

NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS

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10 Issues - August - June

Liz Reilly

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fall is here. The trees are changing color and the air has that crisp feel and smell.

October is Family History Month. Celebrate your family this month (and every month). We have two holidays coming up that are usually a time of family get-togethers. Start now to think about what questions, etc. you can ask during these events. What can you add to your family history from them?

We have finalized our plans for the NHG Christmas Social on December 6. We will be going to the Heinz History Center for a day of learning and a chance to socialize with the other members of NHG. We will have lunch at the Reymer's Old Fashioned Deli at the History Center. There will be plenty of time to view the exhibits and visit the library and archives. A big Thank You to Tom Wiley for all his work in pulling this event together. See the reservation form on page 29. The deadline to make a reservation is November 24. We hope to see all of you there.

The Cemetery Committee co-chairs, Jo Henderson and Irene Dinning, have been working very hard on readings this fall. They are trying

to get as many done as they can before the cold weather sets in. If you can help with the readings, please let either Jo or Irene know. They will welcome you with open arms.

Halloween is coming up in a few weeks. I hope that if you see any ghosts they are the "missing" ancestors you need to find to break through that brick wall in your research. (And don't eat too much candy!)

We have some great programs in the coming months. We hope to see all of you there. Next month is a program on Civil War genealogy. This is a MUST for those of you with Civil War veterans in your family.

Looking forward to seeing all of you at the Christmas Social on December 6.

Donna

WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

All are free and open to the public unless noted

Tues., Nov. 4, 2003 - 7:00 pm - NHG Board Meeting - UPMC Passavant cafeteria. Everyone welcome.

Tues., Nov. 18, 2003, 7:00 pm - Regular NHG Meeting - Civil War Genealogy - Brent Morgan, Richmond Heights, OH, former resident of McCandless.

Saturday, Dec. 6, 2003 10:00 am - NHG Christmas Social - John Heinz Regional History Center (see articles and reservation form)

Other Meetings

Sun., Oct. 19, 2003 - Allegheny Cemetery Tours - 1 hr tours of the oldest and most unique areas of the cemetery. Learn fascinating facts about famous people, personal tragedies and urban legends. This is the sixth oldest "rural" cemetery in the country. Tours start at 1:00 pm at the Butler St. entrance to the Cemetery. Cost: \$5.00 per tour (412-683-1515 or www.lhs15201.org)

Sat., Nov. 1, 2003 - 1:00 - 4:00 pm - Western Reserve Historical Society Library - Advanced Genealogy Class - Honing Your Skills Beyond the Basics - Cost \$15, \$5 late fee after Oct. 25. Contact Roger Ellsworth (216) 283-6451 or wrhsgen@juno.com

Sat., Nov. 8, 2003 - 8:30 am - 4:30 pm - Croatian Genealogy Seminar - Holiday Inn, Monroeville, PA. Cost \$40 per person. To register call Bob Jerin at 216-991-2310 or e-mail at rjerin26@yahoo.com

Thurs., Nov. 13, 2003 - 7:00 pm - WPGS Meeting - "Woodville - Home of the Neville Family" - Carnegie Lecture Hall - Oakland

Sun., Dec. 7, 2003 - 12:00 - 4:00 pm - Nationality Rooms, University of Pittsburgh Cathedral of Learning - 26 rooms will be open for free viewing. Rooms will be decorated for Christmas. There will be ethnic items and food for sale and ethnic music and dancing in the Commons Room of the Cathedral of Learning.

OHIO TOWNSHIP BICENTENNIAL HISTORY BOOK 1803-2003

This 50 page history is filled with family legends and genealogies of the families that settled, farmed and developed Ohio Township. In 1803 Ohio township was comprised of 44,000 acres and stretched along the Ohio River front from Avalon to the Beaver County line, thence north to the Butler County line.

Read about the duel that was fought with Civil War rifles loaded with paper wads and how an infant escaped from the second story of a burning log cabin. Maps, documents and lots of photos makes this an interesting read.

Written by Darlene Kaelin Phillips (member of WPGS). To obtain a copy, send a check for \$17.00 (\$15.00 for book and \$2.00 postage) to: Darlene Phillips, P. O. Box 101339, Pittsburgh, PA 15237.

RESERVE TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

Do you have ancestors who lived in Reserve Township? The Reserve Township Historical Committee is continuing to gather information on the people, farms, businesses, schools, churches and events of the historic Reserve Township. They are especially interested in old photographs of your ancestors, newspaper clippings of events, etc. If interested, call Sylvan Kretz at 412-364-7214 or e-mail at swkretz@attglobal.net.

OCTOBER IS FAMILY HISTORY MONTH

The following article is from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter and is copyright 2003 by Richard W. Eastman. It is republished here with the permission of the author.

Senator Orrin G. Hatch (R-Utah), Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, issued the following statement on passage of S. Res. 175, A Resolution Designating the Month of October 2003 as "Family History Month."

"Millions of Americans are researching the history of their families. Experts say that in the United States, genealogy is now the second most popular hobby next to gardening. It is believed that more than 80 million Americans are currently actively searching for more information about their ancestors.

"It is only natural that we want to find out more about our ancestors. What better way to bring families closer than by discovering more about the story of their own family? Like it or not, who we are today is in large part a product of our ancestors.

"This legislation commemorates October as Family History Month and encourages President Bush to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe the month of October with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

"With the advent of the Internet, there has been an explosion of interest in family history. Last month alone, more than 14 million Americans used the Internet to research their family history. Genealogy Internet sites are some of the most popular sites on the World Wide Web. My church, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, has family history information on nearly 500 million individuals on its family history website. (<http://www.familysearch.org>)

"Essentially, we are all immigrants to this

country. Our ancestors came from different parts of the globe. By searching for our roots, we come closer together as a human family.

"Researching ancestry is a very important component of identity. It can lead to long-sought-after family reunions or allow for life saving medical treatments that only genetic links will allow. For all of these reasons, I encourage people across this nation to find out more about where they came from."

CELEBRATE YOUR FAMILY THIS MONTH!!!

PIONEER CEMETERIES BOOKS BY NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS

Need a Christmas (or any other celebration) gift?

How about giving someone with relatives in the North Hills area a copy of one or both of the Pioneer Cemeteries books published by NHG.

Pioneer Cemeteries of Pine & Richland Townships

This 496 page book documenting the final resting places of many suburban Pittsburgh settlers is available from NHG for \$39.95 (\$29.95 for members) plus 7% sales tax for PA residents and \$4.00 for shipping & handling.

Pioneer Cemeteries of Hampton Township

This 200+ page book includes complete readings for Pine Creek, Depreciation Lands and Hampton cemeteries plus much more information. This book is \$19.98 (\$14.95 for members) plus 7% sales tax for PA residents and \$3.00 for shipping & handling.

Or, purchase both books for the special price of \$50.00 (\$40.00 for members) plus 7% PA Tax and \$5 for shipping & handling.

Send orders to NHG address on the front.

A RANT FROM A PUBLIC LIBRARIAN

by Leslie Dunn, WPGS Library

The book that you have been waiting for is not on the shelf, the staff can't find it, it's not in circulation and yet the computer says that its "Available." There was only one copy of that book in the entire state and it's now gone. What is happening?

Well, chances are that the library has been hit by a thief. Yes, "people" steal books that they can use for free. Why? No one knows, probably for the thrill of it. Personally I believe because they are dirty rotten scum bags that do not not deserve to ever enter a library again, (or live) but I digress.

The PA Library Theft Law states:

S3939.1. Library theft

a. Offense defined -- A person is guilty of library theft if he willfully conceals on his person or among his belongings any library or museum material while still on the premises of a library or willfully and without authority removes any library or museum material from a library with the intention of converting such material to his own use.

In plain English, this means that if caught stealing or damaging a library book, microfilm, video, etc., you are in real deep do-do! The PA Library Theft Law also provides for the detention of the thief.

(d) Detention - A peace officer, employee or agent of a library who has probable cause to believe that a person has committed library theft may detain such person on the premises of the library or in the immediate vicinity thereof for the following purpose:

1. To conduct an investigation in a reasonable manner and within a reasonable length of time to

determine whether such person has unlawfully concealed or removed any library or museum material.

2. To inform a peace officer of the detention of the person or surrender that person to the custody of a peace officer.

On behalf of the Western PA Genealogical Society, I have requested that CLP detain the person, call the Pittsburgh Police, and have the person arrested. The WPGS Library Committee, and I personally, as a member of the Society, will press charges.

Even more than before, in these times of shrinking budgets, rising prices and new expensive material formats, libraries are dropping the old 17th century attitude and adopting a more modern stance on theft and vandalism. Survival is the name of the game and libraries will not survive the way they have been in the past. Nothing is funded unless it is recognized as a good investment. Gone are the "Victorian" librarians who would never lift their voice above a silent whisper. Now we must shout to be heard!

Libraries have left behind the mealy-mouth "please walk-all-over-me" attitude and now have adopted a "use-but-not-abuse" attitude. Not many have adopted the "Rambo" attitude but with the cuts in funding and the rise of theft and vandalism I would not be surprised to see a few "Rambo" libraries in the near future.

Theft is one of the main reasons that libraries have "closed stacks", but not the only one. Closed stacks are the shelves full of books that you cannot browse through. In these libraries you fill out a "call-slip" with the name of the book, your name and seat number, you then must sign away your first born child, then they get the book for you. They keep the call slip and only throw it away when the book is reshelved once it

has been checked for condition. It is at this point they return your first born.

Oh, yes, "people" cut pictures, pages and even whole chapters out of books as well as spray paint on walls and computer screens, pry up keys from keyboard and bring cutters into buildings to cut cables. I am one of the trained professionals who try to un-do the damage done to the books, wall, computers..... and you wondered why I called them scum-bags!

There never was an excuse to cut a book apart and even less today when there are copiers available in every library.

Anyone damaging (on purpose) or stealing a library item is hurting everyone. The cost of replacement (if available) is going up constantly as well as the processing costs and the security cost. Everyone will have to pay for destruction done by that person.

Today in Pennsylvania we have the following posted in libraries:

"CUTTING, MUTILATING, ETC."

Cutting, mutilating, marking, or otherwise injuring any book, magazine, newspaper, or other property belonging to any free library is made a misdemeanor by Act. 188, Art. IV, Sect. 426, June 14, 1961. Fine or imprisonment, or both, are provided.

FAILURE TO RETURN BORROWED BOOKS

Retaining a book borrowed from a free library for a period of more than thirty days after the library has demanded its return is made unlawful by Act. 106, May 5, 1970. Fine or imprisonment are provided "

The polite term "extended use" no longer covers items after several years past due date. To recover these "stolen" items many libraries

have resorted to spending dwindling funds to hire collection agencies on top of the cost of security guards and systems.

In the day of a "no responsibility" population I ask you all to take responsibility to help the libraries you use. When you see a person (or scum-bag) writing in, cutting up, or stealing a book, REPORT THEM. You will be doing everyone else in the Society and all other library users a favor.

Ed: Lesle wrote this article as the Chairperson of the WPGS Library Committee. She is also a librarian at the Shaler Area Library. If you have bought any books lately you know how costly they are and why libraries are taking appropriate action to stop this theft and vandalism.

The next time you are at any library, keep your eyes open and if you see someone stealing books or materials or damaging them in any way, REPORT THEM immediately!! You will be helping everyone, including yourself. I know how frustrating it is for me when I go to a library to use a book that it is supposed to have and it is missing. I usually hope that it is just out for repair (rebinding, etc.) but in my heart I suspect that some person doesn't care about the other users of the library materials and has taken it for him or herself.

As genealogists who use libraries a great deal in our research, we need to be on alert to stop this destruction of the valuable resources we all depend on.



**NHG CHRISTMAS SOCIAL
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2003**

**JOHN HEINZ REGIONAL HISTORY
CENTER**

Join us on Saturday, December 6, 2003 for the annual NHG Christmas Social. This year we will be going to the John Heinz Regional History Center for a day of learning and spending time with the other members of NHG. We will be having lunch at the Reymer's Old Fashioned Deli in the Great Hall of the History Center. Below is the schedule for the day. Please try to be there no later than 10:00 am so we can start our full day of activity on time. There are so many things to see and do at the History Center and we are certain you will have a good time. On page 29 is a reservation form for ordering your lunch. The cost for the History Center admission and lunch is \$16, pre-paid. Reservations are due November 24, 2003. There will be no refunds for cancellations after November 20. Parking rates are \$3.00 for the first four hours at the History Center parking lot. But, you MUST have your ticket stamped at the desk in order to get the special rate. (Parking charges will be the responsibility of the individual - not included in the \$16.00) Check out the information on what is available at the History Center. There is something for everyone.

Schedule for the Day

9:45 AM - Arrive and park in lot on Smallman Street directly opposite the History Center. Bring your parking ticket to the History Center to be stamped for the special parking rate of \$3.00 for the first four hours.

10:00 am - Brief overview/orientation, receive maps. Divide into two groups.

10:15 am - Group A will go to "Eye of the Storm" exhibit on the 5th floor (with docent). Group B will go to HSWP Library/Archives on 6th floor (with a staff member).

11:00 am - Group A will go to HSWP Library/Archives on 6th floor (with a staff member). Group B will go to "Eye of the Storm" exhibit on 5th floor (with docent)

12:00 am - All go to Great Hall, 1st floor, for lunch catered by Reymer's Old Fashioned Deli.

After lunch, NHG members may wish to visit other displays and exhibits in the History Center and/or return to the HSWP Library and Archives.

Please complete the reservation/lunch selection form on page 29 and send it with your money no later than November 24.

The History Center has some wonderful exhibits, including the "Eye of the Storm". If you haven't been through the "Points in Time" exhibit, make sure you stop there (and see things that will bring back memories). You can get a good idea of life in early America and up to the modern times.

The parking lot for the History Center is across the street from the front of the building. If you come off the Ft. Duquesne Bridge and down Ft. Duquesne Blvd and under the overhang of the new convention center you will go up 11th St. to turn onto Smallman Street. The entrance to the lot will be on your left just after you turn onto Smallman. There is a sign. This is the only lot where you will get the discounted parking rate.

**SEE YOU DECEMBER 6 AT THE HEINZ
HISTORY CENTER!!!**

WHERE HISTORY COMES ALIVE - THE JOHN HEINZ REGIONAL HISTORY CENTER

Step inside a 1790s log cabin. Uncover myths of the Underground Railroad. Climb aboard a 1940s Pittsburgh trolley. And, discover the region's role in world-shaping events. From its pivotal role in the French & Indian War to the legacies of coal, steel and glass, explore the extraordinary history and heritage of Western Pennsylvania. Five floors of interactive exhibits for the whole family bring the region's history to life.

WHAT TO SEE AT THE HEINZ HISTORY CENTER

The following is a list of events and exhibits that are at the Heinz History center which will be available for viewing during our Christmas Social.

First Floor:

Great Hall
Reymer's Cafe
Museum Shop
Vintage Vehicles
Isaly's Dairy: Klondikes, Chipped Ham and Skyscrapers
Kidsburgh (mezzanine)

Second Floor:

Points in Time - Building a Life in Western PA 1750-today
Underground Railroad, Journey to Freedom

Third Floor:

Discovery Place
Prine Collection of Woodworking Planes
Rediscovering Lewis & Clark: A Journey with the Rooney Family

Fourth Floor:

Glass Shattering Notions
HEINZ 57

Led By the Spirit: 125 Years of Excellence
at Duquesne University

Fifth Floor:

Eye of the Storm: Unknown Stories of the Civil War (see separate article about this exhibit)
Wrought Metal Treasures From the Blum Collection

Sixth Floor:

Library & Archives

EYE OF THE STORM - UNKNOWN STORIES OF THE CIVIL WAR

Get inside the mind of a Civil War soldier in one of the greatest Civil War collections ever discovered.

Uncover the stories of the Civil War - And its legacy today - In our own region and beyond.

See the Civil War through the eyes of Private Robert Sneden, whose intricate watercolors, maps and sketches depict harrowing experiences in the Union Army of the Potomac and as a prisoner of war. Sneden's work, organized by the Virginia Historical Society, is the largest collection ever produced by a Civil War soldier.

Then view rare artifacts - many exhibited for the first time - from the Smithsonian Institution, other partners and the History Center's own collection to illustrate the impact of the Civil War on the Pittsburgh region.

Colonel Strong Vincent's sword, Abraham Lincoln's life mask, and a massive 20-inch cannon ball are only some of the objects that will reveal the gripping stories of this cross roads in American history.

(We will have a docent from the History Center with us as each group visits this exhibit. You don't want to miss this exciting exhibit and learn more about Pittsburgh and the Civil War.)

UNDERGROUND RAILROAD - JOURNEY TO FREEDOM

Self-Guided Tour

We don't know the name of the first enslaved African who sought a route to freedom. But by the mid-19th century, thousands of slaves ran away each year hoping to find freedom and a better life. This tour examines the institutionalization and economy of the Underground Railroad. Important Underground routes through the region, conductors on the railroad and sites are also presented.

Though the Civil War settled the national debate on the issue of slavery, it did not guarantee equality for all. Follow the tour to learn more about the people and institutions in this region that participated in the journey to freedom.

Stations on your tour:

1. African Nations
2. Conditions of Slavery
3. A Free State?
4. Voices Raised for Freedom
5. Flight to Freedom
6. African Americans and the Civil War
7. Underground Railroad Activity Station
8. Can You Vote Activity Station
9. *The Pittsburgh Courier*
10. Discrimination and Desegregation

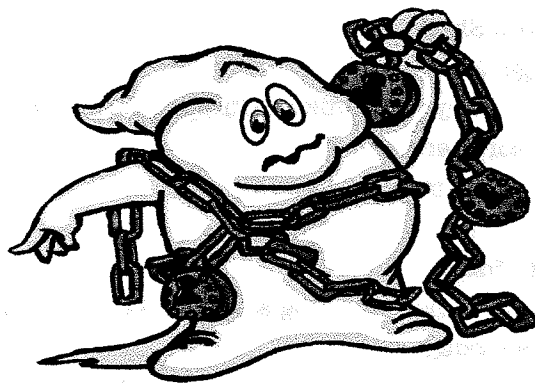
Take time to go through this exhibit and see more of the interesting aspects of the Civil War and one of the major events that occurred during that time in America's history.

As you can see, there are many exciting exhibits at the History Center for you to enjoy during our Christmas Social. We hope to see all of you there on December 6.

DUBIOUS GHOST STORIES OF PITTSBURGH

The following article was written by Paul S. Korol and was in a recent issue of the Pittsburgh Senior News. Keep your eyes open while you are touring the History Center.

Visitors to the John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History Center might get a bit more local color than they paid for. This paranormal Internet story concerns the supernatural activity that the staff members and security guards at the History Center have reported. The building is on the site for the old Chautauqua Lake Ice Company, which burned to the ground after an explosion in 1898. Eighteen people met their eternal destiny in the conflagration. Footsteps, shadows of men wearing tall hats have been reported, with most of the incidents centered on the Fifth Floor area, home to the museum offices. Unsuspecting visitors to the museum have also reported seeing supernatural "interactions" with exhibits on the floors.



**HAPPY HALLOWEEN
WATCH OUT FOR THE GHOSTS AND GOBLINS**

**NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS
CHRISTMAS SOCIAL
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2003**

Please complete the form and return it with your payment of \$16 per person by November 24, 2003.

Please list the names of those attending and make a luncheon selection for each person. If more than one person is attending, please indicate which menu selection applies to each person. Parking charges will be the responsibility of each person individually.

NAME: _____

MENU SELECTION

Please indicate your sandwich selection:

____ Turkey & Swiss Cheese
Rye ____ White ____ Wheat ____

Ham & American Cheese
Rye ____ White ____ Wheat ____

____ Roast Beef & Provolone Cheese
Rye ____ White ____ Wheat ____

Vegetable Wrap
Tomato ____ Spinach ____ Herb ____

Condiments (please circle selection)

Mayonnaise Yellow Mustard
Spicy Mustard Lettuce
Tomato Onion

Please circle selection:

Italian Dressing
Low Cal Dressing
Ranch Dressing
Blue Cheese Dressing

Side Selection (please make ONE selection from each)

Salads

Macaroni Salad ____
Pasta Salad ____

Desserts

Rice Pudding ____
Brownie ____

Drinks (please check selection)

Coca Cola ____ Coffee/Tea ____
Diet Coca Cola ____ Regular ____ DeCaf ____
Bottled Water ____ Tea ____

SEND FORM WITH \$16 PER PERSON TO:

**NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS
P. O. BOX 304
INGOMAR, PA 15127**

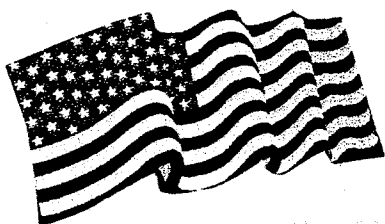
NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS

P. O. BOX 304

INGOMAR, PA 15127

FIRST CLASS MAIL

DATED MATERIAL



CIVIL WAR GENEALOGY

BRENT MORGAN

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2003 - 7:00 PM

McKnight United Methodist Church

In past newsletters we told you about another genealogical scam that was going around on the Internet. In August we reported that the person responsible for these scam had been arrested in Iowa and was awaiting prosecution. In the meantime, he apparently started another scam under the name "GenealogyTech.com."

Dick Eastman purchased the so-called "renewable" CD-ROM disks that were advertised and found them to be junk. He published this information in his newsletter.

It appears that the person responsible for these scams immediately pulled the website off the Internet after Dick published his review of the product.

We all owe Dick Eastman a big "Thank You" for following up on all these scams and keeping us posted on them. Hopefully the legal system will take action to really shut this scam artist down once and for all.

Again we advise you -- **BUYER BEWARE!!** Know who you are buying a product or service from before you commit funds.

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 choose to handle research requests, but NHG will not be responsible for the quality of the work performed or any fees charged.