

## **PHGS March 2008 Newsletter**

Hello PHGS Members;

Spring is just around the corner and many of us have started making plans and looking forward to genealogical vacations. Meeting relatives we never knew we had. Seeing places our ancestors may have helped develop. Today ancestral history has become an important part of a growing number of lives. More than ever we have started looking into where we come from, and how we got to where we are today.

There are many places on the web that collect and share information, leading us in many different directions in the search for our family. But there is nothing like going on a hunt for records and pieces of our family history. Walking into a room full of old records can be a scary thing at first, but once you start looking around, searching through names, photographs, and such and find a piece of information you were looking for, it all becomes more exciting and you can't wait to reach into the next pile of records to see what you might find. Even looking through an old newspaper can be a glimpse of wonderment into the past.

Many of us may even be making plans to visit a cemetery we haven't found on the net or elsewhere. This can be a daunting task. Broken or unreadable stones can frustrate even the most experienced cemetery readers. There are many suggestions out there on what to do to make reading faded stones more readable. We suggest you make sure you use the safest measures to ensure that no harm is done to the stones. Harsh chemicals and rough surfaces should never be used.

Whatever you have planned to expand your ancestral history we wish you the best of luck. And remember to be safe have fun out there.

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We have a new addition to our volunteers. Barb Hyde has joined us and is the new Potter County Coordinator. Barb is doing a wonderful job updating and making new pages for Potter County. She enjoys working with photos, and has made a wonderful addition to the family. As some of you may have noticed she has cross-referenced some of the cemeteries and added notes as to what census records coincide with people in that particular cemetery.

Barb is asking our members to submit any family photos of war vets from Potter County they would like to share. She will add them to the appropriate pages. This will help put faces to the names of those who served.

If you have any other records or information you would like to share, not only for Potter Co., but for all counties covered here at Painted Hills, you can send them to either [paint@paintedhills.org](mailto:paint@paintedhills.org) or [webmaster@paintedhills.org](mailto:webmaster@paintedhills.org) or [barbgen@cox.net](mailto:barbgen@cox.net)

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Q: WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I DONATE INFORMATION OR SOMEONE APPLYS FOR MEMBERSHIP TO PHGS?

A: When a person applies for membership by using the online application, a copy of their information goes to 5 people on our staff. Mary, the President, Wendy the Treasurer, Paul the Surname Coordinator, Frankie the Webmaster, and finally Charlie the Membership Coordinator.

Once Wendy has received that person's dues payment she sends notice to each of the others so they can place the information for them on the membership and surname pages.

Also if someone notifies us of an email address change, depending on who the change was originally sent to, it is sent on to the person or persons responsible for updating those pages.

When someone sends us information to share it is sent to the person responsible for the county or area for which the information is for. Some information requires we start an entirely new page and others are just additions to pages we update on a regular basis.

As anyone who visits our site will see, PHGS keeps growing and growing. The only problem is our workforce stays about the same. We want to thank all of you for your patience with us in getting your letters answered and your information put up. With such a small work force it is a time consuming and slow process.

Paul Giometti along with being our Surname Coordinator is also busy adding new information to Steuben and Allegany Co's. His Steuben Co. pages are by far the best on the web. He also works a lot with another of our members who takes care of the US Gen net for Allegany County NY which is a terrific website packed full of information, <http://www.usgennet.org/usa/ny/county/allegany/index.htm>

Fred Amidon is taking care of the McKean Co. Pages.

We have member and volunteer Eleanor Schwalb transcribing obits for Allegany & McKean counties to send us.

Annette Campbell is busy transcribing obits for Steuben County.

Gayle Thomson transcribes for our PA areas. These girls save us a lot of work in getting this information on the web for all of you.

If you would like to volunteer to help transcribe records or if you would like to work on web pages send us an email to either Mary at [paint@paintedhills](mailto:paint@paintedhills) or Frankie at [webmaster@paintedhills.org](mailto:webmaster@paintedhills.org) .

Or if you have any information or photographs you would like to share, you can send them either to Mary at [paint@paintedhills.org](mailto:paint@paintedhills.org) or Frankie at [webmaster@paintedhills.org](mailto:webmaster@paintedhills.org)