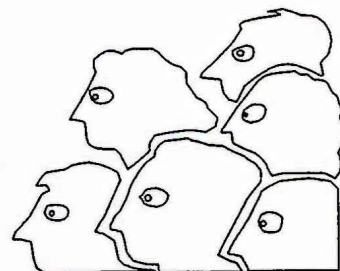




# NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS NEWSLETTER



c/o Northland Public Library, 300 Cumberland Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237-5455

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope you enjoy this issue of our newsletter. Maureen (and her husband, Rick) have been doing a wonderful job of taking stories and articles contributed from many of our members and producing a fine-looking and informative newsletter. Just let Maureen or I know if you would like to write about something (personal success story, tips on how you've done it, what you learned about certain records, etc.) or if you have found a source of articles that you think would be appropriate for us. No one likes to re-invent the wheel, so pass on your knowledge!

We currently have 46 subscribers to our newsletters plus several libraries in the Pittsburgh and North Hills areas. We do get an average of 35 people at our meetings and now that we have changed to the THIRD TUESDAY of the month, I do hope more people will join us.

We are introducing a new feature in this issue called "On My Bookshelf". As genealogists we are always collecting books from here and there and perhaps some other newsletter subscriber may benefit from them. If you see a book on the list that you'd like to know more about, contact the owner to see if it may contain information that you need. They can probably give you the purchase information, in case you'd like to add the book to your own collection. We need people to submit the names of the books in which they will be willing to do limited research and a way to reach you (phone, mail or just at the meetings). Please don't be shy! Everyone can benefit by finding mutual areas or surnames of interest.

The Beginner's Packet that your Board has been putting together will be available shortly. We have about 50 pages of information on how to start your family history search and where local records are located, plus pamphlets and forms. The price for this bargain is just \$5.00.

Back issues of the 1990 - 1991 Newsletter are still available for \$6.00 for all 8 issues. The Census forms will

continue to be available at each meetings (14 blank forms for \$1.00). We also hope to add other appropriate materials at reasonable prices for your convenience.

We also have periodicals that have been given to our group that we are offering for sale for a donation. "The Genealogical Helper" and other genealogical publications will be available until sold out.

At each meeting there also is a table of "free genealogical junk mail". One man's junk is another man's treasure. Please feel free to bring in your extra mailings, catalogs, brochures and place it on the free table for others who may be interested. Or recycle what you have taken and bring it back for others to take.

Happy Hunting!

-- Lissa

## BEGINNERS CORNER

**Q:** What are some of the reasons that a person might have changed his surname? Were they trying to hide something?

**A:** People don't always intentionally change their surnames. Immigrant ancestors were met at Customs by an English-speaking person who may or may not have understood what your ancestor answered. A lot of times this is how place names became surnames. For example the name Calabrese probably came from an ancestor who was from Calabria, Italy but was misunderstood in his answer. Sometimes an immigrant ancestor just wanted to "fit in" to his new country and Anglicized his name or shortened it. Chiemelewski became Chimel, Schmidt became Smith, Zimmermann became Carpenter. Record keepers would not know how to write names and our ancestors would not correct them either because they couldn't read English or they assumed that the recorder had written the English version of it. My Eberhardt family



came across Pennsylvania and when they reached Ohio 75 years later their name changed to Everhard since that is the way it was recorded on a deed. The branches that stayed in Pennsylvania are still using the original spelling.

Other reasons may be that your ancestor could not be understood because of his accent or because of missing teeth. Certain sounds just cannot be made without a full set of choppers! For example, the letter 'V' requires upper front teeth; without them, Vincent becomes Benson. Another custom was for minor children of a deceased father might be farmed out to relatives or friends whose surname the children "adopt" while living with the family. When they become of age they may or may not revert to their "natural" surname. This may be a reason if you find two brothers with different surnames. And of course, illegitimacy can cause all kinds of new naming patterns. Changing your name has never been a crime unless you are trying to defraud someone. For more information, see "Heritage Quest" #29 (July/August 1990), page 13.

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### WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

Please note that the Western PA Genealogy Society will have their next 7 meetings on Saturdays. The next one will be a week earlier than usual, on November 2 at 10 AM at the Historical Society Building, 4338 Bigelow Blvd., Pittsburgh, PA 15213 (Oakland).

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### NEW SOCIETY FOR EASTERN EUROPEAN ROOTS

From the "Palatine Patter", No. 58 for August 1991

A new society is being started which will deal with genealogical research in Eastern Europe. The information this society can give is of great value to people who are doing research in Eastern Europe. If you would like to be on the mailing list for this new group, please contact Charles M. Hall, P.O. Box 21346, Salt Lake City, UT 84121.

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MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE WILL BE **NO MEETING** IN THE MONTH OF DECEMBER!! Nor will there be a newsletter produced. We will resume on the third Tuesday of January 1992.

### ON MY BOOKSHELF

We hope that this new feature will be helpful and that you will participate by giving us the names of the books that are on YOUR bookshelf. If you are interested in a book listed below, contact the owner to see if they will look up information for you.

Owner of the following is ELISSA POWELL (935-6961):

"Our Pennsylvania" by Amy Oakley, indexed.

"A Short History of Pennsylvania" by L.S. Shimmell, indexed.

"Pennsylvania Line: A Research Guide to Pennsylvania Genealogy and Local History" compiled by William L. Iscrupe and Shirley G. M. Iscrupe.

"The Red Hills" by Cornelius Weygandt, indexed.

"A Stecher-Stecker Saga" by Robert M. Stecher, M.D., indexed.

"History of the Eberharts in Germany and the United States, From A.D. 1265 to A.D. 1890 - 625 Years" by Rev. Uriah Eberhart.

"The Weygandt - Bechtel - Frase Family Record, 1523 - 1965" by Esther Weygandt Powell.

"Harter History" by Mary Harter.

"History of the Keck Family" by J.A. Keck.

"American Passenger Arrival Records" by Michael Tepper.

"The Church of the Lutheran Reformation" by Conrad Bergendoff, indexed.

"A Basic History of Lutheranism in America" by Abdel Ross Wentz, indexed.

Allegheny College (Meadville, PA) 1988 Alumni Directory.

Gannon University (Erie, PA) 1988 Alumni Directory.

"Lifelines: A Guide to Writing Your Personal Recollections" by Evelyn Nichols and Anne Lowenkopf.

"Self-Publishing: Planning for a Better Book" by Evangel Press.

"Writing the Family Narrative" by Lawrence P. Gouldrup.

"Cite Your Sources: A Manual for Documenting Family



Histories and Genealogical Records" by Richard S. Lackey.

"To Write A Family History: The Computer, Wordstar and You" by Joanne M. Elliot.

"Unpuzzling Your Past: A Basic Guide to Genealogy", second edition, by Emily Anne Croom.

"Professional Techniques and Tactics in American Genealogical Research" by E. Kay Kirkham.

"Shaking Your Family Tree" by Dr. Ralph Crandall.

"United States County Courthouse Address Book" edited by Leland K. Meitzler.

"A Genealogical Guide to The Burton Historical Collection, Detroit Public Library" by Joseph Oldenburg.

"Ancestry's Guide to Research: Case Studies in American Genealogy" by Johni Cerny & Arlene Eakle.

"Tracing Your Civil War Ancestor" by Bertram Hawthorne Groene.

"Latin Terms Found in Vital Records" by Rosemary A. Chorzempa.

"Morbus: Why and How Our Ancestors Died: A Genealogist's Dictionary of Terms Found in Vital Records with Descriptions of the Diseases as They Relate to the Health of Our Ancestors" by Rosemary A. Chorzempa.

"The Handwriting of American Records for a Period of 300 Years" by E. Kay Kirkham.

"The United States Census Compendium" compiled by John D. Stemmons.

"U.S. and Special Census Catalog"

"U.S. Vital Records Catalog"

"U.S. County History Catalog"

"The German Church Records Of Western Pennsylvania" by Paul Miller Ruff, Volume 1 (1772-1791), Volume 3 (1805-1812), Volume 4 (1813-1820).

"Index of Baptisms: The German Church Records of Western Pennsylvania - Westmoreland County, 1772 - 1820" by Paul Miller Ruff.

"Index of Baptisms: The German Church Records of Western Pennsylvania - Fayette County, Washington

County, 1783 - 1806" by Paul Miller Ruff.

"Stecher - Mt. Zion Lutheran Church Records, Ginger Hill, Washington County, Pennsylvania 1783 - 1859" by Paul Miller Ruff.

"Index to Washington County, Pennsylvania Wills 1781 - 1900".

"Mercer County Cemetery Inscriptions", Volume 4 (Springfield, Wilmington, West Salem and Pine Townships) compiled by Loretta Barker DeSantis and Sally Glaser Dufford.

"Cecil County, Maryland Marriage Licenses 1777 - 1840".

"Trumbull County, Ohio Early Marriages 1800 - 1865" compiled by Mrs. Roscoe Winnagle.

"Tombstone Inscriptions from the Cemeteries in Medina County, Ohio".

"Index to Probate Court Records of Medina County, Ohio".

"Wadsworth (Ohio) Memorial" by Edward Brown, A.M.

"Wayne County, Ohio Burial Records".

"Wayne County, Ohio Tax List 1826".

"Summit County, Ohio Cemetery Inscriptions", Volume 1.

"Cemetery Records of Ten Mile District, Harrison County, West Virginia"

"Localized History of Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma to 1907" by Charles W. Mooney.

"Castro County, Texas, 1891 - 1981".

"1833 Thru 1906 Palatine Emigrants from Edenkoben (in Rheinland Pfalz, West Germany) To North America".

"Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society 1988-89 Members' Family Names Index".

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## SURNAME DATABASE

Have you sent the surnames upon which you are working to Maureen Durstein to be included in the Surname Database? Forms are available from Maureen. There is currently no limit to the number of people you can tell us about. For best results, include as much info as possible.



## THE FRENCH CONNECTION

updated by Roland Roy on 1 July 1991

Civil registration in France began in 1792, when the French Revolution got into its stride. All "old regime" record keeping was changed. From 1792 the documents of what is termed "civil status" (l'etat civil) have been preserved in each commune, two copies being made of each entry. One is kept in the commune, the other is sent to the Office of the Tribunal of First Instance. Before 1792 the registration of baptisms, marriages and burials was made by the parochial clergy, this having become obligatory from the sixteenth century (1500) as was usually the case in western Europe. Two copies were made, one remained in the parish and the other sent to the office of the judicial organization in the locality. In 1792 all parish registers were turned over to the archives of each municipality.

Since 1792 the clergy in each parish have continued to keep records of baptisms, marriages and burials. One copy of the record is held in the parish the other sent to the bishop of the diocese.

With wills, the custom is that they are the property of the notary who drew up the will. It is therefore necessary to know the name of the notary and then through the archivist of the department it should be possible to trace the will.

The national archives (Archives Nationales) contains five main sections:

1. Section ancienne: The old section has a vast amount of genealogical information in connection with titles, reports from notaries, legitimisations, naturalisations, the royal family and household; Army, Navy, colonies, clergy, nobility and orders of chivalry.
2. Section modern: The modern section is concerned with the political and governmental matters from 1792 onwards.
3. Sous-section: A sub-section on private, economic and microfilm archives. It contains much genealogical material with many family archives deposited here.
4. Minutier central: The central minute board. In the department de la Seine, there are 144 studies by notaries (in connection with wills) which have been deposited in

this section. The earliest date in the series is 1452. For the years 1780-1830 there is a card index of more than 1,000,000 names.

5. Sceaux-seals: A particularly valuable section for heraldic information. Heraldry owes its language and much of its development to the medieval French. In the work of reference, the Grand Armorial de France, in seven volumes, there are over 40,000 coats of arms.

Heraldic information may be obtained from:

La Societe du Grand Amorial de France; 179 Boulevard Haussmann; Paris, France

Heraldic information is also available from:

Societe Francalse d'Heraldique et de Sildillographie; 113 rue de Courcelles; Paris 17, France

The address for the National Archives of France is:

Ministere de L'Education National; Direction des Archives de France; 60 rue des Francs-Bourgeois (III); Paris, France

In addressing a request to any agency, the department in which the city or town is located must be known. These departments (what we refer to in the U.S. as states) may be located on any good map of France such as the map produced by the National Geographic Society. Inquiries in English to all agencies and departments is acceptable. Address individual department requests to:

Directeur des Archives; Department (department name); (department address); France

For example the address for department Ain would be:

Directeur des Archives; Department Ain; Bourg-en-Bresse; France

Department name Department address

Ain Bourg-en-Bresse

Aisne Laon

Allier Bellevue, Izeure

Alpes(Basses) rue des Archives, Digne

Alpes(Hautes) Gap

Alpes Maritimes Avenue E. Cavell, Nice-Cimiez

Ardeche Privas

Ardennes Citadelle, Mezieres	Loir-et-cher 21 rue d'Angleterre, Blois
Arigege Avenue de General de Gaulle, Foix	Loire Saint-Etienne
Aube 48 rue Bringer, Carcassonne	Loire(Haute) Boulevard Jules Valles, Le Puy
Aveyron rue L. Oustry, Rodez	Loire-Atlantique 8 rue de Bouillie, Nantes
Belfort Belfort	Loiret 15 rue Chappon, Orleans
Bouches-du-Rhone Marseille, Vlme	Lot 14 rue des Cadourques, Cahors
Calvados 1 Parvis Notre Dame, Caen	Lot-et-Garonne Place de Verdun, Agen
Cantal rue du 139 me. R.I., Aurillac	Lozere Mende
Charente 5 rue de la Prefecture, La Rochelle	Maine-et-Loire Angers
Cher 9 rue Fernault, Bourges	Manche Saint-Lo
Correze rue Souham, Tulle	Marne 1 rue des Buttes, Chalons-sur-Marne
Corse(Corsica) Ajaccio	Marne(Haute) 1 rue Dutailly, Chaumont
Cote-d'or 8 rue Jeannin, Dijon	Mayenne rue Noemie-Hamard, Laval
Cotes-du-Nord 9 rue du Parc, Saint Brieuc	Meurthe-et-Moselle 1 rue de la Monnaie, Nancy
Creuse 4 rue des Pommes, Gueret	Meuse 44 rue du Petit Bourg, Bar-le-Duc
Dordogne 2 Place Hoche, Perigeux	Morbihan 2 rue Alain le Grand, Vannes
Doubs Besancon	Moselle Metz
Drome rue A. Lacroix, Valence	Nievre 1 rue Charles Roy, Nevers
Eure 2 rue de la Prefecture, Evreux	Nord 1 rue du Pont-Neuf, Lille
Eure et Loir 9 rue Cardinal Pie, Chartres	Oise Beauvais
Finistere Quimper	Orne Alencon
Gard 20 rue des Chassaintes, Nimes	Pas-de-Calais 14 Place de la Prefecture, Arras
Garonne(Haute) 11 Boulevard Griffoul Dorval, Toulouse	Puy-de-Dome Clermont-Ferrand
Gers 6 rue Ed. Quinet (BP No 6), Auch	Pyrenees(Basses) Palais du Parlement, Pau
Gironde 13-25 rue d'Aviau, Bordeaux	Pyrenees(Hautes) rue des Ursulines, Tarbes
Herault 40 rue Proud'hon, Montpellier	Pyrenees-Orientales 11 rue du Bastion Saint Dominique, Perpignan
Ille-et-Vilaine 2 Place St Melaine, Rennes	Rhin(Bas) 5-9 rue Fishchartt, Strasbourg
Indre 32 rue Vieillie-Prison, Chateauroux	Rhin(Haut) Cite administrative, 3 rue Fleischhauer, Colmar
Indre-et-Loire rue des Ursulines, Tours	Rhone 2 Chemin de Montauban, Lyon
Isere Grenoble	Saone(Haute) Vesoul
Jura Lons-le-Saunier	Saone-et-Loire Macon
Landes 26 rue Victor Hugo, Mont-de-Marsan	Sarthe rue des Resistants Internees, Le Mans



Savoie Chambery

Savoie(Haute) 4 rue du 30 RI, Annency

Seine 30 Quai Henri IV, Paris

Seine Maritime 21 rue de Crosne, Rouen

Seine-et-Marne Melun

Seine-et-Oise 12 rue Neuve Notre Dame, Versailles

Sevres(Deux) Niort

Somme 88 bis rue Gauthier de Rumilly, Amiens

Tarn Cite Administrative, Avenue du General Giraud, Albi

Tarn-et-Garonne 5 bis Cours Foucault, Montauban

Var 1 Boulevard Foch, Draguignan

Vaucluse Palais des Papes, Avignon

Vendee La Roche-sur-Ypn

Vienne rue Edouard Grimaux, Poitiers

Vienne(Haute) 2 rue des Combes, Limoges

Vosges 4 rue de la Prefecture, Epinal

Yonne Auxerre

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## DERIVING BIRTH DATES FROM TOMBSTONE INFO

Note: The following formula comes from The Orange County California Genealogical Society Quarterly, via the PEI Genealogical Society bulletin of November 1990.

The formula of 8870:

If a tombstone records that a person died on May 6, 1889, aged 71 years, 7 months and 9 days old, you can quickly calculate the birthdate by using the 8870 formula.

EXAMPLE: Died 1889 May 6    18890506

71 years, 7 mo, 9 days        - 710709

(constant formula)                - 8870

Born 1817 Sept 27 =            18170927

Remember to use YEAR, MONTH, DATE, in that order!!

## ORGANIZING FAMILY REUNIONS

By Ralph Slutz

Let me start right out and say that I am in no way an expert at organizing reunions, but I've gone to about 12 family reunions in the last 10 years, and perhaps my experiences might be of some help. First, arrange it yourself. If you know one or two people who you think might help, ask them individually, but avoid a committee at all costs. You know, "A committee is a group of people who can't get something done individually, but meet and decide that it couldn't be done anyway."

Second, ask yourself three questions:

1. Do the people live near the reunion site, so they don't have to stay somewhere overnight? In that case everything can be very simple. Otherwise you need to suggest a motel or hotel where it will be held, but you can let them make their own reservations either there or somewhere near.

2. Do the people who might come already know each other well? Again, if the answer is 'Yes' everything can be simple.

3. Do you hope that it will repeat every year, or are you thinking of something every 5 or 10 years like a high-school reunion? The former is simple, the latter takes much more planning.

For a simple one, you can suggest that it be a pot-luck at noon on either Saturday or Sunday. Then it would be good if you would supply plenty of our most popular drug, coffee, because that is hard to bring hot to a pot-luck meal.

If people are coming a far distance, accommodations are important. I've been to one reunion at Ponca State Park in northeastern Nebraska, where they have cabins which can be rented very cheaply (but must be reserved in January for any part of the summer). The organizer reserved six of them, and then passed the reservations on to others as they agreed to come. Another reunion was at a motel in Estes Park, Colorado, with a nearby restaurant — and that was all of the planning that was done, because the people knew each other from previous years.

The one thing that is essential, even for a simple reunion, is to have a place where people can get together which is



sheltered from possible rain. There is nothing that dampens reunion spirit more than rain that you can't escape. Many cities have some kind of picnic shelters which can be reserved, or perhaps a Firemen's recreation shelter, or American Legion, or the like.

In setting it up, don't just send postcards but send letters. Your computer allows you to send form letters which look like individual ones. And if you want replies, enclose both a form for the people to check whether they are or not definitely coming or just thinking about it. And enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope --- that really persuades people to reply, and the form makes it easy. (I've always used this technique when I write letters asking genealogical questions, with the 'form' being specific questions about close relatives of the people to whom I am writing, and with space on the 'form' for the person to write answers directly. It works pretty well --- at least much better than a simple letter.)

What to do at the reunion --- yearbook, pictures, questionnaires, etc?

My suggestion to you would be to put on paper what you already know about the family genealogy, and take ten or 20 copies with you. I first learned in 1980 that the Slutz family has been holding reunions near Canton Ohio ever since 1899. It's a long trip from Colorado, but I combined it with a visit to my mother who was in a nursing home in Cincinnati. The reunion had decayed to only a 10 to 15 people, but when they heard that someone was coming from Colorado, plus my brother from New Jersey and a cousin from Maryland, 40 people showed up.

I made a tree of what I knew about the family --- some 10 pages or so --- and took 10 copies with me. They went like hot cakes, with people almost arguing whether their branch could have one or not. I found that there were three or four people from the area who had been looking up family data in Ohio, where most of my father's relatives lived, and the cousin from Maryland turned out to be retired from the US State Dept., and knew his way around the Census and Archives in Washington DC. So we became an informal group, with each person writing letters to two or three others, and these being passed on to the rest. I became the organizer of the resulting data, helped by my having a computer, and a year later I made up a paper-back booklet of 80 pages. Since then I've put

out booklets in 1982, 1984, 1987, and 1988. The latest one was over 200 pages, and I hope to get out one this summer which will be about 300 pages. One of the photo-copy businesses in town has charged only \$0.02 per page in quantities over 100, plus about \$0.70 per copy for professional printing of a cover on heavy stock, and \$0.80 per copy for binding it together. Thus it has come to roughly \$8.00 per copy (but that means \$800 for 100 copies). I take 30 or 40 to the reunion and give them away, but with a box having a little sign saying donations are welcome and the printing cost per copy is about \$8. Most give me \$10, and a few give \$20. The rest I distribute by mail on the same basis. Since then we've been having 60 to 70 people show up.

The only other entertainment we have had is for someone to take pictures, send a few prints to friends after the reunion, and bring all of the photos to the reunion the next year; and also people bring old photos, which always have a crowd around them. People are too busy talking to each other to give me much data at the reunion --- instead I get promises that they will send me something when they get home --- and I have to follow up on the promises.

As for persuading people to give us information about their families, the personal contact is by far the best. Whenever I take a business trip I look up the addresses of people living in the area, call them in advance, and visit them, giving them a copy of my latest booklet. To do it by letter, I suggest a self-addressed and stamped return envelopes, together with a page of specific questions to the person involved, and space on the page for the person to write answers. That at least gets a significant percentage of replies; otherwise almost no replies come

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### GENEALOGY FIELD TRIPS

Several exciting field trips are coming up! If you have not already sent in your attendance slip or signed up on a sheet at a previous meeting, please do so immediately. We are limited to 20 people per trip and would not like to have anyone disappointed. The field trips are as follows:

Allegheny County Courthouse, October 23 (Wednesday)  
Washington County Courthouse, October 24 (Thursday)  
Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, November 16 (Saturday)  
These trips are for current MEMBERS of NHG ONLY!



Book Reviews by Jack Sanders

### **ENGLISH ORIGINS OF AMERICAN COLONISTS**

Genealogists with New England roots know well the three-volume "English Origins of New England Families," an anthology of articles that appeared in the New England Historical and Genealogical Register over a century. Now, the genealogical 'gleanings' that have appeared in the New York Genealogical and Biographical Record have been gathered in a new volume, "English Origins of American Colonists." Between 1903 and 1916, The Record published four series of English probate records and depositions, which are reprinted in this 287-page volume. As editor Henry B. Hoff observes in the book's introduction, "Identifying an immigrant's place of origin and parentage frequently becomes a long search involving years of work. Many successful searches have begun with a single clue found in English probate records or depositions."

Several different British researchers contributed to the columns. All of the columnists were, as one of them said, "keeping a sharp look out for everything possibly indicative of the slightest connection with known American families."

The cited records run mostly from the late 1500's to the late 1700's; if their connection with colonists is not self evident, the authors point them out in the text or by way of footnotes.

While these articles were published in the New York Genealogical and Biographical Record, they do not relate exclusively to New York settlers. In fact, many are New Englanders, Virginians, and Carolinians. The series covered are: "Clues from English Archives Contributory to American Genealogy," "New York Gleanings in England," "Genealogical Notes from the High Court of Admiralty Examinations," and "A Digest of Essex Wills."

Needless to say, a compilation like this needs a comprehensive index. It's there, with thousands of names cited -- everyone mentioned in the articles.

No good genealogical library should be without this reference, even if it has a complete set of The NYGB Record (this book is handier and easier to use than The Record).

Serious researchers who would like their own copy may order it from Genealogical Publishing Company, 1001 North Calvert Street, Baltimore, Md., 21202-3897 (1-800-727-6687) at \$28.50 plus \$2.50 postage & handling.

By the way, English Origins of New England Families is still in print. The three volumes, totaling 2,550 pages, was issued in 1984 and runs \$135 -- or \$45 each per volume.

### **SCOTTISH-AMERICAN WILLS**

Another source of clues for those searching Scottish ancestry has been produced by David Dobson, one of the foremost authorities on Scottish emigration records. "Scottish-American Wills, 1650-1900" is an index to more than 2,000 people who were born in Scotland, came to North America, died here, but had their wills registered in Scotland. (Many Scots had their wills registered instead with the Prerogative Court of Canterbury; this book covers only wills registered in Scotland.) The value here if you have an ancestor cited is great, for the index will lead you directly to the records in Scotland. A typical complete listing in the book will give you the person's name, occupation, place of origin in Scotland, place of residence in North America, date of death, date the will was registered in Scotland, and the document reference number. If you want to see the records, which include testaments and inventories, you can write the Scottish Record Office, citing the document reference number. The book covers not only the United States, but also Canada and assorted Caribbean islands.

Scottish-American Wills is 137 pages, hard bound, and should be arriving at genealogical libraries now. Copies may be purchased at \$20 plus \$2.50 postage and handling from Genealogical Publishing Company, 1001 North Calvert Street, Baltimore, Md., 21202-3897 (1-800-727-6687).

Genealogical Publishing also produced Mr. Dobson's "Scottish-American Heirs, 1683-1883" which contains more than 2,600 links between people in North America and their families in Scotland.

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REMEMBER!! THERE WILL BE NO MEETING NOR NEWSLETTER IN DECEMBER!! Next Meeting is Nov. 19.



## UNDERSTANDING PATRONYMIC SYSTEMS

Several European countries have naming systems based on patronymics, meaning that children in some way bear their father's given name. This should be helpful to genealogists, but it has its pitfalls.

The first problem is that not all patronymic systems work the same way. For example, Scandinavian patronymics were often used as surnames, and were based on the father's given name, followed by "son" or "sen" (or "datter" or "dotter" for girls). In this system, John, the son of Carl Johnson, is named John Carlson (John, Carl's son), rather than John Johnson.

Under a similar system in Wales, the patronymic reference is "ap" or "ab" placed between the child's name and the father's name. Thus John, the son of William ap David, is known as John ap William, rather than John ap David. In some cases the patronymics can be cascaded, resulting in John ap William ap David (John, the son of William, who was the son of David).

Another variation is patronymic system in Russia. In this instance the patronymic is not used as the surname, but as a second given name. Here the suffixes "ich" or "vich" (for boys) and "ovna" (for girls) are added to the father's given name. This system has caused numerous headaches to readers of Russian novels, because Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov is referred to by his full name as page one, and then as Vladimir Ilyich thereafter. Of course, for a genealogist, the Russian patronymic is a godsend, rather than a hindrance.

In yet another variation, some Latin nations use a matronymic surname. This is placed at the end of the name, after the father's surname. With this system, Juan Miguel Santana Nunes would be Juan Miguel, whose father bore the surname Santana, and whose mother bore the surname Nunes. This should be a great help to the genealogist, but if you don't pay attention you could easily find yourself pursuing the wrong line.

Finally, be sure you know when a patronymic system was in use in the country where your ancestors lived. For example, patronymics have a long history in Sweden, but some families began to adopt a standard (non-patronymic) surname in the 1860's, and a law governing names in the country was first passed in 1901. Even so, some rural

areas continued to persist in the ancient patronymic customs for some years thereafter.

--This and other interesting articles can be found in the "Genealogical Helper" published by Everton Publishers..

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## CALIFORNIA FEES INCREASE

by: Sue Cook, WRHS Genealogical Society

Many of us depend on Cerny & Eakle's book, THE SOURCE, for many things, including where to write for vital records. Any such listing becomes out of date very soon. The listing for California, on pg. 704 is one of those with information that has changed.

The fee for birth records is now \$11.00 with \$4.00 of that being transferred to the "State Children Trust Fund". The fee for marriage or divorce records is also \$11.00 with \$4.00 of each fee going to the Judicial Council for Family Conciliation Programs. Death record fees are now \$7.00. If the exact date of the event is not known, there is an additional fee charged for each 10 years searched. Processing time of requests is approximately six weeks.

The State Registrar of Vital Statistics has maintained death records since July 1, 1905. An application for a certified copy of a death record has spaces for the following information: first, middle and last name of decedent; sex; month, day, year and place of birth; social security number; month, day, year, town or city and county of death; name of husband or wife of decedent;

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## NOVEMBER MEETING

The November meeting on the THIRD TUESDAY, November 19th will be on the topic Computers in Genealogy. Mr. Steph Valentine, a member of the NHG, will be speaking. He will cover the use of computers in genealogy in general as well as concentrating specifically on the PAF (Personal Ancestral File) software, developed by the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints.

We are very excited about Steph conducting this meeting as he is extremely familiar with PAF. We have also been fortunate enough to get the loan of an overhead projector dataviewer which will allow all of the members in attendance to have a clear view of the computer screen as information is being demonstrated.



## **VOLUNTEER EXTRACTION PROGRAM**

On page 12 of the Sept-Oct issue of the "Genealogical Helper" there was an advertisement we thought our members might be interested in. Note: we have not called Precision Indexing but would be willing to hear if anyone does take them up on their offer of an information packet.

### **CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS**

Cooperation of the entire research community is needed to make accessible the records we all want. The efforts of volunteers are starting to yield results! The book "Passenger Ships Arriving in New York Harbor, 1820-1850", shows that volunteers care. The project now underway is the Every Name index of Passengers Arriving in New York Between 1847 and 1892.

Participants receive:

Free Copies of microfilms used for indexing.

Computer software for data entry or forms for extraction.

Copies of the completed work in microfiche or floppy disk format.

### **COMPUTER OFFER!!!!**

Edit your own with credit on a new 386 sx computer with hard disk or CD-ROM reader, or other items from catalog.

Earn up to \$500 edit rebate with payments as low as \$60.00 per month.

Call for information packet **PRECISION INDEXING**  
(800)657-9442, Box 303, Bountiful, Utah 84011

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1991 AT 7 PM, NORTHLAND LIBRARY - TOPIC: COMPUTERS IN GENEALOGY.

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*North Hills Genealogists  
c/o Northland Public Library  
300 Cumberland Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15237-5455*