



**South Central
Pennsylvania**
Genealogical Society

Our Name's The Game

www.scpgs.org

Monthly Newsletter Vol. 38 No. 8 April 2013

OUR NEXT MEETING

Sunday, May 5, 2013 — 3rd Annual Bible Documentation Day

This month's meeting will be held at the Meeting Hall at York County Heritage Trust Library & Archives, 250 East Market Street, York, Pennsylvania. A brief business meeting will held at 2:15 PM.

Family bibles are sometimes the only source for vital statistic information, such as births and marriages. Bring your family bible to the Historical Society Meeting Hall at 250 East Market Street from 1 PM to 4 PM. We will copy, free of charge, your family information to place in the family files in the York County Heritage Trust Library & Archives. Our volunteers will record the family information, condition, ownership and publication information of the bible. ... *Spread the word*

Please note that as a non-profit organization we cannot give monetary appraisals to items; therefore, we cannot appraise your family bible.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Sunday, June 2, 2013 — Henry James Young Award

The presentation of the Henry James Young Awards will be held at 2:15 PM on Sunday, June 2nd in the Meeting Hall of the York County Heritage Trust located at 250 East Market Street, York, Pennsylvania.

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, 2013 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 2013-2014, 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@wildblue.net

REMINDER

Special Publication #74 — Bible Records from the Family Files of York County Heritage Trust, Volume 5 was mailed in March.

If you have not received your copy, please contact us at scpgswebsite@wildblue.net

Book Reviews

from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter
Posted on March 29, 2013

The following book review was written by Bobbi King ...

Finding the Civil War in Your Family Album. by Maureen A. Taylor. Published by Picture Perfect Press. 2011. 192 pages.

Maureen Taylor began thinking about and imagining clothing styles worn decades ago when she was still just a teenager. She was invited to portray Mary Todd Lincoln in the school play for which she researched and re-created the look of Mrs. Lincoln. This could be called the prelude to a successful calling in photo identification. Examining photographs, exposing their details, and offering us the time periods in which they were created has become an important assistance to us genealogists.

The glossary itself is an education. Nearly all the words and definitions I've never seen before. Going through the new words alone took me back in time and added to my realization how different things were back then. Were the New York Knicks really named for those bouncy loose-fitting pants banded around the knee?

The bibliography with over 80 entries is a rich resource on its own for Civil War history. The researcher who wants to know more about historic photography will be well served with this list. All of her images are sourced in the back with 176 citations. The book is indexed.

But, it's the pictures that are compelling. The Confederate soldier who holds a white-knuckled grip on a malevolent Bowie held crossed against his chest glares out at us, daring you to utter a single word of dissent or murmur a hint of dispute. He's clearly keen on separating your head from your insolent body. The face of the colored boy with a grimace poorly disguised as a smile situated below certain unsmiling eyes hints to us the hidden presence of a damaged spirit presenting the sum total of the experience of slavery.

There are so many. Photographs of unidentified soldiers, African-Americans, couples, children with inquisitive faces that dread the answer, women with pursed, stubbornly resolute lips; we yearn to know the stories behind them all.

As expected from the expert, and from someone with previously published excellent books on the topic, Ms. Taylor explains daguerreotype, ambrotypes, tintypes, cartes de visite, photo albums, revenue stamps, and women's, children's, and men's clothing. Her chapter on mourning rituals with the accompanying photographs are deeply affecting.

Ms. Taylor has the uncanny ability to stage photographs that draw us in and offer no escape. Her text never gets in the way of the picture, and rightfully so. The people in the photographs deserve our complete attention.

The Civil War in York County

written by Cynthia Hartman

Local author, Scott Mingus was the speaker for our April meeting. Scott shared that it was his son's study of the burning of the Wrightsville-Columbia bridge that sparked his interest in York County's role in the Civil War. He and Jim McClure are continuing their work to capture the Civil War heritage of York Countians by documenting their stories and pictures ... *preserve, protect, remember.*

According to census records, in 1860 there were 68,200 people living in York County. Southern York County was heavily Democratic while Northern York County leaned Republican. The 1860 election results showed a divided for York County: 5,497 votes for the Democratic "Reading" ticket, 5,129 votes for Republican Abraham Lincoln, 574 votes for Constitutional Union candidate John Bell and 562 votes for Democrat Stephen Douglas. The election of Lincoln brought violence to York with stones being thrown at trainloads of *Wide Awakes* (Lincoln followers) as they returned to Lancaster County. Quaker, A. B. Farquhar commented that "we need a strong president with plenty of common sense."

In 1861 there was an extraordinary display of aurora borealis and a comet. These two phenomenons were thought to be an "omen of the coming war".

In April 1861, following the secession of several southern states and after Fort Sumter was fired upon, President Lincoln called for volunteers to "crush" what he alleged was open rebellion. In response to this call to arms, eager volunteers throughout the North flocked to recruiting stations to enlist in the military. Hundreds of York Countians responded. The York Agricultural Society allowed the army to use its fairgrounds (near King and Queen Streets) as the new recruiting and training base, and Camp Scott was born. Many believed that it would only take a few months before the Confederacy collapsed so initial enlistments were for a three month period. Dozens of new regiments arrived over the first few months for training before moving southward to their field assignments.

In York County, excitement ran high during the first year. Pvt. Henry Clay Metzger of Hanover is quoted as saying "we are determined to sweep." However, by April 1862 reality set in ... this would be a fight to the death. The political winds were shifting against President Lincoln. As CSA (Confederate States of America) successes mounted, the Union Army saw fewer volunteers.

In late July 1862, President Lincoln called on the states for 300,000 militia to serve for nine months. The national response was sluggish and York County commissioners could only raise two companies in York and one in Hanover. Secretary of War Stanton authorized a draft from the state militia if the quota could not be filled by volunteers and riots broke out in Wisconsin and near riots in Pennsylvania.

Battles in the Shenandoah Valley brought about a massive need for military hospitals to treat the wounded. A U.S. Army General Hospital was established in July 1862 on Penn Common, just south of downtown York. Among the early patients were hundreds of wounded men transported to York following the September 1862, Battle of Antietam. Supplies and food were slow to arrive at the newly established hospital so York Countians responded and food began pouring in.

There were two things that made seizing York the mission of Jubal Early besides the abundance of food and horses ... capturing the bridge over the Susquehanna at Wrightsville would be advantageous to the confederates plan to take the state capital at Harrisburg and destroying the Northern Central Railroad would hinder the movement of Union troops and supplies.

The 20th Pennsylvania militia was tasked with guarding a fifteen mile stretch of the Northern Central Railroad between Hanover Junction and York Haven. They had little training so with the news that Jubal Early seized Gettysburg on June 26, 1863, the militia retreated.

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With the news that Confederate troops were headed for York, many lined up to pay the twenty-five cent toll to cross the Susquehanna River bridge at Wrightsville to safety on the Lancaster County side. The line of people and horse drawn wagons reportedly extended all the way to Hallam.

One critical point in the Union's favor was that it was raining and the river was rising ... if the Confederates were going to cross the Susquehanna River they would need to use the bridge at Wrightsville. Pennsylvania militiamen from Columbia, on the Lancaster County side of the river, vowed to block the Confederate advance. Union troops retreating from York joined them, as did a company of African American militiamen.

Meanwhile, scam artists from New York were selling tickets purported to be from the Knights of the Golden Circle to naïve Pennsylvania Dutch farmers for one dollar. Along with a series of secret hand gestures, these tickets were supposed to protect the horses and other possessions of ticket holders from seizure by invading Confederate soldiers. When Jubal Early's troops passed through York County, they took what they needed anyway.

In late June, Confederate troops raided Hanover before heading toward the railroad station at Hanover Junction. Quaker, A. B. Farquhar and York's leaders met with General Gordon at Farmers (near Thomasville) to negotiate what has become known as the "surrender of York."

York's leaders were concerned that the town would be burned so in reality they were "negotiating for peaceful entry of the Confederate Army."

Confederate troops marched through York toward Wrightsville. As the Confederates advanced onto the bridge, Union forces set fire to it near the Wrightsville side. The entire structure soon caught fire and completely burned in six hours. Then the winds shifted spreading the fire into the town of Wrightsville. Confederate soldiers worked in bucket brigades alongside the citizens of Wrightsville for hours to extinguish the fire. The Confederate troops retreated to York and eventually on to Gettysburg.

Long forgotten by the national media is that the train carrying President Lincoln to Gettysburg where he would give his famous "Gettysburg Address" in November 1864, stopped for eight minutes in Hanover and President Lincoln gave a two minute speech while stopped there.

The 1864 presidential election showed divided loyalties in York County: 4,690 votes for Republican Abraham Lincoln and 7,875 for Democrat George McClellan. Just three months into his second term as president and only five days after Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrendered at Appomattox Court House in Virginia, effectively ending the American Civil War, President Lincoln was fatally shot. When the President's funeral train passed through York County huge crowds turned out.

From Pennsylvania Family Roots ...

[Column No. 683 / March 13, 2013]

Bible Records Found

I have found an old Miller and Hostetter Bible. The Bible is in very poor condition and so are the genealogy pages. Rev. F. W. Kremer married John and Elena on Feb. 21, 1867 in Lebanon County, PA. On the birth page, John Miller was born Sept. 13, 1845. His wife Elena Miller was born Aug. 7, 1849. Their children's birth dates: Mary Ann, born April 15, 1868; Cyrus Howard, born Oct. 2, 1871; William Anders, born July 9, 1876. The death page only has two children listed: Mary Ann died June 3, 1868 (age 1 month and 18 days), and David Henry died Oct. 8, 1871 (age 2 yrs., 5 months and 21 days). Anyone who is interested in a copy of the Bible record, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Sharman Meck Carroll, PO Box 72413, Thorndale, PA 19372-1035.

National Digital Newspaper Program

Posted by Dick Eastman on April 6, 2013

The National Endowment for the Humanities and the Library of Congress have partnered to enhance access to historic newspapers for many years with the National Digital Newspaper Program. This long-term effort has developed an Internet-based, searchable database of U.S. newspapers with descriptive information and select digitization of historic pages. Best of all, the information on the National Digital Newspaper Program is available free of charge. At this time, 6,025,474 newspaper pages are available.

The National Digital Newspaper Program is the replacement for the earlier, successful United States Newspaper Program that ran from 1982 to 2009. That was a project sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities with technical support from the Library of Congress which organized the inventory, cataloging, and selective preservation on microfilm of at-risk newspaper materials. While useful to many historians, students, genealogists, and others, the earlier program captured only a limited amount of newspapers. The microfilms were not easily available to everyone, especially in rural locations. In addition, microfilm readers are now becoming harder and harder to find. Finally, duplicating microfilms is becoming more and more difficult as vendors exit the business due to a lack of customers.

The National Digital Newspaper Program has now digitized all the earlier microfilms and then has embarked on an ambitious program to scan and preserve many more newspapers. As a result, many more people will have easy access to this valuable information. The new Program also provides an opportunity for institutions to select and contribute digitized newspaper content, published between 1836 and 1922, to a freely accessible, national newspaper resource.

Since 2005, the National Endowment for the Humanities has awarded grants to state libraries, historical societies, and universities representing states in the national program. These awards are projected to generate more than 5.6 million newspaper pages to be deposited at the Library

by the end of 2013, with many more states and territories to be included in the coming years. Over four million of these pages are already available through the *Chronicling America* website. To access this wealth of information, go to the *Chronicling America* website at

<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>.

Once there, you will find a simple search method along with an Advanced Search. I suspect most people will immediately use the simple search shown on the home page to search for names or locations of interest.

Simple search is good for:

- information on persons, places, or events;
- specific topics or news of the day;
- concepts or ideas;
- unique passages of text, such as the source of a frequently-quoted phrase.

Indeed, you may be lucky enough to find what you want that way. However, the real power of the *Chronicling America* website becomes apparent only when using the Advanced Search. This search is more flexible and is better:

To limit your search to particular geographic area, select one or more States.

- Or, you can limit your search to a particular newspaper, or select several newspapers, picked from the list of titles currently available in *Chronicling America*.
- In addition or alternatively, you can search the entire date range available (default), or select a specific date and limit your search to a specific year, month, or even day, using the begin date and end date lists provided. (Note: selecting the same begin month/day/year and end month/day/year will provide links to every page available for that specific date.)
- In addition or alternatively, enter a specific search term or terms in the Keyword boxes provided. The operators provided will

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influence the results of your search significantly and can be used in separate searches or in conjunction within a single search.

To use Advanced Search, you can start by first specifying a state (also available in simple search) and then perhaps a specific newspaper. Another option is to search all newspapers at once although that may be too broad a sweep for most searches, especially for common names. The Advanced Search then provides many other options:

- Years (any year(s) from 1836 — 1922)
- Search only front page(s) or entire newspapers
- Language (the National Digital Newspaper Program contains many foreign-language newspapers published within the United States)
- Several Boolean search options (search only specific words, search for ALL words, search for specific phrase, search for words within close proximity). For any options that do not apply to your search, leave the search boxes blank.

A third search option is called “All Digitized newspapers 1836-1922”. While that sounds like a duplicate of simple search, it does add one important difference: the ability to search by ethnicity. Many newspapers were written for specific ethnic groups, including African-American, American Indian, Irish, Jewish, Latin American, Mexican, Pacific Islander, and Spanish.

Newspaper pages may be viewed online as well as downloaded and stored locally. The images may be stored in PDF or JPEG200 format. When a newspaper page is displayed, you will see the image of the original page. You can also click on “View Text” to display machine-generated text that is produced by Optical Character Recognition (OCR) software. OCR is a fully automated process that converts the visual image of numbers and letters into computer-readable numbers and letters. Computer software can then search the OCR-generated text for words, phrases, numbers, or other characters. However, OCR is not 100

percent accurate, and, particularly if the original item has extraneous markings on the page, unusual text styles, or very small fonts, the searchable text OCR generates will contain errors that cannot be corrected by automated means. Digitization of microfilmed newspapers inherently includes a wide range of image quality in the content (quality derived from the original newspaper, the original newspaper when it was microfilmed and associated deterioration, or the film itself.)

The person viewing the newspapers also needs to be aware that spellings and abbreviations have changed over the years. The newspapers always used whatever was common in their areas at the time of publication, not what is used today. For instance, newspapers in Massachusetts often abbreviated that state as “Ms” in the 1800s and well into the 1900s. Newspapers in Mississippi also used the same letters, “Ms” as their commonly-used abbreviation for that state. The current abbreviations of MA for Massachusetts and MS for Mississippi became standardized only when the Post Office introduced ZIP codes in 1963.

Another thing to remember is that newspapers of many years ago did not follow today’s “politically correct” words and euphemisms. Do not be surprised if you see words and phrases published that would raise eyebrows today. All the newspapers in the National Digital Newspaper Program are recorded with the abbreviations, words, and phrases as originally published.

The National Digital Newspaper Program does not cover all newspapers from all states. However, new additions are being made frequently; if you don't find what you want today you might return again in a few months to perform the same search(es) again.

The National Digital Newspaper Program is a great research tool for genealogists, as well as for historians, students, and many others. If you have not yet used it, I suggest you go to ...

<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>

and see for yourself. You certainly cannot beat the price tag: **FREE!**

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RENEWAL NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Now is the time to renew your membership for the fiscal year July 2013 to June 2014. Any member, who does NOT PAY 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.

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