



**South Central
Pennsylvania**
Genealogical Society

Our Name's The Game

www.scpgs.org

Monthly Newsletter Vol. 37 No. 8 April 2012

OUR NEXT MEETING

Sunday, May 6, 2012 — Family Bible Documentation Day

Family bibles are sometimes the only source for vital statistic information. The York County Heritage Trust and South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society are co-hosting a Bible Documentation Day. Bring your family bible to the meeting hall of the York County Heritage Trust at 250 East Market Street in York on Sunday, May 6, 2012 from 1 PM to 4 PM. We will copy, *free of charge*, your family information to place in the family files in the YCHT Library & Archives. A documentation sheet covering the bible owners' name, family connection, provenance, etc. will be completed and kept with the copies from the Bible.

A brief business meeting will begin at 2:15 PM immediately followed at approximately 2:30 PM by a program presented by the owners of HG Books in Craley on the care, restoration and conservation of family bibles and other old books.

Saturday, June 2, 2012 — Seminar: *Exploring the Past and Touching the Future* 9 AM – 4 PM

The York County Heritage Trust and South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society are co-hosting this seminar at the York County Heritage Trust at 250 East Market Street in York. See page 5 of this newsletter for more information. Don't forget to register by the May 29th deadline.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICE

The South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society welcomes and values your continued membership. Renewing your membership will help us continue to provide services such as special publications and research assistance in the York and Adams County area. Unless you are a life member, your membership will expire on June 30, 2012 and you will not receive membership benefits beyond that date if you do not renew. To renew your membership in SCPGS for the fiscal year 2012-2013, please promptly mail your payment with the renewal notice included in this newsletter. Please return the entire page. Life members can disregard the renewal form.

You will continue to receive regular special publications each year as long as you are a member in good standing, however, due to the amount of preparation time and the size of some special publications, there will now be a charge to help cover the printing and mailing costs of "for purchase only" publications. Your SCPGS membership will afford you the opportunity to purchase the "for purchase only" special publication at a reduced rate.

Our newsletter is now offered via email if you so desire. To receive the newsletter via email, please submit your request along with your email address to ... scpgswebsite@earthlink.net

WHAT's NEW at "FamilySearch.org"

written by Becky Anstine

Sylvia and Jack Sonneborn were guest speakers for our March meeting. The Familysearch.org has undergone many changes over the years. The biggest change has been the start of the indexing of the family history records housed in the Granite Vault. As records are indexed, they are posted on the website and in some cases original scans are included. This has expanded search results and made searching the records a lot easier and more exciting.

The Sonneborn's also talked about some little used tabs which researchers should find interesting. The first is the "Family Search Wiki" – this is a collection of articles provided by researchers around the world. Information and research tips are shared on a variety of topics with an emphasis on locating local research sources. The second was the "Family Search Forum" – this is a message board for people with genealogy problems or questions. The Sonneborn's also talked about websites that are only available at Family History Centers. Examples of these websites: Access Newspaper Archives, Alexander Street Press, Arkiv Digital Online, Find My Past, Godfrey Memorial Library and Fold3.

The best way to learn about all of the resources available is to go online, register, and then explore all that Familysearch.org has to offer.

YCHT BOOK BLAST



Opening to the public at 9:00 AM on Thursday August 9, 2012, the 12th Annual Book Blast will be held at the Agricultural and Industrial Museum at 217 West Princess Street. This three day event supports the collections, programs and educational activities of the Trust and features previously donated and sorted books at affordable prices.

Admission is free and open to the public. Prices begin by featuring hardback volumes at \$2.00, paperbacks at \$1.00, and a special section of collectable/local history books, which are individually priced.

In addition to the thousands of books for sale, surrounding the seventy-two ton A-frame ammonia compressor will also be an array of picture frames available for purchase, varying in size, age and quality.

The event culminates at 9:00 AM on Saturday, August 11th with Buck-A-Bag, a popular event. In addition to Buck-A-Bag, the collectable/local history section will be marked to half price.

For more information, please call Lila Fourhman-Shaull 848-1587 ext. 223 or email at lfourhman-shaull@yorkheritage.org

Extracting DNA Information from Postage Stamps

Posted by Dick Eastman on March 23, 2012

Would you like to obtain the DNA information of an ancestor who died years ago? Do you have any letters that he or she wrote? If so, you may already have the DNA information available.

Postage stamps and envelope flaps have been licked for more than 150 years, with saliva DNA being transferred to the item in question. DNA typing has been possible for about twenty years, but has rapidly developed to an immensely powerful technique for personal identification. The possibilities of identifying a deceased person's DNA include crime solving, genealogy, and genetic disease identification. Many opportunities for further research exist.



Please note that there are no companies that I know of at this time who are offering tests of DNA information extracted from postage stamps or envelope flaps. Such tests today are only available from the FBI and a few other crime laboratories. However, if consumer demand builds, that could change in the not-too-distant future.



DID YOU KNOW?

written by Becky Anstine

Did you know that you can now go online and search for marriage license applications from 1949 to present and estate filings for York County through the York County Pennsylvania Government web site?

The marriage license applications on this website give the name of the bride and groom, year filed and application number. Estate files will give the date of death and when the probate was filed.

- 1) Google –“York Co PA Government” or go to <http://www.york-county.org/>
- 2) On the left hand side of the screen, click on “Marriage Licenses” this will take you to the website for the Clerk of Orphans Court ... <http://www.york-ounty.org/departments/courts/orphan.htm>
- 3) Click on “Click Here to e-file Marriage License applications and search Marriage License Records from May 1949 to present”
- 4) Login as a guest and then click accept when the next screen appears.
- 5) Select “Search Public Records”
- 6) Under “Search Criteria” change from “Case Number” to “Marriage Name”
- 7) Fill in last name and you can search “All” or “Groom Name” or “Bride Name”
- 8) A listing of all the applications will appear (but to move to the next page, you must fill in the box with the page number and don't forget to scroll down the page to see all the applications listed on that page).

For estate files, POA (power of attorney), etc. use “Case Numbers” on the “Search Criteria” screen, instead of changing to “Marriage Licenses”. Then “Select All” and fill in the primary name. The list will then show the death date, when the case was filed and what the filing was for.

LAUXMONT FARMS

written by Frank Grove

The scenic landscape near the Susquehanna River has been a favorite place for artists for more than a hundred years. Lauxmont Farms was the brainchild of one man, the late S. Forry Laucks. He was born 1879 and when old enough to work he joined York Safe and Lock Company as an office boy. By age twenty, Laucks became the general manager and then president. He was the “guiding genius” of York Safe and Lock Company until his death in 1942. Mr. Laucks was a distinguished industrialist who was interested in world, national, and local enterprises, and he was active in local social and civic events.

In 1918, S. Forry Laucks purchased a 100 acre farm in Lower Windsor Township for \$18,000. It was the first portion of what became Lauxmont Farms, his “model farm”. Over the next several years, Mr. Laucks accumulated nearly 2,000 acres from a number of adjoining farms in Lower Windsor Township near the Susquehanna River. By 1933, Laucks had a French chateau-style stone mansion built high on the bluff overlooking the river and established agricultural facilities to form a country estate. When he was done, it included several livestock operations, a dairy with a state-of-the-art automated milking operation, and a lounge that served sandwiches and fresh ice cream to visitors.

A 2007 *York Daily Record* article indicates that records from 1935 show that with the exception of the ice cream lounge, every operation at Lauxmont Farms was in the red. It appeared that the wealthy industrialist seemed to regard the farm more as a labor of love than as a source of income.

REMINDER

The York County Archives website has an index of marriage records from 1885 to 1929 and one for marriages between 1930 and 1949.

visit www.yorkcountyarchives.org/

HOT OFF THE PRESS

Closson Press recently announced three new books ...

Early African American Deaths in *The Pittsburgh Courier* by Marlene Garrett Bransom.

This series is a compilation of deaths and obituaries that appeared throughout *The Pittsburgh Courier* community columns and headlines. Many of the entries are just one line long; however, that one line often contains the name of the deceased, their parent's name and where and when the death occurred. Many of the deaths that appear in this book are much more detailed describing when and where the deceased was born, when they came to a certain area, how long they lived there, whether or not they were a slave, the plantation they came from, and who enslaved them. This invaluable genealogical data, most likely, is only found in *The Pittsburgh Courier*.

Many of these early settlers were remarkable citizens who established the first churches, schools and social clubs. They were professional and nonprofessional, skilled and unskilled. They were of all classes and represented a variety of religious affiliations. The deaths allow us to construct the African American community in these small towns and cities and the role their citizens played in helping to build and live in it.

Book One covers March 25, 1911 through December 27, 1912 ... these deaths represent individuals who lived in the small towns of southwest Pennsylvania, as well as other towns across the state.

soft cover, 206 pages; \$24.95

Book Two covers January 13, 1923 through December 27, 1924 ... these deaths encompass over one hundred small towns and cities across the United States. Many of these small towns share common roots with the Pittsburgh community and detail how individuals are linked to one another.

soft cover, 252 pages; \$26.95

First Warrantees of Northampton County, PA – Lehigh Township by Marie A. Robinson.

This book is described as a must-have tool for the genealogist who is researching ancestors from this township.

In 1907, the Land Office of Pennsylvania initiated a warranted tract mapping program, which is still an ongoing program. Northampton County is one of the counties that has not been mapped. The author has taken the many steps for the reader interested in seeing where an ancestor's tract was located in Lehigh Township. Marie mapped the surveys, noting in the book all names associated with the property, including the adjoiningers, up to and including the patentee of the tract. All facts are cited so the reader can obtain copies from the Pennsylvania Archives either online or by mail.

The sources researched and cited are book and page numbers of the surveys, the warrants, and the patents for Northampton County. In some cases, the Bucks County warrant and patent registers were researched for tracts warranted before 1752, the year Northampton County was formed. Although not specifically looked for, preceding and subsequent surveys of a tract are noted if found.

The index contains the names of the owners as well as all adjoiningers of the tracts, the tract names, the surveyors, and the surveyor generals. The names are spelled as they appear on the documents and were not changed to match today's spelling. An 11 x 17 colored map showing the location of the original tracts surveyed comes with the book.

soft cover, 252 pages, \$24.95

CLOSSON PRESS
257 Delilah Street
Apollo, PA 15613-1933
Phone: 724-337-4482
clossonpress@comcast.net
or visit www.clossonpress.com

How often does this happen to you?*Posted by Dick Eastman on March 3, 2012*

Genealogist Wayne MacDonald was visiting Winnipeg when he ducked into an antique shop to escape a snow storm. While waiting for the snow to abate, he idly thumbed through some old family photographs that were being offered for sale. His heart jumped when he recognized one of the photographs as his great-great-grandfather James MacDonald. A further search revealed over a dozen such photos of his long-dead relatives taken between 1878 and 1915.

Civil War Death Toll*Posted by Dick Eastman on April 3, 2012*

For 110 years, history books have always stated that 618,222 men died in the U.S. Civil War, 360,222 from the North and 258,000 from the South — by far the greatest toll of any war in American history. But new research shows that the numbers were far too low. By combing through newly digitized census data from the 19th century, J. David Hacker, a demographic historian has recalculated the death toll and increased it by more than 20% — to 750,000.

CONFERENCE SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

“Where do I begin”

Kim Grim, Margaret Burg, Lila Fourhman-Shaull

This session provides a brief overview of genealogy, conducting oral histories, the holdings of the York County Heritage Trust Library & Archives, York County Archives and Pennsylvania State Archives.

“Ancestry.com using the Library Edition”

Becky Anstine

This session focuses the usage of the Library Edition of Ancestry.com available at the YCHT Library & Archives

“Civil War military and pension records”

Dennis Brandt

Learn about the wealth of genealogical information that can be uncovered within these records.

“York County Court, Land and Church records of genealogical significance”

Richard Konkel

This session will illustrate the genealogical benefits of using the records created by the York County government as well as those recorded within church registers.

“The Ethnic Influences in York County”

Gordon Freireich, Myra (Neicy) DeShields-Moulton
additional speakers TBA

A round table discussion with members of the African American, Jewish, Greek and Italian communities. Ethnic research sources will be available.

“What do I do when I hit a brick wall”

A question and answer session with today's speakers that may also include “A Funny thing happened on the way to discovering my Roots.” Audience participation is encouraged!

PAGE INTENTIONALLY BLANK

OUR NAME'S THE GAME
SCPGS INC.
P.O. BOX 1824
YORK, PA 17405-1824

NON-PROFIT
ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #40
YORK, PA

DATED MATERIAL—DO NOT DELAY

RENEWAL NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Now is the time to renew your membership for the fiscal year July 2012 to June 2013. Any member, who does NOT PAID their dues by September 1st will automatically be dropped from the mailing list and there will be an additional fee assessed to cover the postage for back copies of our newsletter and any special publications. Please return this notice with your renewal and note any address correction. Members desiring newsletters to be mailed first class should add \$5.50.

Please make check payable to SCPGS (in US funds *only*) and mail to

South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society, PO Box 1824, York, PA 17405-1824.

Name _____

Street Address / Box # _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP+4 _____

Phone _____ Email Address _____

| |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Please send a SASE (self addressed stamped envelope) with your payment if you desire a membership card. |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

| | |
|----------|------------------------------------------------------|
| \$25.00 | REGULAR MEMBERSHIP |
| \$30.00 | FAMILY MEMBERSHIP |
| \$500.00 | LIFE MEMBERSHIP (individual <i>only</i>) |
| \$750.00 | FAMILY LIFE MEMBERSHIP (husband & wife <i>only</i>) |