GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWS

PENNSYLVANIA NEWSPAPER PROJECT - PHASE II

The National Endowment for the Humanities recently granted the Pennsylvania Newspaper Project $350,000 over two years (2004-2005) to microfilm historical newspapers around the state (date range approximately 1790's - 1950's).

The successful Phase I of the PaNP existed during the mid to late 1980s. With the NEH's help, Pennsylvania is able to begin Phase II, and pick up where Phase I left off. This project will preserve and make widely accessible even more of Pennsylvania's rich newspaper heritage.

The Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania was invited to send a representative to join the PaNP Selection Committee, which will be the PaNP's advisory body and guide project staff in the selection of newspaper titles to microfilm, meeting periodically in person and via conference call. The project's leaders believe that a genealogist will contribute greatly to the success of the PaNP and to the committee's membership depth and variety. So far, the Selection Committee consists of academic, state, and public librarians (including two from the Free Library of Philadelphia) and a representative from the Pennsylvania Newspaper Association.

Project staff is based at Penn State Libraries' Preservation Department and the Pennsylvania State Library. Coordinating the project will be Bentley Utgaard of the Penn State Preservation Department and State Library staff will catalog and lend all microfilm produced. Board Member Marilyn Cocchiola Holt of Pittsburgh has agreed to represent GSP on the Committee.

If you have local Pennsylvania newspapers that you believe should be selected for microfilming, forward your suggestions directly to Marilyn at holtm@carnegie library.org or 412-622-3154; or to GSP at GSPPA@aol.com or 215-545-0391. Look for a report on the activities of the Selection Committee in our next newsletter.

FINAL REMINDER!

As reported in the December and March issues of Penn In Hand (which contain the list of available publications with prices), GSP is having a 50% off spring and summer sale of selected GSP publications until 31 August 2004 or while supplies last. There is a special flat shipping rate for this sale only of $4.00 per shipping order. Pennsylvania residents are to add 7% sales tax; other Pennsylvania residents are to add 6% sales tax. Credit card orders are accepted by telephone.
FAMILY REUNIONS


Fretz: The Fretz Family reunion will be on 14 August. The Web site is <www.fretz.org>.

Geer: The triennial Geer Family Association reunion will be 16-17 July in New London, MN. Contact: Marilyn Geer, (320) 354-4135, e-mail <mjgeer@tds.net>.

Griesemer: For information on the 22 August reunion at Mohns Recreational Park, contact the president, Walter A. Griesemer, 11 Knollwood Drive #5, Sinking Spring, PA 19608-9738.

Leininger: The fifteenth annual reunion of the descendants of Johann Jacob and Elisabeth (Amman) Leininger will be held 21 August at Mohn's Memorial Church. Lunch, by reservation, will be served at noon. Contact: Dr. Thomas H. Leininger, 268 Church Road, Mohnton, PA 19540, (610) 777-5576.

Libby: The 100th Libby Family Reunion will be 24-26 September. The Web site is <www.libbyfamily.org>.

Lybarger: The Lybarger Memorial Association reunion and annual meeting will be 16-18 July in Bedford, PA. Contact: John H. Lybarger, (740) 342-3110.

Overholser: The 95th reunion will be 21 August in Terre Hill, PA. The president is Dennis L. Oberholtzer, 49 Paradise Lane, Paradise, PA 17562.

Wertman: The Wertman Family Association reunion will be 13-15 August at the Hampton Inn, 97 Old Valley School Road, Danville, PA 17821. For reservations, call (570) 271-2500.

Information Wanted

WILSON: seek information on Eliza Gibbes WILSON b. 15 December 1787 in Charleston SC d. 14 May 1853 in PA, probably in Philadelphia or nearby. Trying to locate grave and/or obit. May have remarried (name: CHANCELLOR). Fred Parsons, 268 Doral Open, Johns Is., SC 29455, kanpar@aol.com
The Scots-Irish in Western Pennsylvania: A Pathfinder

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh
Pennsylvania Department

Ethnic Genealogy and Heritage Series

To the branch of our race which has been grafted on the Ulster stem, I take off my hat with veneration and awe. They are, I believe, the toughest, the most dominant, the most irresistible race that exists in the universe at this moment.”
Lord Rosebery, 1911

This hardy breed originated in the Scottish Lowlands within the area now comprised of the five counties of Ayr, Dumfries, Wigtown, Roxburgh, and Berwick. Over the millennium, their original Celtic strain was invigorated by the Romans, Saxons, Vikings, Irish, and the Norman French. These Scots were fierce fighters who for generations warred constantly with their ethnically distinct neighbors, the Scottish Highlanders, front whom they differed in language, politics, religion, and culture. For seven centuries (1040-1745), they engaged in incessant border warfare with their other neighbors, the Northern English. By the 16th century, national warfare along the border with England had disintegrated into systematic robbery and blood feuds that were carried out by the outlaws known as Border reivers. Thus, their culture and their character were forged by generations of warfare, violence, and its resulting poverty. The almost continuous violence created a social system with unique attitudes towards work, wealth, land, rank, and marriage that the Scots carried with them to Ulster and ultimately to the back country of colonial America.

These Scots were primarily Presbyterians. Presbyterianism began in Scotland in 1560 under the influence of John Knox and its growth was rapid. It was a militant faith with a strong aversion to the Anglican Church. Presbyterians constantly reformed themselves into various sects such as the Cameronians, the Reformed Presbyterians, and the Covenanters.

In 1609, the Scots began their migration to Ulster, Ireland at the invitation of the English King, James I (James VI in Scotland). Ulster consisted of counties Derry, Down, Armagh, Antrim, and Tyrone. There the Scots encountered new violence as they fought to keep the native Irish at bay. Eventually, the old warriors were replaced by a new mercantile class. They prospered for a while in the linen and wool trades eventually competing too successfully with their English counterparts. This created a resentful backlash from the English government and their English landlords. They also encountered resentment from the displaced Irish and persecution from the Anglican Church. Thus their battles continued, but this time with the native Irish and the ruling English.

In Ulster the Scots encountered religious, political, and economic restraints from the English Parliament, the Anglican Church, and their Catholic Irish neighbors. There were also periods of famine. In the last decade of the 17th century, they began to leave Ulster and soon they were teeming to America seeking economic opportunity and religious expression. The Scots-Irish settled throughout the colonies, but by 1717 they tended to migrate most heavily to Pennsylvania.

Their reasons for leaving Ulster were:

1. Economic:
   a) Repressive trade laws beginning in 1699 that forbid the exporting of Irish woolen manufactures to any part of the world except to England and Wales;
   b) Rack-renting - as the original land leases expired in 1717, the landlords punished the tenant farmers for improving the land by doubling or tripling the rents;
   c) Famine caused by a series of bad harvests especially in 1727, 1740, and 1770;
   d) Decline of the linen industry after 1770.

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2. Religious/Political:
   a) Prohibition of building Presbyterian churches on the land of some Episcopal landlords;
   b) Marriages performed by Presbyterian clergy were not considered legal;
   c) Presbyterian clergy were fined;
   d) Services for the burial of the dead were obstructed;
   e) The Test Act of 1704 excluded anyone from public or military service who did not take communion in the Anglican Church;
   f) Requirements to pay taxes to support the Anglican Church.

3) Ship Agent Promotions:
   Poor emigrants who could not pay passage to America were encouraged to accept indentured servitude thousands did.

Called Scotch-Irish, or Ulster-Scots, or Ulster- Presbyterians, or Scots-Irish, these rugged pioneers were first of all Lowland Scots who moved to Ulster, Ireland, and then to America. Many English had also accepted the invitation of King James to settle in Ulster. Thus, this group contained a blend of the Scots and some English. Undoubtedly some intermarrying of Scots and Irish individuals also added to the blend. Documents from early America refer to these people as the Scotch-Irish and they also referred to themselves by the same name. One of their own described his people as “bred in Scotland, bottled in Ireland, and uncorked in America.”

The peak migrations to Pennsylvania were 1717-18, 1727-28, 1740-41, and 1771-73, with migration continuing on a lesser scale in the intervening years. Their ships sailed from Belfast, Londonderry, and Carrickfergus. They docked at Lewes and New Castle (now in Delaware), but primarily at Philadelphia. For several years before 1750, about 12,000 arrived annually. In 1774, Benjamin Franklin placed the Scots-Irish population as one-third of the province. The Scots-Irish migration continued until 1840 when the migration of the native Irish commenced.

These extremely hardy pioneers moved away from the Port of Philadelphia and the English settlements in the East where they encountered resentment and discrimination from the established inhabitants. One writer described the new arrivals as “the scum of two nations.” Thus they moved to the wilderness beyond, settling in the river valleys north of Philadelphia and in Central Pennsylvania and across the Alleghenies to areas still inhabited by the Indians. There the population was sparse and the land was cheap and there the Scots-Irish provided a buffer to the rest of the civilized colony.

The French and Indian War temporarily halted the western movement of these pioneers. At this point, many settlers and new arrivals from Ulster moved south through the Cumberland Valley into Maryland and on into the Great Valley of Virginia. Numerous Scots-Irish settled in western Virginia and the Piedmont of the Carolinas. With the establishment of Fort Pitt in 1758, settlers began to move into the areas of Westmoreland, Fayette, Greene, Washington, and Allegheny counties. By 1890, they were the most numerous group in the region and dominated the area for decades.

These immigrants were hardy, aggressive, rugged, tough, independent, courageous, and self-reliant, seeking civil and religious freedom. Described as haughty and proud, they could also be quite stubborn and unyielding. One Presbyterian elder prayed, “Grant, that I always may be right, for Thou knowest I am hard to turn.”

The Scots-Irish had no love for England. Fear of English dominance and resistance to the Anglican Church moved these people to support the American Revolution. Their spirit of resistance had been nurtured by their religious experience and they were violently opposed to any limitations on their religion, government, and economic livelihood. It is estimated that about one-half of the Continental Army was Scots-Irish.

During the early days of the new federal government, the Scots-Irish resisted government control of their economic life. They were especially opposed to the levying of an excise tax on whiskey. Their uprising, known as the Whiskey Rebellion, caused a strong response from the fledgling federal government.

The occupation of the new settlers was primarily farming; wheat was the staple crop. In the southwest, they raised sheep. Some became Indian traders. Many became merchants and tavern keepers, lawyers, ministers, printers, physicians, and industrialists.

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Religion was essential to the Scots-Irish. The religion was stern and severe, but to the settlers it was a necessity. After a number of families moved into a neighborhood, they soon began to assemble together for worship. The Indian wars delayed the arrival of ministers in the wilderness. Settlers built parsonages and churches and raised money for the ministers’ salaries.

Presbyterianism was organized into synods and presbyteries. Philadelphia, beginning in 1706, served originally as the only presbytery for the Middle Colonies. As the settlers and their religion spread westward, so did the number of presbyteries. The Presbyterian Church organized the Redstone Presbytery in 1781 to attend to affairs west of the Alleghenies in Pennsylvania. With the growing need for an educated ministry and a desire to educate their children to read the Bible, Presbyterians established numerous schools in Pennsylvania. Between 1726 and 1837, these included forty classical schools, thirty-seven academies, fourteen seminaries, five colleges, and one theological seminary.

Pittsburgh became the center of this group’s economic and religious life. They in turn came to dominate the region in commerce, finance, and education. Probably the only place with a greater Scots-Irish Presbyterian influence is Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Famous persons of Scots-Irish heritage include Daniel Boone, Davey Crockett, Sam Houston, Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry, General George Rogers Clark, Patrick Henry, Stephen Foster, and thirteen presidents: Andrew Jackson, James Knox Polk, James Buchanan, Andrew Johnson, Ulysses Simpson Grant, Chester Alan Arthur, Grover Cleveland, Benjamin Harrison, William McKinley, Woodrow Wilson, Richard Millhouse Nixon, James Earl Carter, and William Jefferson Clinton.

Before you begin to research your specific ancestors, read about their origins, migration patterns, and family customs. Learn as much as you can about them; then you will be better prepared to begin your genealogical search. To learn more about the history of this ethnic group and to search for your Scots-Irish ancestors, please refer to the Carnegie Library’s online catalog. Use the search term “Scots-Irish” to begin your search. A partial list of useful resources follows. Except where noted, these books are available in the Pennsylvania Department. Also request the Scotch/Scotch-Irish Vertical File at the Pennsylvania Department Reference Desk.

Bibliography: (call numbers refer to the collection of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh)


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http://www.carnegielibrary.org/locations/pennsylvania

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NEW ACCESSIONS


BOOKS

Gone to Ohio: Champaign, Crawford and Wood Counties, from Pennsylvania counties Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Lancaster, and York: including surname index, compiled by Gloria L. Aughenbaugh.

Baxter family of Kent Island, Queen Anne's County, Maryland, by Hugh W. Baxter, Ill. The Bowser Family History, by Addison Bartholomew Bowser.


Tracing your Scottish ancestry, by Kathleen B. Cory.

Adventurers of purse and person, Virginia, 1607-1624/5, by John Frederick Dorman.


The Maryland/Delaware locator, compiled by Joan Colbert Goe.

Genealogical notes: relating to the families of Lloyd, Pemberton, Hutchinson, Hudson and Parke and to others, connected directly or remotely with them, from the original manuscript of James P. Parke and Townsend Ward Merion in the Welsh tract. With sketches of the townships of Haverford and Radnor. Historical and genealogical collections concerning the Welsh barony in the province of Pennsylvania, settled by the Cymric Quakers in 1682, by Thomas A. Glenn. Pedigree charts submitted by members of the West Pasco County [FL] Genealogical Society, compiled by Debbie Hagner and Al Lautenschlager.

Ancestry of the Haines, Sharp, Collins, Wills, Gardiner, Prickitt, Eves, Evans, Moore, Troth, Burton and Engle families, compiled from notes of the late George Haines; with some additions by the compiler, Richard Haines.

Richard Haines and his descendants: a Quaker family of Burlington County, New Jersey since 1682, compiled by John Wesley Haines.

Genealogy of the Stokes family, descended from Thomas and Mary Stokes who settled in Burlington County, N.J., compiled from the notes of the late George Haines, M.D., of Medford, N.J., Hon. Charles Stokes of Rancocas, N.J.


Settlers of Colonial St. Mary's County, Maryland, by Elise Greenup Jourdan.

A survey of American church records; for the period before the Civil War, East of the Mississippi River, by E. Kay Kirkham. A survey of American church records; minor denominations: including a special treatise on the Huguenots of France in America, and religious migrations and immigrations in the United States, by E. Kay Kirkham.


Genealogical charts for the families of Brix, Easterday/Ostertag, Ellis, Mackara/Makara, Miller, by Christine S.I. Mackara. Descendants of Charles Flagg and Harriet Sisson, compiled by Robert E. Marion.

A guide to the index holdings at the Maryland Hall of Records.

A Breath of Springtime: an autobiography, including selected poems by "Abretha Springtime," by Helen M. Morris. The Mothers of North America and allied families, compiled by Bruce and Jennie Mothermal.

Methodist records of Baltimore City, Maryland Volume 3, 1840-1850 (East City Station), by Henry C. Peden, Jr. Maryland Bible Records Volume 4: Eastern Shore, by Henry C. Peden, Jr.

1890 Pennsylvania (Montgomery County) veterans census index, compiled by Michael S. Ramage.

Genealogy of George Washington Peairs, his forebears and descendants from Pennsylvania to Tennessee on to Missouri, by Mrs. John H. Renner.


The royal descents of 600 immigrants to the American colonies or the United States: who were themselves notable or left descendants notable in American history, by Gary Boyd Roberts.

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NEW ACCESSIONS, CONTINUED

Letters of Two Brothers: Passages from the correspondence of General and Senator Sherman.
Shoemaker pioneers: the early genealogy and history of the colonial Shoemaker families who came to America before the Revolution, by Benjamin H. Shoemaker, 3rd.
Indiana source directory and research guide revised and expanded edition, by Dawne Slater-Putt.
Franklin County Pennsylvania newspaper excerpts, compiled by Linda E. Smith.
Franklin County Pennsylvania newspaper excerpts addendum: The Franklin Repository 1808-1811, compiled by Linda E. Smith.
Northeastern Pennsylvania newspaper excerpts, compiled by Linda E. Smith.
The Miner's Journal and Schuylkill Coal and Navigation Register, 1825-1845, Pottsville, Schuylkill County, PA, compiled by Linda E. Smith; indexed by Marion Mizenko.
The Morelands of Southern Maryland Patrick Moreland of Charles Co., MD, (1716?) and four generations of his known, probable and possible descendants in Maryland and the District of Columbia, Volume I, by Ralph D. Smith.
Family records from Bibles: with surname index, compiled by South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society.
Sundry genealogical materials pertaining to South Central Pennsylvania: with surname index, compiled and published by the South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society, Inc.
Lebanon County, Pennsylvania United States Direct Tax of 1798 for Bethel Township, East Hanover Township, Heidelberg Township, Lebanon Township and Londonderry Township, by Gladys Bucher Sowers.
More Steffy family connections: this includes these other families: Watson, Williams, Mauzy, Withers, Keene, Ford, Million and Seaton, by Gerald R. Steffy.
Chronik der stadt Wanfried [chronicle of the city of Wanfried].
Burials at Atlantic View Cemetery located at Manassas, New Jersey 08736, Anne Mount West and Robert J. Fenner, Sr.
Sussex County, Delaware, Wills 1800-1813, by F. Edward Wright.
Geschichte der Stadt Eschwege Band II [history of the city of Eschwege vol.2].
Obituaries and miscellaneous newspaper clippings from the Public Ledger late 1800's to 1903 Miss Cresson's Collection presented through Mrs. A. O. Barrett January 18, 1965.

ARCHIVE ROOM MANUSCRIPT

Manuscript collection of Helen Hutchinson Whorton.
Manuscript collection of Marcia Moss Lewis research work.
Manuscripts of professional genealogical work of Milton Rubicam.

FAMILY COLLECTIONS

The Douays of France a summation of some recent research from the monograph Chronique des Familles Douay du Moyen-Age a La Revolution, by Reverend Charles J. Duey.
Ancestors of Joseph Gordon Hanna by Joseph Gordon Hanna.
Descendants of Etienne Geneau by J. Gordon Hanna.
McCurley family manuscript, correspondence, and photocopied materials, prepared by James B. McCurley.
Yarnall Family Record in America from 1683 to 1913, by John K. Yarnall.

CD-ROMS

Pennsylvania Wills: selected counties [Chester 1713-1825, Philadelphia 1682-1819, York 1749-1819]

PERIODICALS

Chesapeake cousins, by the Upper Shore Genealogical Society of Maryland.
FROM THE PRESIDENT

This is the last time you will see this column headed "From the President." With the next issue of *Penn in Hand*, this space will belong to the Executive Director. I am very pleased to announce to you that we have hired an Executive Director and he has assumed his duties as of June 21, 2004.

Our new Executive Director is J. Thomas Showler, who retired in 1999 as a Social Work Supervisor after working for almost thirty years in the Philadelphia Prison System. Tom’s first job after receiving his Bachelor of Arts degree in History from Oberlin College in Ohio was as a fifth and sixth grade teacher for two years in Liberia, West Africa with the United States Peace Corps. He also has earned a degree of Master of Human Organization Science in Criminal Justice Administration from Villanova University and has had specialized professional training in Conflict Resolution and Hostage Negotiations.

Tom was born in Erie, Pennsylvania and grew up in the Erie area until settling in Philadelphia thirty-seven years ago. He is married to the former Janice Clara Reckeweg, his wife of thirty-five years.

Tom has been an active member of the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania for the last ten years and has done a lot of work on his own genealogy using our facilities and resources. His research has brought him membership in numerous lineage societies, including our Partner Members, the Pennsylvania Society of Colonial Wars, the Pennsylvania Society of the War of 1812 (Vice President General for Pennsylvania) and The Colonial Society of Pennsylvania (Registrar). He is also a member of the Welsh Society of Philadelphia, Treasurer of the St. George Society of Philadelphia and former President of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Philadelphia.

As President of the Pennsylvania Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (2002-2003), Tom has traveled around the state for meetings and chapter visits, experience that will serve him well as he carries the GSP message to the far reaches of the Commonwealth. I know you will welcome Tom to the “official” GSP family and give him your full support as we continue to provide leadership in promoting Pennsylvania genealogy.