



NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS



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

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e-mail: pioneerbook@juno.com

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I just got an e-mail from my sister in Boston. My three sisters are proposing a trip to Germany this summer or fall. In her e-mail, my sister asked me to compile a list of the place names of our family origin. I have been working on this for some time now, and know most of the towns, but some have still eluded me.

My folks first show up in Allegheny City in the 1840's. I don't know if they came directly to this area, or worked for a while further east before settling here. They were Roman Catholic, and as much of the community life centered on the church, I have found their records in both St. Philomena Church in Pittsburgh, and St. Mary's in Allegheny City. Both were German churches.

One thing I have to commend the early records for, they recorded not only the name of the couple being married, but the names of the parents, and the name of the towns where they were born or came from. Also the witnesses, who very well might be a brother or sister of the bride or groom. A clue to contiguous lines.

Later when children were born, they recorded with the baptism the towns where both the mother and father came from, confirming the

earlier marriage data. Only one problem: the place names were written as they sounded phonetically to the pastor making the record. This often lead to five or six spellings for the same name of the village (one for each child.) But by comparing, you can usually come up with the correct spelling or close to it.

As I send off the list of towns and villages where they came from, I'm thankful for those who recorded the information. Maybe this summer we can visit the town on the Rhine where great-great-grandfather George came from. And maybe even find records of his parents, and their parents too. Sounds like a plan.

Sylvan

Next Meeting
June 19, 2001
Oral History - A Gift From One Generation To
The Next
James P. Costello

See the write-up on this program on page 2 and learn how to conduct oral history interviews with your family members.

WHERE GENEALOGIST'S MEET

Tues, June 5 - 7:30 pm - **NHG Board Meeting** - Passavant Hospital Cafeteria. Everyone welcome.

Tues, June 19 - 7:00 pm - **Regular NHG Meeting** - "Oral History- A Gift From One Generation To The Next" - James P. Costello

Mon., May 21 - 7:00 pm - **The Greater Pittsburgh Civil War Round Table** - Jim Wudarczyk speaking on "The Allegheny Arsenal". The Babcock, 3382 Babcock Blvd.

Mon., May 28 - 1:00 pm - **Wreath-Laying Ceremony** - at the newly Restored Hampton Battery Monument - North Side

June 15-17 - **The Fifth Annual Conference on Women and the Civil War** - Hood College, Frederick, MD. For information: WCW, Inc. 12728 Martin Road, Smithsburg, MD 21783; 301-293-2820 or roslin@nfis.com

Sun., June 24 - 10:00 am - 5:00 pm - **Third Annual Civil War Soldier's Fair** - West Park, North Side - To benefit the restoration of the Civil War monuments on Pittsburgh's North Side.

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

Have you received information about a meeting that might be of interest to others in NHG? If so, please send it along to the Editor for inclusion in the newsletter. Deadline for submissions is the Monday of the week **before** the NHG meeting.

NHG JUNE 19 MEETING

Oral History - A Gift From One Generation To The Next

James P. Costello

Jim Costello will speak about his experiences with oral history over the last 20 years. He will discuss the process of conducting an oral history interview and means to setting up interviews with reluctant and apprehensive interviews. He will also discuss equipment considerations, questions to ask and problem solving. He will focus on the oral history process for the amateur genealogist.

Jim is currently a member of the Oral History Society of the United States and The Middle Atlantic Oral History Society. He has studied with Martha Ross, PhD., nationally acclaimed oral historian and Past President of the Oral History Society of the United States.

Jim is also the WPGS Store Manager.

Come and learn how to collect all that wonderful family information at family get-togethers.

PENNSYLVANIA RESOURCES

Submitted by Melinda Merriman

Did you have ancestors in Lancaster County, PA? Why not contact the Lancaster County Historical Society. This group maintains an extensive research library with most materials pertaining to Lancaster County. Many specialty items are not available anywhere else and must be searched in person or by society members. Contact the Society at 200 N. President Avenue, Lancaster, PA 17603-3125.

MEMORIAL DAY

From the Luzerne County, PA Internet mail list
Submitted by Lissa Powell

My wife and I walked past one of our town's cemeteries this morning and heard gunfire from a salute. From across the street, we saw 17 members of the American Legion honoring the dead. There was not one other person in the cemetery. Looking at the graves, I saw far more graves without flowers than with flowers. I thought how different it is today than it was when I was growing up in the 1930's.

Back in the '30's, my maternal grandmother would remind her children that they were expected to go to the cemetery on Decoration Day. It was a day that she wanted her family to honor their ancestors.

Unlike today, when there was no parade, there was a big parade back then. It was a "homegrown" parade with all the participants from the town. One could always count on a drum and bugle corps and a few bands. The high school and firemen had the bands. Crowds lined the streets to watch the groups pass by. The parade dispersed at the foot of a hill between two cemeteries. Here a flat bed truck, decorated with patriotic bunting was set up for the speakers. After a few very short speeches, the American Legion Honor Guard would march up and through the cemeteries. I still remember the highly polished WW I helmets they wore and their WW I uniforms. As they marched, the drummers kept the cadence. They visited each deceased member's grave and fired a salute. The American Legion going into the cemetery was the cue for the people to follow.

As we stood there, we could hear the gunfire and taps being played in other parts of the cemetery. When the American Legion left, we would join the long line of people walking around the circular

road. It was a real social event as well as an event where the dead were honored. Quite a contrast to today's unvisited graveyards.

After WW II, there were far too many graves for the Legion to honor individually. Instead they had white crosses with the individual's names painted on. These crosses were placed in the ground of the vacant lot to resemble a military cemetery. However, even that practice is gone.

Remember, in the 30's there were no backyard pools, backyard barbecues or as many cars. These were mostly miner's and their families with little money for recreation. Therefore, they took the holiday and made it a time to remember.

According to a news item on TV today, there were 16 million men and women in the armed services during WW II. There are only 6 million still living. The commentator stated that these vets are dying at the rate of 1,000 per day. You young genealogists should take the advice of Tom Brokaw (*The Greatest Generation*) and visit one of these people with your tape recorder. Time goes by very quickly.



MEMORIAL DAY

THE STORY BEHIND THE NAMES OF PENNSYLVANIA COUNTIES

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

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Jefferson County was erected by the Act of March 26, 1804, out of Lycoming County. The same act erected four other counties out of the territory of Lycoming, namely Clearfield, McKean, Potter and Tioga. Jefferson is one of the four counties of Pennsylvania named for Presidents of the United States. The first white settlers were Joseph Barnett and Samuel Scott in 1800. The county was not soon developed and until Brookville was designated as the seat of justice in 1830, the judicial work of the county was administered from Westmoreland or Indiana County. The area is 666 square miles, and it is mostly hills, but well watered by a number of large streams. The entire area is underlaid with bituminous coal, and natural gas, glass, sand, and lumber are the natural resources. Part of Cook Forest, noted virgin timber tract, is in this county. There are 11 boroughs and 23 townships in this county.

Brookville, the county seat, was incorporated from *Rose Township* in 1843. The site for the county seat was selected by four commissioners appointed by Governor John A. Shulze in 1829, who were influenced by the numerous brooks and springs which encircled the site, and its location on the Susquehanna and Waterford Turnpike. It was laid out as a town in 1830. The chief industries are railroad cars and locomotive works, furniture, mirrors, glass, tiles, bricks, gloves, planing and flour mills.

A few of the prominent boroughs are: *Brockway*, settled by Alonzo and Chauncey Brockway in 1822, and named for them when the town was laid out in 1836; *Punxsutawney*, the oldest town in the county, named from the Indian word

meaning "gnats" that annoyed the early settlers; *Reynoldsville*, site of the Indian village of *Olney*, settled in 1838 by Thomas and Woodward Reynolds, who were not related, but to whom the present name can be attributed; and *Sykesville*, incorporated in 1907, and named in honor of Jacob B. Sykes, a progressive citizen.

Many of the townships have been named for outstanding citizens. *Bell*, erected in 1857, was named for James H. Bell, prominent early citizen of the township. *Eldred*, erected from *Rose* and *Barnett Townships* in 1836, was named for Nathan B. Eldred, then president judge. *Henderson*, erected from *Gaskill Township* in 1857, was named for Joseph Henderson, then associate judge. *Knox* which was erected from *Pine Township* in 1854, was named for Judge John C. Knox. *McCalmont* was named after Judge John S. McCalmont; *Oliver Township* and *Perry Township* was named for Commodore Oliver H. Perry, hero of the Battle of Lake Erie; *Ringgold* was named for Major Samuel Ringgold of Maryland, who died heroically at Palo Alto during the Mexican War; *Rose*, named for Dr. Rose, prominent resident and landowner; *Snyder* for Governor Simon Snyder; and *Young*, erected from *Perry Township* in 1826, was named for Judge John Young.

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. 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.

Queries in the NHG newsletter are free and open to everyone. Submit your queries to North Hills Genealogists at the address on the front. Mark the envelope to the attention of the Query Editor.

TRACING ROOTS WITH DNA

The following information was taken from two Florida newspaper articles. Submitted by Ginny Skander

Brigham Young University has begun a research program to identify unique DNA characteristics associated with different parts of the world. The researchers plan to take 100,000 blood samples from around the world in the next 3-5 years.

The idea of this project is to get enough family history from each donor to match genes to continents, nations and even villages. The initial emphasis is on Western Europe and the Middle East, with hopes of expanding it to eventually include all countries. The researchers believe that this project will eventually enable people to quickly trace their family histories back as many as 15 generations.

BYU is run by the Mormon Church, but researchers say that the project is not associated with the church. They stress that all donor information will be kept confidential, with numbers replacing names.

There are concerns being expressed about this project. Some are concerned that there will be misinterpretation of the study's results, stereotyping of certain ethnic groups and perpetuating discrimination against some ethnic groups. Some people are concerned about the possible involvement of the LDS church in the program. Since March of last year over 14,000 people have submitted blood samples for this project.

Whether this project will produce the results expected remains to be seen. There are both positive and negative aspects to the project. It should be remembered that through DNA research some diseases specific to certain ethnic races have been identified and treatments have since been developed.

GENEALOGY ON eBay

Submitted by Bernice Broniecki

Old documents, post cards, etc. are being sold by people who could care less about the family connections. If people aren't looking on eBay and the other auction sites, they're missing the stuff that could fill in their genealogy. If your family lived in a small town, you can recreate the town through postcards, advertising flyers, etc. and "walk" down the street just like they did.

Here are some hints on how to search for items on eBay. (<http://www.ebay.com>).

"What are you looking for?" Type in the word: **genealogy**. Click on the "Find It" button. This will give you a broad search of items in the genealogy category. To narrow down your search, be more specific in your search criteria. For example:

genealogy +pennsylvania

There is a space between genealogy and the + sign and all the words are in lower case letters.

You can do this with locations, names, etc. You will be amazed how much is out there.

TOMBSTONE SYMBOLS

Continued from last month

Trade and Occupation (might indicate the person's occupation)

Barber Bowl (for bleeding) & Razor

Butcher - an axe, steel knife and cleaver

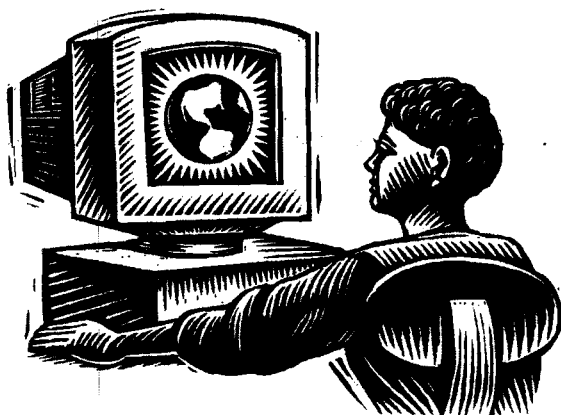
Farmer - coulter (type of hoe), flail (threshing implement), swingletree (rod for beating flax), stalk of corn

Gardner - Rake and spade

Minister - Bible

Teacher - open book

Weaver - loom, shuttle and stretchers



WEB WANDERINGS

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

1870 Census of Michigan (free)

[http://envoy.libofmich.lib.mi.us/
1870_census](http://envoy.libofmich.lib.mi.us/1870_census)

Abbreviations-Diseases-Epidemics-Latin-

Occupations-Terminology

genealogy-quest.com/glossaries/index.html

Help Reading Old Handwriting

[amberskyline.com/treasuremaps/oldhand
.html](http://amberskyline.com/treasuremaps/oldhand.html)

Pittsburgh Mail List - devoted to the 'Burg and
surrounding areas - to subscribe

PA-PITTSBURGH-L-request@rootsweb.com

Antique Maps and Prints

MapsandPrints.com

Irish Roots

Irishroots.com

Butler Eagle Newspaper

butlereagle.com

Search Engine

GenDoor.com

Links to surnames, queries, etc.

surnamesite.com

TIME TO GATHER FAMILY INFORMATION

Continued from the April issue

Submitted by Steph Valentine

What wars have been fought during your
lifetime?

How did you feel about them?

If you served in the military, when and where
did you serve and what were your duties?

If you served in the military, were you ever
injured in the line of duty?

What were the circumstances and what were
your injuries?

What U.S. President have you admired the most
and why?

As you see it, what are the biggest problems that
face our nation and how do you think they could
be solved?

ANOTHER METHOD TO GATHER INFORMATION

Type up all the family questions you would like
to have answered, cut into strips so that each
strip has one question. Place all the strips into a
memory box (or jar) and give it, along with a
bound notebook and pen, to the oldest family
member. Ask them to write the answer to each
question in the notebook over a period of time. It
is not such an overwhelming task when it is
taken one question at a time, and when all the
questions are answered you will have a notebook
full of family memories, handwritten by a family
member. The person who does the answering
will have a wonderful time remembering all the
events written down in the book.

1930 FEDERAL POPULATION CENSUS

From the National Archives website

The 1930 census and all existing soundex indexes will become available on April 1, 2002 at the National Archives Building in Washington, DC and all the 13 regional archives facilities

Indexes using the soundex indexing system exist for the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky (part), Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia (part).

There are **approximately** 1,591 rolls of census soundex microfilm and **approximately** 2,668 rolls of census schedule microfilm for the entire US. The following lists the number of rolls of microfilm for each state and territory.

Alabama, 54	Nebraska, 31
Arizona, 9	Nevada, 2
Arkansas, 36	New Hampshire, 10
California, 129	New Jersey, 84
Colorado, 24	New Mexico, 9
Connecticut, 33	New York, 270
Delaware, 6	North Carolina, 60
District of Columbia, 14	North Dakota, 15
Florida, 30	Ohio, 146
Georgia, 59	Oklahoma, 47
Hawaii, 7	Oregon, 20
Idaho, 10	Pennsylvania, 209
Illinois, 169	Rhode Island, 18
Indiana, 66	South Carolina, 31
Iowa, 52	South Dakota, 16
Kansas, 39	Tennessee, 54
Kentucky, 51	Texas, 127
Louisiana, 45	Utah, 12
Maine, 16	Vermont, 7
Maryland, 40	Virginia, 51
Massachusetts, 89	Washington, 42
Michigan, 106	West Virginia, 34
Minnesota, 59	Wisconsin, 5
Mississippi, 37	Wyoming, 5
Missouri, 78	Alaska, 3

Questions asked on the Census:

Name of each person living there on April 1, 1930; relationship to head of family

Home owned/rented; value if owned, monthly rental if rented; radio set; live on a farm?

Sex; Color/Race (White (W), Negro (Neg), Mexican (Mex), Indian (In), Chinese (Ch), Japanese (Jp), Filipino (Fil), Hindu (Hin), Korean (Kor). All others spelled out.

Age at last birthday; marital condition - single, married, widowed, divorced; age at first marriage

Attended school/college anytime since Sept. 1, 1929; able to read and write

Place of birth - person, father, mother; Language spoken in home before coming to US

Year of immigration; naturalization; able to speak English

Trade, profession; industry or business; class of worker

Actually at work yesterday; if no, line number on Unemployment Schedule

Veteran of US military or naval force; which war or expedition - World War (WW); Spanish-American War (SP); Civil War (Civ); Philippine Insurrection (Phil); Boxer Rebellion (Box); Mexican Expedition (Mex).

To assist researchers in locating a specific address for persons who resided in cities, NARA purchased a large number of microfilmed city directories. These directories are available for use by researchers at NARA in Washington, DC and at the regional archives. The list of available directories is on the website.

PHOTOGRAPHY SERVICE

Cambridge GenPhoto specializes in providing photos of important places in the past of a family who lived in the New York City area. They cover all five boroughs of New York City. Their services are not limited to cemetery photos, but to homes, churches, etc. Their flyer did not quote any prices. For more information contact Patrick Doyle, Cambridge GenPhoto, P.O. Box 562, Rockville Centre, NY 11571-0562 (516) 887-0650 or cambridgephoto@worldnet.att.net.

(Note: We have no information on the quality of work provided by this company.)

HOW TO GET AERIAL PHOTOS OF YOUR GERMAN ANCESTRAL HOME

From the German Roots website
Submitted by Bernice Broniecki

NARA has aerial photographs of Germany taken in 1945. If you would like to see what your ancestral village/city looked like 50 years ago, here's how to obtain a photo.

Write to NARA and tell them you would like to obtain an aerial photo of a specific German town. Provide as much information as possible about where the town is located today (county, state, etc.) Indicate that what you are looking for is part of Record Group 373 (Records of the Defense Intelligence Agency). Include your mailing address.

You will receive a form back with index numbers and information on it related to the area you specified. They will also provide a list of photo vendors near the archives who do this kind of work (NARA does **not** do photo reproductions - you must choose a vendor from the list.)

Mail/fax the form to the selected vendor along with payment. You can request a print or a copy negative or both. These must be processed by a

professional lab. The vendor can also make the print for you.

You will get a black and white photo of a small portion of Germany that includes your city/village. The scale on a 10" x 10" print is approximately 1:40,000. You can easily make out roads, hills, farming fields, clumps of houses, etc.

The address to write to is:

Aerial Photographs Team
Cartographic and Architectural Reference
(NWCS-Cartographic)
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MC 20740-6001
carto@narch2.nara.gov

PUBLICATIONS

Loose Papers and Sundry Court Cases, 1732-1745, Northampton County, VA, Vol. II

Loose Papers and Sundry Court Cases 1628-1731, Vol. I, Northampton County, VA

1856 Personal Property Tax for Northampton County, VA

1856 Land Tax for Northampton County, VA

The above are available from Hickory House, P. O. Box 37, Eastville, Virginia 23347

Biographical Annals of Lancaster County

Dauphin County Vital Records, Volume One

These two are available from Southwest Pennsylvania Genealogical Services, P. O. Box 253, Laughlintown, PA 15655

Contact publisher for current prices.

CEMETERY LOT CARDS

When you go to a new (previously unvisited cemetery) the first time, are you uncertain about what type of information you might find? One source of information you might want to check out is the cemetery "lot" cards. Most cemeteries have these, especially those that have not put their records on the computer. Even those that have computerized their records, often still have the old cards.

Most cemeteries have their records on these 'Lot' cards for all the sections and plots within the cemetery. Typically you will find information on these cards about the individuals buried in a particular plot. Often a large plot was purchased by a family so that numerous members of a family could be buried together. You might find some unexpected relatives in the same plot with the ones you are looking for.

Another important piece of information that usually appear on these cards is the name of the person who purchased the plot. Sometimes this is a female member of your family and could provide you with her married name.

Normally you will find information such as burial dates and sometimes the age of the deceased. They also often contain the name of the funeral home who handled the burial, the town where the funeral took place (which gives a clue to where the ancestor lived when he/she died) and sometimes even the cause of death.

The information available is going to vary from cemetery to cemetery. If the cemetery has not put their records on the computer, you will need to have a date or as much information as possible about the year the ancestor died.

Many cemeteries do not charge for looking at their records, but some do, so be prepared. Even if they don't charge, the offer of a donation to

their maintenance fund is always welcome. If you write to a cemetery, always include a self-addressed stamped envelope for them to use when responding to your request. Some cemeteries will respond promptly, others may take some time and, of course, some will never respond. However, this is still a good source to tap for locating that elusive ancestor.

GIVE US YOUR SUGGESTIONS

In the April issue we included a questionnaire asking for your suggestions for programs, newsletter articles, and field trip destinations. We also asked you to indicate what you could do to help NHG continue to grow. If you haven't taken the time to send in your suggestions, take five minutes and do it now. Your help is appreciated.

E-MAIL MEETING NOTIFICATION

Remember, if you want to receive a monthly e-mail notification of upcoming NHG meetings/trips as well as information about other genealogical events in the area, subscribe to the NHG e-mail notification service. Send an e-mail to

pioneerbook@juno.com

UPCOMING NHG MEETINGS

June 19 - Oral History - A Gift From One Generation To the Next - James P. Costello

July 17 - Were your Ancestors Citizens? A Look at Naturalization - Leslie Dunn

August 21 - The Ethnic Experience in Lawrenceville - James Wudarczyk

Don't Miss Any of These Exciting Programs

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

ORAL HISTORY - A GIFT FROM ONE GENERATION TO THE NEXT

James F. Costello

June 19, 2001

CREATIVE GENEALOGY

An amateur genealogical researcher discovered that his great-great uncle, Remus Starr, a fellow lacking in character, was hanged for horse stealing and train robbers in Montana in 1889. The only known photograph of Remus shows him standing on the gallows. On the back of the picture is this inscription: "Remus Starr; horse thief, sent to Montana Territorial Prison 1885, escaped 1887, robbed the Montana Flyer six times. Caught by Pinkerton Detectives, convicted and hanged in 1889."

In a family history subsequently written by his descendant, Remus's picture is cropped, scanned in an enlarged image and edited so that all that's seen is a head shot. The accompanying

biographical sketch is as follows:

"Remus Starr was a famous cowboy in the Montana Territory. His business empire grew to include acquisition of valuable equestrian assets and intimate dealings with the Montana railroad. Beginning in 1883, he devoted several years of his life to service at a government facility, finally taking leave to resume his dealings with the railroad. In 1887 he was a key player in a vital investigation run by the renowned Pinkerton Detective Agency. In 1889, Remus passed away during an important civic function held in his honor when the platform upon which he was standing collapsed."