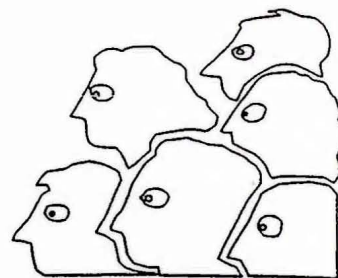




# NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS NEWSLETTER



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

Volume 2 - Number 6 - February 1992

**President:** Elissa Scalise Powell  
**Vice President/Programs:** Jim Rickey  
**Treasurer/Editor:** Maureen Durstein

**Secretary:** Maggie Sullivan  
**Budget/Computers:** Steph Valentine  
**Publicity:** Connie Foley

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Now that the groundhog has seen fit to warn us of another six weeks of winter, its time to stay warm indoors and work on our family histories. Perhaps a letter written to the society or person you've been meaning to get to will bring results. Laying groundwork now before the spring and summer field trips to libraries and cemeteries will pay off. Organize your families so that it becomes apparent as to what is needed next. Make a list of each facility you will visit and what things can be looked up there. Keep track of all your correspondence: addressee, what was sent and said, date sent and replied, results. Look over this list to see who needs a reminder letter or postcard. Get out those family pictures and try to write an identification of the people and place. This applies to new as well as old photos!

Thanks to all of you who have contributed some part of this newsletter. We always are eager to make this YOUR newsletter, so if you see an article or have a question or query, please send it to us in care of the Northland Library. You can also let us know if there is some area you would like to see covered. We will try to find out about it for you.

The speaker for our March meeting on the 17th will be David McMunn. A member of the WPGS, Mr. McMunn will speak on "Scottish Research". We are also honored to have Judy Martin from WPGS who will bring us lots of genealogical goodies from the WPGS Store. Come browse before and after our meeting!

Please think about coming forward when the nominating committee asks for candidate for the offices of President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary. The time involved will not be without its own rewards of a sense of helping others to better genealogy and a deeper learning for your own research. Please ask us just what is involved and we will be happy to tell you!

Happy Hunting, Lissa

## BEGINNER'S CORNER

**Q:** Is it possible to get doctors' records to determine what an ancestor died from or what he may have been treated for? What happens to such records when the physician retires or dies? Are they stored in an archive somewhere?

**A:** Many times when a physician leaves his practice, he leaves his records in the office, perhaps under the control of a partner. Or the records are put in storage by the doctor's family. Access would be very difficult and involve a lot of work, in this case. If your ancestor was treated at a very large clinic, the records may have been microfilmed after so many years. This approach to finding facts about your ancestor may not be as fruitful as other avenues open to you.

## WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

The next meeting of the Western PA Genealogical Society is Saturday, March 7, 1992 at 10 a.m. at the Historical Society Building, 4338 Bigelow Blvd. in Oakland. This will be an orientation meeting for new and prospective members in which each committee or group describes their activities. If you'd like to know more about the great resources that this local society can offer you, please do attend this welcoming meeting. The different committees represented will be: Cemetery, Church, Library Research, Microfilming, JOTS, Publications, Quarterly, and Hospitality. Special interest groups are British, German, Irish, Scottish, New England and Computer. Other areas will be: Surname Files, Queries, Program, Library Acquisitions, Ancestor Charts, Store, Speakers Bureau, Photography, Membership, Education and Publicity. Take advantage of the day by planning to stay and use the genealogical library upstairs!

The NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 17, 7pm, at Northland Library. The topic will be "Scottish Research" by David McMunn. A Western PA Genealogical Society member, Judy Martin will bring a



store of genealogical goods to this meeting only. She has blank forms, notebooks, postcards, pins, patches, bumperstickers and all kinds of helpful genealogical items. Please come and browse the display before our 7:30 pm speaker takes the floor.

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## QUERIES

Please send your queries to the North Hills Genealogists in care of the Northland Library. It's a wonderful way to get the word out about who or where you are researching.

Willing to exchange information with relatives of Daniel DUNBAR (1845-?) and Annie HIVELY (1854?-1881). Also would like to hear from researchers of BRENNER, CHATHAM, DAUGHERTY, GARDNER, GEISLER, GOODHART, GREENE, HOGG, JEREMIAH, KRUSE, LAMOND, LESLY, McDONALD, McKEE, MILLNER, NEELAH, RIDLEY, SASSE, WEBB. Contact Henry L. Hively, 4111 Tuxey Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15227-3326.

Looking for WELTZIEN anywhere, anytime period. Willing to exchange data on this rare surname and variant spellings: WELTZIN, WELZIEN, etc. Also GRAVATT, especially in Mercer Co., PA and Allegheny Co., PA. Also known to have been in eastern Ohio border counties. The GRAVATT family was from Monmouth Co., New Jersey. Contact Elissa Powell, 720 Highpoint Dr., Wexford, PA 15090-7571.

Interested in other descendants of Zephaniah BEALL, born 1773 in Frederick Co., MD, died 1853 in Washington Co., PA. Married first Margaret CRAWFORD of Fayette Co., PA, (born 1773, died 1818) in 1793. Married second Mary PURCELL in 1819. Founder of Beallsville, PA. One of original land holders in Washington Co., especially in West Bethlehem township. I am descended from Kezia OFFUTT BEALL, daughter of Zephaniah and Margaret (CRAWFORD) BEALL. Contact Jim Rickey, c/o North Hills Genealogists.

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## POLISH ANCESTRY

The Polish Genealogical Society of the Northeast, formerly "of Connecticut" appears to offer much to those with Polish ancestry. In spite of the name, they cater to anyone with Polish ancestry, no matter what part of the U.S. they live in. For more information contact: The Polish Genealogical Society of the Northeast, 8 Lyle Road, New Britain, CT 06053.

## CIVIL WAR PHOTOS

The U.S. Army Military History Institute has a collection of photographs from the Civil War. A lot of the subjects are identified and indexed. To find out if your ancestor is among the photographs, you may inquire to Michael Winey, Director of the U.S. Army Military History Institute, Carlisle Barracks, PA 17013-9920.

Likewise if you have an identified photo of a Civil War Veteran, you may submit it free to their collection. It becomes a permanent part of history and available to other researchers (Confederated Records. Vol #5. January, 1992).

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## SCOTTISH INTEREST GROUP

The Western PA Genealogical Society has a Scottish Interest Group that welcomes anyone who may be interested. The contact for this group is David McMunn, 9410 Babcock Blvd., #31, Allison Park, PA 15101. Phone is 364-1816.

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## ITALIAN NAMES DATABASE

POINT (Pursuing Our Italian Names Together) is a network of those who are interested in learning about the roots of their Italian heritage and who want to trace their own Italian family tree. The POINT network is composed of three parts.

Part one is a computerized data base of Italian surnames. Currently containing 9000 surnames by over 1200 submitters, you may contribute your surnames free of charge. Part two is the annual Directory which lists all the surnames in the data base and the names and addresses of those who entered the surnames, so that anyone interested in a particular name can write to the person who submitted that name and exchange information.

The third part of the Italian network is the quarterly magazine, POINTers. Each issue contains over 50 pages of tips on how to do Italian genealogy and excerpts from letters written to POINT. POINTers is the only magazine in America dedicated to Italian genealogy.

Four issues of POINTers cost \$30 (latest Directory included) or \$20 (without the Directory). The Directory may be purchased separately for \$20. To submit surnames to the POINT data base at no charge, just send them to POINT along with the area in Italy where the surname originated, if you have that information. They will appear in the next issue of POINTers and also in the next directory. Send to POINT / POINTers, P.O. Box 2977, Palos Verdes, CA 90274.



## 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 Samuel NICHOLSON in 1785, in what is now the *eastern half* of Franklin Park. Owners and settlers in the western half of Franklin Park appeared in the January, 1992 newsletter. Note that some of these tract numbers are the same as tract numbers in the area surveyed by William ALEXANDER, described in January's issue. Those tracts are totally separate from the tracts described here.

**Tract # 114:** 300 acres, was purchased at auction by Barnabas BINNEY in Philadelphia in 1786. In 1787 he sold it to Anna GIBSON for one dollar per acre. After her death her daughter, Sarah GIBSON MC CALL, sold it in 1835 to Thomas HOLEMAN, for \$100.

**Tract # 115:** 300 acres, was patented to the surveyor Samuel NICHOLSON. He sold it, plus tracts 116, 117, 122, 126, and 132, to John NICHOLSON of Philadelphia in 1795 at an average price of 61 cents an acre. John NICHOLSON died about 1797 and left his land to William CRAMOND and others, all of whom died before CRAMOND. CRAMOND sold these tracts in 1803 in Philadelphia to Thomas ASTLEY & James GIBSON at an average of 85 cents an acre. In 1815 GIBSON sold his interest to ASTLEY for one dollar. At the same time, William JONES established a home on the tract about 1800.

**Tract # 116:** 300 acres, was patented to the surveyor Samuel NICHOLSON in 1789. It became the property of Thomas ASTLEY in 1815. Because taxes were not paid, it was purchased by David ARBUTHNOT of Marshall at a sheriff's sale in 1824 for nine dollars. In 1829 ARBUTHNOT sold it to John FOWLER of Franklin for \$100.

**Tract # 117:** 300 acres, was patented to the surveyor Samuel NICHOLSON in 1789. It later became the property of Thomas ASTLEY. Due to unpaid taxes the county treasurer sold it to Michael MC CAFFERY in 1828. In 1832 MC CAFFERY sold it to Hugh MC DONOUGH for twelve dollars; MC DONOUGH then sold it to Thomas GIBSON who then sold it to Abraham PIERCE, all in 1832.

**Tract # 118:** 375 acres, was purchased by Barnabas BINNEY in 1786. He sold it to Anna GIBSON for \$375 in 1787. Her daughter sold it to James NEELY, Sr. in 1835 for \$100.

**Tract # 119:** 374 acres, was purchased at auction by Barnabas BINNEY in 1786. He then sold to Anna GIBSON in 1787 for \$374. Her daughter, Sarah GIBSON MC CALL sold the tract to Jacob SARVER of Pine in 1835 for \$100.

**Tract # 120:** 374 acres, was patented to Thomas BRADFORD, Jr. in 1845. This was the last tract transferred from the state to a private owner. This tract contained coal and quarry stone and the highest elevation, 1325 feet, in the township. Part of this tract remained in this family for many years.

**Tract # 121:** 375 acres, was patented to Thomas ASTLEY in 1832. He sold it in 1838 to Isaac SKILES for \$309. **Tract # 122:** 374 acres, was patented to the surveyor Samuel NICHOLSON in 1789. He then sold it to John NICHOLSON of Philadelphia. John NICHOLSON's sole surviving heir, William HOWARD, sold the tract to ASTLEY & GIBSON in 1804.

**Tract # 123:** 374 acres, was patented to Thomas ASTLEY in 1832. At the same time John ROBERTSON squatted on the land and built a house on the southwest corner of Ingomar & Brandt School Roads. In 1835 ASTLEY evicted ROBERTSON and sold the entire tract to him in 1836.

**Tract # 124:** 355 acres, was patented to Barnabas BINNEY in 1787. After several transactions it was conveyed to Isaac RICHEY. In 1833 RICHEY sold 106 acres to James MONTGOMERY for \$700.

**Tract # 125:** 350 acres, was patented to Thomas LEAMING, Jr. in 1786. He willed the tract to his daughter, Mrs. James SMITH, who sold it to John SIMPSON of Beaver County in 1831. The first SIMPSON School was later built on the farm erected here.

**Tract # 126:** 350 acres, was patented to Samuel NICHOLSON in 1789. Eventually Thomas ASTLEY acquired the tract and sold it to Allen MEANS of Franklin township in 1836. This tract now includes Franklin Farms, Field Club Estates, Ingomar Heights, and Franklin Towne.

**Tract # 128:** 365 acres, was patented to Joseph FISHER in 1795. The tract passed to his son and then grandchildren Joseph FISHER & Charles S. BRADFORD.

**Tract # 129:** 365 acres, was patented to Richard CONNERS (SOMERS) in 1786. It was purchased by Noble CALHOUN & John BELL in 1817. CALHOUN soon thereafter sold his portion to BELL. In 1826 BELL sold 106 acres in the southeast corner to an Irish couple, Robert & Elizabeth REDPATH.

**Tract # 132:** 350 acres, was patented to Samuel NICHOLSON in 1789. After many transactions it was purchased by Thomas ASTLEY. In 1836 ASTLEY sold it to Eli, John, & Robert PINKERTON of Ohio township for \$1,800.











## **"FREE", "FOR A DONATION" and "FOR SALE" TABLES**

At our meeting you will usually find a table covered with items free for the taking. You will also find a separate table with items for sale; and a third table of items for sale for a donation. PLEASE pay for anything from the "FOR SALE" and "FOR A DONATION" tables!

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## **STATE BOUNDARIES**

State boundaries have been known to change between census years, notably between Vermont and New Hampshire. When an old farmer whose farm had 'always' been in Vermont was told that it was now in New Hampshire, he replied, "Good. I couldn't stand another Vermont winter."

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## **NEWSPAPER REPOSITORY IN THE UK**

Apparently the place to gain access to back copies of newspapers covering the British Isles is at an outpost of the British Library in Colindale. The full address is:

British Library (Newspaper Section)  
Colindale Avenue  
London NW9 5HE UNITED KINGDOM

It is located in the Hendon/Edgware area of North London and immediately opposite the Colindale Tube Station. Access is from 10 to 16:45 Monday through Saturday. Most, if not all the newspapers are held on Microfilm and proof of identity is required before a Reader's ticket will be issued. This repository also has a more comprehensive selection of Irish newspapers than any repository in Belfast or Dublin.

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## **GUEST POLICY FOR FIELD TRIPS**

At the board meeting on January 7th, it was decided that ONLY members (and their spouses) will be allowed on field trips. If you know someone who would like to visit one of our destinations, suggest that they join our group. All new members are entitled to copies of the newsletter starting with the new membership year (which begins in August) and to attend any of our field trips.

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## **WHERE DO I START?**

by Charlie Dennett of Rochester, NY

A beginners book has come to my attention that sounds a bit different than the rest. "Why Are There No Tall Grandma's" [sic], (Subtitle: "A Guide to Assist You in Researching

Your Family History") by Scott B. Chase. ISBN 1-55787-072-1. The author says that his reason for writing the book was a lack of books that told you "how to do it". Most of what he found only told you what to do.

After a "Getting Started" chapter, Mr. Chase breaks the research down into different time periods noting that different times have different resources available. The first period is the present to 1910; the second is 1910 to 1790; the third is from 1790 to 1700 and the last is from 1700 to 1620. In each period he lists what resources are available, but more importantly he describes how to use them. He supplies numerous examples and "tricks". There is also an appendix with numerous charts and forms. The text is humorous, in places. For example, in defining various relationships he also defines a great-grandbother. That's the relative who won't leave after the family picnic.

The list price is \$12.95 but if you order directly from the author, he will sell it to you for \$10.00, plus \$1.50 shipping and handling. Please mention where you heard about his book. The source for this article is from the computer network called Usenet. The author, Scott Chase (138 Stallion Circle, Rochester, NY 14626, phone: (716) 227-8956) is also available for lectures and he does teach a course through his local Continuing Education System.

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## **Hints to Better Genealogy**

by Clifford Sayre

**BAB - Buy (or Borrow) A Book** about genealogy or family history or genealogical software to learn more. If you have children that may be interested, there is a Boy Scout Merit Badge pamphlet (abt \$1.50) that would serve as a good introduction.

**JAC - Join A Club**, a local genealogical club, local history society, or computer user group (\_\_\_\_UG, or CIG - Computer Interest Group) that has meetings where you can learn new techniques and exchange information.

**TAC - Take A Course**. A local club, the Adult Education or Recreation Department in your county, your local FHC, computer CIG or User's Group, or community college may offer courses on various topics related to genealogy and family history. For those eligible, Elderhostel usually has one or more sites where week-long courses are given... consult the catalog at your local library.

**TTYR - Talk To Your Relatives**, starting with your parents, to get some basic information to get started. The more information you have, even if some may be misinformation, the more likely you are to be able to put new information in a comprehensible context. Don't expect that some random person has the "missing family history" that will reveal all. Even if there *is* such a history, you may need a lot of spadework on your own to provide the link between that work and your family.



## A FRANKLIN PARK CHURCH HISTORY

from the "North Journal" for 23 Jan 1992,  
written by Maureen Ryan

When it was founded in 1845, Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Franklin Park served as the place of worship for some of the area's oldest families.

BRANDTs and SOERGELS would gather with their neighbors in the original log church building each Sunday to practice their Lutheran faith and listen to the preaching of pastor Michael SCHWEIGERT, who walked from the church to his other congregation in McKeesport every other week until his parishioners raised money to buy him a horse.

Since then, Brandt School Road has changed from a country dirt road to an artery between major North Hills highways and the church, which was first constructed of brick in 1869, has undergone four renovations with a fifth being planned. But despite the changes, the Rev. Grederick SCHENKER, pastor since 1984, says the church is still rich in tradition. Members of Trinity's founding families have remained in the parish while watching it change from a small country church to a large suburban congregation.



TRINITY EVANGELICAL Lutheran Church in Franklin Park is one of the area's oldest.

Yes, as a member of the North Hills Genealogists, I plan to attend the trip to the **Butler County courthouse, Main Street, Butler, on Monday, March 9th, at 10 A.M.** [Please return this form to the address on the newsletter or to one of the officers **by Tuesday, March 2nd;** or sign up at one of our regular monthly meetings.]

Name:	Home phone:
I am interested in car pooling to Butler Co. courthouse.: Yes___ No___	
I am interested in serving as a car pool driver: Yes ___ No___	



Yes, as a member of the North Hills Genealogists, I plan to attend the trip to the **Western Pa. Genealogical Society library, 4338 Bigelow Blvd., Oakland, on Saturday, March 21st, at 9:30 A.M.** [Please return this form to the address on the newsletter or to one of the officers **by Tuesday, March 17th;** or sign up at one of our regular monthly meetings.]

Name:	Home phone:
I am interested in car pooling to Western Pa. Genealogical Society Library: Yes___ No___	
I am interested in serving as a car pool driver: Yes ___ No___	

## MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

The Department of Archives and Manuscripts at Arizona State University and the Manuscript Society announce the official opening of the Manuscript Society Information Exchange Database listing manuscripts, documents, and letters held by private individuals throughout the United States. For the first time, it is possible for researchers to have access to primary source materials held by private collectors.

Through an agreement between ASU Libraries and the Manuscript Society, an international association of manuscript collectors, the Department of Archives & Manuscripts will enter information about rare documents into a searchable database. For a fee, researchers can request a search for materials relating to their interests. In addition, ASU is often able to supply photoduplication of original documents.

The database contains thousands of items, both national and international in scope. Many documents are authored by historical figures such as Edwin Booth, Queen Isabella I, Sam Houston, Davy Crockett, Brahms, Puccini, Catherine de Medicis, Alsous Huxley, Florence Nightingale, Virginia Wolf and Mark Twain. Also most U.S. presidents and their wives are represented. Searches can retrieve documents authored by an individual, written to an individual, or written about an individual. In addition, subject searches are also available. For example, the American Revolution and Civil War are heavily represented. 19th and 20th century authors, artists and musicians appear in abundance. Other subject matter includes: polar exploration; California Gold Rush; Indians of North America; slavery; Colonial History; World War II; Western Americana; and more.

For additional information and search request forms, please contact: Patricia A. Etter, Assistant Archivist for Information Services, Archives and Manuscripts, Hayden Library, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ 85287-1006. Phone is (602) 965-3145.

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**Tuesday, March 17, 1992 at 7:00 PM, NORTHLAND LIBRARY- Topic: SCOTTISH RESEARCH**

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**NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS  
c/o NORTHLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY  
300 CUMBERLAND ROAD  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15237-5455**