

Spring 1999
Vol. 9 • No. 3

The Castle Genie

NEWSLETTER OF THE GENEALOGY CLUB

Passaic County Historical Society, Lambert Castle, Valley Road, Paterson, New Jersey 07503

HIGHLIGHTS

**SATURDAY,
APRIL 10,**
Forget-Me-Not...

Mourning in Passaic County,
1800-1900

A lecture by Andrew Shick,
Director of the Passaic County
Historical Society

**SATURDAY,
MAY 8,**

How to Qualify for
Heraldry Societies and
Hints on Preparing
Application Papers
By Ms. Carol Webber

**SATURDAY,
JUNE 12**

Ringwood's Long Pond
Ironworks Field Trip

Club News

Until the reopening of Lambert's Castle, meetings will continue to be held on the second Saturday of the month, 10 am at the Louis Bay II Library, 345 Lafayette Avenue, Hawthorne. Meeting dates are also posted in 14 local newspapers, usually under the "community announcement" section. Jean Pellegrino announces our program schedule as follows:

Saturday, April 10, 1999: "Forget-Me-Not...Mourning in Passaic County, 1800-1900."

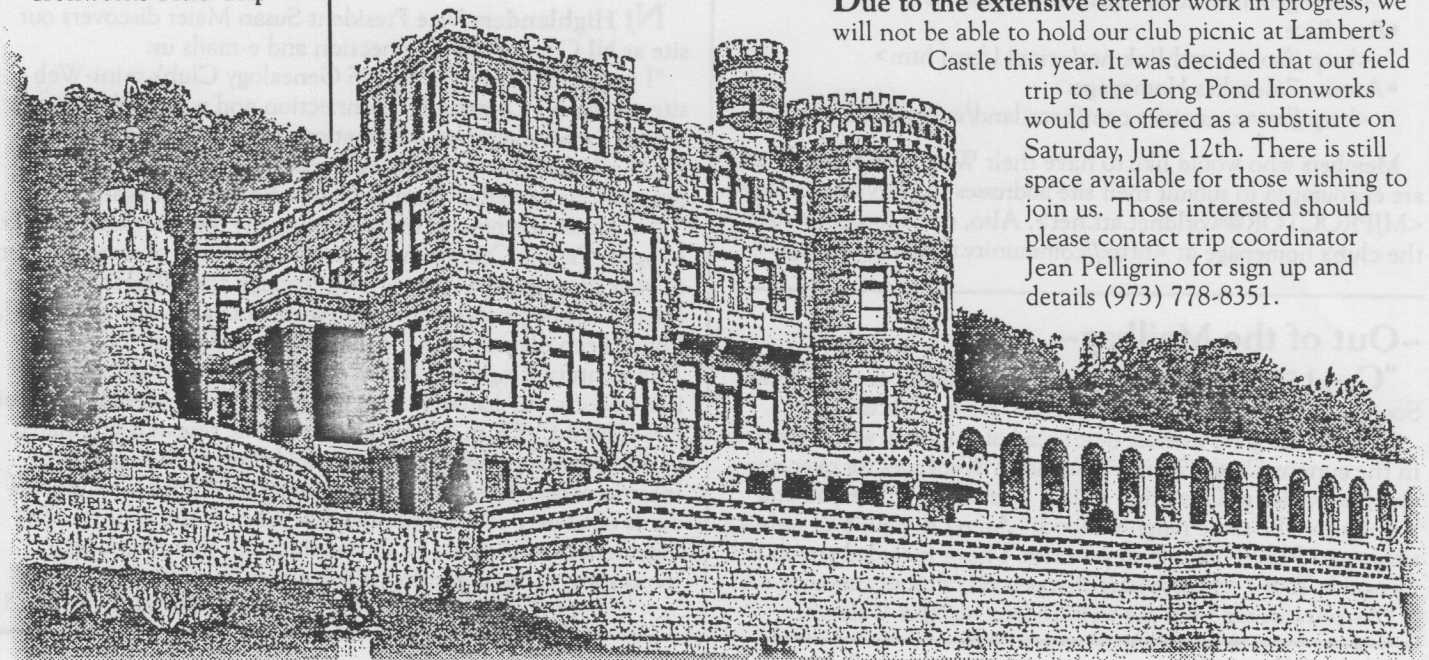
A lecture on funeral traditions presented by Andrew Shick, Director of the Passaic County Historical Society.

Saturday, May 8, 1999: "How to Qualify for Heraldry Societies and Hints on Preparing Application Papers" lecture presented by Ms. Carol Webber.

Saturday, June 12, 1999: Ringwood's Long Pond Ironworks field trip.

The generosity of these local area merchants who donated door prizes to our "silent auction" in December helped make it one of our most successful fund raisers ever. Special thanks to Adventures In Cooking in Wayne, Anthony's of Italy Coiffures in Passaic, Apollo Card & Gift Shop in Totowa, Bromilows Homemade Chocolate in West Paterson, Card & Gift Gallery in Wallington, Clearview Cinemas in Wayne, Forever Treasured Gifts in Hawthorne, Fountains of Wayne in Wayne, Hawthorne 5 & 10 in Hawthorne, Krause's Candy in Paterson, Perfect Cleaners in Wallington, Rookies Collectibles in Passaic, and Tony's Stationary in Hawthorne. Our sincere thanks to these businesses for their kind support.

Due to the extensive exterior work in progress, we will not be able to hold our club picnic at Lambert's Castle this year. It was decided that our field trip to the Long Pond Ironworks would be offered as a substitute on Saturday, June 12th. There is still space available for those wishing to join us. Those interested should please contact trip coordinator Jean Pelligrino for sign up and details (973) 778-8351.



Sunday, June 13th will mark PCHSGC's 4th year participation at "Wayne Day." Last year an estimated 25,000 visitors perused the booths of over 100 local organizations and business during this day long event. The day's festivities also include an antique car show, juried craft show, bands, and food. A few more volunteers who are willing spend an hour or two manning our booth are encouraged to contact Maryjane Proctor at 973-872-0589.



"PCHSGC volunteers (left to right) Rose Ellen Proctor, Maryjane Proctor, Al Hardinger in the early morning at Wayne Day '98.

Recipes Needed! Trustee (and genealogist) Bob Hazekamp is currently in the process of collecting recipes for a cookbook being compiled as a Society fundraiser. It's been estimated that approximately 500 recipes (or more) will be needed before the cookbook can go to press. Please share your favorites for this worthwhile venture. PCHS Cookbook, c/o Bob Hazekamp, 179 South Ave., Hawthorne, NJ 07506 or e-mail at: <wegman.adv@aol.com>

~Websites~

- John (Jack) Lauber:
<<http://sbm.temple.edu/~clauber>>
- Maryjane Proctor's Homepage:
<<http://www.geocities.com/heartland/acres/2278>>
- Ron Rice:
<www.geocities.com/Yosemite/Rapids/4854>
- Ron Rice:
<<http://home.earthlink.net/~rice11/csnj.htm>>
- Annita Zalenski's Homepage:
<<http://www.geocities.com/heartland/valley/2702>>

Members who would like to have their WebPages posted here, are encouraged to submit their site addresses to Maryjane Proctor <MJPROCTOR@worldnet.att.net>. Also, don't forget to visit the club's homepage at <<http://community.nj.com/cc/pchsgc>>

~Out of the Mailbag~

"Canal Stories Wanted" by PCHSGS member and Canal Society of NJ map archivist Ron Rice. He e-mails us:

"It was with great interest that I read of your new web activities in the current *Castle Genie*. I have had a WebPages for over two years now, also at Geocities, so it is interesting to see you and Annita in "the same neighborhood!" Aren't e-mails and websites neat? Please link me to your site. I have included you in my Geoguide Tour – a neat feature that gets rid of those annoying ads.

"As you can see from my website (see *Member Websites*,

above), I am very interested in the history of the Morris Canal. If any members or relatives have "Canal Stories," I would like to hear from them. They can reach me at the addresses below. I sat next to some lady from Paterson at your meeting one year ago who told me she might have some, but don't know her name, and I never received anything."

Ronald L. Rice, 2 Todd Terrace, Cedar Grove, NJ 07009, 973-857-2786 <RonRice@writeme.com>

Bovey, MN member Jim Mulrooney writes us recently concerning West Paterson's Missionary Sisters:

"...got my copy of the *Castle Genie* and saw (where) Reverend Donald Sella donated two biographies to PCHS Library (and) am highly interested because of the West Paterson location of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception which is there were most of my relatives ended up. Plus, I am actively researching the DONNELLY's (two married BROPHY's and other ties to QUIGLEY's). ...is it possible to get a Xerox copy of both? I'm sure some of my relatives must have been involved. Have four nuns and one priest in my direct family research..."
Thanks much, Jim.

The Speer Family Homestead piece in the Winter '98 strikes a familiar note with member Lyda Speer. She writes:

"It was nice to see the article on the SPEER Homestead in the Winter issue of *The Castle Genie*. I thought perhaps you might like some background of the SPEER Family (and) am enclosing some material for publication in *The Castle Genie*.

"After reading the article on the *Historic Speer Family Homestead* in the last issue, I thought perhaps a brief history on the original immigrant Hendrick Jansz. SPIER might be of some interest. I hope there will be an occasion when this may be printed in an upcoming issue of *The Castle Genie*.

"Thank you for your consideration." Lyda M. Speer, 33 Village Drive, Hamburg, NJ 07419 Ph: 973-908-7897.

(Editors note: We are quite interested indeed with Lyda's SPEER family research and are very pleased to print her informative piece on page 6)

NJ Highlanders Vice President Susan Maier discovers our site at NJ Community Connection and e-mails us:

"I just came across the PCHS Genealogy Club's mini-Web site on the NJ Community Connection and wanted first to say thanks for all that great information. I had lost track of the Clubs whereabouts a while back when the Lambert Castle renovations started and am so glad to find you all again.

"...I am in the process of conducting my own research project in upper Passaic County that I thought might be of some interest to your organization. Very briefly, through the NJHHS and the Friends of Long Pond Ironworks (with which I'm also affiliated), I have been digging into the old ledgers and other records of 18th-century Ringwood and West Milford to identify early ironworkers, particularly those brought to the Colonies by Peter HASENCLEVER in 1764-68. Though the research originated in documentary sources, it very quickly spread out onto the Internet where I learned the most amazing things from descendants of these workers who now live all over the country. The experience could easily be turned into talk that might be interesting to the Genealogy Club either on the subject of the

(continued on page 3)

project itself and where it stands in the context of identifying early families of Passaic County or on strategies for using the Internet as a historical and genealogical research tool."

Susan Maier, VP/Program Chair, NJHHS <susan.maier@kipi.com>

Rockville, Maryland member William E. SERCHAK writes us (in part) in his January letter:

"I am a subscriber to your journal and am an active genealogical researcher. I noticed that you occasionally publish articles about family history research in your journal, and I am offering you one of several that I have written concerning my efforts to find my family's roots in Poland."

Sincerely, William E. Serchak, 7828 Rydal Terrace, Rockville, MD 20855 (Editor's note: Mr. Serchak's descriptive and well written work titled "A Visit to Czarna Gora" depicting his genealogical research in Poland is found on pages 10-11.)

My very special thanks to Al Brower, John J. (Jack) Lauber, David L. Mishkin, Ronald L. Rice, George Sellmer, William E. Serchak, Lyda M. Spear, and George Van Riper who all contributed material for this issue of *The Castle Genie*.

On an ending note, I was very pleased with the vast amount of interesting material received for this issue of *The Castle Genie*. Judging from our mail (and e-mail) received, it seems our readers both enjoy and benefit from the inclusion of personal family stories and area history articles contained in these past few issues. I hope the momentum continues. Remember, we all have stories to tell..., please consider sharing yours with us.

~ Maryjane Proctor, Editor, *The Castle Genie*~

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

April 10, 1999 (Saturday)

"*A Genealogy Day with Meldon J. Wolfgang, III*," by Morris Area Genealogy Society. 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at County College of Morris, Student Community Center, Davidson Cafeteria, Center Grove Road, Randolph, NJ. Topics include Sleuthing in the Stacks, Using Obscure & Uncommon Records of Local Government, and German & German Americans in the US. Fee 15.00/members, 20.00/non-members, lunch included. Information (973) 538-3473.

April 15, 1999 (Thursday)

"*Sterling: A History of Early Iron Manufacturing in Hudson Valley*." Ken Rose, Orange County Historical Society, discusses the iron industry and Peter Townsend, the man who forged a great chain across the Hudson during the Revolution. 8:00 pm by the Bergen County Historical Society, Second Reformed Church, corner of Anderson & Union Streets, Hackensack. Free.

April 17, 1999 (Saturday)

"*Joint Conference*" by the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania and the Chester County Historical Society 8:30 am - 3:15 pm at the Chester County Historical Society, 225 N. High St., West Chester, Pennsylvania. Topics include German church records, county land records, GSP resources, early Welsh settlements, Chester Co. research, Pennsylvania state land research, local Methodist Church history, Philadelphia City archives overview, getting organized, using the National Archives. \$40 for members; \$45 for non-members. Registration by April 5th. Information contact the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania, 1305 Locust St., 3rd floor, Philadelphia, PA 19107-5405; ph: 215-545-0391; e-mail <GSPPA@AOL.com>.

April 26, 1999 (Monday)

"*New Jersey Archives*." Betty Epstein, archives curator, to discuss holding of genealogical interest. 7:00 pm by the Genealogy Society of Bergen County, Midland Park Library, 250 Godwin Ave., Midland Park. Free. Info (973) 694-8570

May 1, 1999 (Saturday)

Italian Genealogy Group *POINTers in Person* (Pursuing Our Italian Names Together) holds its' quarterly meeting. Topic to be announced. 10:00 am Garfield Housing Authority Community Room, 71 Daniel P. Conte Court, Garfield, NJ. Public invited. Free. Info call 973-595-7685 <<http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Valley/2707/pipwelc.htm>>

May 11, 1999 (Tuesday)

"*Migration To and From New Jersey*," a lecture by Ruth Daniels 7:00 pm by the Morris Area Genealogy Society, Morristown Public Library, One Miller Road, Morristown, NJ (973) 538-3473 <<http://www.jfpl.org>>.

May 24, 1999 (Monday)

"*German Research*," a talk by Frank Poole. 7:00 pm by the Genealogy Society of Bergen County, Midland Park Library, 250 Godwin Ave., Midland Park. Free. Info (973) 694-8570

June 28, 1999 (Monday)

"*Turning Oral Tradition into Family History*," a talk by Ken Franz. 7:00 pm by the Genealogy Society of Bergen County, Midland Park Library, 250 Godwin Ave., Midland Park. Free. Info (973) 694-8570

ELIZABETH C. (DAHLEN) LAUBER AND THE HOBART MANOR HOUSE

John J. (Jack) Lauber, 1999 Jan 7

On November 1, 1901 Elizabeth C. DAHLEN* was born. We don't know the details about her birth, but she was born in an elegant house which was acquired in 1902 by Esther Jennie TUTTLE HOBART, the widow of the 24th Vice President of the United States, Garret A. HOBART. Today, the house known as the Hobart Manor House is a New Jersey and National Historic Site situated on the campus of the William Paterson University, Wayne, New Jersey.

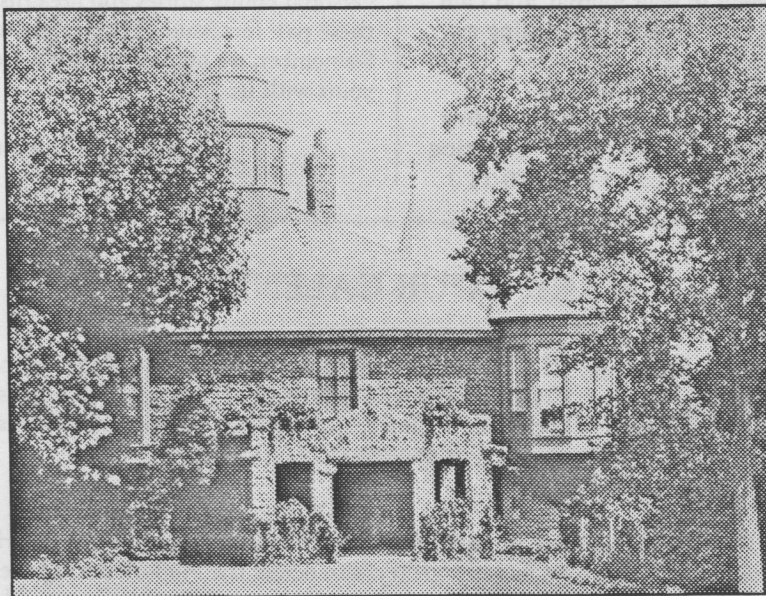
A Scottish immigrant, John MAC CULLOUGH (or MCCULLOUGH) built the original house in 1877. Previously in 1875, MacCullough purchased farmland for his estate from Henry and Mary HILLMAN. MacCullough "made a fortune in the wool industry and was intent upon building a home suitable to a gentleman of his status." The original house was a two-story fieldstone castle with a domed cupola on top of a hipped roof and two octagonal turrets on the corners. At the front was a two-story wooden portico that provided a covered entranceway on the first floor and a small porch accessible from the second story. MacCullough called his estate Ailsa in recognition of his home in Ailsa Crags, Scotland.

Around 1900, MacCullough returned to his native Scotland, and the property and house were purchased at a public auction by Mrs. Hobart in 1902. Mrs. Hobart and her son, John A. Hobart, Jr. and his family lived in the house. The house underwent extensive remodeling and expansion in the following years. In 1948, the title to the house and the 200-acre Ailsa Farms estate was purchased by the State of New Jersey for use by the Paterson State Teachers College, later named William Paterson University. The Hobart Manor House was then called Haledon Hall and became the Library and Administrative Offices, with classrooms in the basement. The Library moved out in 1956, and a number of rooms were subdivided. Around 1991, a \$150,000 project was started to restore the Hobart Manor House to its turn-of-the-century elegance. Today, the Hobart Manor houses the office of the university's president and other university offices.

So how did it come to pass that Elizabeth DAHLEN was born in the Hobart Manor House? This is what I know.

In 1896, Peter B. DAHLEN, Elizabeth's father arrived in the United States from Germany. He worked as a laborer on Charlie HILLMAN's large vegetable farm. It could be that Charlie Hillman was related to Henry and Mary HILLMAN, the people who sold the farmland on which John MacCullough built his Manor House.

In one of Peter's letters back home to Frau HORN, a lady he had met when he was a shoemaker (or apprentice) in Nackenheim, Germany, he told her he liked America, but was lonely. Mrs. Horn wrote back and suggested a solution to his loneliness – her daughter, Eva – and enclosed a picture with her letter. In 1897, Eva HORN arrived in America.



"Ailsa," A 1900 view of the MacCullough property as it appeared near the time of Elizabeth Dahlen's birth. Photograph courtesy of William Paterson University, Wayne, NJ – Office of Public Information.

On April 26 1899, Eva HORN and Peter DAHLEN were married and rented a farm in Haledon, NJ on the property owned by Garret A. Hobart. That's the story passed down to me by my mother, but the farm must have been rented from John MacCullough who owned the Manor House and Ailsa Farms. It was about this time that MacCullough returned to Scotland. So, Eva and Peter Dahlen may have been employed by the caretaker that MacCullough appointed to take care of the house and farm. Presumably, Eva worked in the house as a domestic/Au Pair, while Peter worked on the farm. So it happened to pass then in 1901 that Elizabeth DAHLEN was born in the Hobart Manor House and

the world has not been the same ever since.

I was able to visit the campus of William Paterson University on the evening of January 5, 1999. The campus was deserted, presumably because of the Christmas break. I found the Hobart Manor House on the edge of the campus, situated on a circular drive on top of a cliff. The house was decorated for the holidays, with a large Christmas tree visible in front of the second floor windows. The house was locked so I couldn't go in, but I was able to peer through the windows.

The interior of the house appeared to be in excellent condition and order. In the front hall, there was a receptionist's desk, and immediately behind the receptionist desk was a beautiful curved staircase to the second floor. The Office of the President was located on the first floor to the left of the receptionist.

Hopefully in the future, I will be able to return to the Hobart Manor House when the house will be open.

(*Editors note: Author John (Jack) Lauber is the son of Elizabeth (Dahlen) Lauber. He lives in West Chester, PA. and can be reached at JLauber@HRVet.com. His mother, 97, resides in Nutley, NJ.

Also, my very special thanks to Mary Beth Zeaman, Director-Office of Public Information and her secretary Mary Shine of William Paterson University, Wayne, who researched their archival material and provided the historical photographs of Ailsa (Hobart Manor) and additional background data. Thank you, ladies!

"BROWER BITS"

Alfred H. Brower

George Vanderhoof BROWER was a prominent lawyer and public citizen of Brooklyn, NY, born in Paterson, NJ October 18, 1843. The son of Richard BROWER and Margaret VAN BUSHKIRK, he is descended from an old established Brooklyn family from colonial times. His great-grandfather, Abraham BROWER, was an officer in the Continental Army and was joint owner with Jeremiah BROWER of the old tide-mill at Gowanns. By order of General Washington, this mill was burned during the Battle of Long Island to prevent the grain and other property from falling into the hands of the enemy.

Mr. BROWER prepared for Princeton College, although the outbreak of the civil War prevented him from pursuing his studies at the institution. He subsequently entered the law office of Judge Charles W. WALLER of Honesdale, Pa. In 1866, he was admitted to the Pennsylvania bar while he was admitted to the New York bar in March 1867. He practiced law in Brooklyn, acquiring a large real estate and commercial business. He was consul and trustee of the Kings County Trust Company. President Grover Cleveland appointed him General Appraiser of the Port of New York in 1885, resigning upon the expiration of Cleveland's first term in 1889. In July 1889, he was appointed Park Commissioner for the City of Brooklyn by Mayor CHAPIN, retaining the position until February 1894. Four years later, Mayor VAN WYCK appointed him commissioner for a term of four years. He was an organizer and original member of the Rembrandt Club of Brooklyn, and a member of the Atlantic Yacht Club, the Brooklyn Club, the Montauk Club, and other Social Organizations. BROWER died in 1921 at his home 1182 Park Place, Brooklyn and was interred at Greenwood Cemetery.

Browertown Road. In 1765 John BROWER erected a saw mill on the Peckman River (a tiny tributary of the Passaic River which flows northward through Verona, Cedar Grove, Little Falls, and West Paterson). In the same year, David BROWER erected a grist mill on the stream. It was this family which gave its name to a section of our area, a name which persists in the present "Browertown Road." The exact location of the Brower mills is not now known. Details in a property deed dated November 8, 1809, indicate that the Browsers owned property where the Passaic Valley High School now stands - at the corner of Main Street and Browertown Road. It seems likely that "Browertown" was in much the same area, and that the Brower grist and saw mills were near the spot where a more recently built dam still stands across the Peckman- just south of where the Little Falls Laundry plant stood.

Brower Hill. Between 1700 and 1800 the property in the area that is now Oxford Terrace and Reservoir Ave., River Edge, was owned by the BROWER family and was called Brower Hill. Abe BROWER, a Revolutionary War hero, gave the land to George Washington for his use. On it, Fort Patriot was built, and Washington observed the happenings of the Hackensack River from there. British forces occupied it for about a year.

The ZABRISKIE family purchased the property in the 1800's and their farm was on the top of this hill. The ZABRISKIE home was destroyed by a tornado in 1895.

Brower Hill was used for the town's only reservoir in 1893 when a water system was devised to supply drinking water from the Hackensack River for residents in River Edge and Hackensack. Intake pipes pumped water to a reservoir on what is now Bogert Road and Reservoir Avenues.

Nathaniel ZABRISKIE bought back the land which is now

Reservoir Avenue, tore up the pipes, and the ground remained unused. In 1949, apartments were built on the site, and the only thing that remains of the reservoir is the name, Reservoir Avenue.

WHO'S ON FIRST?

Missing Links Online Genealogy Newsletter, V3, No. 51

Let's see now ... THE LEARNING COMPANY bought MINDSCAPE, which just released "FAMILY TREE CREATOR," which it bought from IMSI (where it was called "FAMILY HERITAGE"), which bought it from COREL when it was called "FAMILY TREE SUITE" and had incorporated chart technology acquired from PROGENY SOFTWARE.

THE LEARNING COMPANY also bought BRODERBUND, which bought BANNER BLUE (which had just bought AUTOMATED ARCHIVES) and its "FAMILY TREE MAKER" and then bought PARSONS TECHNOLOGY, publishers of "FAMILY ORIGINS."

And THE LEARNING COMPANY recently bought PAL-LADIUM publishers of "THE ULTIMATE FAMILY TREE," which it had bought from COMMSOFT, where it was known as "ROOTS."

TLC also owns another genealogy program called "FAMILY TREE," the roots of which are unknown to me. And it recently acquired the rights to the domain name genealogy.com, which had been used by a group interested in German genealogy.

Now comes word that MATTEL, the toy maker, is buying THE LEARNING COMPANY, giving rise to some interesting questions: Which of the above genealogy programs is sophisticated enough to handle all the vagaries of the above genealogy of genealogy programs? Will BARBIE be assisting Paul [Burchfield of TLC aka BRODERBUND aka BANNER BLUE] in answering questions about America's favorite genealogy toy?

Stay tuned ... it will only be a matter of time until KEN takes over genealogy.

OUT-OF-PRINT BOOKS FOR REFORMED DUTCH CHURCH OF NEW AMSTERDAM AND NYC NOW AVAILABLE

Myra Vanderpool Gormley, CG

Myra Vanderpool Gormley reported in her weekly online newsletter for genealogists, "Missing Links" (Vol. 4, No. 7, 12 February 1999) that the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society has given permission to Robert Griffin of Bergen Historic Books to reprint two books containing the baptismal records of the Reformed Dutch Church of New Amsterdam and New York City. The years covered are 1639 to 1730 (Volume Two) and 1731 to 1800 (Volume Three). These volumes were originally published by NYGB in 1901-1902 and were later reprinted by Gregg Press in 1968. Both have been out of print for several years.

Each volume costs \$75 or order both for \$140, plus postage/handling of \$5 for one volume, \$8 for both volumes (New Jersey residents, add 6% sales tax) and may be ordered from Bergen Historic Books, P.O. Box 244, Englewood, NJ 07631. To learn more about the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, visit their website at <<http://www.nygbs.org/>>

THE SPEER FAMILY

Lyda M. Spear

Hendrick Jansz. van Aschwarde in't Stift Bremen (SPIER, SPEER, SPEAR) married Magdaleen Jans on 14 September 1652 at the Dutch Church in New Amsterdam. She was the daughter of Johannes Hans Jansz. van Ditmarsen from Holsteign, Denmark and Aeitjie DOUWE (DOUWESSEN). At the time of their marriage, she was the widow of Jan PEER (PIER) and had a child, Tunis Jansz. PEER. They lived in New Amsterdam in the area of Stone Street where they had a house and small farm. William Nelson, in "The History of Paterson and Passaic County NJ," records that Hendrick Jansz. SPIER, his wife, and two children arrived on the ship Trouw (Faith) in December, 1660. However, this would have been their second voyage from Holland. It was not uncommon for families to travel back and forth to the Netherlands for business or pleasure. In May of 1662, he sold the house and lot to Stoffel VAN SAAR and moved his family to the new village of Bergen, NJ (now Jersey City) where he purchased 25 morgen (50 acres) of land at Mingackqau, near Communipaw.

Hendrick Jansz. SPIER and Magdaleen JANS had ten children; three of them were sons. The eldest son, Jan Hendricksz., born in 1653, married Maria FRANSE in August 1679. He was one of the first settlers on the west side of the Passaic River. (It is this John SPEER that settled at Upper Montclair.) He was also among the original patentees of the Acquackanonk Patent in 1674. Many of his descendents settled in what is now Paterson and Passaic.

The second son, Hans Hendricksz., born in 1663, married Tryntje Catharina PIETERS in 1683. He made his home at Second River, at what is now Belleville. In 1726 he, along with others, conveyed a tract of land at Second River for the building of a church. The church today is known as The Reformed Church of Belleville. His descendents settled mostly in what is now Newark, Horseneck (Fairfield and The Caldwells), and Montville.

The third son, Barent Hendricksz. (of whom I am descended), was the youngest son and youngest child of Jendrick Jansz. SPIER. He remained on his fathers farm where he raised his family. He married Catalyntjie Jacobs HENDRICS in 1698. Barent died in 1742, leaving his estate to his wife. The property was sold to Jacob VAN WINKLE in 1768. Barent's descendents settled at Preakness and also at Sloomerdam.

The descendents of these sons married into the families of VAN HOUTEN, VAN RIPER, TUERS, RYERSON, VAN WINKLE, and other prominent families of the time. The descendents of Hendrick Jansz. SPIER are numerous throughout New Jersey.

DAR LIBRARY CATALOG ON-LINE!

The DAR Library Catalog is now online and maintains a database searchable by place name, historical periods in American history, family names, authors and titles of books, call words, and birth, death, marriage, and other vital records. Visit its website at <<http://www.dar.org/library/library.html>>. For information about the DAR's photocopying and search service (via mail), visit <<http://www.dar.org/library/libsearch.html>>

IMMIGRATION AND THE SINGLE WOMAN

Taken from "Missing Links" On-Line Newsletter, V4 N7

It's hard to imagine by today's standards, but the single woman entering this country in the early part of the century faced many restrictions upon her arrival into the United States. The Federal Immigration Act of 1907 prevented a single woman from entering the country unless she had a sponsor here (usually a male relative) and written proof of sponsorship. If no one "claimed" her at her port of landing, she was usually deported. Women who were meeting future husbands often had the marriage ceremony performed at Ellis Island to prove they were not being brought into the country as part of a prostitution ring. Unmarried mothers and their children could be excluded from entry as well on the grounds of moral turpitude – fearing they might become a burden on the welfare system. My, how times change.

To learn more about women and immigration, read "The Kidden Half of the Family: A Sourcebook for Women's Genealogy," by Christina Kassabian Schaeffer, available at: <<http://www.genealogybookshop.com/>>, Genealogical Publishing Company

BERGEN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUST RELOCATE BY JUNE

George Van Riper via *The Record of Friday, Feb. 5, 1999*

The Record reported recently that the Bergen County Historical Society must remove and relocate its holdings from the Johnson Public Library, Hackensack by June in order to free up space for the library's own expanding General-Interest Collection.

The Society is in a desperate search for another site and is at a loss over what to do with their accumulation of books, atlases, pamphlets, postcards, letters, deeds, newspaper clippings, and church and family histories, some dating back to the early 1700s. Packing and storing their collections in boxes would severely reduce, if not eliminate, public access to their one-of-a-kind material. The Society also relies on the Library's microfilm readers, a research tool the Society cannot afford on its own. Several other public libraries have been approached (including Englewood, Ridgewood, and Bergen Community College, Paramus) to accommodate the Society's holdings. Many would love the collection, but they just don't have the room.

The Johnson Library is not unsympathetic to the Society's plight, but their own need for space is becoming increasingly pressing. Many of their own historical materials and videocassettes are in storage. In addition, over 50,000 books have been added to their reading collection in the past ten years.

The Bergen County Historical Society was founded at the Johnson Library in 1902 and remained there until 1939, when it moved to the Steuben House (a preserved Colonial-era site in River Edge) at New Bridge Landing. When the Steuben House was turned into a residential museum, some of the collection was moved back to the Johnson Library. About two-thirds of the Society's collection (including rare manuscripts, furnishings, and other artifacts) are kept at the Campbell-Christie House at New Bridge Landing, but there is no space there to shelve the books, maps, and clippings now kept at Johnson library.

THE MORRIS CANAL IN JERSEY CITY

Ronald L. Rice, *Map Archivist, Canal Society of New Jersey*

(Note: this is an introduction to a guidebook to be published soon that includes a walking tour guide.)

The opening of the Morris Canal through Jersey City in 1836 presaged an industrial and commercial boom that was to hoist Jersey City into national prominence as a manufacturing and transportation center. Today few traces of the canal exist in Jersey City. The experience of the canal is no longer that of walking along abandoned towpaths; yet the experience is real and meaningful, albeit subtle. This pamphlet may assist anyone interested in Jersey City to trace the canal throughout its 8-mile circuitous path through the city.

This guide is about the Morris Canal in Jersey City. It is intended for Jersey City buffs who have a general interest in the canal and for canal buffs who, to date, may have been intimidated by the urban character of Jersey City. The 15-mile tour (almost double the actual canal route) can be driven in less than one hour, but four hours or more are required to truly savor the experience. A shortened version can safely be covered on foot by a good hiker in the same four hours, provided you have a car waiting at the other end.

The original canal was constructed from 1825 to 1831, a few years earlier than the Jersey City extension. The initial construction brought canal boats from Phillipsburg to Newark, using the fresh waters of Lake Hopatcong to feed the locks and power the inclined planes. By contrast, the 12-mile extension through Jersey City, Kearny, and the eastern section of Newark ran at sea level and was filled with salt water. The section through Jersey City was equipped with tide locks at both ends. These admitted water at high tide and prevented it from flowing out at low tide.

The tidewater extension was constructed in sandy soils that were less stable and required greater maintenance. Its water source proved inadequate and was later supplemented by tides, and still later by steam and electric pumps that added more water from the Hackensack River.

The remains of Lock 21 East and its pumping station can be found on the banks of the Hackensack River just south of Communipaw Avenue (Route 1-9); the remains of Lock 22 East on the Hudson River have been completely covered by Dudley Street just north of the Portside apartment complex. The canal that ran between the locks saw its last mule-drawn boat around 1912 per some accounts, and was closed and drained in 1924. Much earlier it had been defeated by competition from the railroads. Now the railroads are suffering with competition from highways and airplanes.

As constructed, the canal ran close to or along the shores of the Hudson River (really Upper New York Bay) from Turnpike Interchange 14B to the Bayonne border and the shores of Newark Bay from the Bayonne border to Communipaw Avenue. The marshes on both sides of Jersey City have been filled in, and the canal site today is nowhere near the present shores except at its two termini. Furthermore, Bayonne did not even exist as a municipality when the canal was constructed. Bayonne's border was later determined by the location of the canal and was sited adjacent to but immediately south of the canal. In addition, the lands south of a line from Interchange 14B on the east to Culver Avenue on the west, representing most of the canal route through today's Jersey City, were actu-

ally constructed through the former Bergen Township. The Township of Greenville later separated from Bergen and, in 1873, was joined to Jersey City, long after the canal was constructed. The canal's eastern terminal was located on the shores of the Hudson River at the northwest corner of the Morris Canal Little Basin near the intersection of Washington and Dudley streets (mile 0.0). From this point it proceeded west 1.6 miles - parallel to and a short distance south of Grand Street. It then turned to the southwest running parallel to and south of Garfield Avenue, made a 120 degree turn to the north in the vicinity of Interchange 14A of the NJ Turnpike, ran along the Bayonne/Jersey City border and the edge of Country Village, and continued along the east side of NJ 440 until just before Communipaw Avenue, where it turned west and crossed the Hackensack River.

The strange V-shaped configuration of the canal was mandated by the hills of the southern extension of the Palisade Ridge (Bergen Hill) and the limited construction methods available when the canal was designed. It seems that there was a Canal policy that once elevation was obtained, one should never go back down in elevation. The Canal came down in steps from Lake Hopatcong to Jersey City and never went back up. The engineering timidity here is in stark contrast to the construction boldness to the west where the canal climbed over 900 feet. However, inspection of topographic maps reveals that virtually all of the Jersey City section of the canal was constructed through lands with an elevation of 10 feet or less above sea level. The deepest cut was through the 20-foot hills next to Currie's Woods. The Palisade Ridge elevation is 50 feet or more across virtually all of Jersey City to the north of the canal and a considerable portion of Bayonne to the south.

The hard rock under the Palisade Ridge through Jersey City can be observed by driving on the covered roadway just west of the Holland Tunnel. The cut reveals that the rock extends virtually to the surface.

The cliffs of the ridge can be easily observed as far south as Bayview Avenue, near Interchange 14B of the Turnpike.

The canal builders took advantage of the natural gap in the ridge running between today's Bayonne and Jersey City. This gap later became the target of the railroad line that ran across Newark Bay. After the canal was closed, local merchants envisioned a ship canal through the gap, connecting Newark and New York Bays. These hopes were thwarted some forty years later when the State of New Jersey ran the Newark Bay Extension of the New Jersey Turnpike directly through the gap. Indeed, most people today are unaware that the gap even exists. Special thanks to Gary Kleinedler and members of the CSNJ Map and Guide Committee. For more information, e-mail: Ronald Rice, Map Archivist, Canal Society of New Jersey <RonRice@write.com>

(Please note: Ron is always looking for more info on the Morris Canal in Jersey City. If you have some leads to share with him, please write to him or call. The above article is copyrighted and will appear in a new book on the Morris Canal in Images of America series.)

WHO AM I?*George Sellmer*

I started out calmly, tracing my tree,
To see if I could find the makings of me.
And all that I had was Great-grandfather's name,
Not knowing his wife or from whence he came.

I chased him across a long line of states,
And came up with pages and pages of dates.
When all put together, it made me forlorn,
Poor old Great-grandpa had never been born.

One day I was sure the truth I had found,
Determined to turn this whole thing upside down.
I looked up the record of one Uncle John,
But then found the old man to be younger than his son.

Then when my hopes were fast growing dim,
I came across records that must have been him.
The facts I collected made me quite sad,
Dear old Great-grandfather was never a Dad.

It seems that someone is pulling my leg,
I'm not at all sure I wasn't hatched from an egg.
After hundreds of dollars I've spent on my tree,
I can't help but wonder if I'm really me.

~ Author Unknown ~

**LDS WEBSITE IN
DEVELOPMENTAL STAGES***George Van Riper*

Many family historians have inquired about the possibility of family history files going online, making information more readily available to genealogists and, in general, making genealogy more widely known. According to Elaine Hasleton, a public affairs representative for the Family History Center in the Joseph Smith Memorial Building, a web site for The Family History Department of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints is in developmental stages. Although no expected completion date has been set, the LDS is working to make genealogical files accessible from their own family history Web site.

Craig Foster, a spokesperson for the FHC's public affairs projects, reports the ancestral files of the LDS Church will most likely be accessible from the site, however, details of what other files and information will be accessible from the site has not been finalized.

The Mormon Church expects a natural decline in the number of patrons going to their Family History Centers once files become available from home. The church realizes too, that many people working on family history at LDS family history department facilities are not Mormon and hopes their future Web site will make many more familiar with their faith and the LDS church.

FOLK FINDER*Bernice L. Forrest*

The Folk Finder Column is devoted to helping genealogical researchers locate Northern New Jersey ancestors/ descendants. We invite researchers to submit requests for help, inquiries about family names, or queries concerning the exchange of information.

Requests and inquiries may be e-mailed to me at <102114.155@CompuServe.COM> or faxed to me at 201-337-1679.

Queries by mail should be sent to: Passaic County Historical Society, Lambert Castle, Valley Road, Paterson, NJ 07503
Attn: Bernice Forrest - "Folk Finder." If you can help any of our submitters, please contact them directly.

1. KOSTURKO: Searching for any information or descendents of Valentine (aka William) **KOSTURKO** b. 1870 Feb 14 at or near present day Plavec, Slovakia. Valentine may have at times used the alias **LESNISINSKY**. Parents were Andrew **KOS-TURKO** and Anna **PEKAR**. Married (Veronica) Emilia **FORBERGER** of Spisska Nova Ves, Slovakia about 1887 and arrived here at the Port of NY 1887 May 10. Valentine and Emilia had nine children, Michael (1893), Valent, Jr. (1894), Mary (1895), John (1897), Anna (1889), Helen (1901), William S. (1902), Stephen (1907), and Catherine (1909). Valentine worked as an iron ore miner in Hibernia, NJ and Morrisdale, PA prior living in the Passaic, Garfield, and Wallington areas. Also researching **FIGULA-HARCSAR, FIRMENDER** (alias **HANDZILKO**), **KANUCH, KOLLAR, MACSEK, SZADLOCK/SZADLOK, VOSTKO, ZAVADCZKY** from Slovakia. Submitted by Maryjane (**FIRMENDER**) **PROCTOR**, 210 Church Lane, Wayne, NJ 07470-3323 (973) 872-0589 <MJPROCTOR@worldnet.att.net>.

2. SIKKEMA: Looking for any information on Frederik, Jan, and Sjoukje (Miller) **SIKKEMA**, all born 1860's in Oldehove Gronigan Netherlands. All three came to the US about 1882 with their parents Jacob **SIKKEMA** and Eelkje **SCHAAF**. Fred was married twice—first to Trijntje **TILLEMA**, daughter of Jan and Aagje **TILLEMA** possibly from Montana. They were married 31 May 1890 and had one son Jacob who died in 1910. Fred married a second time to Elizabeth "Lizzie" Buis who had two brothers, Joseph and William. Fred and Elizabeth had eight children between them. In addition to Jacob, there was Jennie (Mrs. Tice **DEJONG**), Orië (m. to Jennie **DEVISSER**), Walter (my grandfather) m. to Trina **KUIKEN** (dau of Dirk and Klaasje **ROSENDAL**), Ella (Mrs. John **VAN DER VEEN**), John m. to Elizabeth **HEARSE**, Nicholas m. to Bertha **MILLER**, and Anna (Mrs. Fred **LEYSTRA**). Hoping to hear from anyone who has any information or would just like to correspond. Submitted by Laura **LAWSON**, RR#4, Box 259, Delhi NY 13753, email:ljlnyork@yahoo.com

3. RICE: I have a great interest in tracing my **RICE** family back further than the 1800's. My great grandfather Worth **RICE** was born in KY on 28 Jul 1854 and wed Eunice **JUDGE** on 19 Aug 1874. Worth died on 7 Jan 1933 at age 78 in Moorefield, Nicholas, KY. His son Albert Lee **RICE** was born 5 Sep 1878 in Paris, Bourbon, KY. Albert married Irma Freda **BRANDT** on 2 Oct 1915 in Denver, Denver, CO. Worth was the son of Wm. **RICE** and Mary E. **VAN ARSDELL**. William was born between 1784 and 1838 but probably between 1814 and 1834. Submitted by Ronald L. **RICE**, 2 Todd Terrace, Cedar Grove, NJ, 07009, (973)857-2786, email: RonRice@writeme.com

PASSAIC COUNTY VOLUNTEERS FOR THE UNION • 1863 ~ 1864

Nearly 1,900 men were extracted and sorted from the "Soldiers Directory" of the Paterson Directory, 1863 - 1864. This listing of Passaic County volunteers will continue to appear until completion in future issues of *The Castle Genie*

ABBOTT, Silas	Private	Co. K - 13th New Jersey Reg.	AYRES, Enoch J.	Lieut. Colonel	(Staff Officer from Paterson), 25th Reg. NJ Vol.
ABBOTT, Thomas	Private	Co. K - 13th New Jersey Reg.	AYRINS, Henry	Private	10th Regiment, New Jersey Volunteers
ABRIER, James		Co. D - 33rd Regiment, New Jersey Volunteers	BABCOCK, Anthony M.	Private	Co. E - 25th New Jersey Regiment
ACKERLEY, John		Co. K - 8th Regiment, New Jersey Volunteers	BABCOCK, Frederick	Private	Co. I - 2nd Regiment, New Jersey Volunteers
ACKERLY, William A.		Co. A - 1st New Jersey Cavalry	BABCOCK, Minard	Private	Co. E - 25th New Jersey Regiment
ACKERMAN, Abm. W.	5th Sergeant	Co. K - 13th New Jersey Reg.	BACON, George		Co. F - 7th Regiment, New Jersey Volunteers
ACKERMAN, Andrew	1st Lieutenant	Co. A - 11th New Jersey Reg.	BAGNALL, James	Private	Co. K - 25th New Jersey Regiment
ACKERMAN, Andrew	6th Corporal	Co. I - 2nd Regiment, New Jersey Volunteers	BAILEY, Charles A.		Co. D - 33rd Regiment, New Jersey Volunteers
ACKERMAN, David D.	Private	Co. K - 25th New Jersey Regiment	BAILEY, George W.		Co. D - 33rd Regiment, New Jersey Volunteers
ACKERMAN, Edward	Private	Co. G - 7th Regiment, New Jersey Volunteers	BAILEY, John	Captain	Mott's New York Battery
ACKERMAN, Jacob	Private	Co. A - 25th New Jersey Regiment	BAILEY, Thomas W.	1st Lieutenant	Co. A - 1st Regiment, Excelsior Brigade
ACKERMAN, James	Private	Co. I - 1st Regiment, Excelsior Brigade	BAILEY, William	Private	Co. G - 7th Regiment, New Jersey Volunteers
ACKERMAN, John A.	Private	Co. H - 25th New Jersey Regiment	BAIZEL, George W.	2nd Sergeant	Co. C - 13th New Jersey Reg.
ACKERMAN, Joseph		Co. A - 11th New Jersey Reg.	BAKER, John W.	6th Corporal	Co. C - 13th New Jersey Reg.
ACKERMAN, Peter, J.	Private	Co. H - 25th New Jersey Regiment	BALE, John		Co. E - 34th Regiment, New Jersey Volunteers
ACKERMAN, Thomas	Private	Co. G - 7th Regiment, New Jersey Volunteers	BALL, Abram S.	Private	Co. C - 13th New Jersey Reg.
ACKERMAN, William	Private	Co. I - 1st Regiment, Excelsior Brigade	BAMFORD, Thomas W.	Private	Co. I - 1st Regiment, Excelsior Brigade
ACTON, John	Private	Co. A - 1st Regiment, Excelsior Brigade	BANKER, Robert	Private	Co. G - 7th Regiment, New Jersey Volunteers
ADAMS, Charles J.		Co. M - 2nd New Jersey Cavalry	BANTA, Charles G.	Private	Co. E - 25th New Jersey Regiment
ADAMS, George		Co. B - 1st New Jersey Cavalry	BANTA, William B.		Co. D - 33rd Regiment, New Jersey Volunteers
ADAMS, Joseph		Co. F - 6th Regiment, N.Y. Vols., Col. Wm. Wilson	BARCLAY, William		3rd Company, 79th New York Highlanders
ADAR, George H.		Co. I - 1st New Jersey Cavalry	BARKER, Dayton	Private	Co. C - 25th New Jersey Regiment
AGNES, John,	Private	Co. A - 25th New Jersey Regiment	BARKER, Marinu	8th Corporal	Co. C - 25th New Jersey Regiment
AGNEW, Thomas	1st Lieutenant	Co. G - 7th Regiment, New Jersey Volunteers	BARNARD, John	Private	Co. E - 25th New Jersey Regiment
AIKEN, Isaac		Co. E - 35th Regiment, New Jersey Volunteers	BARNES, Alexander	3rd Corporal	Co. C - 13th New Jersey Reg.
AIKENS, James		Col. Allen's 1st Regiment, New York Nat'l. Guard	BARNES, Nathaniel		Co. B - 11th New Jersey Reg.
AIKENS, Robert	Private	Co. C - 25th New Jersey Regiment	BARNES, Nathaniel	Private	Co. F - 7th Regiment, New Jersey Volunteers
ALBERN, Charles		Co. D - 8th Regiment, New Jersey Volunteers	BARNES, Nathaniel	Private	Co. C - 13th New Jersey Reg.
ALBRANOMITTER, William		Battery A - New Jersey Artillery	BARNES, Steven	Private	Serrill's Engineer and Artisan Regiment
ALEXANDER, Donald	Private	Co. H - 25th New Jersey Regiment	BARNUM, H.M.	Private	Co. I - 1st Regiment, Excelsior Brigade
ALEXANDER, James	Private	Co. H - 25th New Jersey Regiment	BARRY, William		Co. D - 33rd Regiment, New Jersey Volunteers
ALLEN, Alexander	Private	Co. I - 1st Regiment, Excelsior Brigade	BARTHOLF, Ralph	Private	10th Regiment, New Jersey Volunteers
ALLEN, John	1st Lieutenant	Co. I - 2nd Regiment, New Jersey Volunteers	BARTHOLOMEW, Gustav	Private	Co. C - 13th New Jersey Reg.
ALLEN, Livingston	Private	Co. K - 13th New Jersey Reg.	BASLOW, Michael	8th Corporal	Co. G - 7th Regiment, New Jersey Volunteers
ALLEN, Oscar	Private	Co. C - 25th New Jersey Regiment	BATEMAN, William F.		Co. M - 1st New Jersey Cavalry
ALLEN, Stephen W.	Private	Co. I - 2nd Regiment, New Jersey Volunteers	BATIST, John	Private	Co. G - 7th Regiment, New Jersey Volunteers
ALLEN, Stephen	1st Lieutenant	10th Regiment, New Jersey Volunteers	BAXTER, James		Military Instructor & Master Machinist, Serrill's Engineer & Artisan Reg
ALLEN, Wallace	Private	Co. I - 2nd Regiment, New Jersey Volunteers	BAXTER, John	2nd Sergeant	Co. A - 1st Regiment, Excelsior Brigade
ALLINGTON, Peter	Private	Co. C - 13th New Jersey Reg.	BEACH, Stephen	Private	Co. K - 25th New Jersey Regiment
ALLISON, Joseph	Corporal	Co. B - 11th New Jersey Reg.	BEARDSLEY, James	Private	Co. I - 2nd Regiment, New Jersey Volunteers
ALLISON, Joseph	Private	Co. I - 1st Regiment, Excelsior Brigade	BEAUMONT, Robert M.		2nd Regiment, New York Fire Zouaves
ALYEA, John A.	Fifer	Co. I - 2nd Regiment, New Jersey Volunteers	BECK, Thomas R.	1st Sergeant	Co. G - 7th Regiment, New Jersey Volunteers
ALYEA, Richard P.	Private	Co. K - 25th New Jersey Regiment	BEGGS, James	Private	Co. I - 2nd Regiment, New Jersey Volunteers
ANDERSON, Abraham	Private	Co. K - 13th New Jersey Reg.	BELCHER, Adam	3rd Corporal	Co. K - 25th New Jersey Regiment
ANDERSON, Abram	Private	Co. A - 25th New Jersey Regiment	BELCHER, Archibald	1st Sergeant	Co. A - 1st Regiment, Excelsior Brigade
ANDERSON, James		Co. M - 2nd New Jersey Cavalry	BELDON, John	Private	Co. K - 25th New Jersey Regiment
ANDERSON, John	Private	Co. K - 13th New Jersey Reg.	BELFIELD, Thomas		Co. K - 1st New Jersey Cavalry
ANDERSON, John	Private	Co. C - 25th New Jersey Regiment	BELL, George		Co. H - 95th New York Regiment
ANDERSON, Lindsay		Co. D - 2nd Rhode Island Regiment	BELL, Henry W.		Co. E - 35th Regiment, New Jersey Volunteers
ANDREWS, Chauncey	Private	Co. I - 2nd Regiment, New Jersey Volunteers	BELL, John	2nd Corporal	Co. C - 25th New Jersey Regiment
ANGEL, Matthias		Co. K - 3rd Regiment, New Jersey Volunteers	BELL, William		Col. Allen's 1st Regiment, New York Nat'l. Guard
ANGER, Anthony		Co. D - 33rd Regiment, New Jersey Volunteers	BELL, William		Battery B - New Jersey Artillery
ARCHEY, James		Co. B - 6th Regiment, N.Y. Vols., Col. Wm. Wilson	BERDAN, Albert	Private	Co. I - 2nd Regiment, New Jersey Volunteers
ASHFIELD, James	Private	Co. A - 1st Regiment, Excelsior Brigade	BERDAN, George A.		Co. G - 7th Regiment, New Jersey Volunteers
ATCHISON, James	Private	Co. I - 2nd Regiment, New Jersey Volunteers	BERDAN, Jacob H.	Private	Co. K - 13th New Jersey Reg.
ATCHISON, William	1st Corporal	Co. I - 2nd Regiment, New Jersey Volunteers	BERDAN, R.J.		Co. E - 9th Regiment, New Jersey Volunteers
ATHERTON, Francis		Co. A - 11th New Jersey Reg.	BERESFORD, Wm., J.	Private	Co. C - 13th New Jersey Reg.
ATTERBOROUGH, Samuel	Private	Co. A - 25th New Jersey Regiment	BERGEN, Martin		Co. G - 5th Regiment, New Jersey Volunteers
AVISON, Jeremiah	Private	Co. A - 25th New Jersey Regiment	BERGEN, Timothy	Private	Co. I - 1st Regiment, Excelsior Brigade
AYERS, Enoch J.	Captain	Co. I - 1st Regiment, Excelsior Brigade	BERRY, John	7th Corpora	Co. E - 25th New Jersey Regiment
AYRES, E.J.	Captain	Co. K - 25th New Jersey Regiment			

A VISIT TO CZARNA GORA

William E. Serchak

During a visit to Czechoslovakia in September 1991, I took the opportunity to drive to Levoci, Slovakia and meet the Archives Department personnel with whom I had corresponded earlier. The Archives Department (Statny Oblastny Archiv v Levoci) had informed me by letter that Czarna Gora was no longer part of Slovakia and all records concerning the JERIERCZAK family were now maintained in Poland. The archivist confirmed that the communities of Czarna Gora/Cierna Hora and Nova Bela/Nova Beha, the reputed birthplaces of my grandfather and grandmother, respectively, have not belonged to Slovakia since 1920. The archivist gave me a map (1896) showing Czarna Gora as part of Slovakia. Then she drew a red line on the map below the village that now marked the current border between Poland and Slovakia which was drawn at the end of World War I. Poland and Czechoslovakia were created from the former Austro-Hungarian empire ruled by the Habsburg royal family. The archivist's map clearly showed that the small slice of land ceded to Poland included Czarna Gora.

On a modern map of Poland, the village of Czarna Gora is located about 30 miles north of the border crossing from Javorina, Slovakia into Lysa Polana, Poland. The Tatra National Forest Area on the border is a popular skiing and hiking area with dozens of marked trails and ski lodges and hotels for visitors. After crossing the border into Poland and a leisurely drive through the scenic mountainous area dotted with farms, I turned off the main road toward Jurgow. Immediately over a bridge was a farm village with a prominent sign – Czarna Gora! Elated, I took some photos and several deep breaths and proceeded on into the village. There were dozens of farms on both sides of the road. People were working in the fields and in barnyards, herding cattle, geese, ducks, sheep, goats, and pigs as I drove slowly through. The road climbed upwards again, towards a hill, partly covered with dark, green conifers that may have been the origin of the name, Czarna Gora (Black Mountain).

Continuing on through the village, I found the Catholic church of Czarna Gora. After walking around and taking some pictures, I knocked on the rectory door, hoping to inquire about family records. The parish priest invited me in. After offering some Sangria from a half-empty bottle, he introduced two men who spoke and understood some English and German. No one seemed to recognize the family name, but they directed me to the village of Trybsz (about 10 kilometers north) where baptismal, marriage, and death records were maintained for the area churches. (The Czarna Gora church was less than 20 years old). After some cakes and tea (and more Sangria) served by the housekeeper, I took a photo of the priest and left in my car headed toward Trybsz. Not 500 meters beyond the church, I noticed a parish cemetery and decided to look into it. The cemetery was elevated above the surrounding area and after climbing about 20 steps, I opened the iron gate and walked in. There in the center of the small cemetery of about 100 gravesites were two prominent black marble headstones – Jan and Agnieszka JEZIERCZAK! Ecstatic, I copied all the information on each stone, photographed them and the general area of the cemetery. The inscriptions read:

Jan JEZIERCZAK	Agnieszka JEZIERCZAK
20 VI 1876	29 XII 1887
27 I 1975	5 XI 1967
Poko Jeso Duszy	Poko Jej Duszy

Just behind these graves was another:

S.R. Josef JEZIERCZAK
WR 17 II 1905
(months were given in Roman numerals)
ZM 8 VI 1990
Prosio Zorowas Mario

Clearly, these were relatives and there were probably others still living here, based on the relatively recent dates on the headstones. How to find them in a small village with no town center or obvious place to ask for information? Noticing two men working in a drainage ditch near the cemetery entrance, I managed to find out that there was a JEZIERCZAK farm in Czarna Gora, back in the direction I had come. Not having a house number, I drove back about one kilometer until I saw a woman and stopped to ask for help. She spoke some French and offered to send her young daughter with me in the car to guide me to the JEZIERCZAK farm. Retracing my route about 300 meters, the girl had me in front of a large barn and farm house, and she ran in ahead of me. Two men about 25-30 years of age were working in the barn. I asked them – JEZIERCZAK family??? and pointed to them. They both nodded. I then pointed to myself and said JEZIERCZAK family!!! They both dropped their pitchforks and smiled and invited me into the house. I was with my family!

Inside the kitchen of the house, in addition to the two men, there was an older woman and a young woman, wife to one of the men plus their baby daughter. Stymied by the language problem, they sent for two neighbors, also JEZIERCZAK's, a mother and daughter both named Sofia. The younger Sofia spoke some English and said she had visited her sister and brother in Chicago several years ago. In this way, we were able to visit and I could piece together some information about the family. The older Sofia told me (through her daughter's translation) that, yes, she knew that Andrew JEZIERCZAK had been born in this village and emigrated to the USA. In addition, Andrew had two brothers, Jan (in the cemetery) and one named Philip plus a sister, Maria. Jan, who lived to 99 years and 7 months of age, had children including two in Chicago (Anna & Josef) and young Sofia (the translator). Little information was elicited about Philip and Maria, except that Philip was killed in the war. Due to translation difficulties and the time constraint – I still needed to get to the parish records in Trybsz, it seemed appropriate to show them some pictures of my family, our home, and Washington. After looking at the pictures, the younger Sofia looked closely at me and said, "You are very rich." I answered, "No, I am not very rich – just very fortunate that Andrew came to America."

Arriving in Trybsz about 4:00 PM, I quickly found the catholic church and walked in. The priest was there preparing for a 5:30 mass. He spoke Polish and a little Latin/Italian. With some difficulty, I was able to show him the name and dates copied from the headstone of Jan JEZIERCZAK and convince him to show me the parish baptismal records for him. He lead me into the rectory where the main floor had just be refinished and the floor tacky with fresh varnish. He tip-toed across the floor and from a large bookcase pulled out an old, large, dusty ledger for the period of 1868-78 or thereabout. We went to a study/conference room and I began leafing through the book. The book was divided into three sections: Baptismas – Copulationas – Defunctis (Baptisms – Marriages – Deaths) and was very neatly

CZARNA GORA continued

handwritten in chronological order with a number assigned to each event. Going first into the baptismal section with Jan's data, we found his name in Latin-Joannes JEZIERCZAK and the dates 20-22 June 1876. Each baptism is recorded with two dates, the first being the actual birth date and the second the baptismal date, usually only a few days apart (baptism was performed very soon after birth, probably because so many died in infancy). The date of birth corresponded exactly to the date on Jan's headstone and the birthplace was Czarna Gora. This could be my great uncle, Jan. Even more significantly, his parents were given as Mich(ael) JEZIERCZAK and Anna HELDAK. Bingo! Now I knew, for the first time, the names of my great grandparents. The temptation to continue on going further back in time for Michael and Anna's birth and marriage records and those of other relatives was almost too much to imagine. Unfortunately, the good padre was anxiously pointing to his watch – almost time for the 5:30 mass. I reluctantly returned the ledger to him after taking close-ups of the page and one of the priest holding the tome, thanked him, and left to rectory.

So close and yet so far. But as I left the church in the growing twilight, I realized how much I had been able to uncover. First, it was now established that Andrew JEZIERCZAK (the original spelling of the family name) was born in Czarna Gora, Poland when it was part of Slovakia and the Austrian-Hungarian Empire. That explained why his family, including

my father, spoke Slovak, not Polish. Second, he left behind brothers and a sister that none of my aunts or uncles or cousins or my own parents ever knew about or a least admitted to know anything about. Third, that family records were still in existence in Trybsz, the "matrika" or parish records center for families in Czarna Gora, and fourth and most exciting, there were descendants of Andrew's siblings still living there and in Chicago.

(Editor's note: PCHSGC member William E. SERCHAK is a retired US Army colonel who has been pursuing his family history for about ten years. His grandfather, Andrew JEZIERCZAK, emigrated from Czarna Gora, Poland in 1892. Andrew's wife, Mary KOLODZIEJ, emigrated from Nowa Biala, Poland about the same time. They met and married and raised a family in Passaic, New Jersey. Colonel (Ret) SERCHAK has made three trips to Czarna Gora and gathered a great deal of information and photographed church records relating to his grandparents. In addition to the JEZIERCZAK and KOLODZIEJ families, he has recorded birth and marriage events for the following families: GOGOLA, MILON, HELDAK, SOLTYS, SZYSZKA, KIERNOZIAK, PLUTA, BUDZ, HIZNY, KIKLA, and HUDACZEK among others who married JEZIERCZAKS over the years. Anyone interested in exchanging information about researching family roots in Polish Spis may contact him at 7828 Rydall Terrace, Rockville, MD 20855, e-mail: <rice37@erols.com>).