

NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS



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10 Issues - August - June

Liz Reilly

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"Christmas is coming and the goose is getting fat." Remember singing that song when you were young? It is hard to believe that it will soon be Christmas and a new year.

This has been a year of change for NHG. We had to find a new "temporary" meeting place while Northland Library is closed for renovation and we got our own post office box address. We really appreciate the McKnight United Methodist Church for allowing us to use their facilities for our meetings during this period.

Have you sent in your reservation for the Christmas Social on December 6? Remember, the deadline is November 24. We need to let the History Center/Reymer's Deli know how many are coming. They are looking forward to working with us on that date. Pick up a reservation form at the meeting or use the one on page 39 of this newsletter.

Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years are wonderful times of family parties and the chance to get together with our relatives. Take this opportunity to gather information to add to your family tree. Consider having everyone talk about

an event that stands out in their minds from the past -- a special holiday celebration, a family reunion, etc. Write these down and put them in your database. Remember, doing genealogy is more than just collecting names and dates. The activities of our ancestors and information on their lives put the "meat" on the bones of our family tree.

Have you thought about having a family reunion this year? Don't miss this opportunity to gather with relatives. My cousins and I have been having them for the last few years. We are so glad we re-started these annual reunions, especially this year. Exactly two months after our reunion in August we had to deal with the death of one of our cousins. At his funeral his wife talked about how much he looked forward each year to the reunion and she knew that he would be looking down on all of us next summer. We will miss him next year, but were so glad we had a chance to spend time with him these last few years at our reunions. Don't wait until it is too late. Plan your reunion now.

I hope everyone has a wonderful Christmas and that 2004 is a great year for you. See you in January.

WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

All are free & open to the public unless noted.

Saturday, December 6, 2003 - 10:00 am - NHG Christmas Social - Heinz Regional History Center (see page 9 for reservation form)

Tuesday, January 2, 2004 - NHG Board Meeting - 7:00 pm - UPMC Passavant Hospital cafeteria. Everyone welcome.

Tuesday, January 20, 2004 - 7:00 pm - Regular NHG Meeting - "Dating and Restoring Family Photographs" - Robin Schooley, charter member of NHG. Bring old family pictures that Robin can use in discussing dating and restoration.

Other Meetings

Thursday, November 20, 2003 - 7:00 pm - Lawrenceville Historical Society - "Music of America" - Ann New, Musician and Music Historian. Canterbury Place, Fisk Street, Lawrenceville, PA.

Monday, November 24, 2003 - 7:00 pm - Greater Pittsburgh Civil War Round Table - "A Civil War Evening with Andrew Masich" - Andrew Masich, President and CEO, Historical Society of Western PA.

Sunday, December 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.

Monday, December 22, 2003 - Greater Pittsburgh Civil War Round Table - Holiday Dinner and Meeting. Check <http://www.grphcwr.org> for details.

Saturday, January 20, 2004 - 10:00 am - WPGS Monthly Meeting - Lecture on Post-Civil War Soldiers' Homes - Richard Sayre - Carnegie Lecture Hall, Oakland.

Thursday, January 15, 2004 - 7:00 pm - Lawrenceville Historical Society - "Pittsburgh Architecture" - Slide presentation by Mary Ann Eubanks, Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation. Canterbury Place, Fisk Street, Lawrenceville, PA.

**NO MEETING OF NHG IN DECEMBER.
SEE YOU IN JANUARY**

WE NEED YOUR SUGGESTIONS

Program Chair Tom Wiley is working on our future programs. One program that is in the works is on Germany. The speaker is interested in knowing the types of information our members would be interested in having her cover. She is able to discuss, among other things, 18/19th century history including social conditions leading up to the 1848 revolution, the Thirty Years Wars and its aftermath, reading sources "against the source", that is, to find out things that the source was not meant to tell us, using public documents such as wills, estate inventories, etc.

The speaker wants to shape her presentation to cover topics that are of interest to NHG members.

Therefore, if you have something specific regarding Germany/German history that you would like to have her consider as part of her presentation, please send the information along to Tom Wiley, Program Chair at the address on the front of the newsletter. Tom would appreciate having this information as soon as possible in order to pass it along to the speaker so that she is able to prepare her presentation.

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PURSUES COLLECTIONS OF STATE VITAL STATISTIC RECORDS

UpFront: NGS Vol. 2, No. 19, 01 Oct. 2003

The Ohio Department of Health will pursue every collection of state vital records outside its control on the grounds that local health districts never had the authority to make available mass reproductions of the records, according to Jay Carey and Dr. Sandra McGuire of the Ohio Department of Health.

"The Office of the Vital Statistics will be contacting recipients to retrieve all public collections that are not under direct control of a local registrar", states a ODH letter sent to registrars across the state who are in charge of local vital statistics.

The Huron County Board of Health confiscated about 20 rolls of microfilm of birth and death certificates on June 30 from the Norwalk Public Library. The records are owned by the Huron County Genealogical Society and members said they intend to fight to get the records back, even if they have to file a lawsuit.

In the meantime, the state health department maintains that much information maintained on vital statistic records, such as adoption and paternity information, is confidential and keeping complete records at locations such as a public library is prohibited and has been since 1907 said McGuire.

The local health departments are allowed to reproduce a number of copies, just not over a year's worth or more, said Carey. Death records and the upper portions of birth records are public records and can be made available for viewing or sold, as long as the health and medical information on the lower part of the birth certificate is kept confidential, according to ODH.

The fact that some health departments such as Huron County have sold collections of the vital statistics came to light a few months ago when the legislature upped the price of certified birth certificates to \$15, according to ODH. The state health department started receiving inquiries from local registrars who were trying to learn what to charge for issuing entire collections of records said Carey.

Anyone possessing a collection of the records is being told to return them to the state by November 15, however, the state has not ascertained what it will do in the event that the collections are not handed over, said McGuire.

About six years ago, the Huron County General Health District wanted to preserve the county's birth and death certificates on microfilm, so the records were sent to the Center for Archival Collections in Bowling Green and transferred to film at the cost of \$600, paid for by the Church of Latter Day Saints, said local historian and Huron County Genealogical Society member Henry Timman.

A spokesman from the Church of the Latter Day Saints in Salt Lake City, Utah was not available to find out what the church would do if told to turn over its collection to the state.

WPGS SPRING SEMINAR

The annual WPGS Spring Seminar is scheduled for Saturday, April 17, 2004. The speaker at this seminar will be John P. Colletta, PhD. He will do four lectures - 2 in the morning and 2 in the afternoon. There will be a luncheon also.

If you have never heard John Colletta, you are in for a real treat. He is a very interesting speaker. John is the author of many books, such as "They Came in Ships."

Watch for more information on this seminar.

EXPERT ADVICE: DON'T GET LOST ON THE WEB

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The next time you find yourself surfing all over the Web, use these 10 quick tips to get back on course.

1. Before logging online, write down your goal, for example:

Find and join the Jackson surname mailing list

Locate a Revolutionary War-era map of Connecticut

Get the mailing address for ordering a death record.

2. Use the appropriate search strategy. If you are unsuccessful with one strategy, try another, then another.

3. Attack your search problem from every conceivable angle. Follow your hunches.

4. Keep an electronic or paper file of every site you visit in your search.

5. Note the pertinent information on each query you leave, for example, the date, the URL, the name of the site and the subject ancestor.

6. If you find a site brimming with possible goodies, but it doesn't pertain to your current search, finish the current search first, then return to the goodies. This is a tough one, and I speak from experience.

7. Keep an electronic or paper file on your genealogy-related e-mails and be sure to date when they're sent. This will keep you from sending the same question to someone you've already contacted.

8. Know when it is time to say "uncle." If you

follow the search strategies in this book and attack the problem every way you can think of, and you still can't find what you're looking for, its possible it's just not online. Save the search and run it again in six months. Or see if the record you need is on microfilm at a Family History Center.

9. Weave back and forth between online and offline research. You will need to contact local agencies for vital records, as well as ordering land, probate, and other records.

10. As for help. When a research goal becomes tough, ask other researchers on your mailing lists -- or your local genealogical society -- for suggestions.

Excerpted from "Finding Your Roots Online" by Nancy Hendrickson

HONORING WORLD WAR II VETS

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If your American relatives served in World War II or supported the war effort from the home front, you can add their names to a registry on the National World War II Memorial Web Site. Organized by the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC), this free registry honors the 16 million Americans who served in the US armed forces during World War II, the more than 400,000 who died and the millions who contributed to the war effort from America's factories, farms and neighborhoods. May 29, 2004 the ABMC will dedicate the National World War II Memorial, still under construction on the National Mall in Washington, DC.

<http://www.wwiimemorial.com>

CARNEGIE LIBRARY PARKING

Note that parking rates at CLP on evenings and weekends has changed to \$4.00 (all day on weekends) and after 5 on weekdays.

WHAT OUR ANCESTORS ATE

With the holiday season coming, we will be eating more at celebrations and family get-togethers. Food will abound. Here are some of the items our ancestors in America may have eaten back in the late 1600's - early 1700's. How many do we still use as part of our celebrations today?

Side Dishes

Mulled Cider
Corn Bread
Pickles
Butter & Honey
Spoon Bread

Entrees

Roast Chicken
Bean Soup
Brunswick Stew
Salad

Dessert

Indian Pudding
Gingerbread
Lemon Chess Pie
Baked Apples
Apple Sauce

Are there family recipes that have been handed down for years in your family that are served at holidays? Consider gathering them together and putting together a family recipe book to make sure these recipes are handed down to future generations. Note where the recipe came from (which ancestor - grandmother, etc.) Leave this legacy for future generations. Many of us have happy memories of these special foods and it is important that we pass along those memories.

EXPERT ADVISE: MAKE A GOAL TO GET ORGANIZED

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Have you noticed that genealogists have a lot of stuff? And these are just the items they cart around with them. There's a whole lot more to organize and deal with than research-trip paraphenalia. Regardless of how you got involved in a project, you quickly discover that you are gathering even more paper and more information that must be handled and processed. For any project, it is important to define your goals and limitations:

- * Why are you undertaking the project (to make a contribution to the field, to leave a legacy for your family, temporary insanity, moment of weakness)?

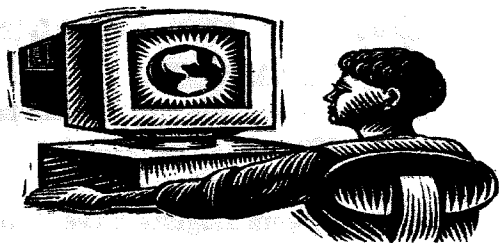
- * What do you plan to do with the results (publish a book, computerize and distribute)?

- * Have you written out explicit instructions so that if you die someone can complete your project or at least understand what you were trying to do?

- * What will be the scope of the project, that is, what will be included and what will not?

Certainly your goals can change and evolve as you work on the project. Regardless, begin the project by writing out a clearly defined goal. Researching is generally the fun part of any project, so keep your organizational method as simple as you can.

Excerpted from "Organizing Your Family History Search" by Sharon DeBartolo Carmack (Betterway Books).



WEB WANDERINGS

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

Do you have a favorite website? Is there a specific place you would like to find a website for? If so, please send a note to the editor at the address on the front or by e-mail at DJBooth@worldnet.att.net.

American's Military Memorials & Military Museums

<http://web.infoave.net/~donbarb54>

Ship Lists

<http://khuish.tripod.com/ships.htm>

Free Online Genealogy Classes

<http://elearn.byu.edu>

click on Special Offers

National Register of Historic Places

nationalregisterofhistoricplaces.com

Transcripts of wills

sampubco.com/wills

Survey Maps of Scotland Towns - 1847-1895

nls.uk/digitallibrary/map/townplans/index.html

What is your favorite/helpful website?

Send it along for inclusion in future newsletters.

DJBooth@worldnet.att.net

EXPERT ADVICE: SENIORITY IDENTIFIERS

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If you're just beginning to research in older records, you may not realize that terminology such as junior, senior, III, the elder, the younger and so on didn't imply a familial relationship. Furthermore, these terms were usually (but not always) fluid, with the designation changing as the number of men of the same name varied in the community.

The terms generally implied chronological age. Thus, if there were two men named John Jones, age 65 and 35, they were designated, respectively, John Jones senior and John Jones junior. If John Jones "senior" died, leaving just one John Jones, the identifiers became unnecessary. If instead a third John Jones, age 55, moved into town, then John Jones junior would have been demoted to John Jones III, and the new guy in town would become John Jones junior.

Excerpted from "Locating Your Roots: Discover Your Ancestors Using Land Records" by Patricia Law Hatcher (Betterway Books) Reprinted here with permission from the publisher.

HUGUENOT LIBRARY NOW AT DAR LIBRARY

Eric Grundset, Library Director, recently announced that the Daughters of the American Revolution Library in Washington, DC have signed an agreement with the National Huguenot Society to be the custodian of the Society's important collection of volumes, which catalog the history of the French Huguenots in America.

The DAR Library is located at 1776 D Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006-5392. Check their website at <http://www.dar.org/library>.

EXPERT ADVICE: DATING TOMBSTONES

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What type of gravestone marks your ancestor's grave? Though you can get an idea of when the stone was placed by the composition of the stone and the type of lettering, here's a guide to gravestones:

Before the 1650s

Graves were marked with either wood or field stones -- that is, uncarved, rough-cut rocks and boulders. If anything was cut into the stone, it was generally the initials of the deceased and perhaps the year of death. You can find field-stone markers dating from the 1700s as well.

1660s to 1850s

Tombstones were made from sedimentary rock, such as red or brown sandstone, and dark slate. Sandstone and limestone weather easily. Slate is more resistant to weathering and pollution and shows less wear, despite being exposed to the sun and severe weather. Slate does flake and peel easily, however. Inscriptions were carved in Roman lettering. Wooden markers or crosses were also used.

1800s to 1850

A gray-blue slate came into use. Inscriptions started appearing in Italic script lettering. Unfortunately, italic script weathers badly, and hairline strokes practically have disappeared. The numbers seven and four may all look like the number one. The numbers three, eight and nine might be difficult to distinguish, as well. In the 1840s, Roman lettering returned to popularity, perhaps because italic script was more difficult to carve.

Excerpted from "Your Guide to Cemetery Research" by Sharon DeBartolo Carmack. Reprinted here with permission from the publisher, Betterway Books.

NHG CHRISTMAS SOCIAL SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2003

JOHN HEINZ REGIONAL HISTORY CENTER

Have you sent in your reservation for the NHG Christmas Social yet? If not, there is a reservation form on page 9 of the Newsletter. The deadline is November 24, 2003. Hurry, don't miss this opportunity to enjoy all the exhibits and the resources available in the library. The cost for admission to the Center and lunch at the Reymers Old Fashion Deli is only \$16.00. What a deal!!

Here is a brief summary of the schedule for the day:

9:45 am - Arrive and park in the History Center lot on Smallman Street.

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 a docent. Group B will go to the Library on the 6th Floor.

11:00 am - Group A will go to the Library and Group B will go to the "Eye of the Storm" exhibit on the 5th Floor.

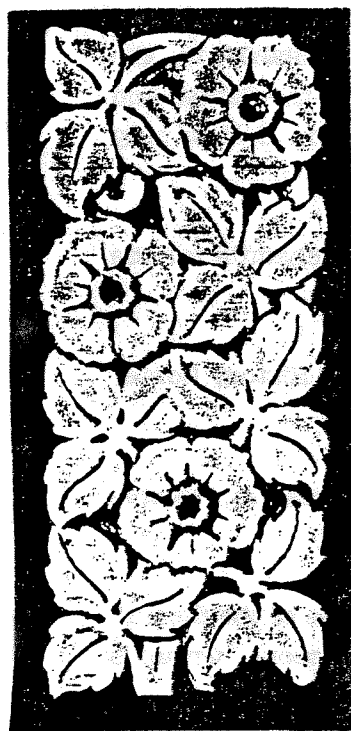
12:00 am - All go to the Great Hall, 1st floor for lunch catered by Reymer's Old Fashioned Deli.

Afternoon - you are free to view more exhibits (see the October newsletter for details) or use the library.

SEE YOU ON DECEMBER 6TH

WHAT ARE THOSE FLOWERS ON THAT TOMBSTONE?

How many times have you looked at an ancestor's tombstone (or helped with an NHG reading) and seen flowers carved on the stone and wondered what they were? The following are some of the more common flowers used on stones. Many religious denominations used specific flowers. Thanks to the Paul Gropelli Memorial Company on Cemetery Lane for these pictures. We will feature more in future issues.



Wild Rose

Love, simplicity, modesty.



Poppy

Eternal sleep, consolation.



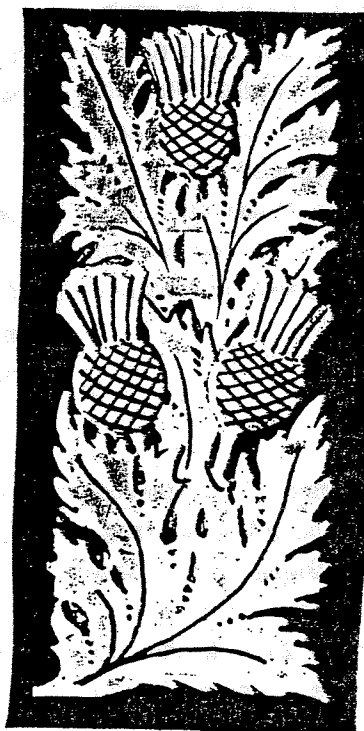
Dogwood

Christianity, Divine Sacrifice and the triumph of Eternal Life, Resurrection



Morning Glory

Farewell, departure, mortality.



Thistle

Independence, austerity, earthly sorrow, national flower of Scotland.



Laurel

Special achievement, distinction, success, triumph.

**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 ____

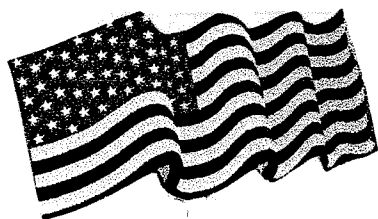
SEND FORM WITH \$16 PER PERSON TO:

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

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INGOMAR, PA 15127**

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Dated Material



**JANUARY 20, 2004 - 7:00 PM
DATING AND RESTORING FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHS
Robin Schooley**

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.

*Happy
New
Year*

*Merry
Christmas*

Remember, there is NO meeting or Newsletter in December. See you at the Christmas Social on December 6 and the first meeting on January 20, 2004.

The Board and Executive Committee of NHG wants to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year. We look forward to seeing all of you at our meetings in 2004. This Christmas, keep our servicemen and women in your thoughts as they spend the holidays far from home.