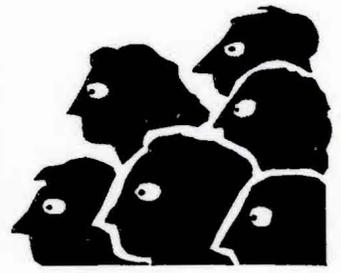


NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS NEWSLETTER



c/o Northland Public Library, 300 Cumberland Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237-5455

Volume 3 - Number 2 - September 1992

President: James G. Rickey
Vice President: Tom Wiley

Treasurer: Steph Valentine
Rec. Secretary: Cynthia Howerter

Publicity: Connie Foley
Editor: Elissa Scalise Powell

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope you had success in your genealogical endeavors in the past month. Upcoming events: In addition to an interesting speaker on Irish genealogy in October and a round table in November where you will have an opportunity to ask questions and inform other members of some of your activities, we have planned several field trips. Others are still in the planning stages. We hope you can attend all of our meetings and get out for one or more of our trips.

We have held our meetings in Northland Library for several years and have always benefited from the very helpful staff. We are able to use our meeting room on a monthly basis without any charge to our group. On October 20, 21, 22, 27, and 28, Northland Library will be conducting a fund raising effort. Volunteers will be given a free dinner, followed by their participating in a phoneathon from 6:30 to 9 P.M. If you have a free night, please consider donating it to the library. For further information please contact Patricia McCarthy at 366-8100. Even if you cannot participate as a phone volunteer, consider making a donation to the library. Many employers will match employee contributions for such donations.

I hope you all had a chance to peruse our display on the lower level of Northland Library in the latter half of August. I want to thank Cynthia Howerter, Elissa Powell, Ruth Grom, Verna Swint, and Julia Tauson for setting up some interesting items in an informative setting for the display.

Looking forward to seeing you at our next meeting. - J.R.

QUERIES

HARGROVE: Requesting information from anyone with this name or descendants for a world-wide study, covering all time periods. I have compiled all United Kingdom births, marriages, deaths, wills, etc. Information and assistance is given free with a self-addressed envelope (No stamps! since I am near Paris.) Write to Peter Orton, 22 rue des Pommiers, 92140 Clamart, FRANCE.

REYNOLDS: The Reynolds Family Association encompasses any Reynolds family, regardless of when they may have come to America. They are producing an 800-page book in honor of the 100th anniversary of their founding. Among English source records, census and military records, the genealogies covered are:

- Christopher Reynolds of Virginia, 1622
- Robert Reynolds of Boston, 1630
- John Reynolds of Watertown, 1634
- James Reynolds of Rhode Island, 1643
- John Reynolds of Stonington, CT, 1650
- John Reynolds of Norwich, CT, 1650
- Thomas Reynolds of York Co., VA, 1652
- John Reynolds of Wethersfield, CT, 1660
- Henry Reynolds of Pennsylvania, 1676
- Electious Reynolds of Massachusetts, 1686
- John Reynolds of Delaware, 1700
- John Reynolds of Washington Co., MD, 1725

For more information, write Sybil R. Taylor, Vice President for Publications, 4004 Javins Drive, Alexandria, VA 22310

SCOTTISH INTEREST GROUP, WPGS, SURNAME LIST: Maxwell, Cunningham, Wardrop, Donald, Stewart, Reid, McBrayer, Leeper, Marshall, Swan, Armstrong, Neal, Cochran, Verner, Bruce, Dalzell, McNaughton, Campbell, Black, McCrum, Fowler, Gibson, Wilson, Chambers, Faulds, Brown, Wilson, Keddie, Mitchell, Gorden (Gordon), Huggins, Nugent, Farr, Geddes, Richardson, MacDonald, Forrester, McAdow, McDonald, Burns, Harris, Garnsey, Phillips, Smith, Naismith, Hunter, Patterson, McVake (McVicker), McMunn, McWilliams. Contact David McMunn (364-1816) for more information on the Scottish Interest Group.

GEAR, GEARE, GEER, GEERE, GERE, GEERS, etc.: Seek correspondence on above surnames. Ginger August, 32 Stetson Way, Princeton, NJ 08540

BOWMAN, GRAVATT, RUNYON, RICE, KEETLEY: All found in Mercer County, PA. Elissa Powell, 720 Highpoint Dr., Wexford, PA 15090

IMMIGRANT SHIPS' PICTURES

Ever wish you could see a picture of the sailing vessel or steamship your ancestor came to America on? The quest for such a picture of course starts with finding your ancestor's name on the passenger list of a ship. Then according to the time period, type of vessel, and location you may want to try the following repositories.

Visiting or writing a good library or museum is a good step in the right direction to finding out more about your ancestor's ocean transportation. In addition to books devoted to packet ships, early steam, transatlantic travel, etc., the following partial list of places have large collections of painting of old vessels. In the era of packet ships, it was very common for the master (captain) of the vessel to commission a painting of his vessel in a foreign port to send back to the owners. This custom probably continued until much later.

Maine Maritime Museum in Bath, Maine

Peabody Museum, East India Square, Salem, MA 01970,
Phone: (508) 745-1876 (mainly pre-1850 sailing vessels)

New Bedford Whaling Museum in New Bedford, MA

Essex Institute in Salem, MA (more commercial ships than passenger, pre-1900)

Mariners' Museum Library, Newport News, Virginia 23606,
Phone: (804) 595-0368

Mystic Seaport Museum, Blunt White Library, Mystic, CT
06355, Phone: (203) 572-0711

STEAMSHIPS

Steamship Historical Society of America, University of Baltimore, Langsdale Library, 1420 Maryland Ave., Baltimore, MD 21201 Phone: (410) 625-3134, best results on Weds. or Thursday.

They have an excellent collection (about 100,000) of photos, engravings and drawings of steamships from the 1830's to the 20th century but not sail ships. So if your ancestor came later they will likely have a photo of it. The current charges for a copy of the picture for personal use only (not for publication) are:

For 3 1/2 x 5 1/2; 4 x 5 or 5 x 7 each is \$8.00. An 8 x 10 is \$10 and an 11 x 14 is \$12.00. Prices include postage and handling. Make checks payable to University of Baltimore Education Foundation.

Which smaller size is done no doubt depends on the size of the original negative. If no negative already exists, there is an extra \$7 charge for making a negative which the Library keeps. If lots of research is required to find a photo then research charges apply, but they do own hundreds of

photos so your chances are good of locating one without major research. The usual turnaround time is 2 to 3 months. They get a lot busier in the fall since this does make an unique Christmas gift.

OTHER HINTS

Please note that in the first half of the 18th century, England was trying to control trade with the Colonies. All vessels bound for the Colonies were required to stop at a British port before they could stop at a colonial port. For the voyages originating in Europe, the English ports of Cowes and Deal were two of the more common places.

The newspapers in port cities often listed the names of ships that docked that day, and frequently gave summaries of the voyage, e.g. weather, other ships encountered en route, date of sailing, other ports. The cargo, both goods and sometimes names of important people on board (NOT steerage passengers) are sometimes also listed. For example, in the New York Herald for 8 April 1847, the ship *Saint George* is said to have set sail from Liverpool on 23rd February with 337 steerage passengers and experienced severe weather on the passage. Fuller accounts of the "severe weather" are given under other ships that arrived that day from England: the packet ship *Sir Robert Peel* on "March 7, lat 44 10, long 42 30, experienced a violent hurricane from the northwest for 6 hours, varying from NW to west, lost main topsail, mainsail and other sails blown to pieces." The *Sir Robert Peel's* account also mentions sighting other ships and describes the damage done to them by the storm and the number of deaths on some of these ships, i.e. "much sickness on board the ship *Hottinger*, and 25 deaths among the passengers."

Another interesting angle is to try to find advertisements for the ship that brought your immigrant ancestor to the U.S. At the Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies in Philadelphia, which specializes in preserving artifacts and documents related to immigrants of the 19th and 20th centuries in particular, an exhibit had a copy of a bill which advertised the ship *Veloce* sailing from Palermo, Italy. To find such an artifact that relates to your ancestor or to find the actual advertisement of the voyage of your ancestor gives genealogy another whole dimension.

The following are the actual facilities through which arriving immigrants passed if they came in through New York City:

Castle Garden: 1 Aug 1855 to mid-April 1890

Barge Office: mid-April 1890 to 31 Dec 1891

Ellis Island: 1 Jan 1892 to 13 Jun 1897 (fire on 13 Jun 1897 destroyed first Ellis Island facility)

Barge Office: 14 Jun 1897 to 16 Dec 1900

Ellis Island: 17 Dec 1900 to late 1954

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SOME BOOKS

The following is a list of ships (not passengers): *Morton Allan Directory of European Passenger Steamship Arrivals for the years 1890 to 1930 at the Port of New York and for the years 1904 - 1926 at the Ports of New York, Philadelphia, Boston and Baltimore*. Available through Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, MD (ISBN 0-8063-0830.3). Library of Congress Number 78-65163.

They Came in Ships by John P. Colletta, published by Ancestry (P.O. Box 476, Salt Lake City, UT 84110 and costs about \$6.00) is an interesting guide to researching immigrant ancestors. It contains lots of suggestions on researching Passenger Lists of various kinds, has a pretty good Bibliography, and outlines a 4-step research procedure for finding the name of the ship on which your ancestor arrived. It also lists sources for pictures of the ships that might have carried immigrant ancestors to the U.S. One of his suggested sources is the book *Ships of Our Ancestors* by Michael J. Anuta (Library of Congress call # VM381.A58 1983). He says it contains "880 photos of ocean liners that brought our ancestors to the United States, 1819-1960."

Passenger and Immigration Lists Bibliography, 1538 - 1900: Being a Guide to Published Lists of Arrivals in the United States and Canada edited by P. William Filby. 2d ed. Detroit, Mich.: Gale Research Co., c1988.

Passenger and Immigration Lists Index: A Guide to Published Arrival Records of About 500,000 Passengers who came to the United States and Canada in the Seventeenth, Eighteenth, and Nineteenth Centuries edited by P. William Filby, 1st ed., Detroit, Mich.: Gale Research Co., c1981.

Germans to America: Lists of Passengers Arriving at U.S. Ports edited by Ira A. Glazier and P. William Filby. Wilmington, Del.: Scholarly Resources, c1988 - ongoing.

NORTH HILLS HISTORY ROOM AND BLACKSMITH SHOP

Joe Bullick, who was our speaker in May, has set up a working blacksmith shop at 9973 Old Perry Highway, Wexford (near St. Alexis Parish). The shop is open Saturdays from 9 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. Drop by and watch a blacksmith as he might have worked a hundred years ago. In late September or early October Joe expects to open a North Hills Local History Room at the Bradford Woods Elementary School. As of now, it is expected that the history room will be open on Sundays. More information as it becomes available.

BEAVER COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

From their brochure:

Purpose: The purpose of the Genealogical Society is to seek out and preserve information about the families, past and present, of Beaver County; and to help its members obtain the information they need to document their family heritage, even if it extends beyond the bounds of the county.

Membership: \$10.00 per year, including subscription to "Gleanings". Membership year is from July to June. Checks should be sent to Maureen Shumski, Treasurer, 637 Fezel Road, Freedom, PA 15042.

Business Meetings: Are held the first Monday of each month at 5:30 PM in the basement community room, Carnegie Free Library, Beaver Falls. When the first Monday is an official holiday, the meeting shall be the second Monday of the month.

Free Classes: Open to the public are held at the above location following the business meeting.

Help Sessions: Scheduled conferences with trained genealogists are held the second Monday of each month at the Research Library. These are free to members; and the first 3 are free to non members. Call the Research Library for an appointment.

"Gleanings": Is the quarterly magazine of the Society, dedicated to publication of information of interest to those researching families who resided in Beaver County. Mailed in Sept., Dec., March and June. Back issues are for sale at the Research Library.

Queries: The Society will publish queries of members free in the "Gleanings". The fee for non members is \$3.00 per query. The editor reserves the right to reject any query if it is deemed inappropriate.

Special Services: The society is willing to copy, without charge, genealogical records held by private individuals, providing one copy to the owner and donating the other to the Research Library. This includes the Records of churches, cemeteries, funeral directors, magistrates, etc. The original records will be returned to the owner. The officers of the Society will determine whether the records are appropriate for copying.

GENEALOGY SOCIETIES PLEASE NOTE

If you would like your society featured in our newsletter, please send information to the editor at the address on the front page. We would like our members to be aware of other groups that may be helpful to their own research.

LOCATING MISSING PEOPLE

from the National Genealogy Bulletin Board, Msg. #3215

The Veterans Administration

The Veterans Administration will forward letters to the last known address of veterans. Write the veterans full name and SSN on a sealed stamped envelope, and prepare a fact sheet with additional information to help identify the person such as date of birth, military service, periods of service, etc. Place in another envelope with your return address and mail to any VA Regional Office. Check your telephone book for the address.

There are over 30 million veterans. Most former, retired and some current service members have applied to VA for benefits such as educational allowance, medical care, disability, pension payments and home loans. And as a result have their addresses on file with the VA. There is no fee for this service. Additionally, the following office will check their automated computer files and if adequate identifying information is given, they will provide:

- (1) Blind mailings (as mentioned above)
- (2) VA File number (which may be the SSN or Service Number) of the veteran and the VA regional Office that has their VA file
- (3) If the veteran is deceased, they will provide that information and date of death. There is a \$2.00 fee for each name researched and they can research rosters or individual names. Here is the address if you want that service:

Department of Veterans Affairs
Administrative Services Staff, 203 C I
Bureau of Veterans Benefits
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20420

Colleges, Universities, and Alumni Associations

The Privacy Act of 1974 allows schools to release "directory information" to the public without the consent of the student. A student may request that all or part of this information be withheld from the public by making a written request to do so. "Directory information" is defined by the Privacy Act as name, social security number, current address, telephone listing, major, date, place of birth, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, previous education agencies, institutions attended and student parking information. Many active duty military personnel attend colleges and universities on or near their military installations. A large number of former members of the military attend college after their release from the Armed Forces. Check with college registrars, main and college libraries to get information. Alumni associations may exist even if the school does not.

Military Records of Present, Former and Retired Military Members

Limited information from personnel records is available to anyone. The information which can be provided under the Freedom of Information Act (some of this information pertains to members on Active duty or those in the reserves and national guard) includes: rank/grade; name; duty status; date of rank/grade; service number; dependents (including name, sex and age); gross salary; geographical locations of duty assignments; future assignments (approved); unit or office telephone number; source of commission (officers); military/civilian education level; promotion sequence number; awards and decoration; official photograph and records of court-martial trials (unless classified). The place of birth, date of and location of death and the place of burial of deceased veterans can also be released. Complete personnel and health records are available to former members of their next of kin.

Because of the Privacy Act the general public will not be provided medical information, SSN, or present address. To obtain records or particular information, send a copy of standard form 180 "Request Pertaining to Military Records" (form is available from most veterans organizations or military installations.) You can make a photo copy of the form and use photo copies to fill out if you have more than one inquiry to make. Includes as much information about the veteran as you can. (*You must state on form 180 if you are requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act*) There is no charge to former service members or their next of kin; however, others must pay a nominal fee for research and photo copying. Read and prepare the form carefully and mail to the appropriate address on the form. A reply can take from one to six months.

The United States Post Office

If you know the former address of the person you are looking for, you may find out their new one from the post office. Go to any post office, but preferably to the one they received their mail from and ask for a "Freedom of Information" request form. Fill out this form and the post office will mail you the person's new address if a change of address has been submitted and it is not over 18 months old. The cost of this service is only \$1.00 and well worth the time and cost involved. If the person has a post office box they will not give you their home address if the box is for personal use (but will give it to law enforcement officials and by court order). If the box is for business use, the post office will give you the name, address and telephone number of the renter. You may also mail a letter to the person you are seeking at his last known address; if you write on the lower edge of the envelope "ADDRESS

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CORRECTION REQUESTED" the post office will send you a copy of the change of address card or a photocopy of your letter with the forwarding address on it. You may also add "DO NOT FORWARD" and the letter will be returned to you and they will provide you with the individuals new address. The 18 month rule applies here also. There is a fee of 30 cents. You might want to use this method when you forward letters through the World Wide Locators, Base Locators, VA and Social Security Administration and you may find the person's actual address in this manner.

Driver's License or Motor Vehicle Registration

Most people have a driver's license and own a car. You can obtain their address by contacting the driver's license and/or motor vehicle department of the issuing state. Each charge a fee, usually 2-10 dollars. You can get the addresses of DMV and driver's license offices in most main public libraries. An easy and reliable way to have a drivers record of vehicle record search made is by contacting:

Vehicle Operator Searches
P.O. Box 15334
Sacramento, CA 95851-1334

They charge \$10.00 for each search per state. This company will also provide the last known address on anyone who has ever purchased anything on credit. For details more details: 800-654-3521, outside CA; 800-334-0660, CA only.

BEGINNERS CORNER

Q: When I send a letter to a relative or to a county courthouse, how long should I wait for a reply?

A: Whenever you send a letter out you should first record the date sent, the addressee's address, subject of your letter, and any money sent. You can use forms found through various sources or develop your own system in a notebook, as long as you record the above information. Leave room for a date of answer, refund (if any), results of the quest including certificate number, and if any follow-up is needed. With the above format you can quickly identify the people who are slow to get back to you. Perhaps you did not supply a Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope and they do not reply without one. Or an old Aunt cannot write - give her a phone call as a follow-up. Sending another note of inquiry (with SASE) will probably get you some response. The amount of time to wait before a second inquiry depends on what type of source you would like to reply. Federal government offices can take up to 4 months or more. County offices can reply as fast as a week or as long as 2 months or more. Relatives may call you that night or never write back. Use your discretion when it comes to patience vs. prompting.

THE HOMESTEAD STRIKE

From *It Happened in Pennsylvania* by Arthur D. Graeff, Great Britain: John C. Winston Co., 1947

The general public is always the judge in the turbulent disputes between organized labor and organized management. Labor's chief weapon in these controversies is the strike or the treat to strike. Industry has, at various times, used the lockout or the threat of it, as a weapon against the demands of labor unions. Neither side can win a clear-cut victory in these contests unless the sympathy of the public is enlisted. When the contending parties resort to violence, they usually alienate public sympathy.

One of the most violent conflicts in American labor history took place in Homestead, Pennsylvania, in 1892. In this instance both sides of the controversy took violent measures, and both sides lost.

The Homestead mills of the great Carnegie Steel Company employed nearly four thousand workmen in 1892. In 1889 the unionized workers in the mill had agreed upon the terms of a contract which was to extend for three years, expiring on June 30, 1892. When the time came to negotiate a new contract, Andrew Carnegie was in Scotland, having left the business in the care of his chief assistant, Henry Clay Frick, chairman of Carnegie Brothers and Company.

As negotiations for a new contract go underway, it became evident that the company wanted to reduce the rate of pay for piecework from thirty-six to twenty-two dollars per ton of steel ingots manufactured. On the surface this appears to have been a drastic reduction in wages for workmen. Since the installation of new machinery during this period meant that the men could double their production, it followed that the employees would receive forty-four dollars per unit as compared with the thirty-six paid under the old agreement.

The employees did not reason this way, however. They claimed that the new wage rate was an actual reduction for them. It is true that the men had profited greatly by the increased efficiency of the plant, and the rate of thirty-six dollars per unit had actually become seventy-two dollars with the new machinery.

The owners of the company argued that the workers were demanding all off the profits resulting from the new machinery and that they were contributing no more labor than they had before the changes were made. And there were other points of disagreement between the company and the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel, and Tin Workers, the union which represented the Homestead employees.

Many fruitless conferences were held between Frick and union officials during the months preceding the June 30 deadline. Neither side was willing to compromise. Early in

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June Frick, acting upon instructions from Carnegie, refused to hold any more conferences. He ordered that barbed wire be strung on the high board fence which surrounded the mill and took other measures which convinced the men that the company was preparing to withstand a siege or stage a lockout. The term "Frick's Fort" was widely used to express the contempt which the workers felt as they viewed these tactics.

Contrary to Carnegie's orders, however, Frick did hold a conference with representatives of the union on June 23. At This meeting the owners stated their final terms upon which they would grant a new contract and gave the union twenty-four hours to accept it. When June 24 passed without such an acceptance, Frick adopted forceful measures. He engaged the Pinkerton Detective Agency in New York to send three hundred men to act as guards at the mill. Now the company's intentions were clear. They would keep the mill open to non-union employees who were willing to accept the new wage rate, and the hired guards would prevent strikers from interfering.

Fewer than one out of every five workers in the Homestead mill was a member of the union. If the non-members had sided with the company, it would have been possible for Frick to conquer the Amalgamated Workers by using the methods he planned. But the unorganized steel workers cast their lot with the union and stayed away from the mills.

Meanwhile the union stationed pickets at the entrance to the mill and, under the leadership of Hugh O'Donnell, formed a militant force of four thousand men pledged to resist any forcible attempt to operate the steel mill. These men were organized into an "army" and a "navy." The "army" was divided into companies, and military units were stationed at strategic points in the town. Some units controlled the railroad stations; others patrolled the banks of the Monongahela River; still others picketed the plant.

The "navy" consisted of one steamboat, the *Edna*, and a large number of small rowboats. It was the duty of the "navy" to guard the water approaches to Homestead, lest Frick secure reinforcements from Pittsburgh. An elaborate system of signals was agreed upon to warn both the "army" and the "navy" of the approach of an "enemy." The strikers had commandeered the town of Homestead.

Early on the morning of July 6 a steam whistle screamed its warning to the strike-bound town of Homestead. An "enemy ship" had been sighted, steaming southward from Pittsburgh. The Pinkerton men had arrived. They were heading for Homestead on the *Little Bill* and two small barges.

The "army" was quickly mobilized and ordered to the

riverbank. Men, Women, and children, assembled to participate in the excitement, gazed northward along the Monongahela, straining to catch a glimpse of the boats carrying the hated Pinkerton men. The strikers were armed with shotguns, rifles, and revolvers. Women and children carried clubs and stones.

The *Little Bill* came into view in the gray dawn, its two barges towed in the rear. Without any show of fear the steamer moved through the river in full view of the angry crowd. Suddenly someone fired a gun at the ship. More shots followed. But the *Little Bill* reached the mill landing and lowered its gangplank to the shore. Meanwhile the strikers broke down the fence which had been erected to protect the mill landing. They surged into the landing area and poured a fusillade of shots into the group of detectives who were disembarking. This time the Pinkerton men returned the fire, shooting into the mob. Both sides suffered casualties.

Hopelessly outnumbered, the Pinkerton men returned to their steamboat and barges, gathered up their dead and wounded, and ran the *Little Bill* up the river to safety. The two barges were left behind, stranded in the river with some of the detectives aboard.

The mob concentrated its efforts on the destruction of the barges. Sticks of dynamite were hurled into the river; barrels of oil were poured on the water and then ignited with the intention of burning the barges. An ancient cannon was dragged from its place on a lawn and loaded with powder and iron scraps. The cannon roared several times during the fight. When the *Little Bill* returned to tow away the barges, the people on the bank again opened gunfire on the steamboat. A second cannon was placed on the opposite side of the river to open a cross fire on the vessel, but this proved to be poor tactics when one of the strikers was killed by a piece of iron shot from the cannon across the river.

The Pinkerton men raised a white flag to indicate surrender. A volley of shots was the only answer. Mob violence still held sway. That afternoon the union leaders managed to restore order among the excited people who lined the riverbank. When early in the evening, after an all-day battle, the Pinkertons raised the flag of surrender a second time, a truce was agreed upon and the fighting stopped.

The detectives were permitted to land with the understanding that they would march to Homestead's town hall and remain there as prisoners until they could be sent back to Pittsburgh. The bedraggled survivors of the battle on the barges surrendered their weapons before they landed. Many of them were wounded, and three men had been killed. The strikers counted seven dead. Sixty persons

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were wounded.

The "march" of the defeated Pinkertons was a humiliating experience. Although the fury of the mob had been brought under control, the people were still very angry. Along the streets between the scene of the battle and the town hall, men, women, and children shouted insults at the detectives as they marched to their place of imprisonment. On that same night the sheriff of Allegheny County made arrangements to move the unwelcome Pinkertons to Pittsburgh where they found peace and safety.

On July 12 Governor William Stone declared a state of martial law in Homestead. Eight thousand soldiers, members of the state's National Guard, were sent to maintain order and establish a temporary military government.

The strikers lost their fight. In November they returned to work in the mills. But the strikers were not the only losers. Carnegie, Frick, and their associates lost a great deal of their prestige as enlightened leaders of business, and the public lost millions of man-hours of labor needed in the production of goods. Ten persons lost their lives, and the workmen lost four months' wages. It was a futile misuse of lives, time, and material.

BOOK REVIEWS

by Jack Sanders on Internet

MAP GUIDE TO CENSUSES

There are certain books that should be essential to every serious genealogist's library. One of these has just been issued in a new,-- and less expensive -- edition.

The *Map Guide to the U.S. Federal Censuses, 1790-1920*, is the most comprehensive and detailed book of its kind. Using nearly 400 maps, the guide shows all boundaries of counties, states and territories through all the available censuses, including the 1920 census just opened.

Maps delineate both the old county lines and new ones for each year a census was taken in the given state or territory (whenever boundary changes had been made from the time of the previous census's map). This means you can easily determine which census records to inspect for ancestors whose place and era of residence you know or suspect. Major Indian territories are also shown, and there are innumerable notes on boundary changes.

If the 445-page guide offered nothing but the maps, it would be well worth having. But authors William Thorndale and William Dollarhide have included a great deal of information on the censuses themselves, including a rundown of the kinds of facts available in each and details

on which county census lists survive and which don't. There is a guide to sources, including details on old county lines. There is also an interesting section on census accuracy, demonstrating some of the problems -- such as transcription errors, incompleteness, and duplications of data -- you may run into.

Last but hardly least is a complete index of approximately 3,250 U.S. counties, including ones no longer extant and ones that have been renamed. The publisher says it's the "most complete list of American counties ever published."

The previous edition of the Map Guide, published in 1987, cost \$50. By switching from hardbound to paperback, the cost has been reduced to \$39.95. It should be widely available from stores and societies or can be gotten directly from Genealogical Publishing Company, Dept. SM, 1001 North Calvert Street, Baltimore, Md., 21202-3897 (1-800-296-6687).

A-Z GUIDE TO RESEARCHING BRITISH ANCESTORS

Those with ancestors in Great Britain may be interested in an update of a veteran and well-respected handbook from Genealogical Publishing Company. *The A-Z Guide to Tracing Ancestors in Britain*, by F.C. Markwell and Pauline Saul, has been expanded into a fourth edition, adding 32 pages of information to the third edition's 224 pages. It's a mini-encyclopedia of British family history research.

This illustrated paperback is described as "everything you ever wanted to know about those curious British terms you come across in your research." Terms like Poor Law, State Papers, GRO, Hind, and many hundreds of others are covered in alphabetical articles, ranging from a few words to a couple pages.

The book is not just a bunch of definitions of old terms. Its beauty is that it provides much information about the term that would be specifically of interest to a genealogist and, where appropriate, the guide tells you where to find more information. It includes tips, lore, bibliographies, sources, addresses, and "signposts pointing to every conceivable topic that could be of interest to the family historian."

Among the articles are New Year's Resolutions for Family Historians, the very first of which is "I will not be a bore about my ancestors." Clearly, the book is written with a sense of humor. There is a complete index, plus maps showing old and new counties in England, Scotland and Ireland, and one to the record repositories in London.

It's a neat, comprehensive piece of work. Price is \$17.95.

SUBSCRIBING to this newsletter gives you 10 issues a year, free queries and help plus the option of going on group field trips - all for \$12! Write to the address on front.

NEW BOOKS FOR NORTHLAND LIBRARY

At the September 3rd Board Meeting, it was voted to buy 6 new books for a donation to Northland Library genealogy section. The following titles were selected:

Will Abstracts of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania: Will Books I through V, 1789 - 1844 compiled by Helen L. Harriss, C.G. and Elizabeth J. Wall. 255 pages including every name index, \$26.50.

Abstracts, Deed Books I and II, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania compiled by Helen L. Harriss, C.G. 78 pages including every name index, \$15.90.

Marriage Records of Squires Isaac and Joseph F. Mayes compiled by Helen L. Harriss, C.G., Elizabeth J. Wall and Betty Treat Petrich. 348 pages, \$5.30.

An Index to the 1798 Direct Tax for Pennsylvania: Allegheny County compiled by Helen L. Harriss, C.G. 15 pages, \$2.12.

Two Lists of Early Residents in Southwestern Pennsylvania: Those Holding Virginia Grants, 1779 to 1785 & Signers of a Petition to Form a New State compiled by Helen L. Harriss, C.G. 34 pages, indexed, \$8.48.

Guide to Military Records in The National Archives, Pennsylvania Archives (Printed) and Pennsylvania State Archives compiled by Helen Harriss, C.G. 17 pages, \$4.24.

The above books may also be ordered from Mrs. Harriss directly with a postage and handling fee. Write to her at 68 West Prospect Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15205.

If you would like to see the society buy a particularly helpful book and donate it to Northland Public Library, please inform one of the Officers.

TELEPHONE GENEALOGY edited by Elissa Powell

"Telephone book genealogy" has always been a popular (though not very productive) way to find relatives. Who has not sat in a hotel room in a distant city and thumbed through the telephone book? Others use their computer and put out a world-wide message in hopes that others will find their relatives in a local phone book. A few companies have published surname address books in the guise of a "History of the Smith Family" or "Smiths Across America" which contain a few general suggestions on researching your family, perhaps even a blank form or two, but mostly just "telephone book" listings of everyone of that surname. If you have a common surname, this will not be very helpful. If you wish to have such a list (perhaps you have a rare surname or want to publicize a family book to everyone with the surname), then there are cheaper ways to get the data you seek. Read on:

Below was abstracted by Richard Pence on Internet from a computer bulletin board procedures guide with his comments following:

REQUESTS FOR PHONE BOOK SEARCHES. Blanket requests for phone book searches result in duplicate messages from some areas and none from others (and in the case of relatively common names are not much help). Remember that most libraries will have collections of phone books or a microfiche of such books available for searching. There are also companies which will provide you these listing at a reasonable cost. Also, CompuServe offers an on-line name-and-address search service. Ancestry, Inc., a Salt Lake City genealogical book publisher, offers at modest cost a similar search of what it says is a database of 90 million U.S. names and addresses. (In fact, all of these services may be relying on the same general database.) In terms of the Genealogy Conference, it's best if you restrict telephone requests to asking for addresses of individual people in specific cities and direct your wholesale requests to one of the other sources. You'll get more reliable results.

Besides the CompuServe name-and-address file, you can have U.S. surname address searches done by the following two organizations:

COMPUTER GENEALOGIES, INC. Suite 113 2031 North Broad St. Landsdale, PA 19446

This company will provide its list either as a printout or on disk. The disk file has fields within double quotes. Each field is separated by a comma. Fields are variable length. The fields are: "Surname", "First name [M.I.]", "Street address", "City", "State", "Zip". Each record is delimited by a CR/LF, i.e. 0D 0A. The list is terminated by 1A. The cost for one surname is about \$20.

ANCESTRY, INC. P.O.Box 476 Salt Lake City, UT 84110-0476 Orders: 1-800-531-1790

They will search the entire U.S. for \$10 for the first 250 listings. Each additional 250 is \$5. May also be ordered via Prodigy with billing on MC or Visa. Data can be printed on paper or directly onto labels. Not sure if data can be obtained on disk.

There has been discussion here on the reliability of these lists (which include phone book information as well as information from other sources, such as real estate transactions), but considering how mobile our society is today they probably are as good a listing as can be found.

When you consider the costs of sending a few dozen messages around the world via this echo as opposed to ordering a list it looks to me as if buying a list is more cost effective and reliable (even though they are your own dollars being spent and not someone else's!).

ST. ALOYSIUS 100th ANNIVERSARY

from North Hills News Records, 29 Aug 1992, page A5

The original St. Aloysius Church in Reserve Township was dedicated January 8, 1893, after a year of parish organization, planning and construction. The parish was formed from Most Holy Name in Troy Hill so Reserve Township's German Catholics would not have to travel the 2 1/2 miles to church or to St. Anthony's in Millvale.

"The roads were in unimproved condition and the going and coming from Church caused a grave inconvenience. In the wintertime, the roads were simply impassable," says a history of St. Aloysius.

Property for the church was donated by Aloysius NIEDERST, for whom the church is named. The combination church, school and rectory was dedicated January 8, 1893, in a service at which sermons were preached in English and German.

After the death of the Rev. Suitbert MOLLINGER, pastor of Most Holy Name Church and the new offshoot, the Rev. John B. DUFFNER served briefly and, in May 1893, the

Rev. Clement KROGMANN became the first resident pastor.

In 1947, the parish bought more land for expansion and, in 1957, the old building was razed in favor of a new church-school building. Father (Joseph) YOUNG Center was named after the first priest to be ordained from the parish. Young was ordained June 26, 1921, and later served as pastor at St. Aloysius from 1946 to 1972. During that time the current church-school combination building was built. He was pastor emeritus until his death in 1987.



Yes, as a member of the North Hills Genealogists, I plan to attend the trip to the **Carnegie Library, 4400 Forbes Avenue, Oakland on Saturday, October 24th, at 9:30 A.M.** [Please return this form to the address on the newsletter or to one of the officers **by Tuesday, October 20th.**]

Name:	Home phone:
I am interested in car pooling to the Carnegie Library: Yes ___ No ___	
I am interested in serving as a car pool driver: Yes ___ No ___	

Yes, as a member of the North Hills Genealogists, I plan to attend the trip to **West Virginia University Library, Morgantown, West Virginia, on Saturday, October 31st, at 9:30 A.M.** [Please return this form to the address on the newsletter or to one of the officers **by Tuesday, October 27th.**]

NOTE: By October 31st, the library should have BOTH the 1920 SOUNDEX AND census for West Virginia.

Name:	Home phone:
I am interested in car pooling to West Virginia University: Yes ___ No ___	
I am interested in serving as a car pool driver: Yes ___ No ___	

WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

Oct. 1, 7:30 PM: North Hills Genealogists Board Meeting, Northland Library Room # 2.

Oct. 8, 8 PM: Western PA Genealogical Society meeting at the Historical Society Building on Bigelow Blvd. Topic: "Homestead Strike Centennial"

Oct. 17, 10 am: Scottish Interest Group of the Western PA Genealogical Society at the Historical Society. All are welcome! Call David McMunn (364-1816) for more info.

Oct. 20, 7 PM: Regular North Hills Genealogists Meeting on "Irish Research" with Pat Power

Oct. 24, 9:30 am: Field trip for members to Carnegie Library Pennsylvania Room. Please see sign-up sheet.

Oct. 31, 9:30 am: Field trip for members to West Virginia University Library, Morgantown, WV

Nov. 14: Field trip for members to Western Reserve Library, Cleveland, OH

LETTER FORWARDING HELP

reprinted from Anne Arundel Speaks, June 1992, page 66

Looking for a missing heir or long-lost friend? The Social Security Administration's letter forwarding service will send a letter from you to the missing person providing the purpose of your search is either humanitarian (locating an estranged family member or lost friend) or monetary (tracing a missing heir). "The letter has to contain information that we determine the missing person wants to know," says spokesman Phil Gambino. You have to provide the person's date of birth, parent's names or other identifying information. The agency won't reveal the person's whereabouts or verify that the letter was received: It simply acts as the intermediary. There is no charge for humanitarian requests; other searches cost \$3. Write

Social Security Administration
Office of Central Records Operations
300 N. Greene St., Room 1312
Tower Metro West
Baltimore, MD 21201.

NEXT MEETING: OCT. 20, 7 PM, "IRISH RESEARCH" with PAT POWER

NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS
c/o Northland Public Library
300 Cumberland Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15237-5455

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