

PROGRAM - SEPTEMBER, 1985

Wednesday, September 18 - The Catlin House, 8:00 P.M.

The first LHS program for the fall season will feature Dr. Gayle L. Smith, Assistant Professor of English at the Pennsylvania State University's Worthington Scranton Campus, with a slide lecture about nineteenth century American landscape painting, including artists who depicted scenes in our area. Dr. Smith, a graduate of the University of Denver and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, holds degrees in both English and in American Studies. The program, which will be followed by light refreshments, is open to members and their guests. New members are welcome!

FORTHCOMING PROGRAMS

Wednesday, October 16, 1985, 8:00 P.M. - slide lecture entitled "The History of the Anthracite Area through Literature" will be presented by LHS Director, Dorothy Allen. The program, made possible in part by a grant from the Lackawanna County Cultural Commission/Arts to the People Program, will be presented on the evening of October 16, and again in the daytime in conjunction with the University of Scranton's "Year of the Pennsylvania Writer" symposium which will be held in September and October.

Wednesday, November 20, 1985, 8:00 P.M. - historical presentation about immigration to the Lackawanna Valley area in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries will feature Gail Savage, Instructor of History at the Pennsylvania State University's Worthington Scranton Campus. The talk, which will include pictures of immigrant families, centers on the role of immigrants, from the Pilgrims to the present, in shaping our culture.



PHOTOGRAPH PROJECT

The LHS staff have been busy during the summer months identifying, cataloging, and preparing the photograph archives for conservation. The photographs in the LHS collection, which include architectural, industrial, cultural, and family studies, are used extensively by researchers in the fields of historic preservation, sociology studies, labor and economic studies, and genealogy research. Many of the photographs have already been identified regarding subjects in the print and the photographer who produced it, with the most recent "find" a collection of 95 glass-plate negatives by photographer Harry Baroff from the 1915 era. However, there is still more work to be done. If you would like to volunteer your time to help us catalogue the prints or to do research involved in identifying the subjects depicted in them, call director Dorothy Allen at the Catlin House.

GENEALOGICAL SOURCE MATERIALS IN THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Many persons who are conducting genealogy research exhaust all local sources without uncovering the information which they seek. The National Archives Research Rooms may contain records which will supply the missing information, but many persons fail to obtain it because they are uncertain about how to request copies of National Archives records. The following guide may be of some help.

by Dorothy Allen

CENSUS RECORDS

At one time, the National Archives made searches in the census schedules in response to mail requests, but this practice has been discontinued in recent years because copies of the census records are now available at the regional archives branches. The Pennsylvania Regional Archives Branch is located at 9th and Market Streets, Room 1350, Philadelphia, PA 19107, phone (215) 597-3000.

SHIPS PASSENGER LISTS

The passenger arrival records available in the National Archives consist of customs passenger lists, immigration passenger lists, and indices to some of the lists. The records were created by captains or masters of vessels, collectors of customs, and immigration officials at ports of entry to comply with federal requirements. They document immigration between 1815 and 1914, but there are no records relating to immigration during the Colonial period. The lists give the country of allegiance of each passenger. Prior to 1905, they list the age of each person, but those after this date list only the ages of children under 8 years old. To order copies of passenger arrival records by mail, the researcher is required to provide the date of arrival as well as **the name of the ship**. This may seem an impossible request; however, many larger libraries have a guide available, *The Morton Allen Directory of European Passenger Steamship Arrivals*, which lists by year the name of steamship company vessels arriving on specific dates at the ports of New York (1890-1930) and of Baltimore, Boston, and Philadelphia (1904-1930.) The request must be made on NATF Form 40 (12-79) "Order and Billing for Copies of Passenger Arrival Records" which is available by requesting it by number from Reference Services Branch NNIR, General Services Administration, Washington, DC 20408.

MILITARY RECORDS

Records of the Department of Defense and the War Department fall into two categories: evidence of military service and evidence of veterans' benefits. The best place for the researcher to look is with the pension files which may provide much of the genealogical information sought, including veteran's date of birth, birthplace, residence, and property (when claims were based on need.) Application for widow's benefits may also include name of wife, wife's age and maiden name, marriage date, and date of husband's death. Applications for heirs' benefits include all of the above plus the names of the veteran's children. Copies of pension application files can be ordered by mail using NATF Form 26, "Order and Billing for Copies of Veterans' Records" which is available from the above office. Researchers would be well-advised, however, that many pre-1801 records were destroyed by a fire at the War Department Offices in 1800, and other 19th century military records may be incomplete because of various disasters, including the British invasion of Washington in 1814.

BOUNTY LAND WARRANT RECORDS

For the period 1776 - 1855, the federal government issued warrants for free government land to veterans or their heirs as a reward for military service. A bounty land warrant application file contains documents relating to claims for land, including name of applicant, age, residence, military or naval unit and period of service. If the claim was made by a widow or surviving child, the file also shows the name, age, and place of residence of the survivor, as well as the date of death of the veteran. Copies of bounty land warrant application files can be ordered by mail on NATF Form 26, "Order and Billing for Copies of Veterans' Records."

NATIONAL CEMETERIES

The National Archives does not have a record of the burial of every soldier who died in the armed services. In most cases, if a soldier was buried in a private cemetery, no record of the burial was kept by the federal government. However, lists dating from 1861 to the present were kept of all burials in National Cemeteries. An entry usually shows the name of the soldier, military organization, date of death, and place of burial. Information may be obtained by writing The Cemetery Service, National Cemetery System, Veterans Administration, 810 Vermont Avenue N.W., Washington, DC 20422.

SERVICEMEN'S OLD AGE HOMES

Soldiers' Homes were first established in 1866 by Congress; they existed in Maine, Ohio, Wisconsin, Virginia, Kansas, California, Indiana, Oregon, Illinois, Tennessee, South Dakota, New York, Florida, Mississippi, and Alabama. Records of genealogical value in Records of the U.S. Soldiers' Home consist of general and monthly registers of members, hospital records, and death records. To use these records, the researcher must know which home the veteran resided in and the approximate date of admission or death. Information about access to the records may be requested by writing to Superintendent of U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home, Rock Creek Road and Upshur Streets NW, Washington, DC 20011.

RECORDS NOT AVAILABLE BY MAIL

Not all record groups in the National Archives repositories are available by mail. However, should one travel to Washington, the Research Rooms of the National Archives are located at Pennsylvania Avenue at 8th Street NW. They are open 9 AM to 10 PM, Monday through Friday, and admission is free.

To use the services at the Research rooms, one need know only the name of the record group and its number. The following is a partial list of records available: *Civilian Records* from Army Posts (births, marriages, deaths) Record Group 94. The cards recording each event are filed separately and are arranged alphabetically by surname.

Chief of Chaplains Records (marriages, funerals, baptisms) Record Group 247, arranged on 134 microfilm rolls. These are arranged alphabetically by name of military installation and thereunder by type of service. There are name indices in each volume.

Foreign Service Posts of the Department of State (deaths abroad) Record Group 84. Reports of births, deaths, marriages, and registrations to consular posts abroad may be located in these files; however, to use these records, the researcher must know the place and date of the registration or death. Registrations of U.S. citizens abroad who are less than 75 years old may not be used without permission.

Passport Records (1791-1925) Record Groups 59 or 84. A passport application varies in content, with the information less detailed prior to World War I. It usually contains name, signature, place of residence, age, personal description of applicant, names or number of persons in family intending to travel, and date of application. It sometimes contains exact date and place of birth, and, if the applicant were a naturalized citizen, the date and port of arrival in the U.S., the name of the vessel on which the applicant arrived, and date and court of naturalization. Passport applications are arranged chronologically; however, indices are available which list surnames alphabetically.

Tax Records - Direct Tax Lists for Pennsylvania, Records of the Internal Revenue Service, Record Group 58. The tax records in the National Archives pertain only to Pennsylvania. They have been filmed as U.S. Direct Tax of 1798: Tax Lists for the State of Pennsylvania, M372, 24 rolls. The records consist mainly of assessment and collection lists, with useful genealogical information available on "Particular List A" which lists name of occupant of dwelling, name of owner, location and dimensions of dwelling, building materials used, and value. To use the lists, the researcher must know where in Pennsylvania the subject lived.

RECORDS NOT IN NATIONAL ARCHIVES REPOSITORIES

The National Archives maintains record groups of documents, surveys, and registers kept by the federal government. Most areas of the lives of U.S. citizens are **not** recorded by federal agencies, but rather by state or local offices. The following types of records which are not available at the National Archives may be obtained through sources listed: *Birth, Death, and Marriage* of non-military persons - State and County Bureaus of Vital Statistics, local church records, local cemetery records. Also, records of births, marriages, and deaths from all over the U.S. are available from the Mormon Library in Salt Lake City, Utah. The local Mormon Genealogical Library is located Leach Hill, Clarks Summit, PA 18411, phone (717) 587-5123.

Genealogies - Local Historical Societies and the Library of the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania, 1300 Locust Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107.

Newspaper Publications - The largest collection of newspapers of the state of Pennsylvania is held in the State Library in Pennsylvania, PA Dept. Of Education, Walnut Street and Commonwealth Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17126. The collections include newspapers from all counties of Pennsylvania, from 1728 to the present.

Probate Records and Property Records - local county Courthouses.

Undertakers' Records - individual business.

Wills - local county courthouse.

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CATLIN HOUSE
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