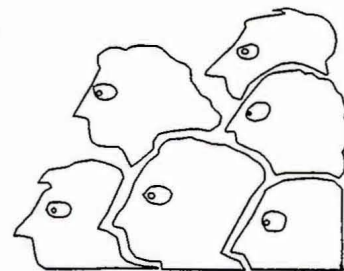




# NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS NEWSLETTER



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

Volume 2 - Number 5 - January 1992

**President:** Elissa Scalise Powell

**Treasurer/Editor:** Maureen Durstein

**Publicity:** Connie Foley

**Vice President:** James G. Rickey

**Secretary:** Margaret Sullivan

**Budget/Computers:** Steph Valentine

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope you had some wonderful holidays and enjoyed the company of relatives and friends. Perhaps your New Year's resolution is to get serious about your own genealogy. Remember that we are here to help each other!

The Board (which welcomes anyone to attend its meetings) has discussed some changes to the By-laws that are enclosed in this newsletter. Please review them so that you can vote whether to accept them at our February meeting. We will also be looking for a Nominating Committee which will be chaired by Robin Schooley and people willing to serve as President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary next year. Nominating Committee people (3 or 4) cannot be a candidate for office.

Please note the postcard included in members' newsletters. Please fill this out and place a 19 cent stamp on it if you wish to receive the free quarterly publication of the Federation of Genealogical Societies. See the article within this newsletter for more details.

I am very please to announce that the Judy Martin will bring the Western PA Genealogical Society's Store to our March 17 meeting. Ms. Martin has forms, notebooks, postcards, pins, bumperstickers, and lots of other goodies. Please come and browse before and after our speaker's talk on Irish research.

Happy Hunting -- Lissa

## WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

The *North Hills Genealogists'* next meeting will be Tuesday, February 18 at 7 PM in the Northland Library. Robert Closson of Closson's Publishers will be our guest speaker on how to publish your genealogy. He will also display items published by his company which specializes in printing research aids such as indexes.

*Community College of Allegheny County* will be having a 10-week genealogy course at Carson Middle School (200 Hillvue Lane) beginning Feb. 4. Nancy Singleton, a member of the North Hills Genealogists and WPGS, will be conducting the classes on Tuesday nights from 7 PM to 10 PM. Registration for the \$30 course can be by mail (by Jan. 24), telephone (369-3696 by Jan. 28) or in person (by Feb. 3). The course number is EXCA007-11. For question please call CCAC at 369-3737.

The *Hampton Community Library* on Route 8 will have an "Intro to Genealogy" on Saturday, January 25 from 1 PM to 3 PM. Elissa Powell and Jim Rickey will be presenting the material, using our new information packet as the basis. The materials fee for the packet is \$5. Please call the Hampton Library to register (444-0040). If you already have a packet, please bring it along.

The *Western PA Genealogical Society* will have their February meeting on Saturday the 8th at 10 AM. It will be held at Trinity Episopal Cathedral in downtown Pittsburgh and be a "brown-bag lunch" all day meeting. All are welcome to their meetings.

## NEWSPAPERS WHICH CARRY MEETING NOTICES

The following newspapers should carry a notice of our scheduled meeting in the last issue preceding the date of our meeting on the third Tuesday of each month:

The Pittsburgh Press North on Wednesday preceding ("Hobbies" column)

Pittsburgh Post Gazette North on Thursday preceding  
North Hills News Record on Friday preceding ("Club Calendar" column)

Cranberry Eagle on Wednesday preceding  
Cranberry Journal on Wednesday preceding

The North Journal on Thursday preceding ("Club Corner" column)

## FAMOUS MEMBERS

The "North Journal" for December 5, 1991 had a picture of two of our members, Julia TAUSON and Susan FAULL. Julia volunteers at the library as well as being one of the original board members of the North Hills Genealogists. Susan has spoken to us on the preservation of photos. Their picture highlighted a story on children's literature at Northland Library.

Another member, Connie MILES, was featured in the North Journal on Nov. 7, 1991. She is the newly appointed executive director of the North Allegheny Foundation for Excellence and will serve as a liaison between the needs of the schools in the district and the resources in the community.

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## MAILBAG

One of our members, Ronald HODILL (15 Orchard St., Bloomfield, NJ 07003) writes that he would like to make contact with any GRUBB / GRUBBS researchers or descendants. His Andrew GRUBBS had eleven children. "For help I received in the past from Maureen Dimond DURSTEIN I'm quite grateful." [Ed. note: Maureen did some research for Ronald on his family here.] The letter was signed "Ronald Hodill (avid member who formerly lived on Thos. Run Road!)"

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## OLD DORSEYVILLE CEMETERY

The Pittsburgh Press for 16 Nov 1980 had an article about an old Dorseyville Cemetery in Northern Allegheny County. It was chartered in 1849 by the United Brethren Church, where efforts are afoot to deactivate the cemetery. They ask that descendants of those buried there speak up before 2 Dec 1980. Some names are WIBLE, HODIL, SARVER, STROHM, DUFFERD.

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## THE NEWSLETTER, VOLUME 1, FOR SALE

Complete sets of the North Hills Genealogists Newsletter for 1990-1991 are available for \$6.00 per set. These newsletters have many interesting addresses and articles that don't go out of date, as well as blank forms that are useful. To purchase a set, please see Elissa Powell.

## FIELD TRIPS

We are planning some field trips for March and April. The Western Pennsylvania Historical Society Library will be visited on Saturday, March 21 at 9:30 AM. We will also be going to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Family History Center in April. We are scheduled for the Butler County Courthouse on Monday, March 9 at 10 AM. Sign-ups will be taken by Jim Rickey at meetings and by form in the next newsletter. Please observe that ONLY subscribers to this newsletter should sign up and attend.

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## A SAMPLER OF THE OLD NORTH HILLS

A new book, "A Sampler of the Old North Hills" by David Hawbaker and Frank Tatone is now available through the Northern Allegheny Chamber of Commerce (367-3920, 9401 McKnight Road, Pgh, 15237) for \$10.60. This 80-page "coffee table book" is a collection of photos, illustrations, feature stories, short stories and poems that recall a times forgotten in the North Hills. The authors are both teachers in the North Allegheny School District. Tatone is an English teacher and Hawbaker, an art teacher.

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## FEDERATION OF GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES

We have recently joined the Federation of Genealogical Societies, having paid our dues for the 1992 calendar year. One of the benefits of our society belonging to the FGS is that you, as a member of our society, can receive the FORUM, a quarterly publication, at no extra charge. All you have to do is send in the enclosed postcard (with your 19¢ postage attached). Every fourth issue will have another postcard for you to send in order to continue receiving the publication. Do not fail to complete any tear-out card whenever it is received! Be patient after sending your card in as it may take up to three months to receive your first issue.

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## ON THE CALENDAR

March 9, 1992: Field trip to Butler County Courthouse.

March 17, 1992: Western PA Genealogical Society Store; Maureen Durstein talks on Irish Research.

March 21, 1992: Field trip to Western PA Genealogical Society Library, Bigelow Blvd, Oakland.

August 15-31, 1992: Display by North Hills Genealogists in the lower level of Northland Library.

## SPOTLIGHT - FRANKLIN PARK

HISTORY OF FRANKLIN PARK (derived from "History of Franklin Park Borough," October, 1976, By the Franklin Park Borough History Commission)

This is a list of early landowners and settlers in The Depreciation Lands that are now Franklin Park. Use the tract numbers on the map to locate the properties mentioned. These properties were in the area surveyed by **William ALEXANDER** and **Nathaniel BREADING** in 1785, in what is now most of the western half of Franklin Park. Owners and settlers in the eastern half of Franklin Park will appear in a future newsletter. Note that some of these tract numbers are the same as tract numbers in the area surveyed by **Samuel NICHOLSON**, who surveyed the eastern half of Franklin Park. Those tracts are totally separate from the tracts described here.

### *WILLIAM ALEXANDER'S DISTRICT*

**Tract # 106:** 350 acres patented to Joseph DEAN. In 1809 the sheriff deeded 216 acres to Hugh JELLY, the highest bidder, when the taxes were not kept up by DEAN. JELLY soon assigned the tract on deed poll to Lawrence KINGSLAND of Pittsburgh. In 1816 KINGSLAND sold it to Samuel NEELY of Pine for \$300.

**Tract # 107:** 370 acres, this tract lies in Marshall except for 77 acres. Patented to Joseph DEAN IN 1786. It became the property of Henry SHRUM of Marshall because of unpaid taxes. In 1828 it was bought by Robert BURKE for \$400 because of unpaid taxes. He then sold part of it to Robert NEELY and David DILL of Marshall.

**Tracts # 108 & 109:** 370 acres each, were patented to Stephen DUTILH. Eighty of these acres lie in Franklin Park, the rest in Marshall. This land remained in this family until 1943.

**Tract # 110:** 370 acres, was patented to Joseph DEAN in 1786. For financial reasons he sold it to George MAKEM of Philadelphia in 1805. MAKEM sold 159 acres to Patrick & Philip BROWN of Philadelphia for \$300, and 106 acres to William BURNS for \$200, and 106 acres to William SHANNON for \$100.

**Tract # 111:** 370 acres, was patented to John HOLMES & Samuel EDMUNDSTON in 1786. Later purchased by William WILKINS. In 1820 Philip BROWN, who owned

adjacent land, bought 268 acres at \$4 per acre.

**Tract # 112:** 370 acres, was patented to Joseph DEAN in 1786. Due to the failure of DEAN to pay back taxes, the property was sold to highest bidder James DUFF in 1805 for \$20.

**Tract # 113:** 350 acres, was also patented to Joseph DEAN in 1786. Due to delinquent taxes it was auctioned to George TAYLOR in 1794. In 1805 the property was again sold for unpaid taxes to Moses & Thomas BIRCH, for \$13. When they failed to keep up tax payments, it was sold to Edward PATCHELL for \$11.02. He then sold it back to the BIRCHes. Part of this property is now Linbrook Park.

**Tract # 114:** 251 acres, was also patented to Joseph DEAN. The parcel changed hands seven times before William RILEY bought 100 of the northern most acres for \$600 in 1827. Tract # 115: 265 acres, was patented to Adam HUBLEY in 1786. After he died the property passed to two heirs, brothers named CAMRON. They sold it in 1828 to Creighton STEWART.

**Tracts # 116 & 117:** 265 acres each, were patented in 1786 to Samuel EDMUNDSTON & John HOLMES. EDMUNDSTON's part was sold to James POTTER in 1796. POTTER then sold his parcel to Nicholas GROSSMAN. In 1802 HOLMES & GROSSMAN split their four tracts, with HOLMES getting the northern half of tracts 116 & 117, GROSSMAN the southern half. Also in 1802 GROSSMAN sold his two halves (274 acres) to John CREESE of Centre Co. for \$552.

**Tract # 118:** 265 acres, was patented to Samuel EDMUNDSTON & John HOLMES. EDMUNDSTON sold to James POTTER who then sold to Nicholas GROSSMAN in 1798 for \$2.66 per acre. GROSSMAN bought the remainder of the tract in 1802 from HOLMES. In 1803 GROSSMAN sold 106 acres to Adam LONG for \$250. In 1808 LONG sold his property to Edward SHARPE for \$600.

**Tract # 119:** 265 acres, was patented to Joseph DEAN in 1786. After he went into bankruptcy, DEAN's executors sold the tract to John NEGUS in 1789 for \$59; NEGUS in turn sold it to John BRANDON. In 1805 Jacob LONG purchased it for \$500 and established a farm on it.

(con't next page)

### *NATHANIEL BREADING'S DISTRICT.*

In the extreme western portion of Franklin Park lie two tracts surveyed by Nathaniel BREADING. Tracts 100 & 101, each comprising 318 acres, were patented to Adam EICHELBERGER in 1786. After his death his executors sold both tracts to John WAY of Sewickley. WAY then sold 159 acres of tract 101 to Thomas MC CLELLAND; the northern half of tract 100 to Matthew INGRAM; and the southern half of tract 100 to Charles HAMILTON, all transactions occurring in 1810.

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## **BOOK REVIEWS**

**by Jack Sanders**

### *SCOTTISH-AMERICAN COURT RECORDS*

Scottish researcher David Dobson has produced another book of clues to the ancestries of North Americans of Scots origin.

"Scottish-American Court Records, 1733-1783" contains 88-pages of index to court records of cases in which people in the colonies --mostly merchants -- sued people in Scotland, again mostly merchants. A typical entry would be: "SIMPSON, William. William Simpson in Charleston, South Carolina, only son of Andrew Simpson of Pendreich, V(ersus) Charles Rioch, merchant in Edinburgh, 16 Dec. 1780. (CS16.1.181)"

The parenthesized number at the end is the index code at the Scottish Record Office in Edinburgh, to which you can write for details of the cited cases. The book is arranged by the names of the chief plaintiffs in cases, but there is also an index to all colonists cited anywhere in the title of the suit. (The accused in Scotland are not indexed.) Another index covers ships cited in cases.

"Scottish-American Court Records" may be ordered from Genealogical Publishing Company, 1001 North Calvert Street, Baltimore, Md., 21202-3897 (1-800-727-3897) at \$18 plus \$2.50 postage and handling. Also available are Mr. Dobson's earlier index-type compilations, "Scottish-American Wills" and "Scottish-American Heirs."

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### *IN SEARCH OF YOUR GERMAN ROOTS*

The tremendous changes that have taken place since the

uniting of the two Germanys have opened new opportunities to those researching their German roots, especially those with eastern German families.

Many sources have changed names and addresses, or are handled by different agencies, notes Angus Baxter, who lists scores of them in his just-revised "In Search of Your German Roots."

But what is perhaps more important, there is a new openness. "So far as that area once known as 'East Germany' is concerned," writes Mr. Baxter, "you will discover changes in attitude of mind when you make contact with authorities there -- something that cannot be described in these pages!"

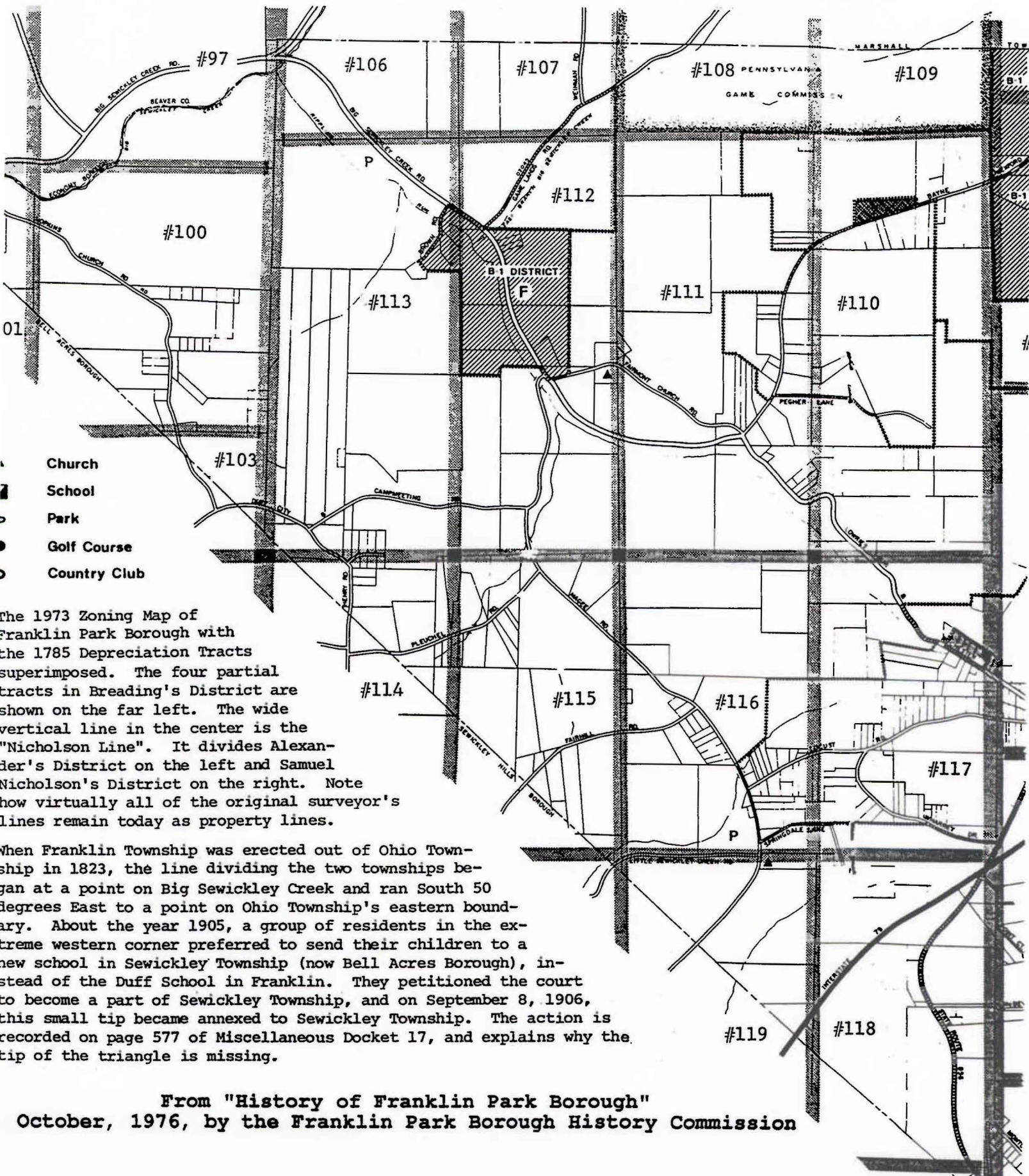
Mr. Baxter, a noted Canadian genealogist, is well-known for his guides to genealogical research. He has done "In Search of..." books on British and Irish, European, and Canadian roots, and the first edition of this book came out in 1985.

In only 116-pages, Mr. Baxter provides just about all the information you'll need to get well underway into German ancestry research. There's a good rundown on the history of German-speaking peoples, migrations, geography, research techniques, types and locations of records, addresses, and plenty of cited books and archives to help with data.

Mr. Baxter tells with whom to correspond and how. While he offers sample letters, they are all in English. A section on the rudiments of corresponding to genealogical archives in German would have been handy, but the author only suggests that you find someone who can read and write in German. Failing that, write simple, clear and polite English. And he emphasizes politeness.

"In Search of Your German Roots" is at once a concise and comprehensive guide to getting starting, with plenty of direction toward more sophisticated research. It is ideal for a beginner, but because of its updated information on the united Germany, it's also useful to advanced researchers who want up-to-date names and addresses of sources.

Copies of the paperback, which costs \$10.95, should be arriving in larger bookstores and many libraries. The book may also be ordered from the publisher, Genealogical Publishing Company, 1001 North Calvert Street, Baltimore, Md., 21202 (1-800-727-6687).



## STEAMBOAT AND RIVER RESEARCH

By Clifford Sayre

### *Researching Pilots, Captains and Rivermen*

The following are a few books that I have found to be useful in learning about the Ohio River and Ohio rivermen during the 19th century. I have not yet researched the records of the Steamboat Inspection Service or other agency in order to find out what information is available from official sources.

The following set of four books is called "The Ohio River Collection"; I believe that they can be purchased individually:

"The Navigator - 1811", Zadok Cramer (reprint). "The Western Pilot - 1847", Sam'l Cummings (reprint). "Lloyd's Steamboat Directory and Disasters on the Western Waters - 1856", James T. Lloyd (reprint). "The Ohio River Handbook - 1968", ed. Benj. Klein.

The above four books are \$10. each, plus S & H from:

Young & Klein Technicraft, Inc. Phone: (513) 681-7433  
1351 Spring Lawn Ave. Cincinnati, Ohio 45223

The "Navigator" and "Western Pilot" are strip maps of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers from Pittsburgh to New Orleans plus comments to help guide the pilots down the river. The text has descriptions of the river and landmarks along the river. For example, from the 1811 "Navigator", pg 94, mile 245 from Pittsburgh, "Two miles below Letart's Rapids is a sand bar on the right shore, and some snags below the bar. - A squire Sears lives at the rapids on the left bank and has a mill on the right shore..." The SEARS is my 5grgrandfather David SAYRE, who built a grist mill at Letart Falls, now in Meigs Co., OH, in 1810.

The Lloyd's has nothing to do with Lloyd's marine insurance underwriters of Great Britain, it is the name of the author. Most of the book is taken up with stories of steamboat disasters, which were quite common before the passage of the Steamboat Act of 1852, which also introduced the Federal licensing requirement. In some cases the accounts give the names of the officers or crew and, sometimes, the names of casualties. According to the publisher's blurb: "Explosions, fire, collisions, snags and river obstructions contributed to the destruction or major impairment of some 995 steamboats out of about 2200

built between 1811-1856. The life of the average steamboat was only about four or five years." The book has twelve pages (three columns per page) of the names of pilots and engineers licensed in various cities along the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers in 1852.

The fourth book of the series is a sort of modern fact book or almanac with all kinds of information about the Ohio River and riverboats. There is also a modern strip chart from Pittsburgh to Cairo, IL with pictures and descriptions of towns and landmarks. There are chapters on "Steamboat Terms", canals, the river locks, etc.

The following books contain references to pilots, captains, and other personnel on the steamboats and are indexed:

"Way's Packet Directory, 1848-1983", Frederick Way, Jr., Ohio University, Athens, OH (1983). ISBN 0-8214-0694-9

"Way's Steam Towboat Directory", Fred. Way, Jr. and Joseph W. Rutter, pub. Ohio University, Athens, OH (1990). ISBN 0-8214-0969-7

Each book is \$34.95 plus \$2. for shipping:

Ohio University Press Phone : (614) 593-1155 Scott  
Quadrangle 226 Athens, Ohio 45701

"Packets" lists almost 6,000 steamboats. Sometimes only a paragraph is given. In other cases there are stories about accidents, races, getting caught in ice, the Civil War, etc. "Towboats" has 2,700 entries and covers the period from about 1850 to the present time. The format is similar to "Packets". Much of the material came from collections of newspaper clippings.

The following "Catalog" and "Supplement" contain the text of the library cards for the Special Collection related to the inland rivers:

"Catalog of the Inland Rivers Library", Public Library of Cincinnati & Hamilton County, OH, 1968.

"Supplement to Catalog of the Inland Rivers Library", 1989. The Catalog and Supplement were \$5. each from:

Alfred Kleine-Kreutzmann Curator of Rare Books & Special Collections Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County 800 Vine Street Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

I have also joined "The Sons and Daughters of Pioneer Rivermen" for \$15 per year. The organization publishes a quarterly magazine about steamboats and the people who

now run them and who ran them in the past. It is an attractive, slick paper magazine of about 50 pages, called "The S&D Reflector", with a lot of pictures. Subscriptions and memberships can be ordered from:

Mrs. J. W. Rutter 126 Senaca Drive Marietta, Ohio 45750

Most of the above books, including back issues of "The Reflector", can be found at the Steamship Historical Society of America Library, located at the University of Baltimore:

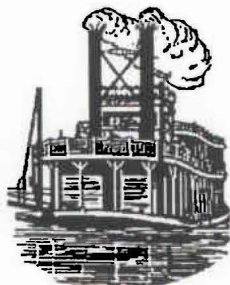
SSHSA Collection University of Baltimore Library 1420 Maryland Avenue Baltimore, MD 21201

The SSHSA Collection area is staffed by volunteers and is open 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM Mon-Fri. The collection is mainly concerned with the ships and only tangentially has material of genealogical interest. For example, there are no holdings of licenses or crew listings, etc. The SSHSA has a quarterly publication called, "Steamboat Bill". Memberships at \$25 per year can be obtained from:

SSHSA, Inc. 345 Blackstone Blvd. H.C. Hall Bldg.  
Providence, RI 02906

A very useful article on rivermen is in the December 1990 issue of the "NGS Quarterly": "Finding People on Western Waters", by Ann H. Peterson (pg 245-261). She cites various types of record sources such as census, memoirs, directories, Newspapers, etc. There is a review of libraries with special river-related collections. Ms. Peterson also discusses the regulatory history of licensing personnel (pilots, etc.) and inspecting steamboats, Civil War records, etc., giving some guidance as to various types of federal records that might contain information. She also mentions several organizations, such as The Sons and Daughters of Pioneer Rivermen as sources of information and publications of interest.

The article and bibliography cite the references mentioned above. Additional resources are also cited in connection with various sections of her paper. These resources can be useful in researching your ancestors who worked on the western rivers.



## INFORMATION ABOUT PROVINCE OF ONTARIO by Dave Bradshaw

The source for this information is the Nov. 1991 Ottawa Branch News, Ontario Genealogical Society.

### *Ontario Vital Statistics Certificates*

The Office of the Registrar General has relocated to PO Box 4600, 189 Red River Road, Thunder Bay, ON. P7B 6L8. Prices for records of BDM are now set at \$10; genealogical extracts & certified copy requests are \$21.00. For more information, call: 1-800-361-6277.

### *Vital Stats and New Ontario Archives' Services*

The Archives of Ontario has received early vital statistics indexes from the Registrar General. They begin in 1869 and end in: 1895 for births; 1910 for marriages; and 1920 for deaths. Significant gaps exist due to failure to register, especially between 1869 and the late 1890s. The AO and Genealogical Society of Utah are microfilming the records. They will not be open to researchers until next summer. The AO will provide a limited search service until then. The AO has begun a new loan service through public libraries for its most popular and heavily-used microfilm material. About 1800 reels of film, (six percent of its collection and to be increased annually,) are now available. The loan will be limited to three reels at a time for a period of four weeks. A catalog is to be sent to libraries this fall.

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## REMINDERS

Thursday, February 6, 1992 at 7:30 PM in Northland Library is the next *Executive board meeting*. ALL members are invited to come and participate in the workings of your genealogical society.

The *Beginners/Pittsburgh Resource Packets* are available for sale. It contains about 100 pages of information on how-to and where-to in the Pittsburgh area. The modest price of \$5.00 tries to cover copy costs.

Our "For Sale" table and our "Donation Asked" table are both quite successful, as well as the "Freebie" table. Please be aware that there are the three types of tables at our meetings and to **not** confuse them!! "For Sale" items have prices stated; "Donation Asked" has a can for your freewill gift and the "Freebie" is self-explanatory. Enjoy!

## RESULTS OF QUESTIONNAIRE

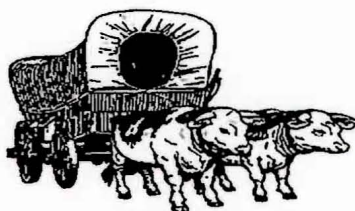
We received 17 responses to the questionnaire we had included in the August newsletter. The top 4 countries of interest were Germany (10), England (5), Ireland (4) and Alsace-Lorraine (3). Most topics got at least 5 votes with the following getting more: PA research (16), Using the Mormon (LDS) Library (13), Researching in court house records (11), Ohio Research (9), Revolutionary War records (8), Computers in genealogy (7). One or two people were interested in different types and denominations of Church records with Lutheran leading with 3 votes. One write-in suggestion with two votes was immigration records.

The field trips most members were interested in were: the Mormon Library (10), Western PA Genealogical Society Library (10), Western Reserve Library (8), Sewickley Library (7), Carnegie Library (6), Butler County Courthouse (6), Butler County Historical Society (5) and Washington County Courthouse (4). You will notice how many of these we have recently scheduled or are in the process of scheduling.

Other activities suggested were: A tour of the genealogical section of Northland Library; Field trip to Ellis Island; Hillman Library; List of churches and cemeteries that members are interested in; Visit the Penn. Archives, Harrisburg; Visiting the National Archives, Washington, DC; Visit the Washington County Public Library genealogy room.

Other topics were: Ellis Island; French Huguenots; Sicily: economic and social conditions around 1900; Mary Wohleber of Troy Hill on Allegheny City / Deutschtown; How to find old cemeteries and cemetery records; Bedford and Huntington Counties.

If anyone has any knowledge of the above topics and would like to speak at one of our meetings, please let Jim Rickey know. We are always willing to listen to people who have a special knowledge in a genealogical area.



## GIBSONIA'S NAMESAKES NAMED RICHLAND

Information from "North Journal," 5 Dec 1991.

**Charles Gibson** and his father **Thomas Gibson** were such prominent citizens of the area that Gibsonia was named for them in 1882. They also had a hand in naming Richland Township. Father and Son were arguing about the development of the township, which Charles supported and Thomas opposed. Thomas accused his son of taking all the rich people and rich land, so Charles named the area Richland. A vote in 1862 confirmed the name. Charles Gibson, then vice president of the Pittsburgh and Butler Street Railway Co., asked the township supervisors in 1905 to allow a right-of-way through Richland Township so the Butler Shortline could travel through. The right-of-way was granted and the cars were passing through within two years. From 1882 to 1922, six of the Gibsons served as postmasters, and it is believed the post office was located in the Gibson home for a short time.

### THE GIBSON HOUSE

**Charles Gibson, Jr.** built his house at the corner of Gibsonia Road and Lakeside Drive in 1839. The two-story house has eight rooms, four on each floor, and one bathroom. Six of the rooms have functional fireplaces. In one of the fireplaces, iron hooks used to hang pots over the fire are still lodged in the bottom of the chimney. All windows, according to a building inspector, are original, cut to fit the frames in 1839. The basement, directly under the kitchen, has a floor made of layered stone, while a three-foot crawl space reaches under the entire house. Workers installing new heating equipment found an old crystal glass in the crawl space, along with a horse bit.

Beside the home sits a summer kitchen that the Gibson family used on hot summer days to avoid heating the house. The kitchen area is now bare. Charles Gibson owned a general store, located in back of the house between it and the nearby railroad tracks. Although the store burned down in 1908, its foundation can still be found.

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We are all omnibuses in which our ancestors ride, and every now and then one of them sticks his head out and embarrasses us. -- Oliver Wendell Holmes.

## BYLAWS FOR THE NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS

**ARTICLE I. NAME:** The name of this Society shall be the North Hills Genealogists.

**ARTICLE II. PURPOSES:**

1. To hold meetings for the instruction and education of its members and the general public in the approved methods of genealogy.
2. To foster family research through encouragement of beginners and information dissemination through its newsletters.
3. To promote the preservation of genealogical records and resources of the North Hills of Pittsburgh, PA.
4. To support the genealogical department of the Northland Public Library.

**ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP.**

1. Any interested person may become a member of this Society upon payment of the dues.
2. Dues shall be the amount voted upon by the members in attendance at the Executive Committee meeting before they take effect in September of each year.
3. Membership is from August 1 to July 31 of the following year.
4. Members entering into the Society mid-year shall receive all back issues of the Newsletter to the previous August.
5. Members are entitled to free queries in the Newsletter.

**ARTICLE IV. MEETINGS.**

1. Regular meetings will be held the third Tuesday of each month, except December. Meetings will start at 7:00 PM.
2. Meetings are held at the Northland Public Library, 300 Cumberland Road, McCandless Township, in the North Hills of Pittsburgh, PA.
3. Meeting schedules may be changed by the Executive Committee with membership notification.
4. A quorum at any meeting of the Society shall consist of one fifth of the membership in good standing. Motions shall be carried by a simple majority vote of those present, except where these Bylaws provide otherwise.
5. All meetings are free and open to the public.
6. The Annual Meeting which will elect the new officers for August will be held in June.

**ARTICLE V. OFFICERS.**

1. The officers of this Society, each of whom shall be a current member of the North Hills Genealogists, shall be as follows: (1) President, (2) Vice-President, (3) Secretary, (4) Treasurer.
2. Term of office for each Society Officer shall be for one year beginning in the August after the election.
3. No officer shall serve more than two consecutive terms in one position.
4. A vacancy in any elective position shall be filled by appointment of the Executive Committee until the next annual election.
5. Nominations: At a regular meeting the President shall appoint a nominating committee of three members. It shall be the duty of this committee to prepare a slate of at least one nominee for each Society office. Additional nominations may be made from the floor, provided the prior consent of each nominee has been obtained.

**ARTICLE VI. DUTIES OF OFFICERS.**

1. The President shall preside at all business meetings; shall appoint all committees; and perform such duties as may be required to best fulfill the purposes and the activities of the Society.
2. The Vice-President in the absence of the President shall assume and perform the duties of the President. He shall also be Program Chairman and provide an appropriate program at each regular meeting of the Society.
3. The Secretary shall keep an accurate record of the business meetings and the meetings of the Executive Committee of this Society, and perform other duties as delegated or required to best serve the purposes of this Society.
4. The Treasurer shall receive the dues and other moneys of this Society, pay all bills and disbursements, keep an accurate record of all financial transactions, prepare or cause to be prepared all necessary financial reports and papers and other duties as delegated or required to best serve the purposes of this Society, including a fiscal statement for the annual meeting in June.

**ARTICLE VII. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.**

1. In addition to all current elected Society officers, the Executive Committee shall include as members the immediate Past President of this Society and the Chairman of each standing committee.
2. The Executive Committee will meet at the call of the President.
3. The Executive Committee shall make considered decisions, weighing any input from the general membership.
4. All members in good standing are invited to attend Executive Committee meetings.

(continued on next page)

#### **ARTICLE VIII. STANDING COMMITTEES.**

1. Membership Committee shall acknowledge new members with a welcoming letter having gotten their name and address from the Treasurer. Any back issues of the Newsletter for the current membership year should also be *given* to new members.
2. Special Projects Committee will guide any short term project the Society as a whole wishes to undertake.
3. Newsletter Committee will produce a monthly Newsletter (except December and July) of information to be handed to members at the monthly meetings and mailed to members who are absent.
4. Budget Committee will produce an annual budget for approval by the executive committee.

#### **ARTICLE IX. AMENDMENT TO BYLAWS.**

This Society's bylaws may be amended at a general business meeting of the Society by a two-thirds vote of the members present, provided the proposed amendment has been submitted in writing at the previous regular business meeting. Unless otherwise provided, such amendment shall become effective upon adjournment of the meeting at which it is adopted.

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Please review the above changes in the By-laws and be prepared for a discussion and vote on them at our next meeting on Tuesday, February 18, 1992. Most of the changes pertain to the fiscal year of our society. Since the newsletter is not printed in July and December, the natural first issue of a new fiscal year would be August. The change in IV.1. has to do with noting that we now meet on the third Tuesday of the month in order to get the larger meeting room at Northland Library. With an average of 35 people attending each month, and sometimes getting as many as 70 or 90 people, the larger room was a necessity. The last change in VIII.1. is so new members know that they should pick up their past issues of the newsletter at a regular meeting. Out of town members will have theirs mailed.

TO SUBSCRIBE TO THIS NEWSLETTER, please send \$12.00 (10 issues) to our address at Northland Public Library.

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**NEXT: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 7 PM, ROBERT CLOSSON OF CLOSSON'S PUBLISHERS ON PUBLISHING**

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