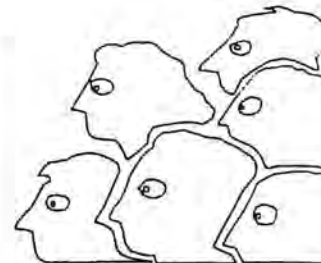




NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS NEWSLETTER



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

Volume 8 Number - 3 - Oct. 1997

President: Gary Schlemmer
Treasurer: Sherry L. Brady
Queries/Sales/Publicity: K. Kerr
Book Committee: Marion Hyle

Vice President: Patsi Lee
Membership: Steph Valentine
Subscription: \$12.00 per year
10 Issues from August to June

Secretary: Debi MacIntyre
Cemetery Project: Ginny Skander
Liaison: Elissa Powell
Editor: Marcia Coleman

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Are you experienced in tracking down ancestors, but have hit a roadblock? Do you think that genealogy sounds like fun, but haven't a clue where to start? Well, this is why you're in a genealogy club and why our November meeting is the place to be! Please read on

For many people, interest in the family tree starts with a relative or friend showing some family memorabilia, or who, perhaps, can even pull out an impressive diagram with many branches full of fascinating name and places. Or, we have heard legends and are curious about them. Whether accurate or not, these sources often provide important clues, and the genealogist keeps going back to relatives or that elusive "family historian" to keep things in perspective.

The next step is to try to verify the names, relationships, dates, and places we know about and then to work from the known to identify the other mothers, fathers, and siblings in the tree. I emphasize "try", because this leads to the need for primary evidence - the birth and death certificates, etc. - and for the wills, census records, and other clues which help locate the primary records.

So how do we find all this stuff? ... or even know what to look for? Talk with others who have been there and who are coping with the same challenges. Even those who know what to look for keep running into roadblocks. But it is amazing how many other people around us can help fill those gaps. This is where your genealogy club comes in.

In November, our two-part meeting will start with a short

video on what primary evidence is and where to find it. You will see examples and typical information relevant to family relationships. The meeting will continue with an open group discussion where attendees can tell of specific discoveries or research problems relevant to our group. This provides an opportunity for everyone to participate in their own question/answer and problem solving session.

As a minimum, you will learn about what geographical areas people are researching and about some interesting methods. Often, you will find that someone else in the room shares a similar problem, or has an answer for it, or might even be a relative. One of our members notes that if you are in a group of 40 or more people, it is likely that at least one is related to you! (Recently, while checking in at a large public seminar, I discovered that the stranger in line ahead of me had the same name and was related to me through a great-grandfather.)

There will be an opportunity for anyone so inclined to join in. Be thinking about your areas of interest, bring a notepad, and enjoy a worthwhile evening with NHG.

Gary

DECEMBER SOCIAL

The NHG will be visiting the Senator John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History Center on Saturday morning, December 6 at 10:00 a.m. If we have a least 35 members or friends, we will be given the group rate of \$4.25. If we have less than 15 person, the fee will be \$6.00. We will be going to the DoubleTree Hotel for lunch. It is within walking distance. Parking is available in lots nearby. Maybe some members can form car pools.

Marion Hyle

WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

Sat., Oct. 25 at 9:00 a.m. - **Cemetery Reading.** We will meet in the parking lot the First Presbyterian Church of Bakerstown which is on the east (right) side of Route 8 at the Red Belt. Call Ginny Skander at 443-1460 for more information. [This marks the official beginning of our second book, join us and be part of the project.]

Sat., Nov. 1 at 9:00 a.m. - **Cemetery Reading.** Call Ginny Skander at 443-1460 for more information.

Tues., Nov. 4 at 7:30 p.m. **NHG Board Meeting** at the cafeteria at Passavant Hospital, which is on the lower level. All members are welcome to attend.

Thur., Nov. 13, 7:30 p.m. **WPGS Meeting** in the Carnegie Lecture Hall. Program: Phyllis Brown Delaney, C.A.L.S. (Certified American Lineage Specialist) President, Ohio Genealogical Society "What Proof Do I Need: Techniques For Lineage Society Research." [See p. 28 for details]

Tues., Nov. 18 at 7:00 p.m. - **Regular NHG Meeting** at Northland Library. Program: A 15 min. "How To" video on Vital Records followed by a Roundtable Discussion.

Sat., Dec. 6 - **December Social.** Trip to the Senator John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History Center with a lunch at The DoubleTree Hotel following the tour.

GENEALOGY CONFERENCES

19th Annual Family History Conference, sponsored by the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society and the Lancaster County Historical Society, will be held on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, October 30-November 1 at the Holiday Inn/Lancaster Host Hotel and Conference Center, Lancaster, PA. Eakle, President of the Genealogical Institute of Salt Lake City, will discuss "American Migrational Patterns" of cooperative and religious groups, including migration-oriented records. She will also conduct three workshops: "Migrational Patterns into the central United States," "Planning a Research Trip to Your Place of Origin," and "Evaluating Genealogical Evidence." A program and further registration details are available from Lola M. Lehman, Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society, 2215 Millstream Road, Lancaster, PA 17602-1499 (include SASE). Phone (717) 393-9745; Fax: (717) 393-8751. Registration deadline is October 15..

QUERIES

Complied, edited and typed by Keith Kerr, Query Editor

WILEY, CASE, SHOEMAKER (SHUMAKER HAND, GANGARD, SMUTZ, STINEHELPER, OH, LIGHTNER, DARST (DURST), WHEATLEY, HITT, MILLER, GREEN(E), SHACKLETT, VA; LIGHTNER, Lancaster County, PA, SHUMAKER (SCHAMACHER), Berks County, PA, HALLMAN, Franklin County, PA; WILEY, Allegany County, NY, JOHNSON, Ontario County, NY, HAND, Nassau County, NY. Contact: Tom and Mary Wiley, 190 Goldsmith Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237-3642.

BITTNER, John Adam: born 10, Feb., 1859, Silesia, Prussia; died 25, Oct., 1902, Shaler Township, PA; **MIKULSKI, Antoni:** born 28 Dec., 1877 or 23, Jan., 1877, Kleczew, Konin, POLAND; died 19 Sep., 1949, Pittsburgh, PA; **NOWAK, Stanistawa:** born 28, May 1879, Wies Teodorowo, Warzymow, POLAND; died 24 Aug., 1936, Pittsburgh, PA. Contact: *Dolores Bittner, 4252 Sample Court, Allison Park, PA 15101-2644.*

TALBOTT, JOHNSON, 1750-1800, MD. Contact: Paul Talbott, 405 Wimer Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15237-3747.

HILLIGAS, David and Conrad, Cadiz, OH, HILLIGAS, Conrad, ca. 1780's, Uniontown, PA; HEAVEN, Alfred, William, and Robert, CA. 1890's, Pittsburgh, PA; METZ, Jacob, 1880-1920, Pittsburgh, PA. Contact: Wayne David Palke, 382 Calderwood Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15202-1148.

PFABE, Butler County, PA, Saxonburg, PA, Saxony, GERMANY; LARNER, Washington County, PA, Donora, PA, UNITED KINGDOM; JOSEPHSON, Grassflat, Clearfield County, PA, Stockholm, SWEDEN, YOUNG, Allegheny City, PA, Lanarkshire, SCOTLAND. Contact: Keith and Gwen Larner, 58 Hempstead Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15229-1741.

ENNIS, Bradford County, PA, Sussex County, NJ, SCOTLAND; SNOVER, Bradford County, PA, Wyoming County, PA; HAVENS, Bradford County, PA, VERMONT; MASON, New York, NY, IRELAND; TOMEY, New York, NY, IRELAND; JONES, Luzerne County, PA, WALES; LEWIS, Carbon County, PA WALES; METCALF, ENGLAND; ELMY, Luzen County, PA. Contact: Sue Ennis, 206 Pennsylvania Avenue, Zelienople, PA 16063.

HODIL, HODILL, GRUBBS, STROHM, PETERS, EMIG, YOUNG, CLUNEY, Contact: *Ronald Hodill, 11 College Avenue North, Apartment 302, Columbia, MO 65201-4991.*

FLETCHER, WOODS, HALPIN, LYNN, Allegheny County, PA. Contact: *Ginny Vekasy, 1093 Fifth Street, Beaver, PA 15009.*

HUMPHREY (WARD), Phoebe, 1910-1920, Pittsburgh, PA; **WARD, Henry**, born North WALES, died Nov., 1920, Randolph County, MO. Contact: *Marilyn J. Kowalski, N923 Hall Drive, Stetsonville, WI 54480.*

GRIGGS, WATKINS, MCCORMICK, Pittsburgh area, PA. Contact: *Sherry Borza, 125 Kyle Road, Valencia, PA 16059.*

BEGINNER'S CORNER

Question: What are fraktur?

Answer: Fraktur are decorated manuscripts made by and for German Americans, and especially Pennsylvania Germans. Most American fraktur are taufscheins (birth and baptism certificates) made primarily for members of the Lutheran and Reformed families. However fraktur was, and is, practiced by Mennonites, Amish, and other religious affiliations. Most fraktur were made in Southeast Pennsylvania or anywhere Pennsylvania Germans settled such as Ohio, Virginia, Maryland, New Jersey, the Carolinas, and beyond. American fraktur date approximately from 1745 into this century. Fraktur was a rural tradition and most were personal documents. Because they were decorated with watercolors, they are unlike any other genealogical record. They were meant to be kept by the family and were ordinarily not used as official documents.

In German-speaking areas of Europe, the work "fraktur" refers to a style of writing and not a personal document. Of interest, very few European taufscheins are known. Taufscheins are almost entirely an American phenomenon. We believe they were an American expression of self worth and even freedom — freedom from domination by the state, freedom from a sometimes oppressive church, and freedom to own land. Thus fraktur, in this county, has taken on meaning that is greatly expanded beyond a European definition that would be restricted to a decorative style of writing. Most

American fraktur, over 80 %, is written in German. But with patience and the help of glossaries and study aids such as provided in *Papers for Birth Dayes; Guide to the Fraktur Artists and Scriveners* and *The Genealogists Guide to Fraktur: For Genealogists Researching German American Families*, the non-German reader can usually transcribe and translate information from fraktur.

Often overlooked in earlier literature, fraktur are primary sources of genealogical information that is crucial to researchers of German American families. Often, information found on fraktur can be found nowhere else. Taufscheins, for example, include mother's maiden names. Commonly, additional data was added to birth and baptism certificates including dates of confirmation, marriage, and most often, date of death. *Papers for Birth Dayes* lists over 4,000 surnames and is continuing the series, *German-American Family Records in the Fraktur Tradition*, has and will have, many thousand more. In addition, Klaus Stopp's monumental five-volume study on printed taufscheins lists thousands more names. Thus fraktur, usually known and admired for their folk art qualities, are just as important for personal data they record.

Information from a book sale list by Russell D. Earnest Associates, P.O. Box 1007, East Berlin, PA 17316.

BOOKS REVIEWED & FOR SALE

Patriotism: Indiana County PA and the Civil War by Dr. W. Wayne Smith is a new book chronicling the Civil War experience of sleepy, agrarian Indiana County. The book relates the proud accomplishments of native sons such as Harry WHITE, Jacob CREPS, Hannibal SLOAN, A. G. BOLAR and Daniel PORTER, to name only a few, and local regiments including the 40th, 41st, 56th, 61st, 78th, 105th, 135th, 148th and 206th. The contributions of local African-Americans are noted as well, with the heroic actions of native Indians James BRONSON and Alexander KELLY during the siege of Petersburg earning them the Congressional Medal of Honor.

The book also focuses on the home scene, which is an area of growing interest for Civil War scholars. Dr. Smith details the political battles in Indiana County, the initial competition among local militias for the chance to march off to war, the controversial draft and difficulty meeting quotas once local enthusiasm waned, economic changes, and the impact of the war on the families left behind.

Dr. Smith has been an Indiana resident and IUP Department of History professor for many years. The book will sell for \$25.00 plus shipping and sales tax. Contact Historical and Genealogical Society of Indiana County, Silas M. Clark House, 2000 S. Sixth Street, Indiana, PA 15701-2999.

Pioneer Cemeteries of Hampton Township, Allegheny County, PA

This cemetery listing book documents the final resting places of many settlers of the area. It includes not only complete readings for the Pine Creek, Depreciation Lands, and Hampton Cemeteries, but also the lot owners' book for the latter and a guide to the other cemeteries in Hampton Township. Each stone has been recorded exactly with dates, relationships, epitaphs, stonecarvers' names, and other notations such as the condition of the stone or whether any other marker or a photo of the deceased was present. An everyname index includes maiden names when known. This hard bound, library-quality book is over 200 pages and contains many photographs of the gravestones, history of the area and maps.

The price is \$19.95. plus applicable tax, postage and handling. PA Residents mailed \$24.35, PA Residents pickup \$21.35 and Libraries and Outside PA \$22.95. Send your name, address and payment to: the North Hills Genealogists, c/o Northland Public Library, 300 Cumberland Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237-5455.

INTERNET LINKS

Repositories of Primary Sources. This site, sponsored by the University of Idaho, lists more than 2,100 web sites around the world which describe holdings of manuscripts, archives, rare books, historical photographs, and other primary sources for the research scholar.

[http://www.uidaho.edu/special-collections/
Other.Repositories.html](http://www.uidaho.edu/special-collections/Other.Repositories.html)

Revolutionary War Records for Northampton & Lehigh Counties, Pennsylvania:

<http://www.geocities.com/heartland/3955/rev.htm>

This Web site in Belgium lists many emigrants from the Waasland (Flanders, Belgium) to the U.S. and Canada 1830 - 1950. The site contains already hundreds of family names of people having immigrated in the USA and Canada, a description of the area where they came from

and where they settled, a list of hundreds of trans-atlantic passenger ships, an overview of the owner's private library, and hints on research in Belgium:

<http://www/ping.be/picavet/>

The Cape Cod Genealogical Society, serving Cape Cod and the Islands, issues a Bulletin quarterly, provides workshops on all levels, has year-round meetings, a query service, and special interest groups including Computer, Irish, Daytrippers, German, Canadian and Publishing:

<http://www.tiac.net/users/bigcity/ccgs.html>

Historical Society of Pennsylvania

<http://www.libertynet.org/pahist>

American Jewish Historical Society

<http://ajhs.org/>

Research in Slavic Areas

GEN-SLAVIC@MAIL.EWORLD.COM

Nova Scotia, Ontario & Quebec families - with ties going back to Scotland & Montbeliard area of France:

<http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Plains/7525>

Family Tree Transcription Services, which specializes in oral history transcription:

<http://members.aol.com/MOABMKCB/FAM>

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING

By Gary Schlemmer

The September meeting preliminaries included a display of nautical prints which Donna Booth had obtained from the Peabody-Essex Museum of Salem, MA. Complete with a description and history, these paintings show the actual ships which carried her ancestors to America.

Northland Library is seeking volunteers to help at their book fair Nov. 10 - 26, day and evening. It will include our book, *Pioneer Cemeteries of Hampton Township*. Call the library for details.

Our featured speaker, Frank Thomas, spoke on his recent research trip to Croatia. Since the breakup of Yugoslavia and civil war in the 1992-1994 time frame, Croatia has become an independent republic. Frank spoke of the many changes which had occurred, his experiences and successes in trying to obtain records, and his continuing contacts there. He showed that genealogy can be a real life adventure!

CHRIST'S LUTHERAN CHURCH CELEBRATES 200th ANNIVERSARY

excerpts from an article by Solveig Peters,
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Nov. 17, 1996

Christ's Lutheran, located in the Westmoreland community of Sardis, was founded by German immigrants. The church history began around 1784, the year Greensburg became the seat of Westmoreland County, replacing Hannastown which had been burned by the Indians.

The first pioneer minister in the area was the Rev. A. U. LUTJE and visited the outpost from his home church at Brush Creek Lutheran. In 1791, Daniel HANKEY started worship services in his home but 4th church's anniversary is marked from the issuance of the congregation charge in 1796 when Pastor John Michael STECK, another circuit-rider, traveled from Greensburg to preach to the tiny congregation.

The first church was a log church built in 1817 on property donated by Daniel and Catherine Hankey. In 1859 Pastor L. M. KUHNS became the first full-time pastor and the first to preach in English. In 1959 the church relocated to the area in Murrsyville near the Holiday Park portion of Plum so the growing population in that area could be served.

SURNAME INDEX CARD FILE

by Virginia C. Skander

The Surname Index Card File is now ready to be placed in the Northland Public Library for access by other local researchers, as well as out-of-town researchers. We will continue to have the original card file at our regular meetings for our members to refer to as well as the five generation charts. Frankly, I am disappointed at the low number of people who are participating in this terrific research tool. Through the Surname Index Card File at the Western Reserve Library in Cleveland, I found a contact for my one family line which took me back to the 1600's and put me in touch with a woman who is publishing a book on that line. This is a fabulous way to put your information out there for others to see. It is just as valuable as a trip to the National Archives to do research. You should use every available source you can for contacting others who might be researching your line who might be able to help you obtain further information.

Advice to those who have already submitted as well as

those who contemplate submitting their surnames in the future. A couple of the submissions which I received were written in very light ink. When the original cards were photocopied onto the card stock which will be put into the library file, much of the information could not be read, including the submitter's name and address. I darkened the ones I already have, but I urge you to make sure your submissions are either typed or written with dark ink in the future so that they photocopy well. I'm afraid I do not have the time to rewrite the cards submitted to me and will not be doing so in the future. So, please be careful of how you print your cards. Also, do not write to the extreme edges of the cards or in the middle bottom of the card (where a hole appears on the library stock). Please leave a little bit of a border, or information can also be lost when photocopying it. I had to rewrite some addresses which ended up running off of the photocopy. Again, I won't be doing this in the future. This should be your responsibility. And if you flip the card over to include children on the back, please make sure that the top of the card for the front is also the top of the card for the back, otherwise your information will appear upside down in the file, and information can also be lost that way due to the hole at the bottom of the library stock. Also, if you send any updates, please indicate on your card that it is an update and the date you are submitting the new information. Please use the following example for future submissions:

SURNAME, GIVEN NAME

d/o or s/o (daughter of or son of)

b. (birth date)

md. (marriage date)(death date)

Submitter name and address

Info submitted (date)

[hole]

For new members who are unfamiliar with this Surname Index Card File project, please see me at a general meeting for a free acid-free Five Generation Chart as well as instructions for submitting your Surname Index Cards for inclusion in this project. New out-of-town members, please send me a No.10 SASE, and I will send you the forms. I urge everyone to participate in this worthwhile project. □

Tidbits: What this country needs is family trees that produce, more timber and fewer nuts. From *Imprints*, Broward Co. FL via Rocky Mountain Buckeye, Vol. IV, No. 5, Dec. 94/Jan. 95.

THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY ARCHIVES

The Cuyahoga County Archives serves as a repository for the historical records of Cuyahoga County, Ohio. A research library is available for the convenience of persons using the records in the County Archives and trained personnel are always available to provide advice on any specific research problem. The offices, storage facilities, and the research library are all located in the Robert Russell Rhodes House, a Victorian Italianate mansion built in 1874.

The Cuyahoga County Archives, 2905 Franklin Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio 44113
(216) 443-7250; (216) 443-3636 Fax Number
Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30 am - 4:30 p.m.

Records of interest in the archives:

Board of Count Commissioners Journals, 1810-1985.
List of Electors, 1893-1982, Board of Elections.
Coroner's case files, 1833-1900 (not inclusive).
Township and ward maps, 1860, 1870, 1880, and 1890.
Atlases: Cuyahoga County, 1852, 1874, 1892, and 1903;
also City of Cleveland, 1881 and 1898.

County Building Commission Journals, including
Cuyahoga County Court House, Soldiers' and
Sailors' Monument, and certain other county
buildings and bridges.

Probate Court estate case files, 1813-1913; indexes,
1813-1941.

Registration and Charters of Religious and Other
Societies, 1845-1986 (not inclusive).

Tax Duplicates, 1819-1986 (not inclusive).

Marriage records, 1810-1941, originals; and index, 1810
to present, available on microfilm.

Divorce case files, 1876-1882, Court of Common Pleas;
also Ohio Supreme Court records, 1811- 1858,
and Court of Common Pleas Special Docket
files, 1876-1922.

Naturalization records, 1818-1971, Court of Common
Pleas; also Probate Court naturalization records
1859-1901.

Birth records, 1849-1908.

Death records, 1840-1908.

Abstract of Votes, 1893-1974, Board of Elections

Civil War Bounty Record, 1862.

Road Records, 1802-1898.

County Surveyor's Records, 1823-1893.

Cleveland City Directories, 1837-1939 (not inclusive).

Necrology File, 1850-1950; 1951-1975.

Board of Elections Register of Naturalized Voters, 1836-
1972.

*Editors note: Thanks to Julie Kant for reviewing and
typing this. Also thanks to a NHG member for giving m.
this information, unfortunately I have forgotten who it
was. Identify yourself and I will give you credit.*

ANOTHER DOWNTOWN LIBRARY - AT THE HISTORY CENTER

Excerpts from *Carnegie Magazine*, March/April 1997

The Library & Archives of the Historical Society of
Western Pennsylvania is located in the Senator John
Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History Center on Smallman
Street in the Strip District.

For decades the HSWP, begun in 1879, was housed in its
stately - if small - manse on Bayard Street in Oakland. In
April of 1996 it moved to its new home at the History
Center, in the converted Chatauqua Lake Ice Company
building. The History Center has six floors of exhibits
and collections, including two entire floor for the library,
archives and reading room.

The Library and Archives are the domain of Director
Carolyn S. Schumacher. She emphasizes that this library,
is *public*. "There is no sense in having a facility if there
aren't people around to use it, she says. We encourage
people to come in, but we are not a circulating library.
We're a reserve library with a special collection."

Actually that is collections. There are Western
Pennsylvania Maps, books, archives galore, from
personal records to the collected corporate works of
Alcoa, USX, Heinz and Mellon, plus such departed
comrades a Gulf, Home's, Mesta Machine and so on.
They also include the little guys, too. When Wilkinsburg
Hardware closed after a century of business, for example,
the family donated 100 boxes of accounts, ledgers,
photographs and memorabilia.

The oldest piece in the place is the Fort Pitt Daybook, for
the 1700's, cataloguing what was purchased for the
garrison.

You have coal and clay, you have glass — and the third-
largest local glass-related collection in the country.

There's Robert McKNIGHT's journal of the Great Fire
of 1845, photographs of the Railroad Riot of 1877 (a
doozy of a labor war overshadowed by the Homestead

Steel Strike of 1892), and the records of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development - the folks who brought you Pittsburgh's first Renaissance.

Perhaps most astonishing are the 1863 photos of all 280 Lyon Shorb Company ironworkers in workclothes and tools - the world's first employee photo ID's.

Want to poke through family secrets? They have a ton of them, including, nine boxes from the THAW family dating back two centuries. The Thaws were primarily involved in banking and railroads, but young Harry became famous for shooting society architect Stanford WHITE over Evelyn NESBITT. (His mansion still stands next to Art Rooney's place on the North Side.)

Eighty boxes from the YWCA (pictures, programs, paraphernalia), biographies and business indices, and on and on, 35,000 volumes, 10,000 linear feet of manuscript material, 500 maps, one million photographs, all in a fully computerized catalogue linked to a national database.

Editors note: Remember our December Social will be at the Senator John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History Center on December 6.

FOREIGN BIRTHS & DEATHS

From "The Source: A Guidebook of American Genealogy", Edited by Loretto Dennis Szucs & Sandra Hargreaves Luebking. Vital Records - Foreign Births and Deaths p.630.

Births and deaths of U.S. citizens in foreign countries are reported to the nearest U.S. consulate or embassy.

The U.S. Department of State issues certified copies of these foreign births only to the subject, the subject's parents or legal guardian, or a person who submits written authorization from the subject. To request copies of the Consular Report of Birth (DS-1350), write to Passport Services, Correspondence Branch, U.S. Department of State, 1425 K St. N.W., Room 386, Washington, DC 20522-1705. To determine the current fee and information required to order the birth record, consult *Where to Write for Vital Records: Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Divorces* (Hyattsville, Md.: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Publication No. [PHS] 93-1142).

Deaths of U.S. citizens in foreign countries may be reported to the nearest U.S. consular office. If reported, and if a copy of the local death certificate and evidence of

U.S. citizenship are presented, the consul prepares the official Report of the Death of an American Citizen Abroad (form OF-180). A copy of the report is then filed permanently with the U.S. Department of State (with the exception of military personnel).

To obtain a copy of a non-military death report filed in 1960 or after, write to Passport Services, Correspondence Branch, U.S. Department of State, Washington, DC 20522-1705. For reports of non-military deaths filed before 1960, write to the National Archives and Records Service, Diplomatic Records Branch, Washington, DC 20408.

For reports of overseas military deaths (U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, U.S. Marines, U.S. Air Force, and U.S. Coast Guard) or civilian employees of the Department of Defense, write to the National Personnel Records Center (Military Personnel Records), 9700 Page Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63132-5100.

Refer to Kemp's International Vital Records Handbook for addresses and forms to use when ordering a vital record directly from a country.

Birth records of alien children adopted by U.S. citizens and lawfully admitted to the United States are filed within the state of adoption, but they may also be on file with the Immigration and Naturalization Services, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC 20536. Requests must be submitted on INS Form G-641, which can be obtained from any INS office.

When a birth or death occurs in international territory, whether on an aircraft or a seagoing vessel, the record is filed based on the direction in which the mode of transportation was moving when the event occurred:

If the vessel or aircraft was outbound or had docked or landed in a foreign destination, requests for copies of the record should be made to the U.S. Department of State, Washington, DC 20522-1705. If the vessel or aircraft was inbound and the first port of entry was in the United States, write to the registration authority in the city where the vessel or aircraft docked or landed in the United States.

If a vessel was of U.S. registry, contact the U.S. Coast Guard facility at the port of entry and/or search the vessel logs at the U.S. Coast Guard facility at the vessel's final port of call for that voyage.

Deaths that occur on airplanes or trains crossing the

continental United States are filed in the county where the first stop is made. Births, however, are filed in the county where the mother and child disembark from the plane or train, even when several stops are made along the way.

Editor's note: Elissa Powell found the above information in the on-line publication *Ancestry HomeTown Daily*.

LINEAGE SOCIETY RESEARCH LECTURE AT NOV. WPGS MEETING

WPGS's monthly meeting is on Thursday, November 13, 7:30 p.m. at the Carnegie Lecture Hall, next to the Carnegie Library, 4400 Forbes Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15213:

Phyllis Brown Miller Delaney, C.A.L.S. (Certified American Lineage Specialist), President, Ohio Genealogical Society will speak on "What Proof Do I Need?: Techniques For Lineage Society Research."

This year WPGS has announced the formation of a new lineage society called the "First Families of Western Pennsylvania." To apply a WPGS member must prove that their ancestor was in any of the 26 western Pennsylvania counties before Dec. 31, 1810 and also their lineal connection to the qualifying ancestor. To help us understand what constitutes proof and how to go about filling in lineage society papers, be it this charter society or a well-established one like the D.A.R., our speaker this month will address these issues. Phyllis Brown Miller Delaney is one of only 15 Certified American Lineage Specialists in the country as certified by the Board for Certification of Genealogists in Washington, D.C. She will bring her expertise in lineage society documentation by showing us several different society applications with the lecture emphasis on documentation that is acceptable for most lineage societies.

Phyllis not only is a lecturer at national conferences but is also the President of the Ohio Genealogical Society with a membership of over 6,500. This society has chapters in most counties of the state and some chapters outside the state which keeps Phyllis' schedule quite busy!

We are honored to have our neighboring state's president come speak with us and share her knowledge in this most important area of documentation.

Please come and join us in welcoming her. As always, our meetings are free and open to the public, so bring a friend, neighbor or relative.

MILITARY PENSION RECORDS

The Family Tree, June/July 1997, Vol. VII, No. 3

The first US military Pension Law was passed in 1792. provided aid to disabled veterans who had served in the Revolutionary War. Later pensions were extended to anyone who had served. In 1818, a veteran had to prove actual need; in 1820, a veteran had to prove need and submit a schedule of his estate, perhaps a copy of a deed showing that he had disposed of all of his property. All veterans were granted pensions after 1828

The 1836 Widow's Act provided that the widow of a Revolutionary War veteran could claim his pension. The widow had to prove relationship and establish that they had been married before the war ended. After 1854 widows were eligible for a pension regardless of the date of the marriage. Many widows who were eligible did not apply.

The Remarried Widow's Index is arranged alphabetically by the name of the remarried widow. Part I covers 1861 and before. Part II covers the period from the Civil War to World War I. Information given included the name of the remarried widow, name of the veteran, the unit in which he served and his file or certificate number.

A pension claimed on behalf of a minor child included proof of the child's age and birth date.

A PRAYER FOR GENEALOGISTS

Lord help me dig into the past
And sift the sands of time
That I might find the roots that made
This family tree of mine.
Lord, help me trace the ancient roads
On which my fathers trod
And led them through so many lands
To find our present sod.
Lord, help me find an ancient book
or dusty manuscript
That's safely hidden now away
In some forgotten crypt.
Lord, let it bridge the gap that haunts
my soul when I can't find
The missing link between some name
that ends the same as mine.

Editors note: Contributed by Bev Thomas to the *Stover Research List Newsletter on the Internet*. Thanks to Ginny Skander for finding this and typing it.

HISTORY ROBBERS

by Keith Kerr, NHG Member

This week, in a nearby county, late at night, a motorist came across an unusual object lying in the road. Even though this was a lonely road and it was late, he stopped. An old well-worn stone shown white in his headlights. It was a tombstone. To his credit, he picked up this heavy marker and drove it to the local police station. The police read the gravestone as best they could and put out a report asking anyone where this might belong. The name was "Roberts" and it was the marker for a child. It was clear even on television the carving read "Aged 11 yrs".

Perhaps an "antique stone seeker" had lost one of his prizes from the back of his truck. This was not the work of mindless vandals. This was a robbery for gain. This was not the senseless destruction of crude thugs who destroy for nothing more than a moronic laugh. A child had lost the identity of his final rest for profit.

"Desecration" is a word used for the work of hate filled cretins who write dirty words on churches or Nazi slogans on synagogues. These crimes have no more moral implication than a hurricane or tornado. When apparently intelligent people would rob a graveyard for a Yuppie garden decoration, that is a true desecration.

Any time we see these "objects" for sale, we must assume a crime. Do not patronize these fences. These "antique shoppes" are criminals of current taste. They are robbers of history, who turn profit from ghoul.

In Bakerstown, where we are scouting our next book, is a cemetery where almost all the stones were removed for a parking lot. This is another good example of the importance of our work. Join us to help save the little plots of history and identity. See Ginny to help read the stones for Volume II of our Pioneer Series.

FAMILY HISTORY VOLUME SUPPLEMENT

Genealogical and Local History Books in Print is in the process of compiling a book listing to include the *Family History Volume Supplement*, which will be published in the fall of 1998. This supplement will include listings of family histories, pedigrees, and compiled genealogies that have become available since the publication of *G&LHBIP's Family History Volume* in 1996 or were

omitted from that volume. There will be no charge for listings in the supplement, so it's a great way to promote your books at not cost. The final deadline is March of 31, 1998.

The NHG Newsletter editor has one application and others can be obtained from Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1001 North Calvert Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202; (410) 837-8271; FAX (410) 752 8492; (internet) <http://www.genealogical.com>

PANORAMIC PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION ONLINE

Excerpts from the *Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter*, Friday, September 19, 1997

The Panoramic Photograph Collection contains approximately four thousand images featuring American cityscapes, landscapes, and group portraits. These panoramas offer an overview of the nation, its enterprises and its interests, with a focus on the start of the twentieth century when the panoramic photo format was at the height of its popularity. Subject strengths include: agricultural life; beauty contests; disasters; engineering work such as bridges, canals and dams; fairs and expositions; military and naval activities, especially during World War I; the oil industry; schools and college campuses, sports, and transportation. The images date from 1851 to 1991 and depict scenes in all fifty states and the District of Columbia. More than twenty foreign countries and a few U.S. territories are also represented. These panoramas average between twenty-eight inches and six feet in length, with an average width of ten inches. The site is at <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/pnhtml/pnhome.html>

Thanks to Ginny Skander for finding and typing this for us.

GREAT NEWSPAPER COLLECTION

Family Tree, Vol. VII, No. 2, Apr./May, 97

The State Historical Society of Wisconsin has the second largest collection of newspaper in the US - surpassed only by the Library of Congress. It is national and spans the period the period from the 17th century to the present. More than 4000 titles are included and many are microfilmed and available by inter-library loan.

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

FIRST CLASS

93129 97-98
Marcia Coleman
1950 Lammerton Drive
Allison Park, PA 15101

Nov. - Video on Vital Records & Roundtable Discussion.

BITS AND PIECES

GENEALOGY T-SHIRTS FOR SALE

Pennsylvania map T-shirts designed by Elissa Powell showing names and founding dates of each county are available. The saying around the map is: "PENNSYLVANIA - The (heart) of my GENEALOGY The ROOTS of my family are here."

Wear this research tool or give it as a gift to your favorite family historian! Non-shrinking 50-50 material is available in two colors: Royal Blue with white ink or Gold with black ink. Both with red hearts. Sizes are M(38-40), L(42-44), XL(46-48) and XXL (50-52). (No gold in medium) Only \$12 at the Carnegie Library, PA Dept. and North Hills Genealogists meetings or \$14.50 by mail, including postage and handling to Elissa Powell, 720 Highpoint Drive, Wexford, PA 15090

EXCELLENT RESEARCH SOURCE AGRICULTURAL CENSUS

The Family Tree, Dec. 1994/January 1995, Vol. V, No.6

An excellent place for persons to secure information about their ancestors during the 1880's is to search the agricultural census. These census records give information which you do not ordinarily find about families. It gives you an understanding of the people and how they lived.

Beginning in 1840 with the Sixth Decennial Census of Population a national census of agriculture was taken every 10 years. Congress provided for a mid-decennial agricultural census to be taken in 1915, but because of events leading up to World War I, it was never taken. In 1925 a mid-decade census of agriculture was taken. Census information was obtained by a personal canvass individual farms until 1969.