

NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS



North Hills Genealogists
P. O. Box 304, Ingomar, PA 15127

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<http://www.northhillsgenealogists.org>

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10 Issues - August - June

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This is my last President's Message. I have enjoyed serving as your President for the past two years, and hope that you are happy with the job I have done.

I have enjoyed the opportunity to meet many of you at our meetings and socials. I look forward to seeing you at future meetings and events. I was very proud of how many of you stepped forward to help at the NGS conference last year. Thank you.

I have really appreciated all the newsletter material many of you have sent along to me. I have tried to make the newsletter both informative and interesting.

The past several years have seen some changes and events for NHG. We have published our second Pioneer Cemeteries Book. A big thank you to everyone who helped with this book and to those who are helping Jo and Irene with the third book. (Can you help?) We had to find a new "temporary" home when Northland Library closed for renovation. A big thank you to Tom Wiley for finding us a new home during this period.

There are too many people to thank for all their help the past two years. I do want to thank all the members of the Board for their help and their work on behalf of NHG. I'm sure you will support the incoming Board the same way you have supported me.

We have had some wonderful programs over the past two years and have more coming. Hope you don't miss any of them.

There are many exciting plans in the works for the future of NHG. You will be hearing about them in the near future.

Don't forget to renew your membership. A renewal for is included on page 99. (There is also a ballot for election of new officers on that page.)

May the coming year be a wonderful one for you and your family (and may you have continued success in your genealogy research.)

Thank you for two great years.

WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

All meetings free unless noted otherwise.

Tues., July 6, 2004 - 7:00 pm - NHG Board Meeting - UPMC Passavant Cafeteria. Everyone welcome.

Tues, July 20, 2004 - 7:00 pm - Regular NHG Meeting - "How To Prepare for a Research Trip to a Genealogical Resource Site" - Elissa Powell
NOTE: Meeting to be held in the sanctuary of the McKnight United Methodist Church.

Tues, Aug. 17, 2004 - 7:00 pm - Regular NHG Meeting - "The Fort Pitt Blockhouse: Restoration and Archaeological Investigation" - Carol Downey Fuller (see article)

Other Meetings

June 24-26 - Palatine Footprints - NY Chapter of Palatines to America, Albany, NY. For questions or more information, contact: John Paris at johnmparis@aol.com

Mon. June 28, 2004 - 7:00 pm - Greater Pittsburgh Civil War Round Table - "The Fredericksburg Campaign: Winter War on the Rappannock" - Frank O'Reilly. The Babcock, Babcock Boulevard.

Thurs., July 22, 2004 - 7:00 pm - Lawrenceville Historical Society - "The History of St. Augustine Friary in Lawrenceville" - Canterbury Place, Fisk St., Lawrenceville

Mon., July 26, 2004 - Greater Pittsburgh Civil War Round Table - 7:00 pm - "The Civil War Letters of Alexander Hays" - Bob Gorczyca. The Babcock, Babcock Blvd.

Sat. July 31, 2004 - Greater Pittsburgh Civil War Round Table - Field Trip to Civil War Washington - Led by Joan Chaconas of the Surratt Society. For reservations contact: Michael Graswick at

412-486-4781 or m.graswick@attbi.com

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

2004-2005

It's that time of year again. Time to renew your membership in NHG. Dues for this year are \$15.00. A renewal form is on page 99 of the newsletter. There will also be copies available at the meetings. If you are newing by mail, please make your check payable to "North Hills Genealogists" and send it, along with the renewal form to: North Hills Genealogists, P. O. Box 304, Ingomar, PA 15127. Do it now. You don't want to miss any issues of the newsletter by not renewing. Please mark "renewal" on envelope.

BOARD OFFICERS ELECTIONS

2004-2005

A ballot for the election of new Board officers for 2004-2005 is also on page 99. Copies of the ballot are available at the meeting. **All ballots must be received by July 31, 2004.** If you are voting by mail, please send to the address noted above. Please mark "ballot" on envelope.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Since there is no newsletter in July, we have included meetings that will take place in July so you don't miss any. If you know of any meetings of other groups that will be held in August and later, please send them along so we can include them in future newsletters.

We hope to have a meeting in the fall by Amy Steele, Genealogy librarian at Northland Public Library. With the renovations at Northland, we have asked Amy to give us a re-introduction to the "new" Northland. At the present time we do not have a definite date for this meeting, but anticipate it will be in early fall. We will let you know as soon as we have a confirmed date from Amy. She will be talking about, among other things, genealogical resources at Northland.

PRESIDENTIAL PALLBEARERS

The last few days we have all probably watched the funeral coverage for former President Reagan. We saw the military pallbearers carrying the 750 lb.+ casket up all those steps at the Capitol Building. Can you imagine that job? You may also have seen an article in the local papers about the soldier from Fayette County who served as one of these pallbearers. However, he is not the first from Western PA to serve in this capacity. The following article appeared in the June 1977 issue of HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS of the Lawrenceville Historical Society. It was written by Michael Murphy.

PALLBEARER OF PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN RESTS IN ST. MARY'S CEMETERY

William H. Wiseman was born in 1839 in the village of Bluden in the County of Cork, Ireland.

He immigrated to the US in 1848 during Ireland's holocaust. He enlisted in the army on August 12, 1862. The five foot nine inch, blue eyed, dark haired Wiseman served with Company K of the 139th Regiment PA Volunteer Infantry.

He followed the trade of printer. Wiseman suffered greatly from acute dysentery. Eventually, he was redeployed to the Invalid Corps. Late in the war the Invalid Corps was renamed the Veterans Reserve Corps. The unit was comprised of men who had exhibited meritorious service, but who now were unfit for regular duty. Essentially, they performed light services such as paper work.

The Corps was selected to transport President Lincoln's body from our nation's capitol through the country back to Springfield, IL.

Eight states were represented and 1st Sgt. William H. Wiseman represented the Keystone State.

The US Congress awarded the escorts the Medal of Honor. Wiseman's Medal of Honor was inscribed as follows: "The Congress to 1st Sergeant WM H. Wiseman Co. E. 24th Vet Res Corps of Escort to remains of President Abraham Lincoln April 1865."

After his military service, Wiseman returned to Pittsburgh and worked as a printer for the Pittsburgh Dispatch Newspaper. He lived at 716 Watson St. in the Uptown section of the city. William H. Wiseman died on November 6, 1903 and was buried from Epiphany Church. He had six sons, two daughters and a wife. He is buried in St. Mary's Cemetery, Lawrenceville, Section H, Lot N 167-168. An eight foot high monument marks his grave. The inscription reads: "William H. Wiseman 1839-1903 Civil War Vet Three Years."

In June of 1916 a panel of five retired Generals reviewed the criteria under which Medal of Honor Recipients were bestowed their accolades. They decided that Wiseman did not meet the minimum requirements for courage "Above and Beyond the call of duty." William Wiseman was posthumously stripped of his Medal of Honor. Wiseman's Medal of Honor had been donated to Allegheny County's Soldier's and Sailor's Hall. Authorities at the Hall decided not to return the medal. The medal was reported missing in 1983 from the Hall and to date has not been found.

**NHG RESEARCH TRIP TO
WASHINGTON, DC
September 26-29, 2004**

There is still time to sign-up for the NHG Washington, DC research trip in September. See the registration form on page 98. The following describes four of the research sites that you will be able to take advantage of during this trip.

If you have sent in a reservation for this trip, but have not as yet sent in your payment, please note that the deadline for payment is July 31, 2004. Seats on the bus will be reserved based on whether payment has been received. Don't miss out on your seat on the bus by not sending in your payment before July 31.

**AUGUST 17, 2004
NHG MEETING**

**The Fort Pitt Blockhouse: Restoration and
Archaeological Investigation
Carol Downey Fuller**

Carol Downey Fuller, a Registered Architect and the Project Manager for the Fort Pitt Block House Renovation and Archaeological Investigation Project will share her observations of this endeavor. The presentation will include a review of the scope of this restoration work and the approach used to complete it. In addition, she will provide an overview of the archaeological investigation, including a representative sampling of the artifacts uncovered.

The work began on this restoration project in March 2003; however, the preparation for the project began nearly a full year earlier. The concrete floor slab was removed in early March in preparation for a "short" archaeological investigation expected to last only a week to ten days. However, this short exploration uncovered a variety of invaluable artifacts, attracted local and national media outlets, leaving many

questions unanswered. The Fort Pitt Society determined that a more in depth investigation was warranted and Michael Baker Jr., Inc. was selected to continue this important exploration into Pittsburgh history.

Ms. Fuller has a Bachelor of Environmental Design from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio and a Master of Business Administration from the Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business at the University of Pittsburgh. She moved to Pittsburgh in the early 1980's to continue her professional career. Her more than twenty years of experience in project management and interest in our American heritage attracted her to this unique preservation project at the Blockhouse. Ms. Fuller has been a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution since 1995. She is a member of the Kishkuskee Trail Chapter in the North Hills.

(Ed. Note: If you attended our Christmas Social tour of the Ft. Pitt Museum and Blockhouse this presentation should add more information to what we learned during our visit.)



OLD SCRAPBOOK DOS AND DON'TS

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If you're lucky enough to have a scrapbook created by one of your ancestors, you want to treat it right. Follow these dos and don'ts and you (and the scrapbook) will be in good shape.

Don't take apart an old scrapbook without having a professional archivist evaluate the integrity of the album.

Don't remove photos from an unsafe environment (such as a magnetic album) with a blow-dryer, heat gun or similar device.

Don't handle the album more than is necessary.

Don't repair torn pages with regular cellophane tape.

Don't leave the album in an attic or basement.

Do scan the old scrapbook pages to preserve the arrangement of the contents and the contents themselves.

Do ask a professional for advice before making any repairs.

Do remove photos from a magnetic album (after scanning the pages) by gently sliding waxed dental floss between the photo and the page. **Do** stop if the photo isn't easily removed.

Do protect the album from dust and light by storing it in an archival-quality box.

Excerpted from the May 2004 *Preserve Your Family History*, a special issue of *Family Tree Magazine*.

CIVIL WAR CANNONS

Civil War history and cannons survive in memorials throughout the Pittsburgh area. You can learn more about this subject by visiting a website:

Pittsburgh's Cannons: A Blast from the Past, by Molly a Masich at <http://www.pghhistory.org> or traveling to the following locations:

Hazelwood

Model 1861 10" Columbiad in Calvary Cemetery (1904 GAR monument)

Homestead

Model 1844 10" Columbiad in Homestead Cemetery (Protestant Side)

Lawrenceville

Allegheny Cemetery

Confederate six-pounder at the Soldiers Memorial

Model 1841 six-pounders at Soldiers Lot

Six-pounder cannons at Hays Monument

Allegheny Arsenal

Allegheny Arsenal Plaque, Dahlgren Shell Gun

Oakland

Soldiers & Sailors Museum

Model 1844 10" Columbiads

Tarentum

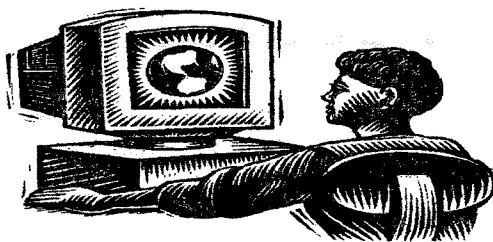
Riverview Memorial Park

Model 1861 10" Columbiad

West Allegheny

Lake Elizabeth, West Park, North Side

30 Pounder Parrott Rifles



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.

This column will be in the next newsletter (August). Send along any websites you feel are good.

FAMILY REUNIONS

Are you planning a family reunion this summer? What type of activities have you planned? Share your ideas with the other members of NHG so that they have a supply of ideas to help in planning their own reunions.

If you aren't planning a reunion, give some thought to having one next year. It is not only a chance to get together with aunts, uncles, cousins, etc. to reconnect as a family, but also is a wonderful opportunity to add to your genealogy information and to share what you have found with the other members of your family.

I know that every year my cousins are waiting to see why "new" information I have found since our previous reunion. Don't wait until everyone who knows "everything" is gone. Do it now. It doesn't have to be big and fancy. A simple cookout in a backyard and everyone sitting around talking about "remember when" is as much fun as a big, fancy reunion.

PIONEER CEMETERIES BOOKS

NHG is proud to have produced two books of pioneer cemeteries in northern Allegheny County. Our latest book, Pioneer Cemeteries of Pine and Richland Townships has already received a wonderful review in the FGS FORUM publication and will shortly have a review in the NGS QUARTERLY. A book has to be very well done to merit reviews in these two publications.

Copies of both the Pine/Richland book and the first book, Hampton Township, are still available. The Hampton book is available for \$19.95 (\$14.95 for members), plus tax. If you order through our website, you can pay by credit card.

The Pine/Richland book is \$39.95 (\$29.95 for members), plus tax. Or, take advantage of the special offer of both books for \$50.00 (\$40 for members).

Save postage by arranging to pick up the books at an upcoming meeting. You can send your order to the address on the front, or, as noted above, pay by credit card when you order through our website.

NHG SEPTEMBER 21 MEETING

Don't forget that at our September 21 meeting, Ruth Kittner will present the second part of her talk on German researching. As you may recall, we had to cancel the meeting when Ruth was scheduled to make this presentation (due to bad weather). We may possibly be back at Northland for that meeting. This was one of our most popular meetings (must be a lot of people of German ancestry in our club) so you won't want to miss this program. Mark it on your calendar now.

WHERE DID THAT SAYING ORIGINATE?

Many times we hear sayings and wonder, where did that originate? The following are some explanations of where some of them came about. These were sent to me by my cousin.

In George Washington's days, there were no cameras. One's image was either sculpted or painted. Some paintings of George Washington showed him standing behind a desk with one arm behind his back, while others showed both legs and both arms. Prices charged by painters were not based on how many people were to be painted, but by how many limbs were to be painted. Arms and legs are 'limbs', therefore, painting them would cost the buyer more. Hence, the expression, **"Okay, but it'll cost you an arm and a leg."**

Ladies wore corsets which would lace up in the front. A tightly tied lace was worn by a proper and dignified lady as in **"straight laced."**

Common entertainment included playing cards. However, there was a tax levied when purchasing playing cards but only applicable to the "ace of spades." To avoid paying the tax, people would purchase 51 cards instead. Yet, since most games require 52 cards, these people were thought to be stupid or dumb because they weren't **"playing with a full deck."**

Early politicians required feedback from the public to determine what was considered important to the people. Since there were no telephones, TVs or radios, the politicians sent their assistants to local taverns, pubs and bars who were told to "go sip some ale" and listen to people's conversations and political concerns. Many assistants were edispatched at different times. "You go sip here" and "You go sip there." The two words "go sip" were eventually combined when referring to the local opinion and,

thus we have the term **"gossip."**

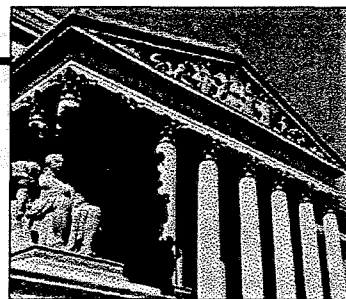
At local taverns, pubs and bars, people drank from pint and quart-sized containers. A bar maid's job was to keep an eye on the customers and keep the drinks coming. She had to pay close attention and remember who was drinking in "pints" and who was drinking in "quarts", hence the term **"Minding your P's and Q's."**

In the late 1700s, many houses consisted of a large room with only one chair. Commonly, a long wide board was folded down from the wall and used for dining. The "head of the household" always sat in the chair while everyone else ate sitting on the floor. Once in a while, a guest (who was almost always a man) would be invited to sit in this chair during a meal. To sit in the chair meant that you were important and in charge. Sitting in the chair, one was called the "chair man." Today in business we use the expression or title **"Chairman or Chairman of the Board."**

As incredible as it sounds, men and women took baths only twice a year! (May and October) Women kept their hair covered while men shaved their heads (because of lice and bugs) and wore wigs. Wealthy men could afford good wigs made from wool. The wigs couldn't be washed, so to clean them they could carve out a loaf of bread, put the wig in the shell and bake it for 30 minutes. The heat would make the wig big and fluffy, hence the term "big wig." Today we often use the term **"here comes the Big Wig"** because someone appears to be or is powerful and wealthy.

Have you had a 'straight laced' female ancestor? How about a 'chairman of the board' or a 'big wig'? If you have, then you know where that phrase came from.

September 26 — 29, 2004



Washington, DC

Join the **North Hills Genealogists** for research in the National Archives, DAR Library and Library of Congress. Roundtrip bus from Pittsburgh, room, breakfast, Sunday dinner and orientation included. Prices per person:

Single: \$375 Double: \$240

Triple: \$200 Quad: \$175

Get your research and your roommates together and reserve your place with Elissa Powell, 724-935-6961 or see details at www.NorthHillsGenealogists.org where PayPal is accepted.

Limited space available, respond ASAP to guarantee your place.

**NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP
2004-2005**

Please fill out the information below. When submitting this application, please make out a check for \$15.00 payable to **North Hills Genealogists**. All memberships run from August through the following July. Members receive the monthly newsletter; are entitled to submit unlimited free queries to the newsletter; and to attend field trips and socials. Send your completed application to the following address:

**North Hills Genealogists
Post Office Box 304
Ingomar, PA 15127**

Name: _____

Home Phone: _____ (include area code)

Address: _____

_____ Zip+4 _____

E-mail address: _____

If desired, you may also submit queries with your application.

**BALLOT FOR BOARD OFFICER ELECTIONS
2004-2005**

PRESIDENT: STEPH VALENTINE _____

VICE PRESIDENT: LAURA KUNIG _____

SECRETARY: SYLVAN KRETZ _____

TREASURER: REED POWELL _____

ALL BALLOTS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN JULY 31, 2004.

Place ballot in ballot box at the June meeting. If voting by mail, send 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



**JULY 20, 2004 - 7:00 PM - "HOW TO PREPARE FOR A RESEARCH
TRIP TO A GENEALOGICAL RESOURCE SITE" Elissa Powell
AUGUST 17, 2004 - 7:00 PM - "THE FORT PITT BLOCKHOUSE:
RESTORATION AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION"**

NO NEWSLETTER NEXT MONTH

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.

Just a reminder, there will **NOT** be a newsletter next month. Our next issue will be in August, 2004. We **WILL** have a regular meeting in July. Send along any materials you may have for the next newsletter by early-mid August.

Have a good summer!!!!