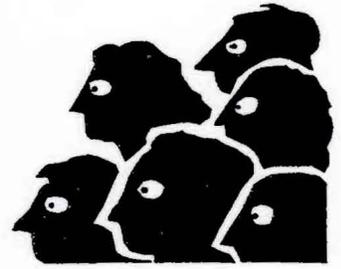


# NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS NEWSLETTER



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

**Volume 3 - Number 9 - May 1993**

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**10 issues from August to June**

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

A lot of genealogy activities are coming up in the next few weeks. In June we will have two meetings as William Dollarhide presents two lectures, "Finding the Place", about locating where records are kept and about various types of maps and gazetteers; and "Using Deed Records" which will include a related free handout. The first lecture starts at 7 P.M. (earlier than our normal time). Sales of Dollarhide Systems materials will begin at 6:30 P.M. and continue during the break and after the meeting.

On June 23rd David Lewis of the Census Bureau will make a presentation about the census and other historical records maintained by the bureau. There will be a free handout for those attending.

In Harrisburg Family Heritage Day is celebrated this Saturday, May 22nd, with a genealogy conference (consisting of several lectures) and genealogy fair. A workshop on how to do research is presented Sunday, May 23rd, at the State Archives at 2 P.M. More details can be found in a packet of information on the freebie table.

Several organizations are sponsoring an all day series of genealogy lectures in Washington, Pa., on Saturday, May 29th. Again, you can find a leaflet about the event on our freebie table.

Our last field trip of the spring occurs on Saturday, June 12th, at 9:30 A.M., at the Pennsylvania Department at the Carnegie Library in Oakland. Marilyn Holt, who spoke to our group in January, will provide a comprehensive overview of the department's genealogy resources. The orientation will last one and a half to two hours.

I hope these activities and your own research will keep you busy during the next month. - J.R.

## **PENNSYLVANIA BIRTH RECORD INFORMATION**

by Dorothy Sminkey

Although a Colonial Law of 1682 provided for the recording of births in Pennsylvania, few if any of these events were ever entered in civil records.

A new law in the mid-1800s required births to be recorded by the county Register of Wills, with copies sent to Harrisburg. Some of these records are still in the court-houses, and others are at the Pennsylvania State Archives, where microfilms of many are available. Indexes to these records are arranged first by county, then by event, then by year. Films of these records are also available at the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania. From 1860 through 1893, and in some cases to a later date, births were recorded in Philadelphia and other cities - Allegheny, Easton, Harrisburg, Pottsville, Pittsburgh, and Williamsport - although there are gaps.

Births in Pennsylvania were also recorded in the county orphans' courts for the period 1893 through 1905, and here also may be found delayed birth records for events occurring as far back as the 1860s. The State Archives has films of some of these records. The Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania has those for Philadelphia.

Statewide registration of births has occurred since 1906, although compliance with the law was scattered for at least the first ten years. To request these records, complete form H105.102 and submit it with the current fee of \$4 to:

Pennsylvania State Department of Health, Division of Vital Statistics, Central Building, 101 South Mercer Street, Post Office Box 1528, New Castle, Pennsylvania 16103-1528

Except for the brief period in the 1850s, Nineteenth-Century birth records in the Keystone State are practically non-existent.

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**SPECIAL MEETING NIGHT:** Wednesday, June 23 beginning at 7:30 pm at Northland Library, Meeting rooms 1 & 2: David Lewis of the Census Bureau in Philadelphia will make a presentation about the census and other historical records maintained by the bureau. Come to this rare chance to hear more about our government records! The public is welcome.

## CIVIL WAR UNITS by Mr. Barrus on Internet

I copied this message from my archives. I found it very helpful in finding out about published sources on Civil War Units. Pay particular attention to the mention about the Dornbusch resource. It gives a list of published sources indexed by state and regiment. I found one on my ancestor that was very interesting. You can order it through the LDS library on film. Also, many of the referenced sources can be ordered on film also. The one I found was on film.

"About five years after the Civil War, a seven (?) volume "History" of PA Units in the Civil War was published under the supervision of the former Adjutant General for PA, a man named Bates. The collection is known as "Bates History". It purports to give the rolls of each Pennsylvania unit in the Civil War together with a brief "ten-page" record of each unit's civil war experience. While it is a good starting place, it is not without many errors, particularly errors of omission. For example, in Westbrook's 1898 history of the 49th Pa. Vol. Regt. it was pointed out that Bates History failed to include 235 men in the overall total of 1,507 who served with the unit from 1861 - 1865.

A second very important reference for ALL Union and Confederate units is a four volume series compiled by Charles Emil Dornbusch entitled "Military Bibliography of the Civil War". These volumes were published between 1961 and 1987. Vol. 1, "Regimental Publications and Personal Narratives" is divided into six parts each of which pertains to particular states: Part I: IL; Pt. II: NY; Pt. III: NE States; Pt. IV: NJ & PA; Pt. V: IN & OH; Pt. VI: IA, KS, MI, MN, WI. This volume, published ca. 1961, is a bibliography of all published books related to each Union Unit. Of course, many units have no independent published "history" other than that of the type published in "Bates History", i.e. a state Adjutant General's report. Others have incredibly detailed daily diaries of the unit's record for the entire war. Vol. 2 contains the same material for Southern, Border and Western States and Territories; Federal Troops; Union and Confederate biographies. Vol. 3 is General References. Vol. 4 contains Regimental publications and personal narratives; Union and Confederate biographies. It appears to be a 1987 update of Volume 1.

There are also histories of particular companies in a regiment. If your man was in Company A and the history is for Co. B, you can at least get a fair idea of the regimental history as their general movements and actions were by regiment though individual battles often had companies split for tactical assignments.

For New York's units see Frederick Pfisterer (1836-1909), "NY in the War of the Rebellion," 3rd ed., 1912, 5 volumes. It also has an index. There is also the NY Adjutant

General's report: "Register of NY Regiments in the War of the Rebellion," 43 volumes, Albany, 1894-96.

I know Indiana's Adjutant General published a similar report as did that of Kansas. I assume other states have similar reports, i.e. books similar to the Pennsylvania "Bates History". Go to Dornbusch for specific references then order them through interlibrary loan.

If you must order Dornbusch by Interlibrary loan, go for Volume 1 then Volume 4. I hope this is helpful."

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## RESEARCHING INFORMATION REGARDING PENNSYLVANIA CIVIL WAR PARTICIPANTS

by Dorothy Sminkey

The Samuel P. Bates book, "History of Pennsylvania Volunteers, 1861-1865," in five volumes...published in Harrisburg by B. Singerly during the period 1869-1871...is arranged by regiment but only indexes the officers. For all names, consult the National Archives microfilm, "Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Union Soldiers in Pennsylvania Organizations," available at the National Archives/Mid-Atlantic Region and the Pennsylvania State Library.

Soldier discharges from the time of the Civil War are usually in the office of the county Recorder of Deeds. Veterans' grave and burial records are kept in the county commissioners' office and at the State Archives.

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## QUERIES

**DUNHAM.** In the process of writing a family history of the descendents of Deacon John Dunham, b. 1589, Scrooby, England, died 2 Mar 1669. Related families are: TILSON, BONHAM, DUNN, LOTHROP, LATHROP, FULLER. Welcome any input about the Dunham or related families. Robert W. Dunham, 5526 Marsha Dr., Madison, WI 53705. (608) 238-3486.

**IMBODEN.** Will exchange information on descendents of John Swigert Imboden who immigrated to PA from Switzerland in 1752. Prominent Virginia branch spread to TN, KY, NC, NY, GA and Honduras. Would like to hear about any other Imboden as well as the origin of the name: family legend says "Dweller of/in the Valley." Other names of interest: MASSIE, MASSEY, TYREE, KESSLER, DICKINSON. David J. Kessler, 105 Vaturia Dr., Hurricane, WV 25526.

**TROY.** Willing to exchange info with anyone working on the surname TROY. John W. Troy (1870), Wm. I. Troy (1879) and Wm. H. Troy (1874) were all steamboat pilots licensed from Pittsburgh. What company did they work for? Helen Tregillis, P.O. Box 107, Cowden, IL 62422-0107.

## The LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

by Ronald McClendon on Internet

For those of you who find yourselves in Washington, DC with some time to do research, the following are some hints about how best to utilize your time at the Library of Congress.

The first thing I would suggest you do when you arrive at the Library of Congress is to obtain a "copy card" from the Main Reading Room area on the 2nd floor. This card cost \$0.20 but allows you to make copies for \$0.10/copy which are otherwise \$0.15/copy using change. As you use the card you may add to card's amount at the same place you obtain it. If you have a local address and a photo ID you might also stop by the Librarian's desk in the Main Reading Room and obtain a free "User's Card" which eliminates the need to write your name and address on each "request form" when requesting books or articles from the stacks.

The Local History & Genealogy (LH&G) Room is the place you will probably want to go next. This room was on the second floor but has been moved to the ground floor to allow for renovations on the second floor.

If you've never been to the LC you will probably want to browse the books that are readily available on the shelves of the LH&G Room. These books are arranged by States and many of the county marriage records are found here. Many States also have general reference materials on the shelves such as old historical and biographical sketches, census indexes, gazetteers, and some of the more recent county histories.

However, the most important, and by far the largest collection of resource materials, are in the stacks which can be accessed by filling out one or more of the "request" forms found on each reading table and taking it to the librarian's assistant at a small table near the card files.

To determine what references are in the stacks and on the shelves you can use the card catalog or the Library's Scorpio computer system. There is probably a lot to this system that I don't understand but I can tell you it's not as user friendly as an IBM PC. Two main areas exist in this system, PREM and LCCC. I'll try to describe basically how you can begin to access the collections in the stacks by giving you an example.

Example: Obtaining a list of references for Carroll County, VA.

1. First type "BGNS LCCC" (do not type the quotes). This will take you into the LCCC area.

2. Next to browse the subject, Carroll County, type "B Carroll County". The directories of books and articles relating to each Carroll County in the U.S. will be shown on the screen. I believe the format is B1, B2, B3, to about B12.

3. Find the Carroll County directory you want by typing "F B7" or whichever B directory you wish. A list of books and articles available will be displayed.

4. You then have the option of writing down the info from the screen or printing the list on the printer next to the terminal. I find that by printing the list I can take these home to assist in planning my next assault.

5. To go into the PREM area type "BGNS PREM" and follow the same search procedures as in the LCCC area.

One last suggestion I might offer is to carry with you a list of book titles, authors, surnames, counties, and communities you want to search. This way you will be well prepared to thoroughly search the books on the reading room shelves, the Scorpio system, and the card files. Other areas of the LC that I have not utilized include the Map Room and the Microfilm/fiche Reading Room.

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## INDEX TO PENNSYLVANIA COLONIAL RECORDS

by Jack Sanders on Internet

Between 1838 and 1853, the state of Pennsylvania published 16 volumes of records that eventually grew to the 138-volume "Pennsylvania Archives" series. Those first 16 volumes cover the colonial period -- from 1682 to 1790. However, until now, this extensive collection of government agency, church, military, tax, and land records has been unindexed.

"Index to Pennsylvania's Colonial Records Series," just published, provides in 228 pages index references to some 50,000 men and women who lived in Pennsylvania before 1790. The index was compiled by Dr. Mary Dunn (1908-1984), an educator, and were organized and enhanced by Martha Reamy.

The hardcover book tells the volume and page number of every name given in the 16 volumes, which are available for researchers on microfilm at state archives or possibly at Family History Centers. The state also sells the microfilms. Copies of the published collection of archives are also available in bigger genealogical libraries.

The book includes an introduction by Jonathan Stayer of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, providing background on the nature of the records, and a list of suggested readings for further research.

Anyone whose family is tied to early Pennsylvania settlers and colonists should find this index a handy guide to a most valuable resource.

Copies may be purchased from Genealogical Publishing Co., Dept. SM, 1001 North Calvert Street, Baltimore, Md., 21202-3897 (1-800-727-6687). Cost is \$20 plus \$2.50 p&h.

## GEDCOM - WHAT IS IT?

by Dorothy Sminkey

The Genealogical Data Communications (GEDCOM) program is a standard method for organizing files with "linked" genealogical information. The standard is the format in which a file is saved by the computer so other software with the GEDCOM utility can use the same data. Created by the LDS Library computer staff for their own needs at first, it has become available to all genealogical software developers who agreed to follow the standards. Each software developer must design a GEDCOM utility that works with their own software.

To explain what GEDCOM does, imagine a Frenchman who speaks no German trying to communicate with a German who speaks no French. But, the two discover that they both speak English...and the conversation begins. GEDCOM is a "Second Language" understood by several different genealogical software systems so they can communicate with each other. As long as two software systems both have that second language (a GEDCOM utility), communicating is a matter of "translating" database information into a GEDCOM format they both understand.

The GEDCOM utility is both an "export" and an "import" procedure. You may use any file created in a genealogy program....that has the GEDCOM utility...and export that file as a GEDCOM file. With the GEDCOM file on a diskette, for example, you could mail the diskette to a friend. That person could load the GEDCOM file into another software system that had GEDCOM capabilities. GEDCOM files originating from other GEDCOM users may also be imported...if the exporter and the importer both have GEDCOM in their genealogy programs. Genealogists are also using modems to transfer GEDCOM files to each other.

GEDCOM is an extremely useful and efficient way to make back-up files, either to a hard disk or to floppy disks.

The bottom Line: I strongly recommend that you only purchase genealogy software with GEDCOM capability. Why? Because, if, after using your software you decide it's not for you and you want to try something else, you do not have to key in your genealogy data into your new genealogy program...you transfer it from the old to the new with GEDCOM - a great timesaver.

Some programs with GEDCOM capability are:

Personal Ancestral File (PAF),	Brother's Keeper,
Everyone's Family Tree,	Roots III,
Family Tree Maker,	Generation Gap,
Family Origins,	Family Roots (IBM only),
Family Tree Journal,	Family Ties,
Sesame.	

## CITE YOUR SOURCES

by Harry Liggett in OGS Newsletter (March 1993), page 30

Kurt Laidlaw, the new chairman of the National Genealogical Society Computer Interest Group, cites the rewards of computer genealogy in the Jan/Feb 1993 issue of the NGS-CIG Digest, but also points out that the potential for catastrophe is terrifying. Says Laidlaw:

"As more people have discovered the world of electronic bulletin boards and the Family History Center's Ancestral Files, the increase in poor research that is being shared is alarming. Too many people seem willing to accept what they get from computers without checking the information the same way as they would other sources."

Too many old-time genealogists who are afraid of computers cite this same fear as a reason for shunning the use of computers for genealogy.

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## WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

Saturday, May 22, 10 AM at Trinity Cathedral, Sixth Ave & Oliver St., downtown: Scottish Interest group of the WPGS. All are welcome. More info: call David McMunn, 364-1816.

Wednesday, June 2, 7:30 PM at Northland Library, Room #3: **North Hills Genealogists Board Meeting.** All are welcome. Come and see how we spend your money!

Saturday, June 5, 2 PM - 4 PM, Western Reserve Historical Society, Cleveland: "Start It and Chart It Right: A Genealogy Workshop for Beginners." \$10, register with Ronna K. Bryant, (216) 261-4502. Also offered: 3 July, 7 Aug, 4 Sep, 2 Oct, 6 Nov, 4 December.

Thursday, June 10, 1993, 8 PM at Historical Society of Western PA, 4338 Bigelow Blvd., Oakland: Western PA Genealogical Society, "Newly Available Records in Old East Germany." All are welcome.

Saturday, June 12, 10 AM at Trinity Cathedral, downtown: Scottish Interest group of the WPGS. All are welcome.

Saturday, June 12, 9 AM - 11:30 AM for 4 sessions, CCAC North Campus: Genealogy: Who's In Your Family Tree?," course #YCA007-17, \$21, instructor is Nancy Singleton. To register: 369-3696.

Tuesday, June 15, 6:30 PM, Northland Library: Bill Dollarhide will present 2 lectures and have books and material for sale. See flyer for details. Free and open to all.

Sunday, June 20, 1:15 PM - 4:30 PM, Western Reserve Historical Society, Cleveland: "Civil War - North & South." Techniques and resources for tracing your Civil War ancestor. Dr. George Schwietzer will lecture in authentic Union and Confederate uniforms. \$25. For registration: Gina Hamister (216) 871-2955

## THE TWO FAMILIES OF FRIEDERICH DURR

by Elissa Scalise Powell

In reading my latest book acquisition from Paul Miller Ruff (18 Fosterville Rd., Greensburg, PA 15601-4767) entitled *The German Church Records of Westmoreland County, PA, Volume 2*, I encountered the following entries on page 163:

Zion - East Huntington Baptisms

CHILD	BIRTH/BAPT	FATHER/MOTHER	GODPARENTS
Friederich	30 Sep 1797	Friederich Durr	"The mother, after
	11 Sep 1802	Barbara Devass, widow	sorrowful repentance
Daniel	1 Jun 1799	Friederich Durr	and confession, was
	11 Sep 1802	Barbara Devass	god-mother for the
Casper	30 Aug 1801	Friederich Durr	presently illegitimate
	11 Sep 1802	Barbara Devass	children."
Catharina	31 Jun 1798	Friederich Durr	Catharina Durr, widow
	12 Sep 1802	Maria Barbara	
Rebecca	12 Jan 1800	Friederich Durr	Heinrich Traut
	12 Sep 1802	Maria Barbara	Catharina
Casperl	1 Jul 1802	Friederich Durr	Henrich Traut
	12 Sep 1802	Maria Barbara	Catharina

It appears that Friederich's two families were baptized a day apart and that he kept both Barbara's very busy!

Zion Church in East Huntingdon Township, Westmoreland County, PA was first known by the name "Schwaabs" and later as "Swopes," after a family in the neighborhood. Zion Church is located four miles southwest of Mt. Pleasant, about 200 yards to the right of the Reagentown Road. Both Lutheran and Reformed congregations were fairly strong in their early history, but they lost ground when the congregations at Ruffsedale and Scottdale were organized. The Lutheran congregation voted in 1903 to unite with the Ruffsedale congregation, but a remnant held on at Zion until 1956. The records from this church that Paul Miller Ruff published in his Volume 2 have never before been published. A small, worm-eaten book with faded ink and unbelievably poor penmanship was recently found and translated by him.

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### VITAL RECORDS - ALABAMA

from Prince George's County, Md. Genealogical Society Bulletin, March, 1993

Now effective, the fees for various records are: Birth, Death, Marriage, and Divorce certificates: \$12; Amendments: \$15; Adoptions/Legitimations: \$20; Delayed Birth Certificates: \$20. Additional copies ordered at the same time are \$4 each. Certificates may be had by writing to State of Alabama, Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, P.O. Box 5615, Montgomery, AL 36103-5625.

## BLAWNOX, PA 15238

Blawnox is bordered on one side by the Allegheny River and the other three sides by O'Hara Township, the borough is a mile long and 5/8 of a mile wide. It was laid out in 1868 but not incorporated until April 13, 1925. Blawnox was originally called Hoboken, but when Blaw-Steel Co. bought Knox Welded and Pressed Steel Co. in 1917, the new company, Blaw-Knox Steel Construction Co., asked the town to change its name to reflect its largest employer. Later the Blaw-Knox Co., which made trolley cars, closed. The new corporation that owns the old Blaw-Knox building has the same name but this time the spelling reflects the town's name - Blawnox.

Blawnox contains three churches: St. Edward Roman Catholic; Hoboken Presbyterian; and Community United Methodist.

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### NORTH CAROLINA RECORDS

from The Herald-Sun/Raleigh Extra

Researchers in North Carolina can find records in the North Carolina Museum of History in downtown Raleigh, 109 E. Jones St. Two locations in the museum are used to find missing information on family members. The North Carolina Archives holds the original North Carolina state records as well as microfilm. The North Carolina State Library's genealogy division, located in the same building, carries published materials and microfilm for a broader area than just the state.

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### GENEALOGY FOR THE BEGINNER

*My Family Tree Workbook: Genealogy for Beginners* by Rosemary A. Chorzempa is an inexpensive starter book for the novice or a child. The workbook encourages the documentation of not only family members but family reunions, Ethnic foods, crafts, songs, dances, and Holiday celebrations and costumes. It also allows for noting geographic areas of interest and "Important people from my ancestral homelands." The glossary, bibliography and suggestions on how to find sources of family information are also helpful. The book is 64 pages, 8 1/4 x 11 inches, paperbound and available from Dover Publications, 31 East 2nd Street, Mineola, NY 11501 for \$2.95 plus shipping.

## REPORT FROM THE OHIO GENEALOGY CONFERENCE by Elissa Scalise Powell

The Ohio Genealogical Society, based in Mansfield, Ohio held its annual Genealogical Conference in the Holiday Inn at Independence, Ohio on May 29, 30 and June 1. The lectures on Friday and Saturday were very informative. Dr. John Colletta, who wrote *They Came In Ships*, was by far the best speaker at the conference. His humor and anecdotes conveyed the research strategies of passenger lists, military records, primary records and immigration stories in unforgettable lectures. He was also the guest speaker at the Friday night banquet.

But other lectures were just as fascinating. Dr. John Grabowski of the Western Reserve Historical Society gave an eye-opening talk on manuscripts. It was especially exciting for me since part of the material he brought as examples was one of my family lines! Manuscripts are often overlooked in our search for clues to our families. There are some indexes available to help narrow the search to see if a distant cousin left any of his papers in a repository. It is usually well worth the search to find such personal papers.

My other favorite talk was on Italian research. Though only 8 of us turned up to hear Paula Shepherd speak of her experiences, it was well worth it. Paula, who is the director of the Kirkland, Ohio Family History Center, gave LDS film numbers of sources to consult to find the place in Italy. She also showed us examples of what can be found by asking for a complete marriage record. In Italy the couple must prove they are legitimate (birth records) and the parents' consent is recorded. If a parent is dead, then a death certificate is included. With one such marriage record, it is possible to go back three generations!

These and the other lectures I attended on publishing, computers, scanners and CD-ROMs were only about a fifth of what was possible to choose from. The Surname Exchange session netted me an "almost cousin" (we're researching the same line) and a 6th or 7th cousin (we both go back to the immigrant Johan Michael Heller (1724-1803).

So if you get a chance to go to an all day conference (such as in Washington County, May 29) or to a multi-day conference (as the National Genealogical Society, June 1-5 in Baltimore), it would be well worth your while. The contacts I made at lunch were interesting and informative. I got to meet with the Ohio Chapters that I belong to (Mahoning and Medina counties) and meet with others in my other counties of interest (Summit and Wayne). These conversations felt like "home" as we talked about common geography and surnames. I didn't even mention all the great vendors and books and door prizes!

Out of the over 500 registrants at this conference many people received door prizes. Yours truly won a 22" x 16" Memory Book. It is a large hard-bound book with 50 pages of acid-free paper. It is large enough to mount four of the regular sized old-time photos on a page without removing them from their studio frame. The glue-stick from West Germany is supposed to be archivally safe, Robert Roosa was telling me. His son is a curator at the Smithsonian, I believe he said, and he recommends it. You can contact Robert Roosa at Customer Communication Systems, Inc., P.O. Box 103, West Milton, Ohio 45383. Phone (513) 698-4509. The blank book sells for about \$41.

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### VALUE OF ALL FAMILY DATA

by Sandy Clunies on the National Genealogical Society  
Bulletin Board

When I first began genealogy, I would often NOT enter all the wives and all the children in a family - and lived to regret it, and change it. My database is now past 14,000 individuals. I enter ALL marriages of the ancestor, ALL known marriages of ALL siblings in the family, and the known parents of all spouses of all those children.

There are few family trees which do not include multiple intermarriages among families in the past. Early immigrants lived in small communities, and even when migration commenced from east to west, families traveled together with former relatives and neighbors, and they continued to intermarry.

It was a common custom in New England, for instance, that upon the sudden death of a young wife (usually in childbirth), a man would then marry her sister - and there would likely be children of both marriages who were then half-siblings as well as cousins to one another!

The census records are MUCH more meaningful when you can identify the neighbors as relatives - which is usually the case up to 1900. I have identified "mystery wives" by this method. Found the wife came from a neighbor family in the census.

One can take this to fun extremes: in 1987, for the 200th Anniversary Celebration of the Signing of the US Constitution - my son and I were "honored guests" and temporary VIP's in Philadelphia SIMPLY because my research had revealed that we were collaterally descended with two of the Signers. One was a half/3rd cousin! Lineal descent (direct) is a parent-child relationship. Collateral descent is mutual descent from common ancestors in the distant past.

I live near Washington DC - but the fact that I am a 10th cousin of President BUSH hasn't done much to lower my taxes or anything! However, it's fun to track ALL the family lines and extend them out as far as possible.

## SALEM UNITED METHODIST HISTORY

by Linda J. Nath in the Cranberry Eagle for 28 Apr 1993

Salem United Methodist Church, Manor Road in Pine Township was originally initiated in May of 1868 by 17 charter members as they decided to break from Little Plains Church (now Dutilh United Methodist). The decision was made, not for religious differences, but because of transportation difficulties. Trolley cars were not yet running through the country districts, and traveling several miles to services each Sunday posed adversities.

Those charter members, Mr. and Mrs. John English, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Pearce, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew English, Sr., Mr. and Mrs. Andrew McClintock, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew English, Jr., Sarah Rigby, John Rigby, Mary Rigby, Elizabeth Rigby, Margaret English, Elizabeth English, Phila Lurting, met, under the leadership of the Rev. William Johnston, in the home of Andrew English, Jr. and became the founding fathers of the present congregation.

The group continued to meet in the English home, barn and adjoining grove until March 1871 when it was decided a permanent church building be erected to accommodate the increasing number of worshipers. In June of that year a contract was agreed upon between church members and the agents of Jane Emmett, procuring a half-acre site at the intersection of Pearce Mill and Wexford-Gibsonia roads (now known as Route 910), Pine Township, approximately one and one-half miles from the church's present location.

While under construction, Mary English Thompson, a visiting aunt of the founding English family and member of Millvale Presbyterian Church, suggested the still unnamed church be known as "Salem," a name which was adopted and prevails to the present. For her contribution to the church's history, Thompson was presented a Presbyterian Hymnal by the pastor in charge at that time, the Rev. J.M. Swan. The church building was completed in April 1872 and dedicated June 16 of that year by Dr. A.B. Leonard and T.N. Boyle.

Many changes took place in the following years. The most significant revision occurred throughout 1884 when Dutilh Church was transferred from the circuit and the Mars Church became self-supporting. This left Salem Church alone in the circuit.

The demise of the congregation seemed unavoidable in the early 1920's, as membership dwindled and there was talk of giving up the church. Instead, the church was relocated in the spring of 1923.

The present site of Sunny Hill Manor Road (now Manor Road), then a four-minute walk from Brennan Station on the Pittsburgh and Harmony Trolley Line, was purchased.

The decision of the church-recovery move is credited to the leadership of Dr. George W. TerBush, who served Salem's members from 1920 through 1929.

The cornerstone, for what is known today as the old sanctuary, was laid on July 20, 1924. Following almost a year of construction, the new building was dedicated May 17, 1925. Since its beginning in 1868, 28 different pastors had served the growing congregation to this point.

The first parsonage on Glendale Road was purchased in October of 1948. During 1957 and 1958 an educational wing was added to the church building. The project more than doubled the size of the church and included church offices, a fellowship hall and six new classrooms. A new parsonage was built in 1964, also on Glendale Road.

Another building project was undertaken in the 1980's, when the Rev. Howard Burrell was acting pastor. A new sanctuary was dedicated on September 23, 1984. A major undertaking of this project was the relocation of the church's pipe organ, which had provided music for the congregation since 1939, from the previous sanctuary. The move required a variety of adjustments and alterations to the instrument. These modifications were completed by the original maker, Robert Fisher.

Outreach groups of the church began as early as May 1884 when, under the pastorate of the Rev. Albert Freeman, several women of the church met at the home of Mrs. Simpson English to organize the Women's Foreign Missionary Society. Other organizations launched throughout Salem's history include: the Epworth League, a youth group, in 1891; the Junior Mission Band in April of 1892; the Junior Department of Mission Work; the Home Missionary Society and Ladies Aid, subsequently combined to form the Women's Society of Christian Services; and Salem Methodist Adult Couples. In the 1960's and 1970's, under the direction of the Rev. Erwin K. Kerr, Salem also undertook numerous mission projects.

Today the congregation of Salem United Methodist Church numbers 215 families and has been under the leadership of 45 pastors including its present minister, the Rev. David M. Davis.

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## NEW YORK CITY BIRTH RECORDS

For early birth records of New York City (Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, the Bronx, and Staten Island), contact:

New York City Municipal Archives  
31 Chambers Street, Room 103  
New York, New York 10007

Here are birth records through 1897, which can be obtained by mail for \$5 each.

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# ATTENTION GENEALOGISTS

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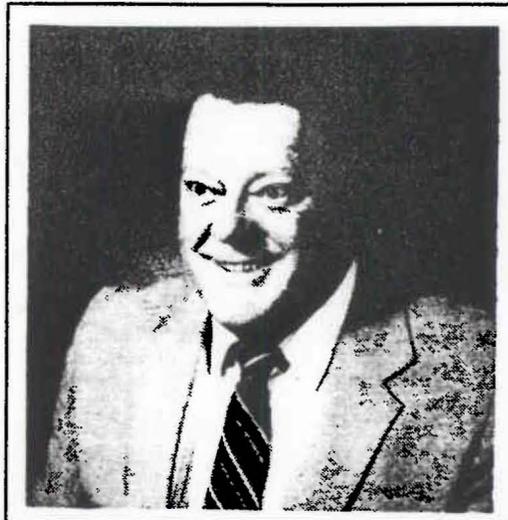
YOU ARE INVITED  
TO AN EVENING  
**Genealogy Seminar**

with guest speaker  
**WILLIAM DOLLARHIDE**

Speaking on these subjects:

- **Finding the Place.** Using maps, directories, and other aids to locate the home of your ancestors. Learn about U.S.G.S. maps, fire insurance maps, county boundary maps, and finding tools available for genealogical research. (7:00pm)
- **Using Deed Records:** These county records can provide the "break-through" you have been looking for. Deed indexes are better than the Head of Household census records for understanding who lived in an area prior to 1850. When a landowner died, you may find the names of his heirs by using deed records. (8:30pm)

Audio or Video Tape Recording Permitted



William Dollarhide is a professional genealogist, author, and lecturer from Bellingham, Washington. He is the author of the best-selling *Managing a Genealogical Project*, co-author of the award-winning *Map Guide to the U.S. Federal Censuses, 1790-1920*, and the developer of the *Everyone's Family Tree* software for MS-DOS computers. Mr. Dollarhide is a nationally known speaker who has lectured at major conferences and seminars all over the U.S.

## Special Exhibits & Sales:

Books, Maps, Forms and Computer Software for Genealogists !

- Sponsored By: North Hills Genealogists
- Contact: Connie Foley (412) 931-5406
- Seminar Place: Northland Library - Meeting Room 3  
300 Cumberland Road, McCandless Township (north of Pittsburgh)
- Date: Tuesday, June 15, 1993
- Time: Exhibits Open: 6:30pm
- Admission: Free !

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The public is invited — bring a friend !

**THE STORY BEHIND THE NAMES Butler County**  
 [from pamphlet of the same name, published by John M. Roberts & Son Co.]

Butler County was erected by an Act of March 12, 1800, and named for General Richard BUTLER, distinguished officer of the Revolution, who was killed at St. Clair's defeat, by the Indians, November 4, 1791. The seat of justice was also named for this patriot.

The first permanent settlers were David STUDEBAKER and Abraham SNYDER, who came to the present Worth Township in 1792. Prior to this, they had spent the winter with the Delaware Indians in their town at the mouth of Wolf Creek, near the present Slippery Rock. They were Pennsylvania Germans from Westmoreland County. Scotch-Irish came before 1795, and, after the Treaty of Greenville, settlers came in increasing numbers, including some Irish Catholics.

Butler, the county seat, was settled in 1793 and laid out by the commissioners, who organized the county, on a farm in Butler Township, owned by John and Samuel CUNNINGHAM, who donated 250 acres for county purposes. The General Assembly designated Butler as the county seat on March 3, 1803, and incorporated it as a borough in the same Act. It was chartered as a city on January 7, 1918.

Zelienople was incorporated from Jackson Township in 1840, and named for "Zelie," daughter of its scholarly founder, Baron Dettmar N. F. BASSE. It was called "Zelie's City" and later its present name. The Baron, in 1802, built a reproduction of a German castle, which he called "Bassenheim," on his 10,000 acre tract, and in this castle was born his world-famous grandson, Rev. William A. PASSAVANT, D.D., who founded many hospitals and orphans' homes in America.

Saxonburg, named for his native country, Saxony, by the founder, John A. ROEBLING, is also the birthplace of his eminent son, Washington A. ROEBLING, who built the Brooklyn Bridge and other famous structures.

Harmony is the site of the communistic society, founded by Rev. George RAPP, in 1804, and named after the society of "Harmonists."

**HELP FOR IRISH HERITAGE SEEKERS**  
 by Kevin Kirkland in PG North, March 17, 1993

Since 1990, government and tourism officials in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland have been working on the Irish Genealogical Project. Under the government-funded program, youth workers have been creating a computer data base of all civil records and church records from the country's largest three churches - Catholic, Presbyterian and Episcopal (Church of Ireland).

The project includes heritage centers in each of the 32 counties where visitors can reference the records and indexes, which are also available at individual churches.

Church records are important because civil records in Ireland go back only as far as 1864. Some church records go back to 1600.

The Irish Genealogical Project gives people access to all these records and several others: Tithe Applotment Books, which show who paid tithes to the Church of Ireland from 1825 to 1834; Griffith's Valuation, which shows who owned land from 1848 to 1864; and valuation lists, which show landowners from 1860 to 1950.

Brother Patrick Power of Mt. Lebanon, who has traced his family roots back to the 12th century, has one warning for roots-seekers: Do as much local research as possible before you go. Check through family records to learn as many names as possible. The Irish did not travel much, he says, so a certain surname will show up only in certain towns.

The key to a fairly simple search is your ancestors' townland, he says. "It's like a township here - a fairly small area that helps narrow your search."

[Brother Pat Power has spoken to us on Irish Research.]



Yes, as a member of the North Hills Genealogists, I plan to attend the trip to **the Carnegie Library, Oakland, on Saturday, June 12th, at 9:30 A.M.**  
 [Please return this form to the address on the newsletter or to one of the officers by **Tuesday, June 8th.**]



<b>Name :</b>	<b>Home phone :</b>
I am interested in car pooling to Carnegie Library, Oakland: Yes ___ No ___	
I am interested in serving as a car pool driver: Yes ___ No ___	

**ELECTIONS TO BE HELD IN JUNE**

According to our bylaws, we must elect 4 new officers in June for the next fiscal year. Our year runs from August 1 through July 31, as does the subscription to the newsletter. The nomination committee, headed by Elissa Powell, has found the following candidates for the offices of:

President: **NONE!!**

Vice-President Tom Wiley and Mildred Halechko

Secretary: Keith Kerr and Gwen Glasbergen

Treasurer: Steph Valentine

Can an organization run with no president?? Please consider if you can fill this nomination and call Lissa at 935-6961. A president gives the announcements at the beginning of a meeting and should come to the board meetings held about once a month. No genealogy expertise is necessary - only your willingness to serve for the one year term. The vice-president and the entire board (including editor, past presidents, publicity chair, corr. secretary, etc.) will back you up and lend support.

**GENEALOGY WORKSHOPS**

On Saturday, May 29, from 10 AM to 3 PM, four historical and genealogical societies will co-sponsor a workshop at Citizens Library, 55 South College St., Washington, PA. Topics here include: "Relative Theories," "In the Beginning," "Future Technology Meets Historic Past," "Beyond Our Attics: Pennsylvania Archives," "Relativity Around the Corner." Cost is \$10 made to "Wash. Co. Historical Society" and send to "Workshop," WCHS, 49 E. Maiden St., Washington, PA 15301. Phone: (412) 225-6740.

On Saturday, June 19, from 8:00 AM to 3:30 PM, the Slippery Rock Heritage Association will sponsor a workshop at University Union, Slippery Rock University. Talks include "Research in the Library," "Getting Started - Getting Organized," "Tracing Your Civil War Ancestor," "Italian Immigration Records," "In Search of Lillian," and "Resources in the National Archives." Lunch and door prizes are included for \$20 if postmarked by June 5. Otherwise \$25. They also will have vendor displays, Family Group sheets on microfiche and a photographer to copy your old photos. Phone: (412)368-9092 or (412)738-2408.

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**NEXT: Tues, June 15 at 6:30 PM: Two Talks by Bill Dollarhide**

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

**FIRST  
CLASS**