



Mahoning Meanderings

The Official Newsletter of
The Mahoning County Chapter
of The Ohio Genealogical Society

Volume 34 – Issue 4 July/August 2009 Page 25

The Mahoning County Chapter OGS Meeting Location – 7:00PM

St. Charles Church Parish Center
St. Matthew Room
7325 Westview Drive, Boardman, Ohio
* * *

The Computer Interest Group
Meets at 6:00-6:45PM with computer
related subjects. All are welcome.



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Mahoning Meanderings Newsletters

Two CD set of our newsletter from September, 1978 to the present, is available for \$12.00 (shipping & tax included). Mail to the Chapter with ATTN: John Holderman.
* * *

Submit Newsletter Articles

Members may submit an article sending an E-mail to John Holderman at: jaholderman@sbcglobal.net
* * *

Newsletter Deadline

September/October is: August 17th
* * *



Cookies for:

September: Barb Smith & Carol Check
October: Julie Maruskin & Peggy Wade

Inside this Newsletter

Page	Article
26	Queries: John Zimmerman & Armstrong-Moran-Sharkey,
26-27	Native American Genealogy Research
28-30	People for Better Pennsylvania Historical Records
30-31	Minutes of May Chapter Meeting, June Banquet & Pictures

Genealogy Taglines

“I trace my family history so I will know who to blame”

“It's hard to be humble with ancestors like mine!”

“Friends come and go, but relatives tend to accumulate”
* * *

September, 2009 Program

Carmen Leone and Bob Calcagni speaking about "Remembering Our Rose Streets". They'll give us ideas on how to take our family genealogy information, our personal memories, and put them into an easy-to-read style.
* * *

October, 2009 Program

Susan McCabe, speaking about the "Mahoning Dispatch". This was a publication from the mid-1800's to the 1970's. She will tell us how to research local information using their resources at the Dispatch office and also will share the history of the newspaper.
* * *

MCCOGS at the Canfield Fair

Last year was a chance for us to renew our presence at the Canfield Fair, and though many questions were answered by those who volunteered, it did not generate many new memberships.

We had our own space in the International Building in 2008, but this year we may have to share a booth with another group. This is necessary due to the addition of several new countries being added to the 2009 slate.

The fair runs from Wednesday through Monday with each day broken up in to three shifts. The early time runs from 10 to 2, while the afternoon time slot is 2 to 6, and the night turn is from 6 to 10. Six days of coverage times three slots of coverage yields 18 available times that can be worked. Last year we had only 5 blocks that went unmanned.

This year I would like to have 100% coverage. To help with the logistics, volunteers (we are allowed two people per shift) will be supplied tickets to enter the fairgrounds and we are allotted three parking passes to be shared by all.

Please consider volunteering for a time slot by calling Ron Garchar at 330-533-7077 to check the schedule. Your cooperation can make the 2009 fair a success. Thanks in advance for your consideration. – Ron Garchar
* * *

Query #1 – John Zimmerman

Seeking contact with descendants of a Revolutionary Solider John Zimmerman and wife Christine Clacum, daughter Elizabeth Zimmerman married to Lewis Baker. Both generations buried at Trinity Lutheran Cemetery, Washingtonville, Ohio

Contact: Carol T. Close, 1109 N. Parker Drive, Janesville, WI 53545-0711. Phone number is 608.752.7667 and e-mail is: ctclose2005@aol.com.

* * *

Query #2 – ARMSTRONG/MORAN/SHARKEY

Margaret MORAN was born on 27 November 1874 in Youngstown, Ohio. Her parents were James MORAN and Hannah SHARKEY MORAN who resided in the West End of Youngstown.

She married Arthur ARMSTRONG in St. Ann's Catholic Church in Youngstown, Ohio on 19 June 1901. They had a son, William ARMSTRONG, born on 23 March 1902 in Cleveland, Ohio.

Arthur ARMSTRONG deserted his family in August 1902. Arthur is my grandfather and this is all I know about him. Margaret MORAN had eight sisters, all born and raised in Youngstown.

I have information that I can share on the SHARKEY - MORAN families but I am asking for any help or information I can get to find out about Arthur ARMSTRONG.

Contact information: Jim Armstrong, 2864 Tinkers Lane, Twinsburg, Ohio. E-mail: autocar@juno.com

* * *

Top Ten Worst Family Heirlooms

10. Open jar of mayonnaise.
9. Great-grandparents' bondage gear.
8. Toenail clippings.
7. Predisposition to public flatulence.
6. Grandpa's place on the couch.
5. Credit card debt.
4. Live hand grenade with missing pin.
3. Vintage road kill collection.
2. Grandma's secret crystal meth recipe.
1. Autopsy photo album.

* * *

Who does this Indian look like?

Answer Page 31



**Native American Genealogy Research
By Bill Wall**

Bill Wall was our speaker for May and his presentation was on Native American Heritage. To contact Bill for information – his e-mail address is: zsnk260w@neo.rr.com.



Historical Overview

During the period of Indian Removal beginning in 1831 extensive records were generated through the turn of the century when Southeastern Indians were uprooted from their homelands in Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Florida.

They were taken west of the Mississippi River in what is now Oklahoma. These records relate to treaties, trade, land claims, removal to Oklahoma, allotments, military affairs, military service and pensions, trust funds, and other activities.

Research for American Indian ancestors begins just like any other search for ancestors; you have to begin with what you know now. Prepare your ancestor charts beginning with yourself. Include all names, nicknames and any other identifying information on each person, be sure to check the more traditional resources: local and state records, census records land records, court cases, probate records, church and school records...Jackie Matte, author of "They Say the Wind is Red".

Addresses for Native American Tribes

Agua Caliente Tribe (Cahuila) 960 E. Tahquitz Way #106 Palm Springs, CA 92262 760-325-5673 FAX 325-0593	Acoma Pueblo P.O. Box 309 Acomita, NM 87034 505-552-6604
Catawba Indian Nation Post Office Box 188 Catawba, SC 29704 803-366-4792	Cayuga Nation P.O. Box 11 Versailles, NY 14168 716-532-4847

Absentee-Shawnee Tribe
 2025 S. Gordon Cooper Drive
 Post Office Box 1747
 Shawnee, OK 74801-9381
 405-275-4030 FAX 275-5637

Duckwater Shoshone Tribal Council
 P.O. Box 140068
 Duckwater, NV 89314
 702-863-0227 FAX 863-0301

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Cherokee Council House
P.O. Box 455
Cherokee, NC 28719
704-497-2771 or 497-4771
FAX 497-2952

- - -

Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 350
Seneca, MO 64865
918-666-2435 FAX 666-3325

Carson Colony Community Council
331 Paiute Street
Carson City, NV 89701
702-883-6431

Here is a partial list of Reservation Rolls:
1817 History Cherokee Indians

Armstrong Roll

1830 History Choctaw & Emigration Roll: 1817~1835
History Cherokee Indians

Henderson Roll

1835 History Cherokee Indians

Trail of Tears Roll: 1835 History Cherokee Indians

Trail of Tears Roll: Mullay Roll ~ 1848 History
Cherokee Indians

Ha Cubbees Band Muster Roll-1847 History Choctaw
Indians

Muster Roll of Big Black River Band-1847 History
Choctaw Indians

Chapman Roll: 1851 History Cherokee Indians

Old Settler Roll – 1851 History Cherokee Indians

Siler Roll – 1852 History Cherokee

Act of Congress Roll-1854 History Cherokee Indians

Drennen Roll-1852 History Cherokee Indians

Cooper Roll-1855 History Choctaw Indians

Kansas Kickapoo Land Allotments ~ 1862
1863 Pottawatomie Land Roll ~ 1863

Swetland Roll ~ 1869 History Cherokee Indians
Pottawatomie, Citizens Band in Kansas:1870-80
Potawatomie Roll - Prairie Band ~1880

Narragansett Tribal List 1881 (A-I) (J-Z)

Hester Roll-1883 History Cherokee Indians

Land Allotment Pottawatomie, Prairie Band 1887
Citizens Band Land Allotment Roll Kansas
Potawatomie ~ 1887

Index to the Final Rolls of Citizens and Freedmen of
the Five Civilized Tribes in Indian Territory (Dawes)
1889-1914 (1896 Applications ~ History and Index)

McKennon Roll ~ 1889 History Choctaw Indians

Wallace Roll ~ 1890 History Cherokee Freedmen

Kansas Kickapoo Land Allotment Roll ~ 1890 (hosted
at Native Americans in Kansas)

Kern Clifton Roll ~ 1897
History Cherokee Freedmen

Churchill Roll ~ 1908 History Cherokee Indians

Guion Miller Roll~1909 History Cherokee Indians

Baker Roll ~ 1924 History Cherokee Indians

Ute Roll ~ 1954 Ute Indians

* * *

A Thank You Note – Mike Witesman

Georgene Fry received this letter from a person she was helping: Georgene, Thank you for your hard work. I have FINALLY made contact with a descendent of David Job Witzeman who lives in Toledo. He confirmed Euphrates left home at a young age, changed his name to Charles Earl Witseman and went on to become my great grandfather.

The book “Consider the Years” by Bertha Evangeline Rowe Witzeman confirms that information on pages 294–295. Somewhere in the process, the last name spelling changed to Witesman. I know Charles died in Los Angeles, California in 1928.

Question # 2 has been answered. I am still seeking some of the Witzeman’s living in Mahoning. Family members that I believe are still in the area are Adam Witzeman, Gary Witzeman, Richard Witzeman, Linda Lipp and Richard Lipp. I identified them through family history information I was able to collect.

If the previous individuals, or any other Witzeman family members are also members of Mahoning County Chapter of OGS, please convey my information to them. Other possible names are Klitz and Raub. Thank you again for your efforts.

* * *



When the roll is called up yonder.

People for Better Pennsylvania Historical Records Access (PaHR-Access)

To anyone having any interests in PA Genealogy or any society that you know that would be willing to write letters of support.

The following paragraphs have been taken direct from the website for PaHR-Access which can be accessed at: <http://users.rcn.com/timarg/PaHR-Access.htm> more forms and information can be found in detail on the website, Attached the support form for Out of State Residents, In State Residents and for societies.

Genealogists Researchers – Family Historians

In a grassroots effort to have Pennsylvania make its older state death certificates much more accessible and available online.

Let the State of Pennsylvania know you support this cause. The more of us that speak up the more likely we are to succeed. Otherwise we could be stuck with the same old existing archaic system indefinitely.

Currently, all death certificates recorded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania since 1906 have restricted access regardless of how long ago a person died. Pennsylvania Division of Vital Records regulations require the requester to supply several pieces of information (including when and where the person died), spend \$9 and wait 5 weeks or longer for each and every death certificate.

A requester is also required to have a direct relationship to the deceased in order to obtain a copy of a death certificate. Often a requester doesn't know if the person is related and needs the death certificate to find out. This is especially true when compiling family histories and trying to find the descendents of a common ancestor. The information a requester is expected to supply is quite often the very information a requester is looking for and the very reason for wanting a death certificate.

Many of us have experienced the frustration of either being told the death certificate could not be found or being sent the wrong certificate. Yes, a requester can pay \$34 for an extended search of up to a ten year window with the charge of an additional \$25 for each extension to that search window. To say the least this is quite costly to the requester and very time consuming for the Division of Vital Records. Sadly it doesn't always result in a successful search and the fee is not refunded.

Also Pennsylvania doesn't have a publicly accessible index to see if the person even died in Pennsylvania.

So it becomes an expensive guessing game that doesn't always result in finding a death certificate even when the person actually died in Pennsylvania. Because of the many burdensome and counterintuitive restrictions, the public is not able to use these historic records as much as they should be able to.

We understand the concerns about privacy. However, there is no practical reason to keep all of these records restricted indefinitely. Therefore, our basic proposal is that the death certificates that would be accessible online by the public would have to be at least 50 years old. Currently that would mean only the death certificates of persons who died before 1959 would be made accessible. As each year passes the next year in line would be made accessible online to the public.

Eleven states have already made their older death certificates available online, including Arizona, Georgia, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Texas, Utah and West Virginia. The states of Louisiana, New Hampshire, Vermont and Washington are in the process of doing so. For numerous other states there are online indexes. However, Pennsylvania has no publicly accessible index and continues the outdated and costly manual processing of each of its older death certificates one at a time.

The Social Security Death Master File (with names, dates, places and numbers, and better known as the Social Security Death Index), which is updated weekly, is a death verification database used proactively to thwart identity theft and fraud. We understand government agencies, banks; insurance and credit card companies use it all the time to verify deaths and to stop the misuse of a deceased person's Social Security number. Expanding our proposed database to include all of Pennsylvania's death records (but with the same limited public access as outlined above) could be used in a similar manner by law enforcement and government agencies. The Division of Vital Records would itself be able to fill requests using the expanded database.

Having a database of Pennsylvania's death certificates would actually be in accordance with Federal Law 108-458, the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004, which requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in coordination with the Social Security Administration and others, to award grants to States to assist them in computerizing their birth and death records, to develop the capability to match birth and death records within and among States, and to note the fact of death on birth certificates

of deceased persons. This is done to stop someone from misusing the birth certificate of a deceased person.

Why does the law have to be changed?

Currently Pennsylvania statute prohibits the release of confidential vital records to the public regardless of how old the records may be. The relevant sections of the Pennsylvania Vital Statistics Law of 1953 states:

35 I.S. § 450.801. The vital statistics records of the department and of the local registrars shall not be open to public inspection except as authorized by the provisions of this act...Neither the department nor local registrars shall issue copies of or disclose any vital statistics record or part thereof created under the provision of this or prior acts except in compliance with the provisions of this act...

35 I.S. § 450.804... [T]he department shall issue certified copies of or disclose a vital statistics record or part thereof if an officer of the department designated by the Secretary of Health finds that the applicant therefore has a direct interest in the content of the record and that the information contained therein is necessary for the determination of personal or property rights.

As a letter received from the Pennsylvania Department of Health states: Therefore, the Department of Health may not release for public access any record, parts thereof, or listings the Department creates from such records without being in violation of the Act. The General Assembly, to ensure compliance, included criminal provisions for unauthorized disclosure of information.

Our view is that at some point these records should be considered old enough to be considered historical records open to the public for research. Even having an online index for of Pennsylvania's death certificates requires a change in the law regardless of how old the death certificates are. Except for Missouri, all the other states which have online death certificate databases didn't have to change their laws because their older death certificates automatically became open public records after a certain number of years (usually 50 years).

How Can Historical And Genealogy Organizations Help?

Many of the state legislators we have spoken with have told us that support for this cause from institutions and organizations would carry a lot of weight. We are actively seeking the endorsement of such organizations regardless of size to show this cause has widespread

support. If you are a member of any these groups or live in the area they cover we suggest you encourage them to endorse this cause. The more they hear from their members the more likely they are to endorse this cause.

To reflect this endorsement we ask that these organizations write at least three letters, one to Governor Rendell, one to at least one local state representative, and one to at least one local state senator. In this way at least one member in each house of the state legislature and the governor will know of the organization's support for this cause.

Ideally, all the state legislators in a given area, such as in a county, should be written to since they all represent that county or area. Please don't assume the Governor, the state representatives and state senators' share and compare the letters and messages they receive (especially from whom they receive them from). Of course the same message could be used for all letters. Please be sure to change the addressee information including the salutation (I.e. Dear _____) for each letter. Another very good approach would be to include all of their names on one letter and send each a copy.

The core message in these letters should be to have much greater access to Pennsylvania's older state death records and to have them accessible online. Otherwise how these letters are written is entirely up to the organization (although feel free to contact us for help in writing these letters timarg@rcn.com).

An organization may want to include information about membership numbers and area covered. It should also be made clear in the letters that they are letters from the organization so that it doesn't easily become mistaken for a personal letter.

We do not ask for an endorsement for PaHR-Access although organizations are free to mention us but are not at all required to do so. We do ask that we be sent a copy of at least one of the letters be sent to us so we can keep track of the organizations that have endorsed this cause. An email copy would be fine.

Organizations can also mention this cause in their newsletter and providing a link to or information about this website in their newsletter would be most especially helpful. Some organizations have included a link to our website on their website.

Some organizations are concerned that because they are 501(c)(3) non-profit they are not allowed to support any issue, cause or legislation or be in any way seen as "lobbying" or taking a "political stand". This is

not the case. Such organizations can and do support issues and legislation and can ask their members to do the same, especially legislation or issues that are to the benefit of the organization and its members. To violate its status as a 501(c) (3) an organization would have to do considerably more write a few letters of support for a cause. For an overview of the facts go to: Top Ten Myths about 501(c) (3) Lobbying and Political Activity.

Can out-of-state residents get involved?

Absolutely! Letters to Governor Rendell from out-of-state residents will let him know the interest and pride that out-of-state residents have in Pennsylvania. This is especially true when a number of people come or would come to Pennsylvania to learn more about their Pennsylvania Heritage. Many and in cases a majority of the members of Pennsylvania historical and genealogical societies are out-of-state residents. As far as we are concerned, anyone who would like to see these older Pennsylvania death records become available online can get involved no matter where they live. We have heard from people across the United States and even a number of Americans living aboard, many of whom have already written to Governor Rendell, certain Pennsylvania state legislators and historical societies about this issue.

CONTACT INFO:

Contact information for Pennsylvania State Legislators can be found at:

<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/find.cfm> or
(www.legis.state.pa.us) (Find Members By)

Contact information for Governor Rendell:
Governor Edward G. Rendell's Office
225 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120
Telephone 717-787-2500
Facsimile: 717-772-8284

Email link:

http://sites.state.pa.us/PA_Exec/Governor/govmail.html

The members of the Senate Public Health & Welfare Committee can be found at: [SPHC](#)

The members of the House Health & Human Services Committee can be found at: [HHSC](#)

* * *

Library Information – Barb Smith

Footnote, a new database starts July 1. In the meantime, go to www.Footnote.com to see more about what it offers. Because of our budget woes we had to eliminate American Obituaries and Death Notices – but it was 1) rarely used, 2) info that is largely

available elsewhere and 3) not worth what the vendor was charging us for it. I expect Footnote to be used much more.

* * *

Meetings of May Chapter Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7PM and the business portion was suspended until after the guest speaker. Tim introduced our speaker, Mr. Bill Wall to speak on Native American History. One of the major websites for Native American information is Native Tribes of the US and Canada.

Mr. Wall gave websites available and stated he would be willing to share information with members if they would contact. He then followed this information with a brief and interesting history of his family. Mr. Wall's e-mail address is ZSNK260W@neo.rr.com for any assistance he can give.

The business meeting resumed at 8:25pm. A motion was made by Mike Heher to accept the minutes as printed, Stacy seconded the motion; motion passed.

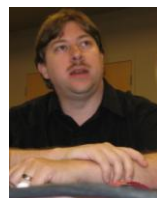
Treasurer's report was given and Tim made motion to accept; seconded by Sally, motion passed. Computer interest group has 12 in attendance. Committee reports: Tim announced that there would a class on June 20th at the Main library for anyone interested and also that the Court Record Project has temporarily put on hold due to time constraints.

No others committee reports were presented. The slate of officers for 2009 were presented for a second time and a motion was made by Ron Garchar, seconded by Georgene Fry to accept the slate; notion passed. Sign up sheets for the banquet, to be held on June 8th, would be on the table also the cookie sign up sheet for next year. Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Wanda Hughes seconded by Georgene Fry, passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:45.

Respectfully, Carol Check

* * *

June Chapter Meeting (Banquet)



The June Chapter's Meeting was our annual banquet with close to 40 people in attendance and our speaker was Greg Ricker.

Greg is the historian for the Youngstown Fire Department and is webmaster of www.youngstownfire.com. His presentation was to speak about the men and women, past and present, which make up the Youngstown Fire Department.

We had a lot of different food and a great time for fellowship. After we were finished eating Judy

Williams install the 2009 – 2010 officers.

The officers for this next year are:

- John Holderman – President
- June Logan – Vice President
- Carol Check – Recording Secretary
- Louis Joseph – Treasurer

Not in attendance was Janet Griffin – Corresponding Secretary and Sue Bell – Historian, both were under the weather and will be installed at the first chapter meeting that they attend.

Thanks goes out to all that helped with the banquet.

On behave of the membership and chapter officers I want take this time to thank Tim Seman, the out going Vice-President, for a great job he has done during the past year. Thank you Tim and we'll see you in September.

* * *



Who does this Indian look like?
Elvis Presley



The Mahoning County Chapter of
 The Ohio Genealogical Society
 PO Box 9333
 Boardman, Ohio 44513-9333

**Chapter Officers
 2009 – 2010**

President
 John Holderman

Vice-President
 June Logan

Recording Secretary
 Carol Check

Corresponding
 Secretary
 Janet Griffin

Treasurer
 Louis Joseph

Historian
 Sue Bell

FIRST CLASS



Committees and Members

Visit our Website:

www.mahoningcountychapterogs.org



Cemetery Recording & Website: Louis Joseph
Computer Interest: Gary Confoey & Ron Garchar
Education & First Families of Ohio: Barbara Morey
Membership & Publications Mailing: Sally Joseph
Research: Georgene & Keith Fry
Hospitality & Pioneer Families: Georgene Fry
Fed. Of Gen. Soc. Delegate: Ron Garchar
Newsletter Editor: John Holderman
Newsletter Mailing: John Holderman, Eva Doyle,
 Tom Flynn, Judy Williams, Georgene Fry
Library Volunteer: Judy Williams
Courthouse Volunteers: Georgene Fry, Peggy Wade,
 Mary Weese, Pat Grimm
Chapter Librarian: Peggy Wade
Book Committee: Louis Joseph, Sally Joseph,
 Mary Weese, Georgene Fry

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION – New membership, change of address should be submitted on the following form and mailed to Sally Joseph at the chapter address above. Dues for individuals are \$15.00, for husband and wife is \$17.00.

Membership includes six (6) issues of **Mahoning Meanderings**. **You have a choice of receiving your newsletters through the US Mail or have them sent by e-mail.** Submit your Query on a separate sheet of paper include all information below. Membership includes free queries within Mahoning or adjacent counties. Queries will be printed in the newsletter. Form may be photocopied & also is found on our website.

Membership: New ___ Renewal ___ Phone _____

Receive Newsletter by: US Mail _____ or **E-Mail** _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Are you a member of The Ohio Genealogical Society? Yes No