

# NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS



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

Volume 11, Number 8 - April , 2001

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

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Subscription: \$12 per year		10 Issues - August - June

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I write this, my crocus are blooming in the back yard, and the tulips are up out front. The maples are full of buds ready to burst forth any day. All of which are signs that spring has truly arrived. After a long winter such as this last one, you need something to revive the spirit. A warm sunny spring day is just the ticket.

Spring is a time of renewal, of revitalization. It is time to get energized to get outdoors and take advantage of the weather to do all those things that have been on hold over the winter. It's also a time to get energized to continue our search for our roots. It's a good time to plan and take trips to those research resources that weren't accessible during the winter months because of the uncertainty of the weather.

There are new facilities, the National Civil War Museum, at Gettysburg, which might just be the ticket for a short side trip while visiting the Pennsylvania Archives and the State Library. Or, if you're traveling down south, you might stop at the Petersburg National Battlefield, and follow the route of Lee's retreat to Appomattox. And don't forget the day trip the group is taking to Cleveland to visit the Western Reserve Library on May 12. It's a good chance to get acquainted

with the facilities, and also get to know some of your fellow genealogists.

So, let's get revived, renewed, and revitalized, and start making those plans to move ahead with our search. Happy Hunting.

Sylvan

Next Meeting  
May 15, 2001  
Slovak Settlers in Pennsylvania  
Dr. Michael Kopanic  
Commonwealth Speaker

See the article on page 3 for details on this program.

This presentation is a program of the Pennsylvania Humanities Council, Supported in part by a grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. The presentation is free and open to the public.

Supported by:

**PHC** | Pennsylvania  
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## WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

**Tues, May 1 - 7:30 pm - NHG Board Meeting** - Passavant Hospital Cafeteria. Everyone welcome.

**Tues, May 15 - 7:00 pm - Regular NHG Meeting** - Dr. Michael Kopanic, Commonwealth Speaker for the Pennsylvania Humanities Council - "Slovak Settlers in Pennsylvania". See page 3

**Sat., May 12 - NHG Spring Research Trip to Western Reserve Historical Society** - see page 8 & 9 for more information and a map.

**Sat. April 21 - WPGS Spring Seminar** - Christine Crawford-Oppenheimer - See article on this page.

**Sat., April 26 - Annual Meeting - Allegheny City Society** - PNC Park - Sit-down dinner and tour of the new part. Awarding of the William Rimmer Award. Open to everyone. See page 5 for more information.

**Mon., April 30 - 7:00 pm -The Greater Pittsburgh Civil War Round Table** - Gary Adelman, Gettysburg Licensed Battlefield Guide - "Little Round Top - From Battlefield Memorial to the Present". Meeting held at The Babcock on Babcock Blvd.

**Mon., May 28 - 1 pm - Wreath-laying at Hampton Battery Monument** - East Park, North Side.

**Sat., June 24 - The Pittsburgh Civil War Soldier's Fair** - to benefit the Pittsburgh Civil War Monument Restoration in the West Park on the North Side.

**POINT (Pursuing Our Italian Names Together)** - Local Chapter - **PIP - POINTers in Person** - Meetings will be held on the first Saturday of the month from 10 am - 12 pm in the McGuffy Room located on the second floor of the Allegheny

Intermediate Unit, 1400 Penn Avenue, Suite 201, Pittsburgh. For information, contact Rosemarie Laudato at (412) 885-6347.

**July 12 -18 - The Traveling Wall** - Vietnam Wall on the front lawn of Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall. This is the traveling Wall that is one-half the size of the one in Washington, DC.

## WPGS SPRING SEMINAR

Saturday, April 21, 2001

9 am - 4 pm - Radisson Hotel, Greentree

Christine Crawford-Oppenheimer, MLS will present a program on:

Lost in Pennsylvania? Try the Published Pennsylvania Archives

Long Distance Genealogy

Has Someone Already Done Your Research for You?

Same Name - Must Be Same Person - Avoiding This and Other Genealogical Fallacies

Christine Crawford-Oppenheimer MLS, has been conducting genealogical research since 1979 and has written *Long Distance Genealogy: Researching Your Family History From Home*. Christine is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, the Genealogical Speakers Guild and the Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society.

Registration deadline was April 13, but you can contact Suzanne Johnston at (412) 486-3904 to inquire about late registration.

Cost - \$30.00 for WPGS members; \$35 for non-members. Includes luncheon.

## QUERIES

Compiled and Edited by Sylvian Kretz, Query Editor

NHG MAY 15, 2001 MEETING

### SLOVAK SETTLERS IN PENNSYLVANIA

**Dr. Michael Kopanic, Commonwealth Speaker  
for the Pennsylvania Humanities Council**

Overpopulation and a lack of jobs in Europe inspired over one-half million Slovaks to immigrate to America in the early part of the 20th century. Half of these immigrants settled in Pennsylvania. Most Slovak men found jobs in the coal mines and steel mills, while Slovak women worked as maids and kept boarding-houses. In this illustrated presentation, Michael Kopanic examines where Slovak immigrants settled and describes some of their early experiences in the state.

Dr. Kopanic will present information drawn from the unpublished archives of Rev. Baska, one of the first to research the settlement of early Slovaks.

Dr. Kopanic has an extensive background in Slovak history and culture. He has taught, presented and published on the subject. He is an Assistant Professor, Department of History, Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He has a PhD in Slovak History from the University of Pittsburgh. He is the author of a regular column "Views from the Alleghenies" in *Jednota* (largest Slovak-American newspaper in the U.S.A.)

This presentation is a program of the Pennsylvania Humanities Council, supported in part by a grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

This presentation is free of charge and open to the public.

Supported by:

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**SIMON**, Allegheny & Westmoreland Co.,  
**BEATTY**, Fayette Co., **GEORGE**, **WEISS**,  
**SCHRAHNER**, **HEIMBEUCHER**, Allegheny Co.  
Contact: **Joan Weiss, 8396 Knollwood Dr.,  
Allison Park, PA 15101.** Note: Also searching  
for the grave of **Abraham George SIMON**, who  
entered this country under the name **GEORGE**.

**BARIE**, **FISCHER**, **MEISER**, Allegheny City &  
Pittsburgh, **SCHMIELER**, Pittsburgh, Charleroi &  
Cleveland. Contact: **Ruth Salvador, 818 Harden  
Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15229-1109**

**TEBELIUS**, **PRESZLER**, **DOCKTOR**, North &  
South Dakota, **MEHLHOFF**, **WERRE**, North  
Dakota. Contact: **Laura Tebelius, 45 Oxford  
Court, Pittsburgh, PA 15237**

**MARTIN**, Kirchain, Germany, **SOHN**, Speyer,  
Germany. Contact: **Charles H. Martin, 7701  
Trion Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237-2045.**

**CHOHOLKA**, **SKALLA**, Allegheny City,  
**THOMPSON**, North Hills (1830's). Contact:  
**Joseph F. Cholka, 121 Camberwell Drive,  
Pittsburgh, PA 15238.**

**HOOVER**, **MYERS**, **BUTLER**. Contact: **Sally J.  
Rau, 180 S. Chapel Drive, Wexford, PA 15090,  
e-mail sjrau@nauticom.net**

**NOLL**, **LENKNER**, Allegheny Co. Contact: **Mary  
Ann Knochel, 4476 Mt. Troy Road Extension,  
Pittsburgh, PA 15214**

Queries are free and open to everyone. Send  
your query to North Hills Genealogists % address  
on front, attention: Query Editor. Queries will be  
published as space permits. Take advantage of  
this opportunity to connect with other  
researchers.

## CAN YOU TOP THIS?

Excerpted from the *Pittsburgh Sun-Telegraph* newspaper on  
August 24, 1907

### 160 KINGS IN HER LIST OF ANCESTORS

Indianapolis - The interest of Mrs. Henry Riesenburger of 2335 North Meridian street, was so aroused by a chance discussion of ancestry that she engaged Sith Thompson to investigate records for her and to arrange a family tree.

Mr. Thompson has concluded his labors and has delivered to Mrs. Riesenburger an ancestral chart as big as a dining room table. As nearly as history and records can show there is a string of names of ancestors reaching back to the first man, Adam. Of course, the line is broken when it is on its way to primeval history, but the genealogist has traced the direct line of descent, unbroken to Anne Plantaganet, granddaughter of Edward, King of England.

Mrs. Riesenburger found numbered among her ancestry 160 kings. She also found that she was a descendant of six English barons who signed the Magna Charta for King John's approval, and had 20 ancestors who came over in the Mayflower. There were three ancestors who were in the war of the American Revolution.

Of the 160 kings whose names hang on Mrs. Riesenburger's family tree are former rulers of Denmark, France, Scotland, England and Germany. Ten kings of the Saxons have a place on the chart. Conrad I, emperor of Germany has his name there. Clovia, first Christian king of France is also enrolled with his wife Clotilda. Another of the ancestors is Odin, First king and Deity of the Scandinavians.

The six signers of the Magna Charta on the family chart ..... are William deMowbray, William D'Alban, Robert deVere, Saber deQuincy and

Roger and Hugh Bigod.

Among the 20 who came over in the Mayflower is the name of William Bradford of Connecticut.

A family tree document is more intricate than the plans for a modern skyscraper. From the name of Adam, at the top of the list, there are all sorts of lines and signs and names reaching to the bottom. Mrs. Riesenburger's chart bears ten vari-colored family coats-of arms.

(Wonder if he cited his sources?)

## TIME TO GATHER FAMILY INFORMATION

Continued from the March issue  
Submitted by Steph Valentine

What was your first job?

What kinds of jobs have you had?

How did you decide on your career?

How old were you when you retired?

What were the hardest choices that you ever had to make?

Do you feel like you made the right choices?

Who was the person that had the most positive influence on your life and what did they do?

Is there a person who really changed the course of your life by something they did? Who were they and what did they do?

How would you describe yourself politically? Are you a conservative or liberal and why?

Do you remember someone saying something to you that had a big impact on how you lived your life? What was it?

## **TOMBSTONE SYMBOLS**

Continued from the March issue  
From the Montgomery Co., OH Mailing list

### **Mortality**

**Arrow** - Mortality

**Broken Column** - this image represents decay. It usually represents the loss of the family head.

**Candle being snuffed** - loss of life

**Coffin** - mortality

**Figure with Dart** - mortality

**Grim Reaper** - death personified

**Hourglass** - time has run out

**Scythe** - an instrument of the harvest, death cuts us down

**Skull and/or Skulls & Crossed Bones** - death

**Spade or Crossed Spade and Shovel** - death

## **ANNUAL MEETING - ALLEGHENY CITY SOCIETY**

**Thursday, April 26, 2001**

The Annual Meeting of the Allegheny City Society will be held on Thursday, April 26 at PNC Park. The cost is \$30 per person and includes a sit-down dinner and tour of the new park. Christine Davis will receive the William Rimmel Award honoring the person who best exemplifies the Society's mission of "Preserving, Promoting and Interpreting the history of Allegheny City and Pittsburgh's North Side." Ms. Davis is President of Christine Davis Consultants, the firm that performed the archeological survey of the PNC Park site. All are welcome to attend. For further information, contact the Allegheny City Society at 412-322-8807.

Thanks to Darlane Abel, NHG member for sending along this information and the following notice.

## **WREATH-LAYING CEREMONY**

**Hampton Battery Monument**

**East Park - North Side**

A wreath-laying ceremony to rededicate the Hampton Battery Monument will be held on Monday, May 28 at 1 pm. The ceremony will take place at the site of the monument in East Park along Cedar Avenue on the North Side. The monument, which has been undergoing restoration, was originally dedicated in 1871 by surviving members of this Civil War artillery unit to honor their fallen comrades.

## **PITTSBURGH CIVIL WAR SOLDIER'S FAIR**

**Sunday, June 24, 2001**

The annual Civil War Soldier's Fair will be held in West Park on the historic North Side on the grounds surrounding the National Aviary. The fair will run from 10:00 am - 5:00 pm.

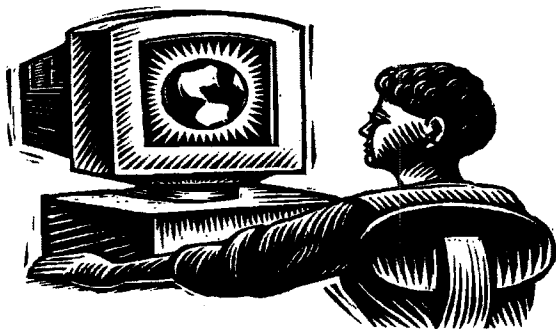
It will include Civil War encampment, recruiting parade, period photographer, artillery units and educational programs.

Reenactment of the Surrender at Appomattox with living historians portraying Robert E. Lee and Ulysses S. Grant.

*African-American Experience during the Civil War*, featuring Pennsylvania Commonwealth Speakers in the Rose Garden of the National Aviary and dramatic readings from the works of Frederick Douglas.

Wreath-laying Ceremony at the Civil War Soldier's Monument and the unfurling of the tri-state's largest United States flag.

For more information contact the Allegheny City Society at P. O. Box 100255, Pittsburgh, PA 15233-0225.



## **WEB WANDERINGS**

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

Pennsylvania State Archives

[phmc.state.pa.us/DAM](http://phmc.state.pa.us/DAM)

Allegheny County Register of Wills

Genealogical Resources in Allegheny County

[county.allegheny.pa.us/regwills/acgen.asp](http://county.allegheny.pa.us/regwills/acgen.asp)

PA Dept. of Health, Division of Vital Records

(new website)

[health.state.pa.us/vitalrecords/](http://health.state.pa.us/vitalrecords/)

Structure of Social Security Numbers

[cpsr.org/cpsr/privacy/ssn/ssn.structure.html](http://cpsr.org/cpsr/privacy/ssn/ssn.structure.html)

National Personnel Records Center - Military  
Records

[nara.gov/regional/stlouis.html](http://nara.gov/regional/stlouis.html)

Burial Sites on the National Register of Historic  
Places

[flash.net/~leimer/register.html](http://flash.net/~leimer/register.html)

Ellis Island Database

Available April 17

[ellisland.org/history.html](http://ellisland.org/history.html)

If you have a favorite website or one you have found helpful in your research, please send it along to the Editor for inclusion in future newsletters.

## **ELLIS ISLAND DATABASE TO LAUNCH APRIL 17, 2001**

On April 17, 2001, the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation will launch its database of 22 million passenger arrivals (1892-1924). The database is housed at the Family Immigration History Center on the island or online at the address in Web Wanderings. Information provided about each immigrant includes name, ship name, port of origin, arrival date, page/line number on the manifest, gender, age, marital status, nationality and last residence (town & country). The actual passenger record, which contains much more information, can be ordered from the Foundation for a fee. Included will be a new soundex search facility.

The project was started by the LDS Family History Department some years ago with 12,000 Church members volunteering more than 5.6 million hours to extract the information. They decided to turn over their efforts to the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation. There will be a fee of \$5.00 to use the database at Ellis Island. Early statements are that access to the Internet version would be free.

It should be noted that this database covers only those immigrants who arrived at New York between 1892-1924. It does not cover arrivals at other ports such as Baltimore, Philadelphia, Boston, and other ports of entry.

**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 does NOT do research for others. An individual member may chose to handle research requests, but NHG will not be responsible for the quality of the work performed or any fees charged.**

## GIVE US YOUR SUGGESTIONS

The Board of Directors of NHG would like your help. Please send us your suggestions on the following:

Meeting Topics  
Newsletter Articles  
Field Trip Destinations

I would be willing to consider:

serving as an NHG officer  
being on the program committee  
leading a meeting  
being a member of the Board of Directors  
being an activity organizer  
writing an article for the newsletter  
other \_\_\_\_\_

I have this suggestion: \_\_\_\_\_

I have this question: \_\_\_\_\_

I need help with: \_\_\_\_\_

I am having trouble finding: \_\_\_\_\_

I am frustrated by: \_\_\_\_\_

The genealogical software program I use is:  
\_\_\_\_\_

I do online genealogical research using these web sites: \_\_\_\_\_

Please take a few minutes and share your thoughts with the Board so it can make NHG the type of organization you would like it to be. Send your suggestions to NHG at the address on the front, attention: Tom Wiley.

Your help will be appreciated.

## NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD OFFICERS

The Nominating Committee is accepting nominations for Board Officers for 2001-2002. If you would like to nominate someone or are interested in being a candidate yourself, please see either Sylvan Kretz or Tom Wiley. All nominees will be contacted to obtain their agreement to be candidates.

Board Officers are:

President  
Vice President  
Secretary  
Treasurer

The elections will be held in June, with the results announced in July. The new officers will assume their duties at the August, 2001 meeting.

The Board is also looking for a Program Chairman/Chairmen. We also need people to work on activities such as field trips, Christmas social, etc. We need someone to update the Beginners Packet and handle the sales. If you are interested in helping with any of these activities, please see any Board member.

Here's your chance to help make NHG even better as we go into our 12th year.

## E-MAIL MEETING NOTIFICATION

Receive an e-mail notice of all NHG meetings and activities as well as information about other events. To subscribe - send an e-mail to:

**pioneerbook@juno.com**

Don't miss any NHG events. Subscribe today.

**NHG SPRING RESEARCH TRIP  
WESTERN RESERVE HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY  
SATURDAY - MAY 12**

Plan on joining your fellow NHG members for a day of research and discovery at Western Reserve Historical Society in Cleveland. It is the largest privately supported regional historical society in the nation. It has 235,000 books; 25,000 volumes of newspapers; 30,500 rolls of microfilm; 1,000 prints and photographs; and more than 3,000 collections of manuscripts and archives that comprise more than six million items.

The following lists some of the materials available at the Library.

**Family History Catalog** - Entries by city, county and state. Birth, marriage, cemetery, probate and tax records. Emphasis on Ohio, New England, Mid-Atlantic and Midwest states.

**Family Histories** - More than 18,000 family histories in book, pamphlet and manuscript form.

**Census, Soundex/Miracode and Related Records** - All available US federal population census schedules from 1790 - 1920; printed census indexes for most states through 1870; 1850-1880 federal non-population schedules for Ohio.

**Local Records** - New England marriages prior to 1700; Connecticut State Library vital records; vital records for Ohio counties; Ohio surname index; Lyman C. Draper Manuscripts (123 rolls).

**Local Histories and Records** - Transcribed marriage and cemetery records for many Ohio counties and similar records for areas in other states with extensive recent additions for Illinois and Indiana; PA will abstracts, late 17th century

to 1825 for Bucks, Berks, Chester, Cumberland, Delaware, Lancaster, Montgomery and Philadelphia counties.

**Military Records** - NARA Collection of Revolutionary War pension applications and bounty land files; War of 1812 Pension Application File Index; Revolutionary War and War of 1812 published rosters for most states; Confederate Army Casualties and Georgia Confederate Soldiers.

**Immigration and Ethnic Sources** - Passenger lists for the port of New York 1820-1841; port of Baltimore 1820-1879; port of Philadelphia 1900-1819; port of San Francisco 1850-1875; Griffiths Valuation - Irish Tax Lists of 1823 to 1864.

If your spouse is not "into" genealogy, in the same building is the History Museum and the Crawford Auto-Aviation Museum which showcases nearly 200 antique, vintage and classic automobiles and aircraft. Admission to the Historical Society gives you access to the Museum, Library and Crawford Auto-Aviation Museum. Within easy walking distance is the Cleveland Museum of Art and the Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

Admission: \$7.50 for adults; \$6.50 for seniors. WRHS members - free. There is a parking lot at the museum which costs 90 cents per 1/2 hr with a maximum of \$7.00. There is usually off-street parking. A tour of the library will be available at the beginning of the day. There is a snack room which has various vending machines, or brown-bag it. Map with directions on page 9.

Drive yourself or form a car pool. If you wish to go and need a ride or can provide a ride for others, please contact Sylvan Kretz at (412) 364-7214. Take quarters with you for the microfilm copier. They are 50 cents each. Xerox copies, done by staff, are 35 cents each.



# CONVENIENTLY LOCATED IN THE HEART OF UNIVERSITY CIRCLE

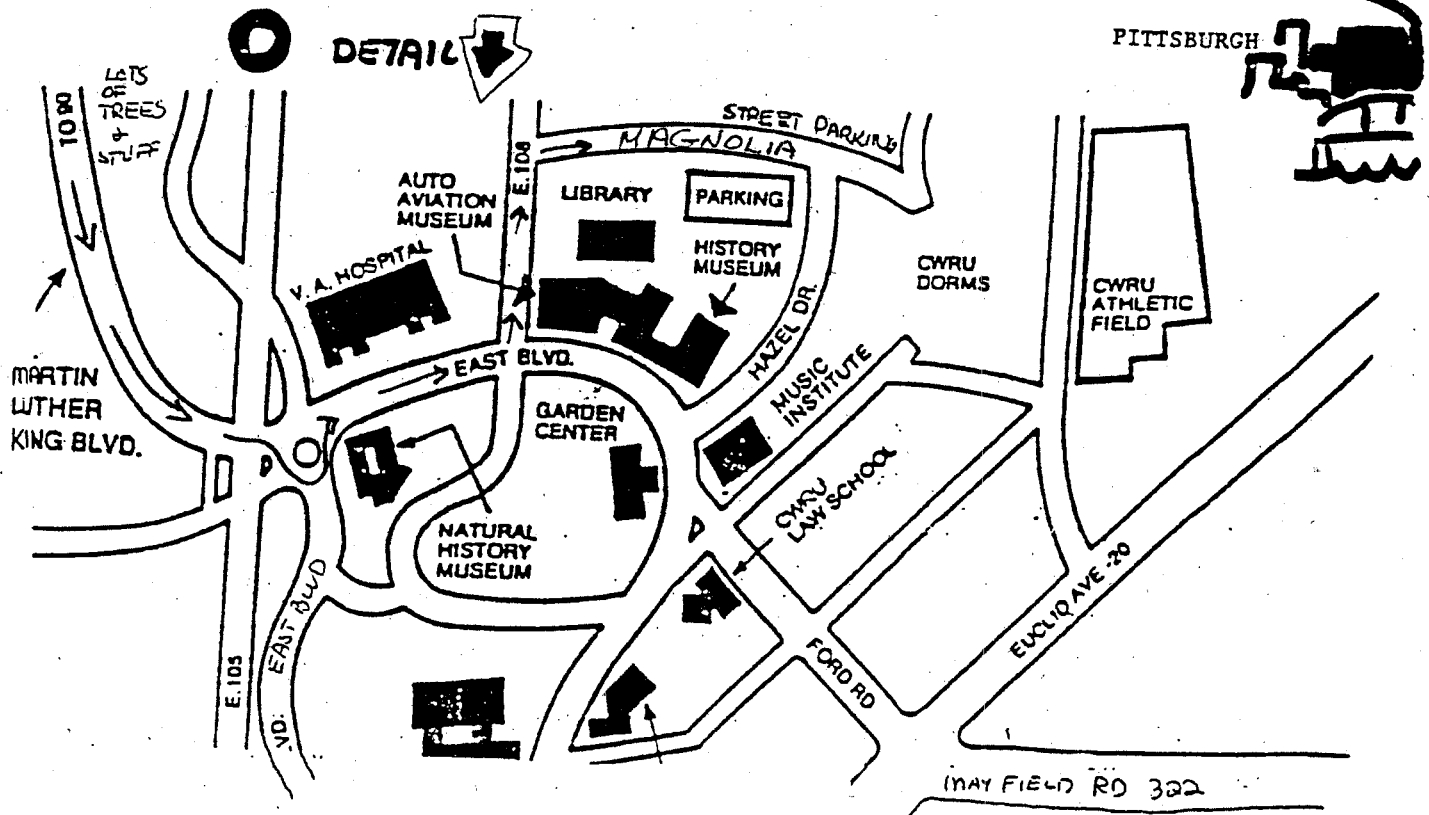
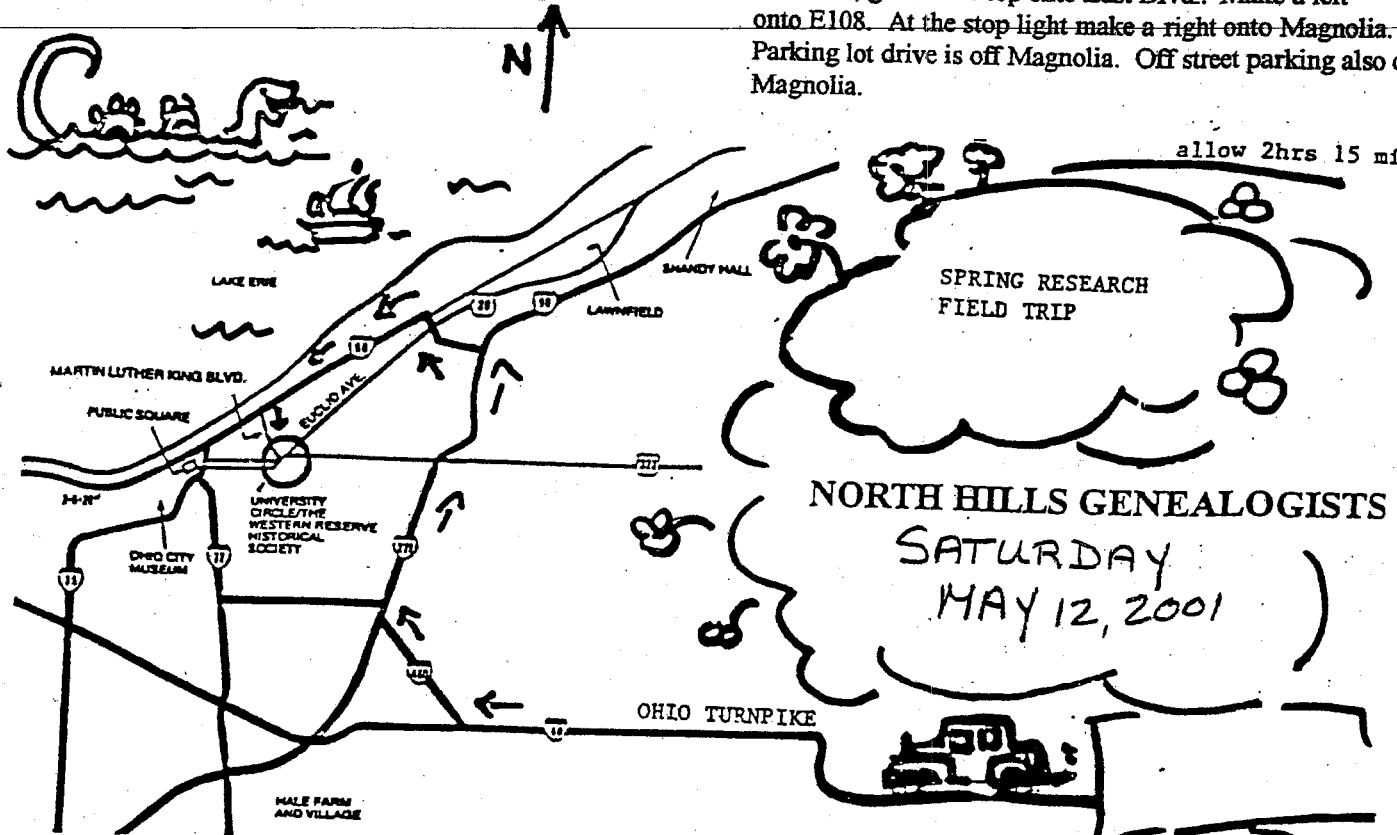
Western Reserve Historical Society

Library, History Museum, Crawford Auto-Aviation Museum

10825 East Boulevard/Cleveland, Ohio 44106/(216) 721-5722

Ohio Turnpike to Exit #187 (Streetsboro). Proceed North on I-80 to I-271. From I-271 proceed to I-90 West and exit at Martin Luther King Blvd. Follow Martin Luther King Boulevard to light at East Boulevard. Go left at light. At next stop light there will be a traffic circle in front of you. At the circle, go out the top onto East Blvd. Make a left onto E108. At the stop light make a right onto Magnolia. Parking lot drive is off Magnolia. Off street parking also on Magnolia.

allow 2hrs 15 min



# **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

### **SLOVAK SETTLERS IN PENNSYLVANIA**

**Dr. Michael Kopanic, Commonwealth Speaker for the Pennsylvania  
Humanities Council**

**May 15, 2001**

#### **THE ERIE SOCIETY FOR GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH**

**Monday, June 4, 2001 - 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm**

#### **IS IRISH & SCOTS-IRISH RESEARCH IMPOSSIBLE?**

The Erie Society for Genealogical Research will present a workshop/lecture featuring the Research Director and the Executive Director of the Ulster Historical Foundation. A wide range of sources can be consulted to help you in your research. Subjects include computer databases and their use as tools for research. They can perform a search assessment, a family history research profile and database prints for your surname.

If you wish to have a preliminary search done,

contact the E.S.G.R., P.O. Box 1403, Erie, PA 16512-1403 for more information. They are also offering a 15 minute one-to-one consultation prior to or after the meeting. Information for this must be submitted prior to April 30, 2001.

Lecture only is \$10.00. Lecture and search is \$31.00. Deadline for reservations for the lecture only is May 18; for the lecture and preliminary research is April 30. Reservations limited.

A limited number of reservation forms are available at our meeting.