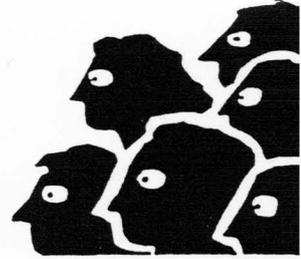


# NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS NEWSLETTER



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

Volume 9, Number 9 - May, 1999

e-mail [pioneerbook@juno.com](mailto:pioneerbook@juno.com)

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

There is change in the air, and I'm looking forward to the next few months to watch the transition. I'm partial to our June 15 program, at which we can hear how others find answers to family research questions; we will also have an opportunity to share, if we wish, our own successes and questions. And I'm especially pleased that very recently I received fresh insights on why we do this genealogy thing.

The rumors that I am up in the air about things is at least partially true, as this is being written on the return flight of a business trip to Seattle. The trip also reunited me with a niece near there, a lovely young lady now on her own and a continent away from her parents. But not really. They are often in touch, and the distance between becomes less important as she sees God's leading in the current family "deployment".

As we talked, she revealed a growing appreciation of extended family and an awareness that she has never met any of her

second and once-removed cousins. Also, her grandparents have located nearby and have established loving bonds and memories. We spoke of her grandfather's memoir, "Of a Boy and His Valley", each chapter a vignette of a specific childhood event or circumstance, and each carefully enwrapped with details of place, ways, and emotions of the times. From his first recycled bicycle to the Watkin's Elixir episode, his people and times become real to us. Now my niece also has many endearing and unusual stories of her own to tell for a future generation. With a little separation in time, she finds that many of those ordinary events are now of interest. Herself a good and spirited writer, perhaps Cami will continue the written tradition.

This was just one of many things we discussed, and it helped to emphasize the vitality of the moment. Our personal genealogy is fun when it emphasizes the living, real people, regardless of their time. It is the fun of discovery and understanding of their hopes and dreams, foibles, and fancies. And it is especially important when we can make it happen in person! This brief visit was priceless.

Join us on June 15 as I begin to come in for a landing from this high flight of the last two years.

Let's talk about how to find our "real people" ancestors and relatives, what's on our minds about the hobby, and where we can go from here. Don't be up in the air - be there!

Gary

### **WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET**

**Tues, June 1 - 7:30 PM NHG Board Meeting,** cafeteria, Passavant Hospital. Everyone welcome to attend.

**Tues, June 15 - 7:00 PM - Regular NHG Meeting**  
- "Everything You Always Wanted To Know About Genealogy But Were Afraid To Ask" (roundtable discussion/sharing)

**June 25-26 - WPGS 25th Anniversary Conference** - Sheraton Station Square. NHG will host the Friday luncheon. To help, contact Melinda Merriman (412)724-4226.

**Sun., June 6 - The First Annual Pittsburgh Civil War Soldier's Fair** - West Park in front of the National Aviary, Pittsburgh. - See writeup about the program on page 3.

### **NHG PICNIC JULY 18, 1999 FLAGSTAFF GROVE**

On Sunday, 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 or other food contribution. A sign-up sheet will be available at the May and June meetings. Mark this day on your calendar!

### **FIRST FAMILIES OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA**

There is still time to send in your information on First Family membership. We will be listing all of the NHG members who have been accepted as Charter Members of First Families of Western PA in the June issue. If you have been accepted into any other First Families group or any other lineage society, please send along that information too.

Send your information to the attention of the Editor, NHG at the address on the first page. All submissions must be received by **May 31**.

### **MEMBER'S QUERY ISSUE**

The June issue of the newsletter will feature a Member's Query section. There is still time to submit your queries for inclusion in this issue. Our newsletter goes to genealogy organizations, libraries and individuals all over the US and even Canada. Here is your chance to get your query out to a large number of people. Who knows, you may just find that piece of information you need to break a hole in that stone wall facing you.

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS MAY 31, 1999.** Queries may be sent to NHG, attention: Editor at the address on the front or by e-mail to the Editor at [DJBooth@worldnet.att.net](mailto:DJBooth@worldnet.att.net).

### **WANTED**

Consider sharing your research stories with the other members of NHG. Submit your stories to the Editor, at the address on the front page. This newsletter is **for** and **about** NHG members. Submit your stories today.

**THE FIRST ANNUAL PITTSBURGH  
CIVIL WAR SOLDIER'S FAIR**

**Sunday, June 6, 1999**

**10:00 am - 5:00 pm**

**West Park in front of the National Aviary**

**6:00 pm - 9:00 pm**

**An Evening of Remembrance**

**In The Rose Garden**

**All proceeds benefit the Allegheny City  
Society's Monument Preservation Fund**

On June 6, the grounds of the National Aviary and the surrounding West Park will be turned back in time to commemorate the 135th Anniversary of the Pittsburgh Sanitary Fair of 1864. This event is in honor of the men and women who supported the Union troops.

The Sanitary Fairs began in 1863 as an effort to raise money to buy medical supplies and improve the conditions of the troops. The first was a small fair in Chicago. Women who remained at home would not forget their loved ones fighting to preserve the union. The mothers and daughters, the sisters and wives of the soldiers fought a war against the disease and hunger in the Civil War hospitals. Their battles were not fought with bullets, swords, or cannon, but with nosegays, canned fruit and crafts. Their objective was to raise money for medical supplies, medical care, and food for those wounded in the killing fields. These women were triumphant.

Join in this celebration and honor the accomplishments of these women who raised more than \$300,000 for the care of Union troops in 1864.

The daytime activities are from 10:00 am - 4:30 pm and are free and open to the public. There is a donation of \$15.00 per person for the evening activities.. For more information/reservations call: (412) 321-4502.

**Daytime Activities**

Military Encampment - reenactors from various W. PA units will demonstrate basic trains and military drills of the Civil War soldiers.

Photographic image display of the original 1864 Sanitary Fair held in Allegheny City, PA

Homing Pigeons - The use of carrier pigeons in battlefield communication

Ladies will portray the typical woman of 1864

**Daytime Speakers**

Van Beck Hall - "The Industrial Climate of the Civil War and It's Effects on the Pittsburgh Area "

Allan Becer - "An Appalling Disaster, The Allegheny Arsenal and The Explosion of 1862"

David Vargo - "Civilian Men's Clothing of the Civil War Era "

William May - "A Visit From a Civil War Soldier "

Dr. Carey Vinson - "Battlefield Medicine "

William J. McLaughlin - "The GAR "

All speaker presentations will take place in the National Aviary Rose Garden Tent.

**Evening Activities**

The Acoustic Shadows of the Blue and Gray and Presentation by Jean Kanouff: "Fashions Through the Years "

This is a special event to benefit The Allegheny City Society Monument Fund to restore the Soldier's Monument and The Hampton Battery Monument.

## BEGINNER'S CORNER

*The Family Tree*, October/November, 1998  
(Thanks to Melinda Merriman for submitting this information)

### 1920 Census Facts

Enumerations of the 1920 Federal Census began 2 January 1920 and statistics were to reflect an individual's status on that date even if circumstances changed between that date and the actual date the enumerator took the data. Thus a birth occurring during this space of time should not be recorded and a person who died likewise should be recorded as part of the census.

Enumeration in rural areas was to be done in 30 days and areas of 2,500 population or more were allowed two weeks. However, influenza epidemics and severe winter weather caused delays.

The 1910 census included information on unemployment, Union or Confederate military service, number of children, duration of marriage - which is not on the 1920 form.

But, 1920 included the year of naturalization and native tongue. It was also asked arrival and naturalization status for each foreign born person and asked about the year of naturalization for those who became citizens. NA = Naturalized; PA = Declaration filed; AL = Alien; NR = Not reported. The year of naturalization will be a welcome clue in searching for those records.

Because the 1920 census was taken soon after WWI, boundary modifications in Europe left individuals uncertain about how to identify their national origins. Enumerators were instructed to spell out the names of the city, state, province or region of any declaring they or their parents had been born in Germany, Austria-Hungary, Russia

or Turkey. Servicemen were treated as residents of their duty posts and schedules and a Soundex Index for overseas military and naval forces is available. All states have a Soundex Index which makes this census a valuable research tool.

Separate Indian population schedules were not taken and natives were enumerated with the general population schedules. Congress authorized all non-population schedules destroyed, but agricultural schedules for Puerto Rico, Hawaii, Guam, McLean, (IL), Jackson (MI), Carbon (MT), Santa Fe (NM) and Wilson (TN) survived.

For additional information contact **NARA, Civil Reference Branch, NNRC, Washington, DC 20408**. Call 202-501-5395.

### VILLAGE & HAMLET LOCATIONS

Thanks to Bernice Broniecki for sending along this information.

If you have searched and searched but have had no luck in locating hamlets and villages of your ancestors, try contacting the Geography and Maps Division of The Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540-4650. After unsuccessfully searching old maps for several years, I contacted the LOC regarding the location of two hamlets in Poland. The turnaround time was three weeks and I received copies of five maps with the longitude and latitude of each hamlet listed on the back. Included was the Polish, Lithuanian and Cyrillic spelling of one of the hamlets. The SASE that I had sent with my request was returned unused and the maps were complimentary. This certainly has been a great find for me!

**Genealogists don't die, they just lose their census.**

## **NHG MEMBER'S STORY**

Submitted by Billie May Bowron, Black Hawk, SD

### **McGOWAN-JONES**

Joseph Jones, son of Joseph and Maggie (Moran) Jones, was born in 1781 in or near Pittsburgh, PA. Joseph married Mary Ann McGowan. Mary Ann was born in or near Rocky Point or Rocky Grove, PA in 1783. We have no record of her parents, just that they were from Scotland. We don't know if she had brothers or sisters. Joseph and Mary Ann lived in or near Harrisburg, PA and that is where all of their children were born. They were the parents of nine children. We do not have a list of ages, only the names, so we do not know if we are listing them in order of birth. We do know that Joseph was the last born child.

There were two daughters, Nancy and Barbara. There is no record of Barbara. But the story is told that Nancy married Sy Stickler, and one day while she was grinding coffee at a wall coffee grinder, Sy hit her and killed her. The he hung her body from the rafters to make it look like suicide. Then he disappeared and was never hear from again.

There were seven sons - - Samuel was a farmer and preacher; William was a trader, a buyer and seller and a farmer; Jesse = there is no record of him; Jonathan was a shoemaker, he traveled from town to town and home to home making new shoes and repairing old ones; James was a farmer; Isaac - have a record of him in his mother's will; Joseph was a farmer, an autioneer in Iowa and PA and raised horses for the Union Army.

Have no record of how long Joseph lived or where he died, but his wife Mary Ann died 20 April, 1832 at the age of 49 in Lewisburg, PA.

## **PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE**

***Genealogical Encyclopedia of the Colonial Americas*** by Christina K. Schaefer. A complete digest of the records of all the countries of the Western Hemisphere. Ms. Schaefer has undertaken a sysematic examination of the records to show where to find the most important genealogical records of the period and how to access them. The scope of the work covers the period of colonial history from the beginning of European colonization in the Western Hemisphere up to the time of the American Revolution.

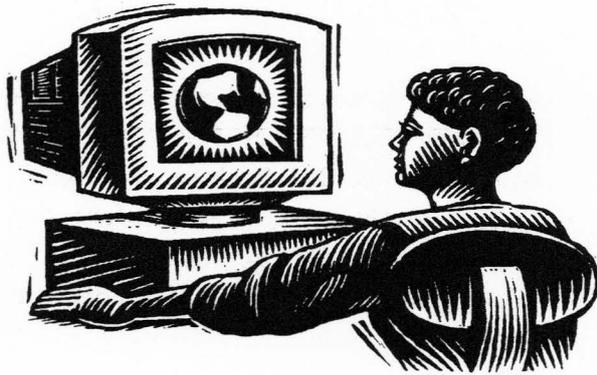
***Reading Early American Handwriting***, by Kip Sperry. This book is designed to teach you how to read and understand the handwriting found in documents commonly used in genealogical research. It explains techniques for reading early American documents, provides samples of alphabets and letter forms, and defines terms and abbreviations commonly used in early American documents such as wills, deeds and church records.

***Ancestral Trails*** by Mark D. Herber. The Complete Guide to British Genealogy and Family History guides the researcher through the substantial British archives, gives a detailed view of the records and the published sources available.

The above publications are available from Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc. 1001 N. Calvert St., Baltimore, MD 21202

***Pioneer Cemeteries of Hampton Township, Allegheny County, PA***

published by North Hills Genealogists



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

## WEB WANDERINGS

<http://vitalrec.com/index.html>

Vital Records - US

[www.familysearch.com](http://www.familysearch.com)

LDS website - This is a beta test site and is not always available, but it already has a lot of information.

[www.daddezio.com/cemetery](http://www.daddezio.com/cemetery)

Cemetery Junction

[members.xoom.com/follesdal/](http://members.xoom.com/follesdal/)

Ancestors from Norway

[www.familyreunion.com](http://www.familyreunion.com)

Source for people planning a family reunion. The site has two main areas: Reunion Calendar and Resource Guide

### Passenger Lists

The January/February, 1999 issue of Everton's *Genealogical Helper* magazine has three pages of websites which have passenger lists for many ships starting in 1700.

[www.pastconnect.com](http://www.pastconnect.com)

Past Connections

This website works to reunite families with keepsakes, documents, photos and other memorabilia from their past.

## GENEALOGY SOFTWARE

The following are some of the genealogy software programs currently on the market. While this is not a comprehensive list, it does include the most common programs.

### REUNION 6.02

Leister Productions

<http://www.LeisterPro.com>

### ULTIMATE FAMILY TREE

Palladium Interactive

<http://www.uftree.com>

### THE MASTER GENEALOGIST

Wholly Genes

<http://www.whollygenes.com>

### FAMILY TREEMAKER

Broderbund Software, Inc.

<http://www.familytreemaker.com>

### GENERATIONS

Sierra On-Line

<http://www.sierra.com>

If you have a favorite website or one that you have found to be very helpful in your research, please share it with the other NHG members. If you are interested in websites for specific areas or specific topics, please let us know and we will try to find some resources for you.

## ROOTSWEB

The RootswEB is one of the best sites for genealogy research on the Internet. It is able to provide the websites and mailing lists only through the support of its members. Consider supporting RootswEB so that it can continue to be the great genealogy resource available to all of us searching for our roots.

## **TO EXPLAIN THE Mac, Mc, M'**

from *The Family Tree*, October/November, 1998

"Mac", Gaelic for "son" is the most common element of Scottish surnames. "Mc" is always an abbreviation of "Mac". It also used to be abbreviated as "M," although this spelling is now not common. In an early book on Highland music, the author spelled his own name three different ways on the first two pages. Blacks *The Surnames of Scotland* and MacLysaght's *The Surnames of Ireland*, both treat "Mac" the same way - as the only and original spelling. The same approach is used here.

"Mac is always considered an addition to a name. Before there was a "Donald's Son" there was a "Donald". In Scotland, names beginning with "Mac" are traditionally alphabetized under the first letter of the second name - "MacAlister" under "A", "MacZink" under "Z".

After 1745, to avoid reprisals, many Scots anglicized their names by dropping the "Mac". They sometimes did so as they emigrated. "MacBall" simply became "Ball". Nova Scotia's Kinzie River was settled by the Mac Kenzies.

"Mac" takes a variety of pronunciations. In Islay Gaelic, "Mac" is pronounced like "mek". In the United States, it can be heard as "mick". Preceding a "k" or "g" sound, the final "K" of "Mac" disappears. It became the practice in the south of Scotland to write two words as one (MacHan as Machan) The "K" sound of "Mac" is duplicated and attached to the front of a following word if it begins with a vowel such as "MacAsh" to "MacCash". This may explain why some "MacArthurs" hear themselves called "MacCarthers". If the second name begins with a "k" or "g", creating two "k" sounds together, one may disappear ("MacKintosh" to Macintosh").

## **CEMETERY READINGS**

NHG has started the spring readings for the next volume of *Pioneer Cemeteries*. Currently the Cross Road Cemetery is being read. Consider helping with the readings. Contact Ginny Skander at 443-1460 for more information.

## **NHG MEETING PROGRAMS**

Is there a specific topic you would like to see as a program at a future NHG meeting? Is there a presentation you could make at one of the meetings? Do you know of a speaker that you feel would have an interesting program to present? If so, please forward your suggestions to Melinda Merriman, Program Chairman. The Board tries to arrange programs that are informative and contribute to genealogical research. Input from the members on the type of programs they want to see are appreciated. NHG is your organization - help make it even better by contributing program ideas.

## **SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS**

NHG membership year runs from August - June of each year. A subscription is \$12.00 per year for 10 issues of the Newsletter. Renew your subscription now (before you go on vacation and forget) so you don't miss any issues of the newsletter. Use the renewal form on Page 9.

**When McKnight Road was completed nearly 60 years ago, there was only one commercial establishment along it, a dairy store at the Siebert Road Intersection.**

from *Vignettes* column by Robert VanAtta, Tribune-Review,  
Sunday, May 9, 1999

## BOARD ELECTIONS

### PRESIDENT:

**SYLVAN KRETZ** - Although Sylvan is a relative newcomer to the North Hills Genealogists, he has served as the vice-president for the past year. He has also been the Query Editor and has participated in the cemetery reading efforts. Sylvan is a retired Civil Engineer, and enjoys (besides genealogy) wood carving and gardening. He and his wife reside in Perrysville.

### VICE PRESIDENT

**VIRGINIA SKANDER** - Ginny has served as President of NHG and is currently Chairman of the NHG Cemetery Reading Committee. She has been doing genealogy since 1989.

### TREASURER

**PATSI LEE** - Patsi lives in Ohio Township with her husband Jeff and their two children. They have been in Pittsburgh 15 years. North Carolina is her place of origin. Genealogy has been an interest of her's since high school but during the last several years she has become more serious in her quest. She has been a member of NHG for four years. She has been our Treasurer for the last year. Other hobbies include cross stitch and quilting.

### SECRETARY

**SHIRLEY KUNTZ** - Shirley has been a member of NHG since 1996. She has been researching her family for 5 years now, mostly in Northampton County, PA and New Jersey. She is active in WPGS as New Membership Mailing Chairman and on the 25th Anniversary Conference Committee.

Election of new Board officers for 1999-2000 will be held in June, 1999. The elected officers will serve from August, 1999 through June 2000. Each NHG member is entitled to one vote. On page 9 is a ballot for voting for the new officers. Return your ballot by the June 15 meeting or by mail to the address on the front page. **All ballots must be received by June 15.**

## TRIP TO ALLEN COUNTY LIBRARY FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

The Wheeling Area Genealogical Society will sponsor a trip to Allen County Public Library on July 6-8, 1999. The public is invited. For more information contact: Mary E. Staley 740-633-5121. or at MStaley206@aol.com

## THE FAMILY TREE

I think that I shall never see,  
A thing so involved as a family tree.  
A tree whose myriad bows are spread  
To include the living as well as the dead.  
A tree whose roots are imbedded deep,  
Before the sap begins to creep.  
A tree whose branches multiply  
Many times before did I  
Though too complex for a being like me,  
I'm glad I'm part of a  
Family  
Tree

Found on Maggie\_Ohio web page

**SUBSCRIPTION FORM**  
**NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Is this a new address? Please advise NHG of any change in address or phone.*

**BALLOT FOR THE NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS**

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Each member of NHG is entitled to one vote for the election of officers. Officers elected will serve from August, 1999 to July, 2000. All ballots must be received by NHG no later than **June 15, 1999**. Return your ballot at the meeting or by mail at the address on the front of the newsletter. Vote for one candidate per office.

President

Sylvin Kretz \_\_\_\_\_

Write In: \_\_\_\_\_

Vice President

Virginia Skander \_\_\_\_\_

Write In: \_\_\_\_\_

Treasurer

Patsi Lee \_\_\_\_\_

Write In: \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary

Shirley Kuntz \_\_\_\_\_

Write In: \_\_\_\_\_

# **NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS**

**C/O Northland Public Library**

**300 Cumberland Road**

**Pittsburgh, PA 15237-4555**

## **FIRST CLASS MAIL**

### **DATED MATERIAL**

**June 15 - EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT  
GENEALOGY BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK  
(ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION)**

#### **LOCATING PASSPORTS**

from the *Rocky Mountain Buckeye*, Vol. X, Number 6,  
February/March, 1999

The National Archives houses passport applications from 1791 to 1905. Although passports were not required at that time, people obtained them to prevent themselves from being drafted into military service. Sometimes they are simple letters of request, but, sometimes other papers were filed with them such as naturalization papers. The application could include such information as name, residence, age, names of family members traveling with them, court of naturalization, arrival date in U.S., port of entry and vessel. For passports before 1906 write to: Diplomatic Records Branch, National

Archives, Rm. SE, Washington, DC 20524. For those after 1906, write to Passport Services, Research & Liaison Branch, Rm. 316, 1425 K St. NW, Washington, DC. 20524.

#### **WANTED**

We need a Query Editor starting in August. The Query Editor received the queries submitted to the Newsletter and prepares them for publication in the Newsletter. If you are interested in being the Query Editor, please contact NHG at the address on the front.