



NHG CEMETERY PROJECT CONTINUES WITH RENEWED CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

With the advent of good weather, volunteers from the North Hills Genealogists have renewed their work to read cemeteries for preservation of historical information for local families. On 26 April 2009, a quartet of NHG volunteers headed to Strohm Cemetery on Woodland Farms Road in Fox Chapel, Allegheny County, PA. Additional volunteers are now needed to assist with this current NHG project.



NHG members **Linda Casavale** (l) and **Amy Arner** reset a headstone in Strohm Cemetery as part of NHG's fourth cemetery project. Barb Groden and Amy Prager helped.

The focus of NHG's fourth cemetery reading project is to preserve information in all cemeteries of Indiana Township and Fox Chapel, Allegheny County, PA. This includes 12 cemeteries in the North Hills area of Pittsburgh. Amy Prager and Elissa Scalise Powell, CG, are the co-chairs of this NHG project.

The best way for you to get involved is to volunteer any time you have during scheduled readings on the upcoming weekends, weather permitting.

The NHG cemetery reading project is a valuable activity that you can get involved with to help to preserve vital family history information. If you would like to be informed about upcoming cemetery reading dates, please contact Elissa Scalise Powell, who is arranging the dates and times for volunteers to meet. E-mail her at Elissa@PowellGenealogy.com.

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, 24 October 2009
NHG Fall Family
History Conference
The Search for Lost Treasures

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NHG BOARD MEMBERS 2008-2009

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Programs Chair:	Mary Dzurichko
Newsletter Editor:	Sue Ennis

For information:

INFO@NorthHillsGenealogists.org

WHO WE ARE NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS

We are a group of genealogy enthusiasts who meet on a regular basis to assist one another in establishing our family histories. We meet on the third Tuesday of every month, except December, at the Northland Public Library, 300 Cumberland Road, McCandless Township in the North Hills of Pittsburgh, PA. Tip Time begins at 6:45 P.M., and our general meeting commences at 7:00 P.M. Meetings are free and open to the public.

We publish a newsletter ten times a year for a nominal membership fee of \$15.00 annually. The subscription year runs from August to June, but anyone wishing to join the North Hills Genealogists mid-year will receive back issues of the newsletter for that membership year. Previous years' newsletters are also available for purchase, each containing helpful hints for beginners and for experienced genealogists.

The North Hills Genealogists Board meets at 7:00 P.M. on the first Tuesday of each month in the Conference Room of the Northland Public Library. The Board meeting is open to all members of the North Hills Genealogists organization. Consider joining us this year!

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

How the States Got Their Shapes is one of the most interesting books I have ever read. It was written by Mark Stein, a playwright, screenwriter, and professor of writing at American University. My youngest son Keith gave it to me as a gift last Christmas.

While a map of the United States resembles a jigsaw puzzle, there is actually a reason for every jig, jog, angle and curve in the boundaries of the states. This book explores the reasons for those shapes for all fifty states from Alabama to Wyoming, including the District of Columbia. It is entertaining and informative; while the subject might be called primarily geographical history, it could also be of importance to the serious genealogist.

The first chapter gives an overview of how the United States developed. We probably all studied this in elementary school, but it is good to have the refresher. Starting with the American colonies, it chronicles the sweep westward with the addition of the Northwest Territories, the Louisiana Purchase, and the acquisition of Spanish land claims in the West. It then moves on to individual states. While not divulging all of the details, I will present a few examples to whet your appetite.

For instance, why doesn't the St. Lawrence River form the northern borders of Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont? England had driven the French out of Canada at that point in history and could have placed the border wherever they wanted. Well, it has something to do with the fact that the American colonies had already established themselves as an unruly, cantankerous bunch that were hard to manage, and both England and their Canadian territories were wary of letting them be too close to the river.

This is slightly off the subject, but while we are in the area – why wasn't Vermont one of the
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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

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original Thirteen Colonies? After all, it had been around a long time. However, when the thirteen colonies declared themselves independent of England, Vermont - in keeping with the unruly and cantankerous theme and not to be outdone - declared itself an independent nation! They maintained this status for a number of years before finally agreeing to become the fourteenth state in 1791. Incidentally, if you are looking for ancestors that settled in Vermont in the late 1700s, you may find them listed as living in New Connecticut. That was the name adopted for a while by this independent entity.

Moving along, why on earth does the Upper Peninsula belong to Michigan and not Wisconsin to which it connects? This has something to do with Ohio wanting the mouth of the Maumee River (location of present day Toledo) within its borders, and Indiana wanting access to Lake Michigan. The original Northwest Ordinance would not have permitted either one to occur. So the southern edge of Michigan was moved north, and they wanted something in return.

Lastly, why does Pennsylvania have that curious little circular notch in its southeast corner? That little curiosity has to do with the fact that the Dutch had early on claimed all of the land between the Connecticut and Delaware Rivers. That land claim included most of current day Delaware and was called Dutch New Netherlands. They didn't want any English territory too close to one of their principal towns - New Castle. So a buffer zone was established. Even though the English ousted the Dutch from North America in 1674 - well before William Penn received his land grant from King Charles II and called it Pennsylvania - the semi-circular buffer zone was a tradition and remained in place.

Those are just three examples of what can be learned from *How the States Got Their Shapes*.

I highly recommend it. As you well know, area borders affect your research. This book will help you understand how, when, and where those borders were established.

While it has been and will be written about in other places in our newsletters, I would like to add my recommendation that you attend the NHG Fall Conference on Saturday, 24 October 2009. Entitled *Discover Your Roots, Discover Yourself: The Search for Lost Treasurers*, it features Paula Stuart-Warren and Sandra MacLean Clunies. They will be presenting six sessions including two small group discussions. You can get details and register online at <http://www.NorthHillsGenealogists.com> or inquire about this event through e-mail at conference@NorthHillsGenealogists.org.

Another upcoming event worth mentioning is the North American Festival of Wales, which is being hosted by Pittsburgh this year. It will be headquartered in the Downtown Hilton on 3 - 6 September 2009. This is the largest gathering of Welsh in North America and features four days of interesting and informative seminars, workshops, concerts, and culture. Please see <http://www.wngga.org> for further details.

~ Dave

2009-2010 Newsletter Editor Needed for NHG

The North Hills Genealogists Board is looking for a volunteer to serve as the next NHG Newsletter Editor. You will create and edit ten newsletters from August, 2009 - June, 2010. There is no newsletter in December. For more details about this opportunity, contact Sue Ennis (724) 452-3176 or any NHG Board member by June 30th.

MAY TIP TIME QUESTIONS

Questions about German Genealogy

Submitted by Ed Heinlein

1. High German / Hochdeutsch is the official language of Germany / Deutschland today.

_____ True / Richtig

_____ False / Falsch

2. Which of the following is a characteristic of the German language?

- a. In German, the dates are written as day, month, and year, such as 11.10.1852
- b. The German language has large, compound nouns, which sometimes can be translated into phrases or sentences
- c. The German language capitalizes all nouns within a sentence
- d. All of the above.

3. Three of the following statements about the Euro are correct. Which one is NOT?

- a. The Euro is used as currency in 16 of the 27 countries of the European Union.
- b. Of the original 15 countries in the European Union, only Denmark and the United Kingdom do not use the Euro as official currency.
- c. The value of the dollar is higher than the value of the Euro.
- d. The Euro started 1 January 1999.

Answers to these and other questions will be discussed at tonight's meeting during Tip Time from 6:45 – 7:00 P.M.

To submit your own questions for an upcoming Tip Time portion at one of our meetings, send your idea or question to **Info@NorthHillsGenealogists.com**.

NHG UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Tuesday, 19 May 2009

GERMAN GENEALOGY, PART 2

Ed Heinlein, NHG member, will present his second interactive class, this one dealing with Germany's language and how it is used in genealogical research. German is often found on official documents, and this class should benefit those with ancestors from throughout Europe. Ed will provide research aids at this program, as well as introducing techniques for solving linguistic problems and helpful for any language barrier in genealogical research. As a retired German teacher, Ed brings a wealth of knowledge, dynamic teaching skills, and an interesting and enriching program.

Tuesday, 16 June 2009

TIPS FOR USING THE 1869

HUNGARIAN CENSUS

John Matviya will discuss a vital resource in June. Perhaps the most important tool in finding one's ancestors from Eastern European countries is the 1869 Hungarian Census. This census is not just about Hungarians and Slovaks; it is the most important and useful census records for people from much of the old Hungarian Empire including present-day Hungary, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Bosnia, Herzegovina, Ukraine, Romania and other pre-1918 Hungary territories. The Compromise of 1867 established the dual-monarchy of Austria-Hungary, which in 1869 conducted the "First Complete Population Census of Hungary and Austria."

Although there had been many censuses taken by the Kingdom of Hungary of its subjects, prior to the emancipation of the peasants (1858) only the names of landowners were listed. The 1869 Census is of the greatest value to the genealogical researcher, as it required all residents to be enumerated and is the most comprehensive of all available census, including personal information about each family member (continued on page 85)

NHG UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Tuesday, 16 June 2009

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and about their dwellings and livestock. The Census records, written sometimes in Hungarian or Latin or German, can be intimidating at first. This presentation will show how to interpret the information and use it to build your ancestors family tree.

John Matviya has been a family genealogist for more than 30 years, splitting his personal research between his mother's "English" ancestry and his father's "Slovak" side. Currently he is President of the Derry Area Historical Society in Westmoreland County where he also serves as Archivist/Genealogist. Having made three visits in the past ten years to his paternal grandparents' villages in Eastern Slovakia, John has partnered with renowned Slovak researcher Lisa Alzo in publishing articles and making presentations about "finding" one's Slovak ancestors.

Mr. Matviya was born and raised on the North Side of Pittsburgh, is a 1973 graduate of Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and prior to his retirement in 2007 was an environmental program manager for the PA Department of Environmental Protection. John and Chris, his wife of 35 years, have raised three children and live in New Alexandria, PA.

TUESDAY, 21 JULY 2009

FROM THE ARCHIVES TO YOUR HOME: HISTORICAL MATERIALS AT YOUR FINGER TIPS

The University of Pittsburgh Library System is a leader in providing access to digital resources. These include collections of rare books, manuscripts, prints, maps and photographs. Many of the materials available online, including census records, pertain to the history of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania. While students and faculty of the University benefit by these materials being

online, so do countless genealogists, historians, and other researchers. This presentation will include an overview of the Archives and Special Collections Departments, while providing a more in-depth look at some of the recent work to create better access to little known historical materials, such as the Allegheny County Coroner Case Files, which date from 1887 to 1976.

Michael J. Dabrishus is a native of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. He has a B.A. in history from Western Michigan University and a master's degree in library science from Wayne State University, where he concentrated his studies in archival administration. His first professional position was as an archivist at the Texas State Archives, where his primary responsibilities centered on creating access to historical records and overseeing a very active research room that frequently included genealogists. In 1984, he accepted the appointment as Head of the Special Collections Division for the University of Arkansas Libraries, Fayetteville. Their manuscripts collections doubled in size during his time there. In August, 2002, he became Assistant University Librarian at the University of Pittsburgh. He has administrative oversight of the Archives, Special Collections, Preservation, Music Library, Fine Arts Library, Business Library, and Center for American Music, which houses the major collection of Stephen Foster materials. In addition to being a member of many professional library, archival, and historical associations, he is an appointed member of the Pennsylvania State Historical Records Advisory Board.

TUESDAY, 18 AUGUST 2009

WRITING RESEARCH REPORTS

NHG member **Elissa Scalise Powell, CG**, will discuss methods for writing reports based upon your genealogical research. Collecting facts about your family's history is one project, but preparing to write up the results of your research is another project. Come in August to hear how to write about your genealogical finds!

WHERE GENEALOGISTS MEET

20 MAY 2009 7:00 P.M. BEAVER CO. GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

The monthly meeting of the Beaver County Genealogical Society is Wednesday, 20 May 2009 at the Mormon Family History Center, 114 Church Drive, Monaca, PA. Claire Schmieler of the VNA Hospice Service will present "Oral History Techniques." Everyone with an interest in genealogy or history is welcome! For more detailed information about the Beaver County Genealogical Society, go to: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~pabecgs/> or call (724) 847-9253.

27 MAY 2009 CRANBERRY GENEALOGY CLUB

This month's meeting of the Cranberry Genealogy Club will be held on Wednesday, 27 May 2009. Elissa Scalise Powell, CG, will present the program "Writing as You Go!" Many people enjoy collecting family data and even putting it into lineage-linked software programs, but few relish writing their findings in a narrative or report in order to share them. This lecture will try to take the pain out of that process by demonstrating that writing is an integral part of research and drives future research questions. Come ready to learn some techniques and practice them in a hands-on exercise. For more about Elissa, go to www.PowellGenealogy.com.

The Cranberry Genealogy Club meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month throughout the year in the Public Library Conference Room at the Cranberry Township Municipal Building, 2525 Rochester Road. For detailed information, go to: <http://www.cranberrygenealogy.org>. Meetings are free and open to the public.

13 June 2009 10:00 A.M. WPGS MEETING Pittsburgh, PA

Topic and speaker are to be determined. The WPGS meeting is free and open to the public.

www.NorthHillsGenealogists.org

Reservations are not required. There is a \$5 parking fee at the Carnegie Library. Meetings are held at the **Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh Lecture Hall**, 4400 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213. For more information, go to <http://www.wpgs.org>.

NATIONAL CONFERENCES

14-19 JUNE 2009 INSTITUTE OF GENEALOGY AND HISTORICAL RESEARCH (IGHR) Birmingham, Alabama

The Samford *Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research (IGHR)* provides an educational forum for the discovery, critical evaluation, and use of genealogical sources and methodology through a week of intensive study led by nationally prominent genealogical educators. Students may choose one of the offerings that range from a course for beginners to courses on specialized topics.

The institute is academically and professionally oriented and is co-sponsored by the Board for Certification of Genealogists. The faculty is composed of outstanding nationally known genealogy educators, including NHG member Elissa Scalise Powell, CG.

For more information, go to: <http://www.samford.edu/schools/ighr/> or contact the IGHR Director, Della H. Darby, at ighr@samford.edu or call (205) 726-IGHR (4447). This program is held at Samford University, 800 Lakeshore Drive, Birmingham, Alabama 35229.

18-20 JUNE 2009 2009 PALATINES CONFERENCE

Final plans for the 2009 National Palatines to America Conference have been completed. This year's conference, where you can "Research with the Experts," will be 18-20 June 2009 at the Allen County Public Library in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. Accommodations for this conference will be at the Clarion Hotel in **(continued on page 87)**

NATIONAL CONFERENCES

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18-20 JUNE 2009

2009 PALATINES CONFERENCE

downtown Ft. Wayne. To find out detailed information about the 2009 National Palatines to America Conference, go to the event's web site: <http://palamnationalconference.org/registration>.

20-31 JULY 2009

Moravian Archives Bethlehem, PA

The Moravian Archives in Bethlehem, PA is offering a two-week course in reading German script to be held 20-31 July 2009. Upon completion of the course, participants will be able to read and transcribe 17th-20th century texts written in German script; Medieval texts will not be studied. Participants will be able to identify abbreviations used in 17th- and 18th-century texts and will know where to reference less frequently used ones. You will also learn about different calendar and dating systems used throughout the centuries.

This intensive course on learning to read German script is now in its 39th year and is the only course of its kind in the country. Former participants include more than 400 college professors, graduate students, genealogists, curators, archivists and hobbyists from various backgrounds. They represent such academic fields as history and German, American studies, musicology, religion, anthropology, art history, sociology, genealogy, technology and other subjects.

The course fee is \$535.00 but does not include housing. The number of participants is limited to 15. For information, go to their web site at: <http://www.moravianchurcharchives.org/german-script.php>. You can also contact them at: The Moravian Archives, 41 W. Locust Street, Bethlehem, PA 18018, (610)866-3255 or at info@moravianchurcharchives.org.

2-5 SEPTEMBER 2009

ANNUAL FGS CONFERENCE

Little Rock, Arkansas



The annual Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference *Passages Through Time* will be held at the Little Rock Statehouse Convention Center, Little Rock, Arkansas. For more information, visit the site at <http://www.fgs.org/conferences/index.php>.

There is also a conference blog with insight for first-time attendees on the web at <http://www.fgsconferenceblog.org/>. This blog is maintained by FGS and offers weekly updates about the upcoming national conference, including specific program and session details.

27 SEPTEMBER – 3 OCTOBER 2009

2009 NGS FALL RESEARCH TRIP

Salt Lake City, Utah

The National Genealogical Society has announced information about their annual research trip for genealogists to Salt Lake City, UT. The trip package includes consultations with the trip directors Sandra MacLean Clunies, CG, and Shirley Langdon Wilcox, CG, FNGS, who are experienced researchers.

Accommodations are next door to the Family History Library and some meals are included. This research trip is limited to 30 attendees, so plan to register now if you are interested in this genealogical opportunity for the fall. For full details go to <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org> or contact Shirley Wilcox at slwilcox@juno.com.

NHG ANNOUNCES SURNAME FILE PROJECT

Submitted by Al Hartman, NHG Vice-President

A Surname Database is being constructed for members of the North Hills Genealogists. Members are encouraged to use the form below to provide all surnames of their ancestors. This database will serve as a resource for NHG members. When a surname from another member matches your surname, you will be contacted and given the other member's name and contact information. At that time you can contact the other member to see if you share a common ancestor. You might also consider adding the AKA (also known as) names used by your ancestors to the surname database.

Any names and information listed in the Surname Database will be kept private and only given to another member who shares a common ancestor. You can add names at any time. Fill out the form below and turn it in to Al Hartman, the Vice-President of NHG, who will be maintaining the Surname Database. Bring your Surname form and any questions to the next meeting.

NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS SURNAME FILE PROJECT

YOUR NAME: _____

HOW DO YOU WANT TO BE NOTIFIED?

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Genealogy Terms: SURNAME – last name of ancestor

AKA – also known as

Please list below all Ancestor and AKA names you want to have stored in the North Hills Genealogists' Surname Database. When your name matches another club member's surname or AKA name, you will be notified. When notified of a match, you will be given the other club member's name and contact information. Please print all names below.

_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

2009-2010 NOMINEES FOR OFFICERS OF NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS

PRESIDENT

Albert J. Hartman was raised on the farm in Franklin Park his ancestors purchased in the 1850s. He became interested in genealogy while helping a family member who was using a typewriter to keep track of all his aunts' cousins. As he entered the names into a word processor, he thought about expanding and researching his ancestors. Al has been a member of NHG for the past four years and is also a member of the Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society. He has assisted the Franklin Park Historical Committee with the 2007 printing of "Franklin Park Stories." While interviewing relatives he learned that at the same time he was on an Army tour at Ramstein Air Force Base in Germany, he was less than six miles from relations living in the town of Landstuhl, Germany. Al works at Duquesne Light in the IT Department. He also helps his parents on the family farm.

VICE-PRESIDENT

Edward C. Heinlein, Jr. is from Moon Township and has recently become active in the North Hills Genealogists. He received a Bachelor of Arts from Grove City College and also attended Temple University, Salzburg University, and the Wilma Boyd Travel School. He has a specialty in reading, writing, and speaking German fluently and possesses full cultural understanding. He has traveled 20 times to Central Europe, including touring the German-Speaking Countries as a student, travel agent, and advisor with student and adult groups. His diverse teaching experience includes 22 years as a German Instructor in Colonial School District (Plymouth-Whitemarsh Senior High School and Colonial Middle School); 6 years as a German Instructor at Drexel University Adult Evening School; 2 1/2 years as a travel industry instructor at Boyd School and Pittsburgh Technical Institute; and 5+ years as a German Instructor in Adult Evening School at CCBC. Ed currently works as an Electronic Services Representative at Clearview Federal Credit Union, Moon Township.

SECRETARY

Kathy White lives in Ross Township with her husband Dennis. They have three children. Kathy is enjoying her NHG membership and has served as the secretary for one year. She became active with genealogy while assisting her mother with family research in 1992. She is a member of The Morse Society and traces her Morse ancestors back to 1635 in New England. She is currently doing research in Crawford and Venango Counties. Kathy works for the Allegheny County Health Department as a Public Health Nutritionist.

TREASURER

Reed B. Powell is the current NHG treasurer. He has worked in the computer industry since the early 1970s and now works for Impaq, an Internet marketing company in Greentree, where he develops database applications. Reed is the web master for the North Hills Genealogists, and he also lectures locally and nationally on the use of technology in genealogical research.

BALLOT FOR THE NORTH HILLS GENEALOGISTS OFFICERS FOR 2009-2010

Ballot is due on or before 30 June 2009.

Send your completed ballot to: North Hills Genealogists, P.O. Box 204, Ingomar, PA 15127.

President

Al Hartman ☐

_____ (write-in)

Secretary

Kathy White ☐

_____ (write-in)

Vice-President

Ed Heinlein ☐

_____ (write-in)

Treasurer

Reed Powell ☐

_____ (write-in)



P.O. Box 304
Ingomar, PA 15127

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Dated Material

UPCOMING PROGRAMS FROM NHG

Mark Your Calendars!

Tuesday, 16 June 2009

USING THE 1869 HUNGARIAN CENSUS

Speaker: John Matviya

Perhaps the most important tool in finding one's ancestors from Eastern European countries is the 1869 Hungarian Census. This census is not just about Hungarians and Slovaks; it is the most important and useful census records for people from much of the old Hungarian Empire. Avid genealogist and Pittsburgh native John Matviya will discuss this census in detail and explain ways to extract useful information for your family.

Tuesday, 21 July 2009

FROM THE ARCHIVES TO YOUR HOME: HISTORICAL MATERIALS AT YOUR FINGER TIPS

Speaker: Michael J. Dabrishus

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THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM - Tuesday, 19 May 2009

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Speaker: Ed Heinlein

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