performed at precisely 7 o'clock. Ere the guests departed the strains of a serenade reached the ears of the merrymakers, it being a not uncommon occurrence when a favorite in that part of Perrysville weds for all the younger boys to serenade the bride and groom in their own noisy way, almost anything that will make a noise being substituted for a musical instrument.

AN INTERESTING OHIO MARRIAGE LICENSE

**Too bad Pennsylvania doesn't have such
interesting licenses**

State of Ohio - Medina County

This may certify that I solemnized the marriage contract between Enock D. Birch and Nancy Van Orman on Sunday the fifth day of October AD 1845 in the public highway in front of my gate with noting but the canopy of heaven to cover them from the storm which was raging with immense fury they stood up in a buggy wagon drawn by a fine black horse ftere the ceremony was over I asked the blessing of God to rest upon them on their journey as the _____? away for all of which I hold your license therefore.

Richard Wagner, Justice of the Peace

From the Medina County Recorder Book. All spelling and punctuation exactly as shown in the book. Thanks to Lissa Powell for sending this.

LIVING IN THE DASH

Submitted by Tom Wiley, NHG member, author unknown

I read of a man who stood to speak
At the funeral of a friend.
He referred to the dates on her tombstone
From the beginning...to the end.
He noted that first came her date of birth
And spoke the following date with tears,
But he said what mattered most of all
Was the dash between those year (1900-1970)

For that dash represents all the time
That she spent alive on earth...
And now only those who loved her
Know what that little line is worth.
For it matters not, how much we own;
The cars...the house...the cash,
What matters is how we live and love
And how we spend our dash.

So think about this long and hard...
Are there things you'd like to change?
For you never know how much time is left,
That can still be rearranged.
If we could just slow down enough
To consider what's true and real,
And always try to understand
The way other people feel.

And be less quick to anger,
And show appreciation more
And love the people in our lives
Like we've never loved before.
If we treat each other with respect,
And more often wear a smile...
Remembering that this special dash
Might only last a little while.

So, when your eulogy's being read
With your life's actions to rehash...
Would you be proud of the things they say
About how you spent your dash?

Genealogy Books

Last summer, shortly after I started working on the family tree for my father's side, I learned about a genealogy written by one of my gr-gr-grandfathers in 1905. Someone on the Internet told me about the book and sent me copies of some pages she had made at Salt Lake City. As I continued my research, again through the help of someone on the Internet, I was able to make contact with a relative from that family line in Ohio. It turned out that he still owns the home built by the father of the man who wrote this book. I had a chance to visit them in Ohio last fall and actually saw a copy of the book. Needless to say, this made me want one even more. I stepped the Internet again. On one of the search sites I found reference to a company that had the book and I could order a copy. It was agony waiting the 10 weeks for it to come, but finally it did. I was very happy with the book. I now have information on three lines of the family that inter-connect. When I received the book I also received several catalogs from the company. They have a large selection of family genealogies in one catalog; American local & county histories, reference books and research aids in another. There are many surnames in the catalog on family genealogies. If you are looking for a possible book on your family, you may want to order a copy of their catalog. Higginson Book Company, 148 Washington Street, PO Box 778, Salem MA 01970. E-mail higginsn@cove.com. Check out their web site at www.higginsonbooks.com.

Hope you find a genealogy of your family.

Donna Booth

QUERIES

Compiled and Edited by Sylvan Kretz, Query Editor

McKNIGHT, Joseph, Ross Twp, Allegheny Co., PA, 1806 patentee of 427 acres in Depreciation Lands, District 3, Douglas Survey, along east border (present day McKnight Road). Census: Ross Twp. 1810, 1820, 1840. 1862 map shows "J. McKnight". **McKNIGHT, John**, Ross Twp., Allegheny Co., PA, Census: Ross Twp. 1810, 1820, 1830, 1840. 1876 map shows "Jno. McKnight" in same area as 1806 patent. **McKNIGHT, Margaret heirs, also Leancer**, Ross Twp., Allegheny Co., PA, 1906 map shows these names in same area as 1806 patent. Contact: **Thomas E. Wiley, 190 Goldsmith Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15237-3642.**

JELINEK, Peter and Elizabeth, Children: **Anna** (1897-1898), **Anna** (7/18/1900), **John** (10/24/1901), Allegheny City or possibly Braddock/McKeesport area, PA. Contact: **Joan Flemming, 7407 W. Cleveland Ave. West Allis, WI 53219.**

NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD OFFICERS FOR NHG

Election of new officers for the 1999-2000 year of NHG will be held in June. Now is your chance to make an on-going contribution to NHG. Consider running for a board position. The positions are President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. If you are interesting in running for a particular board seat, please contact Gary Schlemmer at pioneerbook@junno.com or see him at the meeting. Ballots will be in a future newsletter. Information on each candidate will be in the May newsletter. If you are interested in being a candidate, please submit a brief write up about yourself.

DATING 19TH CENTURY PHOTOGRAPHS

Family Chronicle, March/April, 1999

The first clue to the age of a photograph is the type of process used to create it. The earliest images were the Daguerreotype and Talbotype (Calotype). Daguerre introduced his invention in 1839 in France. Calotypes are fairly uncommon, while Daguerreotypes were produced in the millions.

Photographic paper was very thin in the 1800s so paper prints were pasted to cardboard mounts.

A variety of processes were used to produce paper prints such as salted paper, albumen, carbon, gelatin and collodiam.

Daguerreotype 1839-1860 - Used a polished, silver plated sheet of metal, and is recognized by its mirror-like surface. The image is extremely sharp and detailed. Daguerreotype fell out of favor after 1860.

Ambrotype 1854-1860- The Ambrotype is essentially a glass negative with a black background that makes the image appear positive. It is a cased photo. Invented about 1854, the form lost popularity in the early 1860's.

Tintype 1856-1900 - The tintype was introduced in 1856 and enjoyed widespread popularity until about 1900. The image is produced on a thin metal plate. The emulsion was directly exposed to the camera, without any need for a negative

Caret-d-Visite 1859-1890 - A card mounted photo. Popular from 1860 until the turn of the century. Easily distinguished from other card-mounted photos by its size, typically 2.5 x 4 inches.

NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS

c/o Northland Public Library

300 Cumberland Road

Pittsburgh, PA 15237-4555

FIRST CLASS MAIL

DATED MATERIAL

MAY 18 - "TIPS FOR CREATING AN ARCHIVAL ALBUM"

Debi MacIntyre

ADD PARAGRAPH TO WILL TO PROTECT HISTORICAL RESEARCH MATERIALS

Abstracted from *AntiqueWeek*, March 1, 1999

Most family historians and genealogists are concerned about what will become of their collection of books, manuscripts, etc. acquired during a lifetime of research. Often family are unaware of specific wishes in regard to research materials. There is a simple solution -- have a short paragraph added to your will. Then there is no doubt as to your wishes. The following is a sample paragraph that could be used.

"I direct my executor/executrix to box the following genealogical publications for donation to the (insert genealogical society name) for appropriate disposition/retention for the benefit of family history researchers.

List exactly what is to be donated, i.e.:

- * All family history materials of which I am possessed.
- * Only my library of printed reference books and materials.
- * The unpublished family history manuscript materials on which I was working.

Be sure to let the group know of your request first. Of course, there may be someone in your family who would love to have the materials you have gathered. Their name could be substituted as the recipient of your materials.