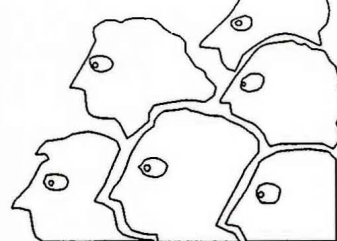




NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS NEWSLETTER



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

Volume 2 - Number 7 - March 1992

President: Elissa Scallise Powell

Treasurer/Editor: Maureen Durstein

Publicity: Connie Foley

Vice President: James G. Rickey

Secretary: Margaret Sullivan

Budget/Computers: Steph Valentine

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

After watching "Roots" lately on TV and the epilogue film of how Alex Haley came to write it, I was much impressed by it all. He just 'happened' to wander into the National Archives in Washington and ask quite blindly to see the census film for his ancestors' county. From there he was hooked and spent the next 7 years writing his book. It is with sadness that I learned he died without completing his other projects. However it is that we have become hooked, I hope that you are working on your project and have provided for its preservation by placing a copy of your material with a library, genealogy society in your research locale, or with the LDS Church in Salt Lake City. It doesn't have to be a book, but a well-organized manuscript collection can be invaluable to those who come after us.

This month our nominating committee (Robin Schooley and Verna Swint) are very busy putting together a slate of candidates for our election of officers in June. The new officers will take over in August until the following June. The current officers will still be around to provide continuity, so please do not hesitate to say Yes! when asked. If you would like to volunteer your services, please do contact Robin or Verna.

Your president has been busy this year giving a brief 'How to' at Hampton Library (with Jim Rickey); a 15-minute 'Why for' at the North Hills Christian Women's Club; representing NHG at the Slippery Rock Heritage Association Workshop; and getting accepted into the Pioneer Families of Mahoning County, Ohio. If you have any news or have been accepted into any lineage societies, please let Maureen Durstein or me know! We will be glad to share your achievements with our membership.

Don't miss the article on the history of Soundex in honor of the opening of the 1920 Census this month. That only happens every 10 years! Happy Hunting, Lissa

BEGINNERS CORNER

Q: In some colonial New England records, I found that my ancestor was listed as a poundkeeper. What exactly was this occupation?

A: In colonial times, livestock was let loose each day to graze wherever it wished, and often it wished to be in another farmer's crops. To relieve the problem, towns began constructing municipal corrals of wood or stone, the town pounds. Any animal caught straying was brought to the pound and held until a fine was paid. Few old Yankees aspired to the position of poundkeeper, the elected custodian of the menagerie. It was a job involving much more than simply foddering the animals and collecting fines. No matter the number of animals impounded, it was up to the poundkeeper to hold down the lid on these colonial versions of Noah's Ark. On demand, he had to wrestle stray hogs, run down loose horses, and escape roving bulls. Usually the poundkeeper was also liable for expenses in feeding the animals.

In many towns, a poundkeeper was obtained by making that position the first apprenticeship post of aspiring politicians. A few towns followed the practice of appointing as poundkeeper the most recently married young man of that year's town meeting. For their troubles, the poundkeepers received a set percentage of the fines collected. By the late 1800's the pounds, once common to every New England town, fell into disuse as better communication between farmers made them obsolete.

The above is from "Abandoned New England" by William F. Robinson, published by Little, Brown, and Company, 1978, pp. 56-59.

Q: While looking around for ancestors in a cemetery, I notice a headstone with the initials F.L.T. on it. They were not the deceased initials, so what else could they mean?

A: The letters F.L.T. inscribed in three links of a chain are symbols of the Fraternal Order of "IOOF," meaning Friendship, Love, Truth. IOOF stands for The Independent Order of Odd Fellows, or Odd Fellows as they are commonly called.

FORMER LAND MEASURE IN IRELAND

(reprinted from "PAST TIMES", the newsletter of the Mercer County, PA Genealogical Society (PO Box 812, Sharon, PA 16146), January 1992, page 5.

10 Acres = 1 Geneve
2 Geneve = 1 Sessiagh
3 Sessiagh = 1 Tate or Ballyboe
2 Ballyboes = 1 Ploughland, Seisreagh or Carrow
2 Ploughlands = 1 Ballybetagh or Towland
30 Ballebetagh = 1 Trioca Cead or Barony

OLD PHOTOS

Photos need to be protected. They are not just pieces of paper, but chemical compositions, usually coated with gelatin and silver. They can be harmed by light, air and dust. Therefore, when handling photos, do so with clean hands and only on the edges. Keep photos out of temperature and humidity extremes, such as attics and basements. Generally a room that you would like to live in is the best one in which to preserve your photos.

If you can identify your photos in any way, it is a good idea to label them. But never use a ballpoint pen which is acidic and will eat away at the picture. Instead, use a Stabilo art pencil, which you can pick up in any art supply store for about \$1. These pencils leave less of an impression than regular pencils. When you write, be sure not to press hard, and don't write on the area where people's faces are. You can place acid-free paper between photos so that the writing will not rub on the face of another picture.

NEVER fix an old photograph with cellophane tape; it cracks and will leave a residue. Also, don't attach photos with paper clips, bunch them together with rubber bands, glue them into books or use 'magnetic' albums.

He who careth not whence he came, careth not whither he goeth. -- W. M. Taylor

BEGINNERS' BOOK

A new book has been published on how to do genealogy entitled "Do People Grow on Family Trees? : Genealogy for Kids & Other Beginners" by Ira Wolfman, foreword by Alex Haley, published 1991 by Workman Publishing, New York (ISBN: 0-89480-348-4; \$9.95). It says it is the Official Ellis Island Handbook. The book has 179 pages in ten chapters, an appendix and an index. It is written with the immigrants in mind with lots of pictures and illustrations. The chapter on Soundex and census is handled well. Other chapters deal with beginning your genealogical search; the story of American immigration; the immigrant adventure begins; immigrants jump into the 'Melting Pot'; the history and meaning of names; a step-by-step guide to your genealogical treasure hunt; how to find - and use - documents about your family; libraries and other resources; how to help others enjoy your genealogical discoveries. Each chapter has sub-topics within that are quite informative to the beginner and reminders for the experienced. The book has many pictures of immigrants and stories or anecdotes of their arrivals and adventures in coming to America. This background material rounds out the straight facts of how to pursue your ancestors and makes it enjoyable reading.

LESSER USED SOURCES

The following sources could be checked after standard sources have been researched. Perhaps this will give you some ideas on where to try next.

City Directories; Voting lists; Biographies; School Records (both alumni and enrollment); Clubs and Societies; Lineage Societies; Government Records; Company employment and histories; Directory of farmers and breeders; Early inventors; Geographic pictionaries and gazeteers; Public Building histories; Prison records and letters from prisoners; Auditors census (when a state wanted to be admitted to the Union); Court records for: business license, boundary adjustments petition, for name change; Admission to Poor House (could contain immigrant info) If poor house was closed check with Sister of the Poor in Baltimore, MD; Apprentice and Indenture lists; Draft Registration; Witchcraft lists; Funeral home list of who gave flowers; No one gave without a connection to the deceased! Sometimes that connection is listed.

COUNTY MAYO, IRELAND

A research center in County Mayo, Ireland will do some record searching for you if you can provide names and at least approximate dates for your ancestors. They have been known to send marriage dates with stipend and priest who married them, baptism records with godparents names, copies of Griffith's Valuation for the townland, ordinance and townland maps of the research areas. All this for \$30 in a U.S. check. They have a membership for US \$19.00. One benefit is a yearly journal with local history information. The address is:

South Mayo Family Research Centre
Town Hall
Ballinrobe, County Mayo, Ireland

WESTMORELAND COUNTY HISTORY BOOK

We are taking pre-paid orders for the reprinted book the "History of Westmoreland, Pennsylvania with Biographical Sketches" by George Dallas Albert. Originally published in 1882, this reprint is 727 pages plus an everynames index printed on acid free paper, Smyth sewn and hardbound. Through a special arrangement with Closson Publishing, we are able to offer this book for sale for \$35, PA tax included. For out-of-state members, this price would include shipping. Please place your reservation with Elissa Powell (935-6961) or by mail to our address at Northland Library by Tuesday, April 7, 1992. This is a rare opportunity to obtain a library-quality book for such a reasonable price.

Westmoreland County was formed in 1773 and at that time encompassed Washington, Greene, Fayette and Westmoreland Counties plus parts of Allegheny, Beaver, Armstrong, and Indiana. In 1781 Washington County broke away (including now Green County, part of Allegheny and Beaver Counties). In 1783, Fayette County was formed from Westmoreland. Armstrong county was formed in 1800 and Indiana County was the last to break away and be formed in 1803.

BEN FRANKLIN'S EPITAPH (written by himself):

The Body of B. Franklin, Printer, like the cover of an old book, its contents worn out, and stript of its Lettering and Gilding, lies here. Food for worms, but the Work shall not be wholly lost; for it will, as he believ'd, appear once more in a new and more perfect Edition, Corrected and amended by the Author.

BEN AVON CENTENNIAL

One of Ben Avon's pioneers was William Dickson, settler of Scots-Irish descent, who came here from Philadelphia. The 890 acres he bought later became part of Kilbuck, which was named for a friendly Indian. Later Ben Avon separated from Kilbuck and was incorporated January 9, 1892. The name is Scottish for "Hill above the River." William Dickson's granddaughter married William Courtney, who with David Courtney bought land in what is now Emsworth. The area was known as Courtneyville and Laurel Station before it finally became Ben Avon.

BLACK IRISH

Black Irish is the term that was given to the descendants of the survivors of the Spanish Armada. When Sir Frances Drake destroyed the Armada, many of the ships went aground off the coast of Ireland. Many sailors made it to shore and were absorbed into the Irish communities. Most of these sailors had no money or reason to return to Spain. Some of the Spanish sailors were Crypto-Jews, so if anyone has Black Irish roots, this may transfer into Jewish roots. Spanish Jews were common as navigators, having been important map-makers, and also having been highly represented in merchant trading.

The Black terminology relates to the dark hair and dark eyes of the Spanish people that shows up generation after generation, overriding the typical reddish-brown and blue-green eyed Irish. Sometime children in the same family will show different hair and eye coloring, one taking after the traditional Irish coloring and the other the darker Spanish influence. Most Black Irish are found along the west coast of Ireland.

FREE GENEALOGY NEWSPAPER

"The Family Tree: News from the Ellen Payne Odom Genealogy Library" is a 24-page publication of Genealogy and Scottish Heritage news. The Library (PO Box 1110, Moultrie, GA 31776-1110) is a repository for material of over 20 Scots clans including Donald, Ross, Johnston/e, MacDougall, Armstrong, Henderson, Stewart, Ramsay, Blair, Forrester, Dunbar, MacFarlane and Farquharson. The bi-monthly columns include 'Missing McPersons', 'News from Kith & Kin', and 'Harvest of New Materials'. The publication has 12,000 subscribers world-wide and appreciates postage donations along with queries.

SOUNDEX HISTORY

by Dick Miller, 23 November 1991

General information on how to do Soundex coding is available in all U.S. Census holdings, most genealogical libraries and how-to genealogical research books, etc. This memorandum contains generally unavailable historical information about the Soundex indexing system used on various U.S. Census files, in modern computer database management, etc.

Anyone who has worked enough with certain years of the U.S. Census microfilms has seen the Remington Rand copyright notices, with a lightning bolt thrusting up through the logo: "Soundex, Quick as a Flash!" But who actually developed this clever and useful code, and when?

Remington (originally a typewriter manufacturer) acquired the prior license for the Soundex system when it bought up a company named Library Bureau prior to 1940 (and itself merged into Remington Rand which became Sperry Rand which was acquired by Burroughs which now is a part of Unisys...). Remington's literature gives the wrong impression that Remington's Library Bureau Division invented Soundex in-house in 1912.

In 1989, neither the U.S. Census Office nor major libraries could tell me more. I found my own first clue at the excellent, computerized New York State Library in Albany, and then I did a patent search in the Boston Public Library. The results: even Library Bureau was licensing pre-existing patents, which were issued at least as early as 1907 to Robert C. Russell of Pittsburgh, PA for his Russell Definite Index --which seems to have been first marketed by the Boston Index Card Company (later acquired by Library Bureau?) sometime prior to 1918.

REMINGTON ON SOUNDEX

The following excerpts from "Office Manual of Filing Systems", a 1948 brochure from Remington Rand Systems Division, give a good insight into why that group was hired to Soundex-index the U.S. Census for 1880, 1900, 1920, and some states for 1910.

Over Half a Century's Leadership HOW IT BRINGS YOU BETTER FILING, LOWER COSTS

[This Products & Services brochure lists eight filing methods marketed by this division.]

THE FIRST CARD INDEX [By Library Bureau, 1892.]

THE AUTOMATIC INDEX In 1912 it became possible for the first time to check papers back into a file with accuracy and speed through a combination of alphabetic and numerical designations. [An early 'Soundex' code, but

Robert C. Russell holds prior patents which they don't mention.]

WHERE TO USE SOUNDEX Soundex is most efficient under these conditions: 1. In files of 50,000 or more names, especially if positive locating of information is vital. 2. Where reference is frequent and speed important. 3. Where names of individuals predominate.

DETECTS AND "COLLECTS" NAME VARIATIONS Summarizing its advantages, SOUNDEX: 1. Provides a positive and unchanging number for every name. 2. Automatically groups 98% of all family names regardless of spelling. 3. Detects duplications, and prevents future duplications. 4. Offers unlimited expansion. 5. Puts responsibility for results on the system. 6. Uses 6 numbers instead of 26 letters. 7. Permits numeric sorting, filing and finding -- the fastest of all methods. 8. Provides a rapid and unfailing way of checking for accuracy. 9. Counteracts most transcribing errors. 10. Permits all minds, on all occasions, to file and find alike. 11. Reduces clerical and supervisory expense, executive delays and losses from erroneous information.

Remington Rand will assume either supervisory or complete responsibility for putting name indexes on an efficient Soundex basis. Our Contract Service Department has performed this work for many of the most important files in America ...

CREDITS AND REFERENCES

These Remington quotes are courtesy of the archives of Unisys Corporation in Detroit, MI. First leads were courtesy of the New York State Library in Albany, NY. Patents were available by the Boston Public Library in Boston, MA. "A FAMILY HISTORY OF THE RUSSELL-SOUNDEX SYSTEM", main talk by A. Richard Miller, at the 10 March 1990 meeting of the Middlesex County Chapter of the Massachusetts Genealogical Society. 2. "WHAT'S IN A NAME? AN MMSFORTH IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RUSSELL-SOUNDEX METHOD", professional paper (with detailed references) by A. Richard Miller of Miller Microcomputer Services, 14 June 1990, 1990 Rochester Forth Conference, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY (and published in its Proceedings), Institute of Applied Forth Research, Rochester, NY. Please post at libraries and societies who use soundex.

I'm still looking for other sources of information on who invented the Soundex index system (Robert Russell and/or others) and when.

Responses to: A. Richard Miller, 61 Lake Shore Road, Natick, MA 01760-2099; phone (508)653-6136

ALPHABET SOUP

by Clifford Sayre

Genealogy has its own language. Part of this language is the abbreviations used when not wanting to write out the whole organization or term, such as FHL for the Church of Latter-Day Saints' Family History Library or FHC for Family History Center. Computer lingo has also crept into this alphabet soup and some abbreviations come from that industry's love for acronyms. In addition to the FHL, FHC etc., other abbreviations genealogists live with are PAF, FTM, etc. Many of these are acronyms for genealogical software. Let me start the list with a few that aren't:

FCG = French Canadian Genealogy

AIS = Accelerated Index System, a microfiche collection of (mostly) census index data, mostly 1800-1850, that permits a searcher to look nationwide or through groups of states at one time (available at some FHCs and at other libraries);

TT = Tiny Tafel, a specially formatted surname list that can be used to find other researchers interested in the same names through the TMS = Tafel Matching System;

GEDCOM = a specially formatted file of genealogical data that can be generated by some programs for exchange of data between persons having the same software or between different versions of software that recognize the generic format.

Before listing acronyms, let me recommend "Guide to Selecting Genealogy Software" by Donna Przechla & Joan Lowrey, pub San Diego, 1991. Available from Donna Przechla, P.O. Box 29515, San Diego, CA 92129 for \$16.95. The book describes the features of many of the programs listed below.

BK - Brother's Keeper; EFT - Everyone's Family Tree; FTJ - Family Tree Journal; FTM - Family Tree Maker; PAF - Personal Ancestral File; R3 or RIII - Roots III; TFE - The Family Edge

Some other programs not usually abbreviated: Family Connections; Family Genealogy; Family Reunion; Family Roots; Genea; Genealogy db; Linkages; My Family Record.

Some utility programs for use with various programs above: FRU - Family Records Utilities; FTP - Family Tree Print Utility; Forest; Historiograph; DESCEND; R3FIXETC; RDF - Research Data Filer; RDF2GED; RPLOT.

READER'S CORNER

by Robin Schooley

When I found out this month's topic was Scottish Research, I was delighted. I know I have some Scottish ancestry but I have not yet begun to work on those lines. I checked the genealogy section at Northland Library to see what might be of help to the genealogist who is searching for Scottish ancestors.

"In Search of Scottish Ancestry" by Gerald Hamilton-Edwards (call # 929.1 H17) is a 20-year old "how to" book which while quite out of date still offers some good background information on Scottish records.

"Irish and Scotch-Irish Ancestral Research" by Margaret Dickson Falley (call #R929.3 F19) is a two-volume set that was originally published 30 years ago. Genealogical Publishing Co. reprinted this set in 1981 and 1984. Volume 1 gives a lot of background information on records and also outlines some good, solid research practices. Volume 2 give many suggestions and sources for further research.

"The Highland Clans" by Sir Iain Moncreiffe (Call #929.2 M74) and *"Highland Clans and Tartans"* by R. W. Munro (Call #929.2 M92) both discuss the origins and backgrounds of the clans connected with the history of the Scottish Highlands.

I would not have expected to find *"The Weaver's Book of Scottish Tartans"* by Harriet Tidball (Call #R929.2 T43) on the genealogy shelf. As the title indicates it is about weaving various tartan plaids but there is a marvelous introduction with a lot of historical background and a lot of information about traditional Scottish garb.

Some of you may have noticed that the Reader's Corner was missing from the last couple of newsletters. I apologize to our readers, but I NEED YOUR HELP! For our April meeting, we will be holding a round-table discussion. I would like some input from our readers on books they have found helpful to them in their research. If you have a favorite "how to" book or have discovered some little-known source that has proven to be particularly helpful to you, please let us know about it so we can share it with all our readers. Please call me (934-0432) or drop a note in the mail in care of the Northland Library.

Thanks,

Robin

ADS PROVE A RICH SOURCE FOR STUDY OF IRISH EMIGRES

by Richard Higgins in the Boston Globe, 26 Jan 1986

In the autumn of 1831, Mary M'Dermott arrived in Boston from Ireland. Her husband, Patrick, had left her more than a year earlier in search of work in America. Unable to find him through the small but growing Irish community here at the time, she placed what historians believe may have been the first "personal" advertisement in an American paper.

"Patrick M'Dermott, a native of County Kildare, and who was married at Kingston, near Dublin, is hereby informed that his wife and four children have arrived in Boston," said the ad in the Oct. 1 edition of the Boston Pilot. "They understand that he left Roxbury ... about 12 months since to obtain work as a stone mason; they're extremely anxious to hear from him. He is hereby requested to write or come for his poor family in this city."

Over the next 85 years, Irish immigrants, or family members back home, placed 40,000 ads in the Pilot in efforts to find relatives and friends from whom they had become separated in the great wave of Irish immigration. The ads gave a wealth of detail about the immigrants' home parish or hamlet; family backgrounds; occupations and the circumstances under which they came and later fanned out across the country.

Now, under an innovative computer project by two Northeastern University professors, the ads have become the basis of a massive study of the Irish immigration. The co-authors believe it provides the richest source of data about the origin, arrival, and migration patterns of an ethnic group in America. "Genealogically, it's probably the largest fund of information about any ethnic group that you could point to," said Donald Jacobs, a social historian. "Yiddish, Italian and German papers did some of the same things, but not to the same extent. The ads give an extensive amount of information, so you can get a sense of the roots of these people, and a pretty good picture of social history of the era."

Some ads were poignant. The following appeared July 6, 1850: "Whereas my husband, Joseph Duglass, left me and spent 230 dollars, without any reason. He is 5 1/2 feet high, fair hair, cross eyed, and a bend in one of his fingers, and a scar on the back of his neck; he got blown up in East Boston at the foundry; he has small ear-rings in his

ears. He is from County Derry, Ireland, and says he is a Scotchman. I was only 7 weeks married when he left me. I will give 18 dollars to any one that will write and tell me where he is. I am from County Donegal, Ireland. Please address a letter to Mr. Smith, No. 7 Blossom Street, Boston, Ms, for Mary Duglas." Other notices were placed by mothers trying to find lost children, or men trying to find missing siblings or parents.

Volume One of their study, "The search for Missing Friends," will be published this spring (1986) by the New England Historic Genealogical Society and Northeastern's Irish Studies Program. It covers 1831 to 1850. Information from the Pilot ads is being entered into a computer data base by Northeastern work-study students under 40 categories, from surname, sex, age and occupation to physical descriptions, marital status, means and place of arrival and family histories. The information, said Dr. Ruth-Ann Harris, head of the Irish Studies Program, could be used to chart the immigrants' patterns of migration around the country. She noted that scholars now have little information on where many Irish emigres came from. US immigration records are poor, generally noting only an immigrant's country, and Ireland's national census records - which included the parishes of it's citizens - were destroyed in a blaze in 1922 in Dublin Castle.

The result has been frustration for many Irish-Americans seeking their family histories. Edward Hanson, director of publications for the genealogical society, said the study "should be useful to Irish-Americans trying to pinpoint their roots in Ireland." He said "the link between individual and parish" is what has been missing from official immigration records. Until its purchase by the Boston archdiocese in 1908, the independently owned Pilot was America's largest and most influential Irish-American newspaper. At its peak, it had a national circulation of 150,000, although most of the personal ads centered on the East Coast and Canada.

One of the mysteries of the ads, which ran under such headings as "Information Wanted" and "Missing Friends," is whether the people whose names were given as contacts were doing it out of compassion or as a paid service, said Jacobs. It is also unclear, he said, how well the ads worked. The Pilot claimed they were highly successful, and Jacobs is inclined to accept that. "People continued to place them for decades, which I think is [a] pretty good indicator of success." After the first few ads,

(continued on page 72)

SUBMITTAL FORM

FREE Genealogical "Event Queries" Section (Will be published in a future issue of the newsletter.)

Use this form to submit one-line type queries. See the sample entry below for reference. Note that you should start a Place of Event with the state or country. Use two-letter codes for states, and up to three letters for countries. For example, GER for Germany, ENG for England, and so on. You may submit as many entries as you wish, but there is space below for only ten (10) entries. For more than ten, make a copy of this form as many times as you wish.

Submitter's Name & Address:

(Do Not Write in This Space, For Office Use Only)

SURNAME, Given Name(s)	Sample Entry	(b, m, d or r)	Event	Year	(range)
JOHNSON, William Allen		r		1842	10
Place of Event	PA Armstrong Co	Record Type	Bible	Recd	

SURNAME, Given Name(s)		Event	Year	+ or -
Place of Event		Record Type		
SURNAME, Given Name(s)		Event	Year	+ or -
Place of Event		Record Type		
SURNAME, Given Name(s)		Event	Year	+ or -
Place of Event		Record Type		
SURNAME, Given Name(s)		Event	Year	+ or -
Place of Event		Record Type		
SURNAME, Given Name(s)		Event	Year	+ or -
Place of Event		Record Type		
SURNAME, Given Name(s)		Event	Year	+ or -
Place of Event		Record Type		
SURNAME, Given Name(s)		Event	Year	+ or -
Place of Event		Record Type		
SURNAME, Given Name(s)		Event	Year	+ or -
Place of Event		Record Type		
SURNAME, Given Name(s)		Event	Year	+ or -
Place of Event		Record Type		
SURNAME, Given Name(s)		Event	Year	+ or -
Place of Event		Record Type		

SEND COMPLETED FORM TO: North Hills Genealogists, Northland Public Library, 300 Cumberland Road, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15237

SURNAME EXCHANGE LIST

You are welcome to enter as many of your ancestors as you think appropriate. We will print the information in one of our future newsletters, hopefully in April or May. Please give your sheets to Maureen Durstein or send them to us in care of Northland Library.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMISSION Here are some tips in using and submitting your ancestors to the Surname Exchange List. Since there is no limit to the number of entries you can submit, consider refining the information per the suggestions below.

o **Surname, Given.** The names will be printed in alphabetical order by surname. Use multiple entries for variant spellings.

o **Genealogical Event.** The "event" is a birth, marriage, death or residence. The "b" (for birth) can be used for a baptism, christening, or any other reference to a person's birth. The "m" (for marriage) can be used for reference to a person's marriage, either implied or actual. List the wife under her maiden name and the date of marriage. The "d" (for death) can be used for death or burial records, or reference to a death from some other source. The "r" (for residence) can be used for knowledge of a person in an area at a certain time. For example, a deed record may not give any information about a person's age, marriage, or death, but simply indicates that on a certain date a person lived in a certain place.

o **Year and Range of Years.** The year of the event should not be left blank. If you do not know, give a best guess and use the +/- for a fudge factor. For example, if you know the age of a person on the 1800 census to be in the "26-44" age group, the year of birth would be between 1756 and 1774. You can express this on the form by saying the event date is 1765, +/- 10 years.

o **Place of Event.** A place can be shown with the country or state first, using standard two or three-letter codes. Next, follow with a smaller jurisdiction, either town, city, county, parish, district, or other named sub-division.

o **Type of Record.** This section refers to the source of your information. You may have a birth reference from a census, obituary, or marriage record. Please indicate how you know about this event.

o **Multiple Entries for the same person.** You may enter an ancestor more than once, especially if they had different events in different area.

o **Marriage Links.** To link spouse together, enter the marriage date and place on one line. On the next line enter the same information, but in the "Type of Record" space, indicate the name of the spouse.

HEIRLOOMS IN YOUR FAMILY HISTORY

by Russell D. Earnest (PO Box 490, Damascus, MD 20872) Author of "Grandma's Attic: Making Heirlooms Part of Your Family History," available from the author for \$9.50 plus \$2.00 postage.

Your aunt by marriage, now divorced from your uncle, owns a favorite vase you always admired in your grandmother's house. And your grandmother's neighbor somehow ended up with her loveseat. Worse, you can't find your grandfather's pocketwatch, and strangers now own the many old family photographs your brother-in-law sold for the frames at his garage sale.

How did all that happen? Mostly, it happened because families lose sight of the importance of heirlooms. They often view heirlooms as "old things" that are forever under foot and take up storage space. Yet, no matter what the heirloom, it can never be replaced, and no matter how hard you try, you can't turn similar objects into heirlooms. You may substitute an old vase identical to Grandma's, but you'll always know deep inside, your ancestors never really touched it.

Heirlooms are part of our family history, yet few pass down through families in a systematic way - that is, well-documented. Instead, we tell our young children a war medal belonged to great grandfather Jones who fought in World War I. And we expect them to remember. Realistically, few people - even avid genealogists - recall all the information about their families without writing the information down. So why expect members of the family to accurately remember oral history connected with heirlooms? Instead of leaving histories about heirlooms to chance, carefully document each heirloom and acquaint future generations with these keepsakes so they appreciate them. By doing so, you ensure heirlooms remain in the family where they will be cherished as more than just "old things."

FIELD TRIPS FOR MEMBERS AND THEIR SPOUSES

March 21 at 9:30 AM: Western PA Genealogy Society Library at the Historical Society, 4338 Bigelow Blvd.

April 25 at 10:30 AM: Sewickley Library, Thorn and Broad Sts., Sewickley. Mail-in sign up slip inside this newsletter.

they just began to grow like Topsy," Jacobs said. "People began to see this as a useful vehicle for locating people, and the Pilot began to see it as a way of making money." The advertisements - which ran each week for three weeks at a cost of \$1 - mention not only the Irish county and parish from which the immigrants came, but often the townland, a smaller residential area of about 400 acres. They also note where the immigrants were last seen or were headed after arrival.

The ads peaked in the 1860's and '70s and surged or dropped in tandem with historical events, said Harris, who conceived the project five years ago. They jumped sharply in 1836, just after a cholera epidemic hit Ireland, escalated slowly again after 1840, then "zoomed way up" in 1846 and '47 - after the potato blight caused the famine of 1845.

Although most scholars have not yet had a chance to use the Northeastern study, which will eventually be published in a seven-volume "Who's Who" format, it has already yielded some new historical insights into the first major non-English immigration to America, according to Harris. Among them, said Harris, are that:

- o Quebec was the second largest port of entry for the Irish, after New York and well ahead of Boston.
- o Forty-six percent of the Boston Irish came from Munster province in southwest Ireland, in particular County Cork.
- o A high proportion of the immigrants had low-level skills in the building trades, engineering and other fields but were unable to find jobs that employed their training here. This led to much frustration as the Irish discovered the only real jobs for women were as maids and, for men, as common laborers on the canals and railways.

o The Irish suffered severe family breakdown in America. "It was a carry-over of a pattern of migrant labor from Ireland," Harris said. "When [the men] heard of a job, say on a canal in New York, they would just go, often without any clear idea of where New York was. They had a great tendency to get lost that way." She speculates that this may be tied to the high percentage of Irish committed to mental hospitals and orphanages here during the 19th century. "The Irish had such a different way of life back home, they were bound to have an awful time of it in America. And many of them did," Harris said.

WARNING: Genealogy Pox (Very contagious to adults)

SYMPTOMS: Continual complaint as to need for names, dates and places. Patient has a blank expression, sometimes deaf to spouse and children. Has no taste for work of any kind, except feverishly looking through records at libraries and courthouses. Has compulsion to write letters. Swears at mailman when he doesn't leave mail. Frequents strange places such as cemeteries, ruins, and remote, desolate country areas. Makes secret night calls, hides phone bills from spouse and mumbles to self. Has strange faraway look in eyes.

NO KNOWN CURE

TREATMENT: Medication is useless. Disease is not fatal, but gets progressively worse. Patient should attend genealogy workshops, subscribe to genealogical magazines and be given a quiet corner in the house where he or she can be alone.

REMARKS: The unusual nature of this disease is: the sicker the patient gets, the more he or she enjoys it!

Taken from: Ancestors Unlimited Quarterly, publication of Southwest Nebraska Genealogical Society of McCook, NE



Yes, as a member of the North Hills Genealogists, I plan to attend the trip to the **Sewickley Public Library, Thorn and Broad Sts., Sewickley, on Saturday, April 25th, at 10:30 A.M.** [Please return this form to the address on the newsletter or to one of the officers **by Tuesday, April 21st.**]

Name:	Home phone:
I am interested in car pooling to the Sewickley Public Library.: Yes ____ No ____	
I am interested in serving as a car pool driver: Yes ____ No ____	

WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

The Western PA Genealogy Society will meet on Thursday, April 9 at 8 PM at the Historical Society Building on Bigelow Blvd. in Oakland. The topic will be "Research in Context." All are welcome. Contact Elissa Powell if you need a ride.

The April 21st meeting of the North Hills Genealogists will be a chance for each person to ask a question and maybe even get an answer! Our members are always eager to help. Bring your 1990/1991 (Volume 1) Newsletters if you would like them Velo-bound with an index for \$1.50 (cost of materials). They can be done before / after the meeting.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: Please note that the next board meeting is on Monday, April 6 (not the 9th as previous announced) at 7:30 PM in Northland Library's Meeting Room 1. All members are most welcome to come!

BRITISH CENSUS INDEXING PROJECT

by Bryan J. Grant in 26 Oct 1991 issue of 'Church News' as edited by Ken Yourstone

A project is underway to index the 1881 British census. The 1881 census contains 26 million names. Approximately 3.5 million names have been indexed so far. Flintshire and Cambridgeshire have been completed. When completed, a national index will be produced by surname and birthplace. The project is expected to be finished in another five years. About 1.2 million man-hours will be needed to complete the project. The work is co-ordinated by the Genealogical Society of Utah. As each county is completed, microfiche copies are made available to Her Majesty's Stationary Office, the Public Records Office, the Federation of Family History Societies, participating county family history societies, and the LDS family history centers in the British Isles.

Join us Tuesday, April 21, 1992, Northland Library, 7 PM for Round-Table Discussion

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