



NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS NEWSLETTER



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

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

November is our last meeting of 1992. While there will be no meeting or newsletter in December, we are already making plans for next year. In addition to a wide range of speakers we hope to have several more round tables like the one we are having this month. Let us know what you think of these round tables and what kind of activities you would like to see during such meetings.

We hope to add additional items to our "Browse" table and welcome genealogical items from you which you think might be of interest to others.

Be sure to read the informative article about Scottish Parochial Registers by one of our members, Mildred Halechko. This is a good time to point out that members are encouraged to submit articles and queries to the newsletter, even if it may only be something you saw in another newsletter or the newspaper. Anything of a local nature is especially newsworthy.

I and the other members of the board hope that all of you have a Happy Thanksgiving, Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year, and look forward to seeing you all at our next meeting on Tuesday, January 19th. - J.R.

ALL IN THE FAMILY

courtesy of Greg Hughes on Internet

The children of the head of a prominent Scottish-American family decided to give him a book of their family's history. The genealogist that they hired, was warned of one problem ... Uncle Angus, the "black sheep" who had gone to Sing Sing's electric chair for murder. The genealogist promised to handle the situation with tact and diplomacy.

"I'll just say that Uncle Angus occupied a chair of applied electronics at one of our nation's leading institutions. He was attached to his position with the strongest of ties. His death came as a true shock."

WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

ALL ARE WELCOME to the following meetings:

November 21, 1992, Saturday, 10 AM at the Historical Society, 4338 Bigelow Blvd.: German Interest Group is reported to have Mary Wohleber speaking on Troy Hill.

November 21, 1992, Saturday, 1 PM at the Historical Society, 4338 Bigelow Blvd.: Computer Interest Group with a hands-on discussions of several Genealogical Computer packages, both for IBM-compatible and Macintosh. Come with your questions on which is best for you!

November 21, 1992, Saturday, 10 AM at Trinity Cathedral, Sixth Street, Downtown: Scottish Interest Group on the Holdings of the LDS library in Green Tree and how to access them. Field trip to the LDS library to be discussed for the near future.

November 21, 1992, Saturday, 2 PM at the Carnegie in Oakland: French and Indian War Impersonator and discussion. Free registration: 622-8877.

January 9, 1993, Saturday, 10 AM at Trinity Cathedral, Sixth Street, Downtown: Western PA Genealogical Society All Day Meeting. "Your Ancestor's Court Records" and at 1 PM, "Lawrenceville, Part III." Bring a lunch, coffee available.

December 12, 1992, Saturday, 2 PM at the Historical Society, 4338 Bigelow Blvd.: "Beginning Your Genealogical Research in Italy ... in the USA - How I Did It" by Bobbie Sanguigni Coney. Sponsored by the Italian Cultural Heritage Society of Western Pennsylvania.

December 19, 1992, Saturday, 10 AM at Trinity Cathedral, Sixth Street, Downtown: Scottish Interest Group.

January 16, 1993, Saturday, 1 PM at Historical Society, 4338 Bigelow Blvd.: Computer Interest Group.

January 19, 1993, Tuesday, 7 PM at the Northland Library, North Hills Genealogists: Marilyn Holt of the Carnegie Library will speak about Beginning Genealogy.

OLD PAROCHIAL REGISTER OF SCOTLAND
[Indexes to Birth and Marriage Records Before 1855]
By Mildred Noble Halechko

Within the past year, the Family History Library, 200 School Street, Greentree, Pa., acquired the above named index on microfiche for use free of charge by any and all genealogical researchers.

The indexes consist of record books maintained by many Parishes of the Established Church of Scotland (Presbyterian) in which are recorded marriages, births, baptisms, christenings, burials, and deaths. By definition, "old" parochial records are those dated prior to 1855, the year in which statutory civil registration began in Scotland. These registers are commonly referred to as Scottish OPR's.

The Scottish OPR Indexes on microfiche have been compiled from legible marriage and birth entries extracted from microfilmed copies of the original Scottish Parish Registers. Occasionally, OPR's also contained other records called "Kirk Sessions" which are recorded minutes of parish affairs and contained names of some of the local parishioners. Entries from Kirk Sessions are included in the microfiche edition of the OPR Indexes.

The Indexes are divided into "county sets," one set for each county in Scotland. Each set is divided into four separate indexes:

1. Christenings, baptisms - given name, male and female
2. Christenings, baptisms - by surname, male and female
3. Marriages - by given name, combined bride and groom
4. Marriages - by surname, combined bride and groom

Thus, in using the indexes, one must begin by selecting both a specific county in Scotland and an event: marriage or christening.

The four separate indexes, as mentioned above, are color coded across the top of the microfiche with a band of bright pink, blue, yellow, or green to distinguish one type of index from the others.

Additional directions are available on a separate microfiche for accessing other miscellaneous information found in the Scottish Old Parish Registers and for locating persons named in the Kirk Sessions, as well as explaining the various abbreviations that may occur throughout.

The Family History Library is open Tuesdays, 10 AM to 8 PM; on Wednesdays, 10 AM to 2 PM; on Thursdays, 10 AM to 8 PM; and usually on Saturdays, 10 AM to 6 PM. It is sometimes closed on Saturdays for special conferences or other events. It is also closed every Monday, Friday, and Sunday. The library, which has its own ample free parking lot, is located off the Parkway West, I-279, at the Greentree-Crafton exit, exit 6.

GENEALOGICAL HELPER
by Carol Botteron on Internet

Everton's Genealogical Helper (formerly The Genealogical Helper) is probably the largest-circulation genealogical magazine (its been around since the 1940's) with a circulation of over 40,000. I have found it useful for making contacts with other genealogists as well as for information.

It is published by:

The Everton Publishers,
P.O. Box 368,
Logan, Utah 84321

(800) 443-6325 or (800) 4GENEAL or (801) 752-6022

There are six issues a year, which arrive in the middle of even-numbered months. Subscription price is \$21 per year or \$4.50 per issue. [Editor's Note: Northland Library subscribes to this periodical.]

Every issue has articles, questions & answers, book reviews, and queries (including a section of queries about missing relatives who may still be alive). Queries cost \$0.30/word. I have placed a few queries and responded to several others, making some good contacts. Each issue has an index of surnames, subjects, and localities. Of course there are also a lot of ads: researchers, books, printers, photograph restorers, computer software & hardware, etc.

Another section is the Computerized "Roots Cellar." People send in entries consisting of a name, event (e.g. birth, marriage, death), year, and place. (Note that an entry is one year and one place, not a range.) These cost \$5.50 for the first, \$1.25 each for more, except when there's a sale price in effect. In each issue the magazine prints the new ones they have received, with the addresses of the people who sent them in. In addition, people can send for a printout of all the entries with a given surname and location (e.g., state of the U.S.). [Editor's Note: These names are also available on microfiche at the LDS Library.]

Each issue also has a listing of one of the following categories: locality periodicals and local history associations, family organizations, professional researchers, and genealogical societies and libraries.

Everton's Genealogical Helper certainly hasn't solved all my genealogical problems, but I have found it a useful resource and have subscribed for several years. A very useful feature of this and other genealogical magazines is the ads. You can find researchers, books, photographers, photo retouchers, accommodations near major libraries, T-shirts for family reunions, and dozens of other items and services that you didn't even know you needed!

MAHONING COUNTY, OHIO SOCIETY

The Mahoning County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society is only about an hour away from the North Hills of Pittsburgh via the Turnpike. Many of our ancestors in their trek west took similar routes and may have stayed in Mahoning County.

The group meets at 7:30 PM on the third Monday of the month, excluding December, July and August at the RLDS Church, 4301 New Road, Austintown, Ohio. Their next meeting will be Monday, January 18th. The topic is "Share Your Research Resources."

They produce a newsletter, Mahoning Meanderings, nine times a year for a subscription of \$8.00. (Send new memberships and dues to Jean Folsom Thayer, 659 W. Earle Avenue, Youngstown, OH 44511.) The newsletter includes queries from members as well as abstracts of Mahoning County records. They usually feature a member's Ahnentafel (ancestor listing) and excerpts from other newsletters (such as the North Hills Genealogists!).

Members may submit 5-Generation charts and cross-referenced 3 x 5 index cards to help establish contacts with other researchers. They honor early settlers and their descendants through the Pioneer Families program. [Your Editor, Elissa Powell, is a member, having proved that her ancestor, Jacob Everhard lived in Mahoning County about 1810 to 1818.]

The society also has an active Computer Interest group and publications for sale. The publications for Mahoning County include Guardianship Records, 1846-1860; Naturalization Proceedings (before 1870); Probate Records, 1846-1856; Marriage Records, 1846-1870. Write to Lois Glasgow, 8056 Glenwood Avenue, Boardman, OH 44512 for complete descriptions.

ATTENTION SOCIETIES:

Please send information on your genealogical society and we will publish it in an issue of our newsletter.

NEW REPOSITORY FOR SCOTTISH CLAN RECORDS

from Conejo, CA Genealogical Society, Vol. 9-3, Fall 1991

Ellen Payne Odom Genealogical Library expects to be the major repository of Scottish Clan records in the United States. It opened in March 1990 at 204 5th St., SE, Moultrie, GA 31776 (PO Box 1110.)

Clan Donald has already placed their records there and several other Scottish clans are in the process of doing the same or considering it.

PORT OF PITTSBURGH

From the Pittsburgh Gazette for 8 Nov 1844

Arrivals and Departures

9 Feet water in the channel and falling.

Arrived.

<u>Vessel name</u>	<u>Captain</u>	<u>From Where</u>
Cleveland	Hart	Beaver.
Michigan	Boies	Beaver.
Senate	McClune	Cincinnati.
Northbend	Duncan	St. Louis.
Belfast	Ebert	Wheeling.
Rhode Island	Dawson	Wheeling.
Planet	Voories	Brownsville.
Consul	Clark	Brownsville.
Oella	Connolly	Brownsville.
Richard Clayton	Bailey	Brownsville.

Departed.

<u>Vessel Name</u>	<u>Captain</u>	<u>To Where</u>
Michigan	Boles	Beaver.
Cleveland	Hart	Beaver.
Bridgewater	Campbell	Wheeling.
Belmont	Poe	Wheeling.
North Queen	McLau	Cincinnati.
Consul	Clark	Brownsville.
Mountaineer	Smith	New Orleans.
Moxahala	Parkison	Elizabeth.

Imports by River

[Editor's Note: The following is a partial list of shipments and who received the goods, the ship it came on (underlined) and the port of origin in italics.]

From St. Louis

Per Northbend - 3 bales buffalo robes, Clarke & Thaw - 2 bxs books, J McFaden - 25 bls molasses, M B Rhey & Co. - 38 bls and sacks dried peaches, 11 bls and sacks dried apples, 2 sacks sang., 3 sacks feathers, 2 cans, Williams & Dilworth - 5 boxes medicines, 21 pigs lead, J May - 20 bls dried fruit, D T Morgan.

From Nashville

Per Senate - 18 sacks nuts, A Weatervelt - 84 bags flaxseed 11 cakes beeswax, S Kier - 64 bales cotton, G Wood - 6 pkgs mdse, W Bingham - 61 sacks feathers, M Allen & Co. - 158 sacks feathers, 5 cakes beeswax, 6 cakes ginseng, J W Butler - 11 bls molasses, G & J H Shoenberger - 3 bxs specie, W Martin - 173 boxes soap, Williams & Dilworth - 5 hhd tobacco, 29 bls apples, D T Morgan - 28 bls apples, A Dravo.

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From Wheeling

Per Belfast - 4 bales hops, Hailman, Jennings & Co. - 26 hds tobacco, 1 keg butter, 14 sks D peaches, 1 bl Flaxseed, J A Roe - 5 bales hops, R Robinson & Co. - 7 hds tobacco, D Leech & CO - 16 hds tobacco, 35 kegs butter, 1 keg lard, W Bingham - 120 bls flour, J McCully - 2 casks mdse, Dr. Merritt - 4 bxs leather, M B Rhey & Co. - 206 bls apples, 8 crates ware, 188 bls flour, 33 bls flaxseed, 1 bls beans, 6 sacks ginseng, 2 sacks flax, 1 sack ginseng, owners on board.

From Zanesville

Per Zanesville - 61 hds tobacco, Wm Bingham - 40 bds paper, C H Kry & Co. - 1 box paper, Jones, Murphy & Co. - 11 hds tobacco to order - 2 kegs tobacco, Church & Carothers - 10 bls D peaches, 2 bls timothy seed, 3 kgs tobacco, 1 sack feathers, 28 doz brooms, Wm Bingham - 15 sacks rags, J McFaden & Co. - 10 bls cloverseed 55 dozen brooms, W Wilson, jr. - 15 bales hops, 18 bls D peaches, 157 1/4 doz brooms, 10 ska flaxseed, 1 sk feathers on board - 6 hds tobacco, 1 bl, D Leech & Co. - 7 sks feathers, W McCully - 1 crate ware, 2 bls beans, 6 bls scorchings, 2 crates tanners scraps on board.

Per Dresden - 5 kegs butter, Church & Carothers - 63 boxes 1 cask Curling, Robertson & Co. - 39 bbls tallow, to owner on board.

From Beaver

Per Michigan - 4 bds paper, C H Kay & Co. - 8 bds paper, Age Office - 8 bds paper, L Loomis - 53 1/2 bu barley, Mr. Henley - 18 bls, 1 csk scorchings., E. Dickey & Co. - 2 doz spl't bxs, Mr. Davis - 1 pkg mdse, B A Fahnestock.

CROSS ROADS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

abstracted from the North Journal, November 7, 1991

Cross Roads Presbyterian Church in on Route 910 in Pine Township is seeing the benefits of the influx of young couples into the North Hills. "When I got here 12 years ago, the average age was in the 70's. I was doing a lot of funerals," says the Rev. John Campbell. "Now, instead of doing funerals, we're doing baptisms."

Area families have long gathered at Cross Roads Presbyterian Church. Established in 1826, a 30-foot-square log church housed the first service a year later on land purchased for \$5 from John Hillman and Samuel Marshall. A stone structure was erected in 1897, but its interior was destroyed in an electrical fire in 1971. Services were held at what is now Salem Heights Christian Life Center until the present building was constructed in 1974.

The Rev. Campbell, a resident of West Deer, joined the church as pastor in 1977.

HISTORIC TAVERNS

from the Cranberry Eagle, November 6, 1991, page 2

The Cranberry Historical Society has commissioned pen and ink sketches of four historic taverns. The artist, Gary L. Means also illustrated "Cranberry Township: A History of Our Community," published by the Historical Society.

The Black Bear Tavern, built in 1813 by Matthew Graham, was the successor to an earlier log cabin tavern on Pittsburgh-Mercer Road. The tavern sits on an abandoned stretch of the Old Perry Highway paralleling the northern end of Marshall Road.

The two-story brick Garvin Tavern built in the 1920's, now a private home on Pittsburgh-Mercer Road, is found about one-third of a mile north of the Black Bear Tavern. The innkeeper was David Garvin who built the brick structure to replace a log cabin tavern built in the early 1800's.

Frederick Meeder, owner and innkeeper, built the Union Hotel and Store between 1830 to 1840, which was a popular stopping place for drovers herding livestock to the Pittsburgh markets. Now a private home, the former inn appeared on Zelenople Plank Road (now Route 19) on a Cranberry Township map that dates back to 1874.

Robert McKee's Tavern was Cranberry's first licensed tavern in 1838. The stagecoach inn, said to date back to 1830, is located on Franklin Road at the junction of Mars-Crider Road. McKee operated a wagon shop and probably a blacksmith shop.

TERMS OF RELATIONSHIP

from Maryland GenSoc Vol. 20-2, April, 1992

The term "brother" could indicate any one of the following relationships by blood or marriage:

1) the husband of one's sister; 2) the brother of one's wife; 3) the husband of one's sister-in-law; 4) a half brother; or 5) a stepbrother. The term did not always indicate any relationship by blood or marriage but was used to refer to a church brother.

"Cousin" was once used to indicate almost any degree of relationship by blood or marriage outside the immediate family. In early New England, it often referred to a nephew or niece.

"Now Wife" - when this term is used in a will, it is often assumed that the testator had a former wife. This may be true, but it is not necessarily so unless he refers to children by a first wife and children by his "present" or "now" wife. When the term is used without reference to children, it more usually means the testator is indicating that the bequest is intended only for the present wife and should not go to any subsequent wife he may have. This phrase has confused many experienced genealogists.

GENEALOGY ECHO PROTOCOLS

by Richard Pence

[Editor's Note: The following is an abstract of an article that was 3 1/2 pages long. If you wish to see the whole article, please contact me. Even though this article is written in the context of computer bulletin boards, non-computer users can read the hints on how to write a successful query. Queries submitted to any publication means, be it society newsletters, ancestor directories, genealogy magazines (i.e., Genealogical Helper or Heritage Quest), or through computers, have a good chance of helping you find others who are researching the same lines. This can be quite valuable when you cannot go further yourself.]

The Fido Network and the other nets that carry the Genealogy Conference to nearly 500 Bulletin Board Systems (BBSs) throughout North America and the world are amateur networks. The BBSs that make up these networks are usually operated as hobbies by system operators (sysops) who bear the expenses of local and long-distance telephone charges, equipment upkeep and software costs. They also spend countless hours updating and maintaining message and file areas.

WHERE TO FIND THE ANSWERS

Not surprisingly, "computer genealogy" - especially as practiced on electronic bulletin boards - has developed its own jargon. You'll see references to things such as PAF, R3, TTs, Tafels, TMS and more. Naturally, you'll be curious. And so is everyone else. Hardly a day goes by without someone asking for an explanation of one of these terms. Unfortunately, many who ask that question haven't taken the time to see if the answer is available on the BBS they have called.

STEP ONE, then, is to look for the answer "at home." Many (not all) of the BBSs that carry the Genealogy Conference also carry genealogy-related files. There are many excellent files available which compare software (including the PAF and Roots 3), provide guidance about research sources, explain such terms as "ahnentafel" or "tiny tafel" (and tell you how to create these), and give much other helpful information. The answers to most of the questions commonly asked by new users can be found within these files.

The same advice applies to those who are new to genealogy and want to learn how to begin discovering their own family trees. Remember that almost every library will have several good books aimed at beginning genealogists.

STEP TWO before sending out a message is to make sure you're directing the message to the right place.

Keep in mind that there are several other echoes that

specialize in genealogy. One of these, for instance, is GENSOFT, which concentrates on genealogical software and utilities. If your question is about software and your BBS carries that echo, you'll get quicker, more knowledgeable responses there. If not, then use the Genealogy Conference, which is home to any kind of message relating to genealogy.

MESSAGE FORMAT FOR GENEALOGICAL QUERIES

The following suggestions should help you format and phrase your genealogical queries in a way that will invite response.

Enter messages using normal UPPER/lower case letters and punctuation. SURNAMES of interest should be entered in UPPER CASE. Provide full names, dates, places and as much other detail as possible or necessary. Make the message brief and to the point, as with queries to a genealogical publication, try to limit each message to a specific family and event. Enter separate queries for other problems.

Messages such as "I am interested in hearing from anyone researching the BLANK family" will seldom get worth-while responses, even if the surname is relatively rare. There just isn't enough information there to interest anyone in helping you.

Also, you're more apt to get a response if other participants feel you first have done your own legwork. Those who try to help themselves get help from others. Messages declaring that a person is "new to genealogy" and seeking "any information on my grandparents" likely won't get much help. Why? Because - even for beginners - that information is relatively easy to find through widely available channels (which are outlined in even the most basic genealogy "how-to" book) or likely can be found ONLY by the person who entered the query. At best, the response you will get is to give you a few basic pointers. You'll get better results if you briefly outline what you've tried and why you're stuck. Another participant may not be able to give you precise information about that ancestor - but often others can give you a new approach to solving your problem.

SOME ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS

The following paragraphs fall into the same general category as broccoli: It probably won't kill you, it may even be good for you, but nevertheless you may not want to eat it! Maybe these suggestions will help you avoid pitfalls others have encountered and make the Genealogy Conference run just a bit more smoothly. They are not listed in any order of importance or priority.

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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.)

THANK-YOUS. We all like to acknowledge those who have helped us and to learn that what we sent someone else was of value. Just as important, there are gaps and disruptions in the network and you can never be quite sure that gem you sent someone else actually got there unless you receive an acknowledgment. Many folks use the "thank-you" message as an additional chance to swap information or seek follow-up.

SIGNATURE LINES. Many users have started adding "signature lines" which list family lines being searched and give the writer's name and address. For many folks, these have resulted in successful contacts.

A FINAL THOUGHT

The system is an amateur one and it does falter, but the most common reasons messages don't bring a response are that they are too general for anyone to focus on answering. Read the hints above and try again!

EPITAPHS

from "Grave Matters" compiled by E. R. Shushan, 1990.

MARY BUEL, buried Litchfield, Connecticut, 1768

Here lies the body of Mrs. Mary
wife of Dea. John Buel Esq.

She died Nov. 4 1768 AEat. 90

Having had 13 children 101 grand-children

274 great-grand-children 49 great-great-grand-children

410 Total. 336 survived her.

BRIGHAM YOUNG, buried in 1877

Born on this spot 1802

A Man of much Courage and superb Equipment.

EDGAR ALLAN POE, buried in 1849

"Quoth the Raven Nevermore"

ANONYMOUS, buried in Hartford, Connecticut, 1882

Those who care for him while living
will know whose body is buried here.
To others it does not matter.

RICHARD HIND, buried in Cheshunt, England, c. 1800

Here lies the Body of Richard Hind,
Who was neither ingenious, sober, or kind.

UNKNOWN MAN, buried in Sheldon, Vermont, 1905

unknown man shot
in the Jennison & Gallup Co.'s store
while in the act of burglarizing
the safe Oct. 13, 1905
(Stone bought with money found on his person.)

RICHARD JARVIS, buried South Devon, England, 1782

Here lies the body of Richard Jarvis
of Rickham, in this parish, who departed
this life the 25th day of May 1782. Aged 77.
Through poison strong he was cut off,
And brought to death at last.
It was by his apprentice girl
On whom there's a sentence past.
O may all people warning take,
For she was burned to a stake.

ARABELLA YOUNG, buried Pownal, Vermont, 1771

Here lies, returned to Clay
Miss Arabella Young,
Who on the first of May,
1771
Began to hold her tongue.

JARED BATES, buried Lincoln, Maine, 1800

Sacred to the Memory
of Mr. Jared Bates who
Died Aug. the 6th 1800.
His Widow aged 24
who mourns as one
who can be comforted
lives at 7 Elm Street this village
and possesses every qualification
for a good wife.

GENEALOGICAL CORRESPONDENCE Making It Work For You

The following article is taken from The COUSIN FINDER Directory, Vol. 1, 1985, compiled by Maxine BEAR, ROBERTS, and is used on DYNASTY BBS by permission of the author.

One of the most enjoyable and expeditious ways of performing your genealogical research--certainly the most economical--is through correspondence. Most people find varying degrees of success in the pursuit of familial data through the prolific writing of letters, and even those who are unable to accumulate much data in this way usually find rewards in other aspects of the endeavor. The establishment of new relationships or the recultivation of old ones brings unexpected and indescribable gratification.

Attention to a few simple rules of genealogical correspondence etiquette will bring more satisfying results. Here are ten basic rules for your consideration.

1. Use large envelopes (No. 10) for your letters. Be sure to affix adequate postage.
2. Always include a SASE (Self Addressed, Stamped Envelope) with your initial letter and subsequent ones, unless you told not to do so. This SASE should be a No. 9 size envelope. It does not need to be folded to fit into the No. 10 envelopes, resulting in a less bulky, more attractive, and more business-like mailing piece. If you expect many pages of text to be returned to you, enclose a second stamp for your respondent to use, should it be necessary.
3. Rarely--almost never--use a small, personal-size envelope for inquiries. They are acceptable, however, for your acknowledgments and thank you's.
4. Be brief. In your contacts with officials, ask only one question in any letter and explain only the facts absolutely necessary to get your answer. Brevity is the rule also in your initial contacts with potential "cousins". You may establish a "chatty" relationship later on, if both of you seemed so inclined. If you do, incidentally, it is likely to turn into a most rewarding relationship. Many opportunities to travel to ancestral localities have resulted from these relationships.
5. Write only when your mind, body, and eyes are fresh. Write carefully. We ALWAYS do, right? WRONG? Usually, in our haste to get a letter completed or to catch the mail delivery that day, we are not nearly careful enough. Avoid strikeovers, both typed and hand written. YOU may know what it says, but the reader has two guesses, either of which may be the wrong one. Strikeovers are the most dangerous when dates are involved. Keep in mind your initial letter is your introduction. It will set the stage, probably permanently, for your future relationship.

6. Label all pages, charts, envelopes, etc., with your name and address. It is wise to date them, also.

7. Be a "Giver" as well as a "Taker". Offer--and mean it--to exchange data. Answer queries you see in genealogical publications with any answers or clues you can offer. Don't just sit there and wait for your queries to be answered. "What goes 'round, comes 'round," Your Cousin & Editor always says.

8. Include payment, if you know the cost, of copying, etc., or make it clear you will reimburse for it promptly. Then do so, promptly.

9. Procrastinate (Did I say that? Yes!) overnight. Reread your letter the day after you write it. If it says what you thought it said and is easily read and understood, mail it. It is prudent, if possible, to ask someone who is unfamiliar with the subject to read it. If that person understands you, it is likely that your intended recipient will, also.

10. Acknowledge--always--and promptly--any response you receive, whether or not that response has brought the desired results. You may wish to include another SASE with your acknowledgment, asking that your contact keep it in his files in case he should come across something for you later on. Always reimburse postage for any reply whatsoever.

Further Suggestions

Those are ten basic rules. Here are five suggestions:

A. You may wish to write your question on the upper half of a sheet of paper, leaving the lower half for the response. Anything you can do to make the action easier for your reader is advisable. If you suspect your contact may want to keep your letter for his files, include a carbon copy with the original. He can then keep whichever he needs, or he can return both to you.

B. Some people like to say "If you have no information for me, won't you please drop my SASE in the mail. That way I'll know you did receive and consider my request," or words to that effect. (Your Editor & Cousin doesn't like that; it makes it too easy for the contact to ignore your letter. Maybe he's not feeling well that day, or busy, and it's a way to get rid of one piece of mail. I say "Let it sit there on his desk and haunt him day after day until he decides to answer it!")

C. Advertise that you will perform research in your local area records in exchange for research in another area where your interest lies.

D. For special favors, where payment is not expected to compensate for value received, send a personalized or

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localized gift. Products indigenous to your locale and sometimes easily acquired are often highly valued in another area. A small item handcrafted by you demonstrates your special gratitude.

E. You've spent a lot of time and thought on putting your letter together. Now, let's get someone to read it. Draw attention to it in clever ways. A neatly addressed envelope is a must, of course, but you can individualize it to separate it from the rest of the bunch. Use colorful postage stamps appropriate to the subject. Use other "stick-ons" on the back of the envelope, or use rubber stamp designs. This is not recommended for business letters to public officials, but it may bring some enjoyment to your "cousin" contacts.

 This information has been provided by DYNASTY BBS (916) 685-8690 ** For more public domain genealogical software, data, and queries, set your modem to 8/N/1 300, 1200 OR 2400 and call DYNASTY BBS!



**HAPPY
 HOLIDAYS**

GENEALOGIST'S STEW

from Pasadena, CA Genealogical Society, June 1990
 via Mahoning Meanderings, November 1992, p. 88

- Take: 1 curious beginner
 - Add : 1 age discrepancy,
 1 unreadable microfiche,
 1 census record (written in 'disappearing' ink)
 - Fold in: 1 ton of correspondence and
 simmer while awaiting answers.
- Enough to make any Genealogist Stew!

ST. ALEXANDER CELEBRATED 100TH YEAR
 from North Hills News Record, September 27, 1991

St. Alexander Nevsky Orthodox Cathedral in Ross Township celebrated its 100th anniversary in September 1991.

St. Alexander Nevsky's was organized by immigrants who came from Austria Hungary, Russia and other Slavic lands and settled in the Pittsburgh area. As the pioneer church, it included worshippers of Greek, Syrian and Serbian birth. It became known as the "Mother Church" of the area and maintained a panethnic character.

The church first met in a rented hall on Carson Street on the South Side, with the Very Rev. Victor Toth as pastor. In 1893, a former Protestant church building on Ketchum Street in the Woods Run section was purchased. Archbishop Nicholas of the Russian Orthodox Mission of North America contributed \$1,500 of the \$5,100 price.

Russian General Alexander Yuriyevich Shklyarevich designed the iconostas and the bell tower and also helped with the physical work. Around 1900, property was purchased in Ross Township for an Orthodox cemetery.

The Rev. John Nedzilnitsky, who served the church from 1895-1903, was instrumental in establishing six other Orthodox parishes.

Ten McKees Rocks families crossed the river by boat every weekend to attend services at St. Alexander's until 1917 when their own church was built.

The youth of St. Alexander Nevsky Orthodox Church met in January 1923 and organized a club, which ultimately led to the establishment of the Federated Russian Orthodox Clubs. Today, there are over 100 active chapters in the United States and Canada.

The most famous bells associated with the church were made in Russia and exhibited at the Chicago World's Fair in 1893. After the fair, they were donated to St. Alexander's by the late Czar Nicholas II of Russia. However, the bells were melted in a fire that destroyed the belltower in December 1947.

In 1940, city officials condemned the structure, which had been weakened by the 1936 flood, so services had to be conducted in the parish school until repairs were made. When the City of Pittsburgh planned a major redevelopment program in the Woods Run area, the church bought property at the current site.

Service were held at the former Mellwood Presbyterian Church, Babcock Boulevard, until the new Byzantine-style church, with its gold cupola and iconography, was consecrated October 8, 1972, by Bishop Theodosius.

The Very Rev. Paul Suda has served the parish since 1969. The church was designated a cathedral in 1981.

WRITING YOUR PERSONAL HISTORY

courtesy of The Everton Publishers, Inc., PO Box 368,
Logan, UT 84321

The following are suggestions and items to consider in writing your personal history.

1. **Your birth:** when, where, parents, surrounding circumstances and conditions.

2. **Your childhood:** health, diseases, accidents, playmates, trips, associations with your brothers and sisters, unusual happenings, visitors in your home, visits to grandparents, relatives you remember, religion in your home, financial condition of your parents.

3. **Your brothers and sisters:** names, date of birth, place of birth, accomplishments, names of spouses, date and place of marriage, their children.

4. **Your school days:** schools attended, teachers, courses studied, special activities, associates, achievements, socials, report cards, humorous situations, who or what influenced you to take certain courses or do things you might not otherwise have done.

5. **Your activities before, after and between school sessions:** vacations, jobs, attendance at church, other church functions, scouting, sports, tasks at home, fun and funny situations.

6. **Your courtship and marriage:** meeting your spouse, special dates, how the question was popped, marriage plans, the wedding, parties and receptions, gifts, honeymoon, meeting your in-laws, what influenced you most in your choice of spouse.

7. **Settling down to married life:** your new home, starting housekeeping, bride's biscuits, spats and adjustments, a growing love, making ends meet, joys and sorrows, your mother-in-law, other in-laws.

8. **Your vocation:** training for your job, promotions, companies you worked for, salaries, associates, achievements, your own business.

9. **Your children:** names, dates and places of birth, health of mother before and after, how father fared, characteristics, habits, smart sayings and doings, growing up, accomplishments, schooling, marriage, vocations, sicknesses, accidents, operations.

10. **Your civic and political activities:** positions held, services rendered, clubs, fraternities and lodges you have joined.

11. **Your church activities:** as a young person, through adolescence, churches attended, church positions, church associates, church certificates, answers to prayers, necessity and power of love.

12. **Your avocations:** sports, home hobbies, dramatic and musical activities, reading habits, genealogy, travels, favorite songs, movies, books, writers, poems, etc.

13. **Special celebrations or holidays you remember:** Easter, Christmas, national and local holidays, vacations.

14. **Your plans and hopes for the future.**

15. **Your ancestors:** your impressions of those you knew personally; a general sketch of those you did not know; father, mother, grandparents, great grandparents, other relatives.

16. **Your encouragement and counsel to your descendants:** carrying on family traditions and activities; their obligations to their country, church and family; your suggestion to your progeny and others on honesty, humility, health, diligence, perseverance, thrift, loyalty, kindness, reverence, the Bible and other religious and edifying books; service to fellow-men; your belief regarding God, etc.

17. **Hints on writing your life story:** tell your story plainly and with directness; write truthfully of uplifting, refined and honorable occurrences and experiences. Humor helps to make for easier reading. If you can give the whys of your decisions and changes in activities it may help others. Illustrate with as many pictures as possible. make several copies, or better still, mimeograph or print and give one to each of your children and grandchildren. Place copies in local and national libraries and/or historical societies.

A PENNSYLVANIA CENTURY FARM

The present Shenot Farm, located on Wexford Run Road in Marshall Township, consists of 125 acres. It was started in 1854 by the Shenot Family after arriving here from France. The early farm was very diversified. It grew fruit and vegetables as well as having a small time hog and chicken operation and dairy farm.

In the late 1960's all the animals were sold and they became strictly a fruit and vegetable farm, setting up a retail market. They now grow 40 acres of sweet corn yearly. Their orchards consist of 20 acres of apples and 3 of peaches, nectarines, and other small fruits. They also have acreage in all types of vegetables and produce their own cider and fudge.

The center of the white farm house was the original log cabin that was on the property in 1854. Many of the original logs still exist. Naturally, many additions and improvements have been made over the years. The house is listed as an Allegheny County Landmark. The farm is a "Pennsylvania Century Farm" and is managed by the fifth generation of the family.

SURNAME INTEREST FILE

The Genealogy Society of Pennsylvania maintains a Surname Interest File in its library catalog. Its object is to facilitate communication between researchers possessing the same ancestral lines. They now have four full file drawers of cards, which are pointed out to patrons by library personnel. You are welcome to add as many names as you wish. Mail them to the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania, 1300 Locust Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107 on 3" x 5" index cards. Every card received will be filed.

The standard format is:

- 1 - Surname of interest
- 2 - Time Period
- 3 - Location

- 4 - Associated Surnames
- 5 - Your Own Name and Address

EXAMPLE:

DINGLE

Time - 1850 thru 1900

Location - So. Phila. - Northern Liberties - Olney - South NJ (Camden Co.)

Related lines - Kell, Roth, Hilbert, Knapp

Robert E. O'Connor
15021 Endicott St.
Philadelphia, PA 19116

TRACING NORWEGIAN ANCESTORS

To receive a free brochure about doing Norwegian research, "How to Trace Your Ancestors in Norway", send to:
Norwegian Information Service, 17th Floor, 825 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10022

NEXT: TUES., JAN. 19, 1993 : MARILYN HOLT ON BEGINNING GENEALOGY

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

**FIRST
CLASS**

NEXT BOARD MEETING:
Tuesday, JAN. 5, 1993
Northland Library, 7:30 PM
ALL are welcome!