

NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS



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

Volume 11, Number 11, Number 4 - January, 2001

e-mail: pioneerbook@juno.com

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Mailings: Lois & Bill Daviess		Program: Melinda Merriman
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I used to be a hunter. I loved to go afield and spent many a day in pursuit of that hobby. At the end of a day in the field, if my game bag was empty, I still felt satisfied, for having spent a day afield. For it was the pursuit, the quest, the hunt that mattered.

My old bones won't hold up any longer for a day of tromping through brush, field and forest, so several years ago, I retired from the hunt.

Since then I have a new quest, a new hunt, and days afield are now days at the library or archives in pursuit of my ancestors. One real difference, when I am on the trail of a significant bit of information, I am never satisfied having just spent a day pursuing, and not having found the subject of my quest. I feel compelled to continue tracking until I've bagged the information I've been seeking.

Seeing an ancestor pop out of the archive I am searching is almost as exciting as when my quarry would appear out of the brush or woods afield. This challenge and the thrill of a successful hunt have been very rewarding to me. I hope that your hunts for your ancestors yield

the same feelings of satisfaction.

My wish for you in the new year is: **HAPPY HUNTING IN 2001.**

Sylvan

Next Meeting

February 20, 2001

John Canning

"The German Community in Allegheny City"

The program will trace the development of the German community in Allegheny City. It will include religious, fraternal organizations and key individuals prominent in those communities.

Focuses on the 19th century. The German community encompasses Alsace Lorraine, Switzerland and any that spoke German, not just those that immigrated from what we call Germany today.

John Canning is from the Allegheny City Society. He is a history teacher in the Mt. Lebanon School district and is a "lifelong" Northsider, half in Brighton Heights and half in Allegheny West.

WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

Tues., February 6 - 7:30 pm - NHG Board Meeting - Cafeteria, Passavant Hospital. Everyone welcome.

Tues., February 20 - 7:00 pm - Regular NHG Meeting - John Canning - "The German Community in Allegheny City"

Mon., January 22, 7:00 pm - The Greater Pittsburgh Civil War Round Table - Gary Augustine will speak on the Richmond Raid of 1864. Meeting held at The Babcock on Babcock Boulevard.

Sat., February 3 - 1:00-5:00 pm - Western Reserve Historical Society - Exploring Family History - An Introduction (see separate article on schedule of classes at Western Reserve)

Sat., February 10 - Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society - Carnegie Lecture Hall, Oakland

Sun., February 11 - Southwestern Pennsylvania Genealogical Society - Citizen's Library, Washington, PA

Sat., March 31 - 13th Annual Genealogy Workshop, Slippery Rock Heritage Association (see separate article on this meeting)

June 15-17 - Fifth Annual Conference on Women and the Civil War - Hood College, Frederick, MD

Sun., June 24 - Third Annual Pittsburgh Civil War Soldier's Fair - West Park, North Side

QUERIES

Compiled by Sylvan Kretz, Query Editor

WITTMER (1800's), **ENDERS**, **WATENPOOL**, **SNOWDEN** (1850), **HOOPER** (1890) (all Allegheny Co.) **GIRTY** (1700's), **GIBSON** (late 1700's) (Allegheny and Butler Cos.) **ROSS** (1800) Westmoreland Co. Contact: **Lillie Aiken**, 747 Heath Lane, Streetsboro, OH 44241-4879

MARSHALL, James, Thomas M., Archibald (1822 Allegheny City). **MARSHALL** (Cranberry Twp., Butler Co.) **DEAN** (Allegheny City), **GLOVER** (Allegheny and Butler Cos.) Contact: **Goldie Barnhart**, 5271 Skylark Court, Cape Coral, FL 33904-5870

TOWNSEND (8 Jan. 1880 Windworth, WA). Contact: **Zoella Deuser**, 99 Corbett Crt., #318, Pittsburgh, PA 15237-3029

STROHM (all dates, Indiana Twp., PA) **HODIL/HODILL**, **GRUBBS**, (all dates, Allegheny Co., PA) Contact: **Ronald Hodill**, 1704 Park de Ville, Columbia, MO 65203.

RAPP, **LEY** Contact: **Carol Ruffolo**, 205 Montclair Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15229

Queries are free and open to everyone. Send your query to the attention of the Query Editor at the address on the first page.

North Hills Genealogists is a group of people who share an interest in genealogy and meet to share their knowledge. NHG does not maintain a library and it does NOT do research for others. An individual member may choose to handle research requests, but NHG will not be responsible for the quality of the work performed or any fees charged.

CAN YOU HELP?

We recently received the following letter. If you are able to help the writer, please contact her at the address listed.

A gentleman named Bill Elwood has contacted me. He had received a phone call in June from a woman researching the ELWOOD/HAHN line. Unfortunately, he has misplaced her phone number and name, but did remember that she was an active genealogist and lived north of the city of Pittsburgh.

If there is a member of your group who is doing any research on the ancestors and descendants of John Wesley Elwood, please give her my information and ask her to contact me. I understand she is not a computer user.

Sincerely,

Dorothy T. Elwood
17418 Jackson Pines Drive
Houston TX 77090-2066
e-mail: dorothy@mail-me.com

MEMBER'S QUESTIONS

The following questions were received from members who were unable to attend the November Roundtable meeting. We are sharing their questions and some suggestions from other members.

Question: I am trying to find my great grandmother's grave. Her name is Salome Ley Rapp. I know she died around 1878. I have checked all the cemeteries I can think of and can't find her. She died in Pittsburgh. Also, she lived in the Manchester area of the city.

Carol Ruffolo

Suggestions: Have you tried St. Joseph and St. Andrew Churches c/o St. Peter's Church, Arch Street. Also, Rosedale Cemetery on Bascom Avenue. There is also a Congregational Church on Columbus Avenue on the North Side. There were also burials at St. Mary's on Nunnery Hill. You might want to check Joel Fishman's Book - "List & Indexes to the Legal, Court and Municipal Records of Allegheny County" (3 volumes). You might also want to check the Archives of Industrial Science for church records.

The following questions were received from Dorothy Richards

Question: According to the 1910 census my grandfather, Charles Martin Richards, was born September 9, 1866 at Richardsville, Jefferson County, PA. Where and how do I get information regarding this?

Suggestions: If you know the religious denomination of Charles, you might want to check for a baptism record at churches in that area. Also, have you checked the 1870 and 1880 censuses? In the church records you might also find his parent's marriage records.

Question: Where do I get information regarding Taylors town, Washington Co., PA?

Suggestions: You may want to contact the Southwestern Pennsylvania Genealogical Society at Citizens Library, Washington, PA for information. There is also Beers History of Washington County. You can find this at most libraries.

Do you have a question you could use some help with? Send it to the newsletter (attention Editor) and we will try to give you some suggestions on sources to check.

Please remember: NHG does NOT do individual research.

THE STORY BEHIND THE NAMES OF PENNSYLVANIA COUNTIES

Reprinted from John M. Roberts' & Sons advertising in the Pittsburgh
Sun-Telegraph - late 1940s - early 1950s
Submitted by Bernice Broniecki

FOREST COUNTY

Forest County was organized by joint resolution of the General Assembly, passed April 11, 1848. The original territory was taken from Jefferson County, but in 1866 additional area was taken from Venango County until the limits of the new county reached 424 square miles. The name Forest was appropriate, as hemlock and pine timber were the chief resources, although coal, iron, oil, gas, clay, sand and shale are within its borders. The Reverend David Zeisberger, the celebrated Moravian missionary, led his Indian converts there in 1767 and established three villages during his stay of two years, at present *Tionesta*, *Holemans Flats*, and *Hickory*. The first permanent settler in the county was Cyrus Blood, an educator and surveyor, who had been principal of Chambersburg Academy, Hakerstown Academy, and on the faculty of Dickinson College. He migrated to this region with his family in 1833 and settled the hamlet, *Blood's Station*. He carefully laid out a town called *Marion*, now *Marienville*, after his daughter, which became the seat of justice until October 31, 1866, when five townships of Venango County were annexed to the county and *Tionesta* was selected to replace *Marienville* as the county seat. Among pioneer settlers were George Siggins, in 1818, and his descendants still reside at *West Hickory*.

The Allegheny River traverses the county, with its many tributary streams. Lumber is still a leading industry and agriculture, with apples a principle crop. Part of Cook Forest, noted virgin timber tract, is in this county. There are the borough of *Tionesta* and eight townships.

Tionesta was settled and organized as a borough from *Tionesta Township*, while in Venango County, in April 1850, taking its name from *Tionesta Creek*. The site of the borough was taken up under a land warrant in 1816 by Lieutenant John Range, an officer of the Continental Army. It was made the county seat of Forest County October 31, 1866, and incorporated in 1867. *Tionesta* is from the Iroquois word which signifies "it penetrates the land." The chief industries are extensive lumber and sawmills, coal boats, barges, mantel factory, oil and gas, tanneries, and flour mills, and some agriculture. The eight townships in Forest are *Barnett*, an original township, organized January 8, 1854; *Greene*, a township erected in Venango County; *Harmony*, a township which gained much prominence during the Pennsylvania oil rush in the 60's, but which a disastrous fire wiped out in 1875; *Hickory*, erected in Venango County; *Howe*, erected from *Tionesta Township*; *Jenks*, an original township with *Marienville* the principal locality, celebrated its centennial July 26, 1932; *Kingsley*, erected in Venango County; and *Tionesta*, an original township with *Tionesta* the county seat.

13TH ANNUAL GENEALOGICAL WORKSHOP

Sponsored by the Slippery Rock Heritage
Association

March 31, 2001

Slippery Rock University

Featured speaker will be Leslie Smith Collier, nationally known for her interesting and informative lectures. Leslie has presented programs at NGS, FGS, GENTECH and other state and regional conferences.

Leslie explains methods better than anyone. With her practical "how-to" handouts she will help explain in an hour what you didn't understand after months or years of research.

NGH MEMBER'S STORY

The following was submitted by NHG member Billie May Bowron.

Back in Time or Past To the Future

If I could go back in time, I would wish to meet a lady named Mary Ann (McGowan) Jones. She is my husband, Orville David Bowron's, 3rd great-grandmother. I had found her name through a lady named Mattie Watson of Iowa. She had kept up on the family tree, from her family line. She is David's cousin.

As I wrote letters to find Mary Ann in Lewisburg, Union County, PA, I received a note saying: 1832 Lewisburg Journal - Apr. 20 1832 - inst. Lewisburg, died Mary Jones, 49 y.

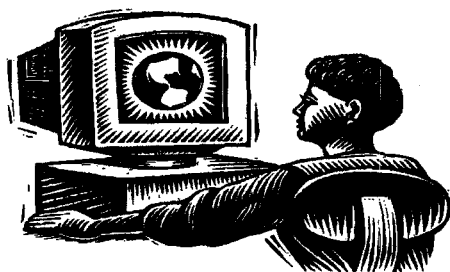
Since I had first received this note, Mary Ann became part of my life. I wanted so much to find what I could about her. Then I found she had left a letter of administration. I sent for, received and read her letter of administration. It showed that Isaac G. Jones was the one to take care of what she had left. I also found out what she had, after she had passed on. So I drew on paper all of what she had and then, to see what type of place she may have lived in, I drew a plan of the home she lived in.

The home she lived in was small, but big enough for her. One item she had that stands out with me is - 1 bead, beading and beadstand. I'm not sure just what this really means. Did she do bead work on clothing or did she do bead work on a loom in the Indian way? Now to begin my story - "Back In Time or Past To The Future".

I'll take my mind's eye back to the year of 1832, in the first part of the year, when Mary Ann was still alive. I can see myself walking up to her porch. It is a pretty house - gray with white trim.

As I walked up on the porch, I saw that Mary Ann had her front door open, although the screen door was closed. It was a very warm day that day. As I came closer to the screen door, I stopped for a moment and looked around. Everything was in place where it should be. I raised my arm and knocked on the screen door. I waited for a few minutes and a very pretty lady came to the door. She looked at me and said, "Yes, may I help you?" I told her, I had come to visit her, even though we had never met. It was a few moments before she said it was okay for me to come in. Then she looked at me with her pretty green eyes. She was small in size, with her hair up around her face. She was about 5'2" tall. Then she looked at me and said, "Why do you want to talk to me?" Then she asked if I would like some tea or coffee. I told her that tea would be fine. So, she said to me to sit down, for we had gone into the kitchen, where she had some tea made. As I went into her home, we went through the front room to the kitchen. As I went through her front room, I saw she had a beading stand, like a loom, by the window on my right side. There was also a big rug in the middle of the room. To the left, in the corner, she had a pot-bellied stove. It was small, but big enough for the room to keep warm with. I also saw she had a lot of books on the floor and also on the right she had a writing desk. Then by the bedroom wall she had a mirror with a table in front of it. She had everything in place where it should go. As we went into the kitchen I saw a stove to my left. It was a small stove. Then I saw that shelves went from the stove around to a window. Then on the right there was an ice box. Mary Ann went to the ice box, and she had some cool tea for us to drink. I went ahead and sat down at the table. She served us some tea in small cups and saucers. As she sat down at the table, Mary Ann was dressed in pretty clothing. She did not look her age of 49. She had on a pretty blouse and a long skirt.

(continued on page 9)



WEB WANDERINGS

(Note: All start with <http://www> unless otherwise noted)

Cemetery Search
obitcentral.com/cemsearch

Searchable Cemeteries
interment.net

Archivability of Photocopied Papers
nara.gov/arch/techinfo/reformat/tip5.html

Civil War Rosters and Links
<http://sunsite.utk.edu/civil-war/warweb.htm>

1

PA Searchable Civil War Rosters
geocities.com/Heartland/Hills/3916/cwpa/index.html

All Civil War Muster Rolls by State
tarleton.edu/~kjones/unions.html

British Columbia Archives
bcarchives.gov.bc.ca/

Macalester College, St. Paul, Minn. - Irish
Genealogy
macalester.edu/~library/catalogs

Genmaps - Great Britain
freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~genmaps

Do you have a favorite website or one that you have found to be very helpful in your research?

Send it along to the Editor for future newsletters.

The Time to Gather Family Information

In the November Newsletter we started a listing of questions you can use when talking with your relatives. We continue in this issue with additional questions.

What were your schools like? How did you get to school?

What was your favorite subject in school and why? What was your least favorite subject and why?

What school activities and sports did you participate in?

Did you and your friends have a special hangout where you liked to spend time? Where was it and what did you do there?

Were you ever given any special awards for your studies or school activities?

How many years of education have you completed? Do you have a college degree? If so, what was your field of study?

Did you get good grades? Did you like school?

What did you like the most and the least about school?

What did you usually wear to school? Describe it?

Were there any fads during your youth that you remember vividly?

How did your fellow classmates from school remember you best?

We will have more questions in next month's Newsletter.

FIVE GENERATION CHART

Have you completed and submitted your Five Generation Chart(s) yet? If not, why not do it for 2001. The charts are available at every meeting so you can look through them, and who knows, maybe find that ancestor you are looking for.

Blank forms are available at the meeting. See any Board member to obtain copies. Price is 10 cents each.

The following are the guidelines for completing the charts.

1. Put your name, address and date submitted at the upper left hand corner of each chart. Please type or print in **black ink**.

2. Number one on the first chart should be the person who is submitting the chart! Fill in all information of each person as completely as possible. If you are able to continue any ancestral line, please use a separate chart for each line, being very careful to designate which line is being continued. After completing your chart, you may want to submit your spouse's chart or the chart pertaining to your Pennsylvania line(s).

3. If you use any signs to designate an outstanding feature on your chart make sure you put a code on the bottom of your sheet explaining what each sign means. Examples of signs are + (can furnish further information) or # (wish further information).

All charts are kept on file with the North Hills Genealogists Ancestor Chart Committee and filed under the name of the submitter. After completing your chart, prepare your Ancestor Cards and submit with your chart. See the following guidelines for preparing the cards.

ANCESTOR CARD FILE

We need to have a card for each ancestor whom you have a name, one date and one place of residence that you can identify. The cards act as an index to your five-generation ancestor chart. Please observe the following.

1. Use 3 x 5 index cards only.

2. One generation to a card, husband & wife should be on the same card if the information is known.

3. Type or block print in **BLACK** ink the entire card, capitalizing the SURNAME, always placing the surname first. Add birth, death & marriage dates if known.

4. Children (or other data) may be added on the back of the card.

5. No card should be submitted unless it contains (at least) one name, one place and one date.

6. Make a cross index card for wife, using maiden name.

7. There is no limit to the number of charts and cards which may be submitted. No restrictions as to the place of residence. You are not limited to PA.

8. Name and address of person submitting cards must be included on lower right hand corner of all cards. No address labels please, they eventually dry up and fall off.

Make it a (late) New Years Resolution to complete and submit both your charts and cards this year. Don't miss this great opportunity to get your family names out there for others to see and possibly find the missing person you are looking for.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO YOUR "STUFF"

The following is an excerpt of an article written by Leland K. Meitzler, Executive Editor of *Heritage Quest Magazine* in the November/December 2000 issue. He poses some interesting comments about what will happen to your "stuff" after you are gone. This excerpt is printed with the permission of Mr. Meitzler.

On the 17th of September, my mother-in-law, passed away. (She) had been an amateur genealogist since about 1980. Mom's passing had a dramatic effect on her children. Not only were they dealing with their grief, but now they had to deal with Mom's worldly possessions. She left a will in which she instructed that her household goods, etc. should be divided between the four adult children. Luckily, they all get along well and very quickly dealt with the division of assets. If they had been of the selfish nature or didn't like each other, this could have been a terror! I know this from experience, for I can remember some major fights ... within the older generation of my own family.

These events within my own life have prompted me to begin to think about what might happen to family heirlooms, artifacts, books and papers in my own possession. If I make the decision now as to how these items will be distributed at my demise, I'll save my kids a lot of grief.

Some thought also needs to be put into what we plan to leave behind. Just prior to Neta's last illness, my wife was visiting with her and asked about the long list of her students that she always kept [she was a school teacher] ... Mom answered that she had thrown it out, then upon second thought, went to the fireplace and pulled the unburned list from the ashes. ... It was at this point that my wife realized mom was beginning to get rid of items that she thought would be of no

interest to her family. Now, why do I relate this short and rather personal story? Because even genealogists don't always realize how important their family papers are! Granted, that list didn't have any family vital records on it, but - it did contain the names of people who mother dealt with on a day-to-day basis, along with the year that this interaction took place. This list could be invaluable in compiling any story of mother's life.

Patty and I are very careful to keep anything that we think will be of any interest whatsoever to future generations. ... Besides our genealogy document collection, we've kept cards, tax records, licenses, school records, employment records, and anything else that documents our lives. ... Now we just have to make sure these items don't get pitched when we pass on. It's important to store these items well, organizing them and marking them as to why they are important.

How about all our pictures? They should all be marked as to who the people are and where and when taken. As for the family artifacts, how are we marking them? Is that glass dish in the china cabinet marked as having belonged to Great Grandmother Hazel Cornett? Or is there no reason to mark it, since we remember mother telling us where it came from? What happens to that memory when we die? Friends, let's stop right now and begin marking the family artifacts as to when and where they came from. We might also keep a record of any anecdotal stories that might pertain to the artifact. We can't do it once we are gone.

Ok, I know that I've just dealt with a subject that many of us don't like to even think about, but I've heard it said "none of us will get out of here alive." ...That said, think about how thankful future generations will be when you do a little planning for them now. It will help to insure that your memory is kept alive.

(NHG Member's Story - continued from page 5)

Again she looked at me with her pretty green eyes. She was not sure what to say. I began by asking her about what she did for a living. She began by saying, "I do bead work for a living." I asked her, "Did you learn this from the family or friends?" She said, "A little of both." Mary Ann's voice was very lady-like and she said her words in a way that you just wanted her to say more about anything. She was a very smart lady.

We did not say much at first, but as we got to know one another, she felt a little better. I asked her about her family. As I did, I saw her face look down a bit, like she was ready to cry, but did not. Then I told her, it did not matter. "You really don't have to say anything." I could feel in myself how hurt she was. I could feel that she felt alone, no one really cared. She did say to me, "I have a son, named Isaac. He lives close by. He does help me out a lot, when he has the time." Then we sat for a few moments without saying anything. Then she looked at me and said "Why are you really here?" I told her, "Mary Ann, I know you'll not believe me, but I'm from the future. I wanted to so much to come back to the past so I could meet you, to find out just what happened to you and your family, with them not being with you. My heart goes out to you, Mary Ann. I just wish I had some way to help you out in any way possible. You truly do mean a lot to me. I know you had a son, Joseph, who was born April, 1829 and that after he was born something happened between you and your family. This is what I would like to find out. Please, Mary Ann, help me find out what happened, please." She looked at me and said, "If it is to be found, you'll find it." Then I told Mary Ann, "I have to go. My heart goes out to you." Then again, I ask her, "Please stand by me, to find out what I can about you. Please Mary Ann." She looked at me, with a big smile.

Or, was it she came from the past to the future to me?

**WESTERN RESERVE HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
Genealogy Institute - 2001**

The following is a schedule of classes being sponsored by WRHS in 2001. All classes on on Saturdays.

Exploring Family History - An Introduction

February 3

April 7

June 2

October 6

Fee - \$15.00

1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

The following classes are from 1:00 - 4:00 pm

Genealogical Research in the Computer Age

March 3, 2001

Fee - \$15.00

Scaling Your Brick Walls

May 5, 2001

Fee - \$15.00

Clues for Researching at WRHS

September 15

Fee - \$15.00

They Came in Ships

November 3, 2001

Fee - \$15.00

Each lecture is followed by an opportunity to work in the WRHS library.

For more information contact: Roger Ellsworth,
Registrar (216)283-6451 or wrhsgen@juno.com.

Do you know what "boodling" means?

NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS

C/O Northland Public Library

300 Cumberland Road

Pittsburgh, PA 15237

FIRST CLASS MAIL

DATED MATERIAL

91008 00-01
Elissa & Reed Powell
720 Highpoint Drive
Wexford, PA 15090-7571

THE GERMAN COMMUNITY IN ALLEGHENY CITY

John Canning - Allegheny City Society

February 20, 2001

FREEZE FRAME THE GOOD TIMES

Freeze Frame The Good Times

The "Happy Birthday Grandma" Times

Aunt Sweetnin', Shirley, Walt and Kids

Aunts, Uncles, Cousins, Friends

Freeze Frame The Good Times

Picnics At Mom's and Dad's

Moments Spent Spreading Memories

Surrounding Our Close Knit Years

OH Lord, Freeze Frame These Times --

The Laughter and

The Tears.... Just For me

Elnora Agnes Fortson, 1981 "Jesus Walks The Waters of My Soul", Reprinted with permission from the author.

SCHEDULE OF NHG MONTHLY MEETINGS FOR 2001

All meetings start promptly at 7:00 pm
Northland Library, Meeting Room 3

February 20

March 20

April 17

May 15

June 19

July 17

August 21

September 18

October 16

November 20

December - No meeting