



**South Central
Pennsylvania**
Genealogical Society

Our Name's The Game

www.scpgs.org

Monthly Newsletter Vol. 36 No. 6 – February 2011

(Note: January issue should have been Vol. 36 No. 5)

LOOKING AHEAD

SUNDAY 6 MAR 2011 – “Newspaper & Genealogy: the perils, pitfalls and frequent rewards of researching local & regional newspapers” presented by James R Beidler.

This month’s meeting will be held at the Meeting Hall at York County Heritage Trust Library & Archives, 250 East Market Street, York, Pennsylvania. The Hall will be open at 1 PM for informal discussions. The business portion meeting will begin at 2:15 PM and the program will immediately follow at approximately 2:30 PM.

James M. Beidler writes “Roots & Branches,” an award-winning weekly newspaper column on genealogy that is the only syndicated feature on that topic in Pennsylvania. He is also a columnist for German Life magazine and is editor of “Der Kurier”, the quarterly journal of the Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society. In addition to being a member of numerous genealogical, historical, and lineage societies, Beidler also sits on Pennsylvania’s State Historic Records Advisory Board. Beidler was born in Reading, PA, and raised in nearby Berks County, where he currently resides.

SUNDAY 3 Apr 2011 – Visit Colonial Courthouse

SATURDAY 30 Apr 2011 – The York County Heritage Trust, in partnership with the South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society will host a Bible Documentation Day at the meeting hall of the York County Heritage Trust, 250 East Market Street, York from 10 AM to 2 PM. Bring your family bible and we will copy, free of charge, your family information to place in the family files at the York County Heritage Trust Library & Archives. Family bibles are sometimes the only source for vital statistic information. At 1 PM ... you can learn about what information may be found in your family bible and ways to do more genealogical research in the Trust’s Library & Archives. Staff and volunteers will be available to assist with reading the information, whether the handwriting is hard to read or even if the script is in German.

SUNDAY 1 May 2011 – Visit Bethlehem Steltz Reformed church and cemetery in Codorus Twp

SUNDAY 6 Jun 2011 – Henry James Young Award Ceremony

Notice – Winter meetings and inclement weather. To avoid placing speakers and members in potentially dangerous situations, SCPGS will cancel meetings if roads are snow covered or icy, or if there is the possibility roads will become snow covered or icy before those attending a meeting would be able to reach home. Cancellations are made on the conservative side. To learn the status of a winter meeting that could be cancelled because of the weather, please call Frank Grove at 717-244-6248 or Richard Konkel at 717-843-7043.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our society has really been blessed to begin the year 2011 with two sunny and warmer days of the winter season for our January and February meetings. Thus, we had well attended programs. I am sure our speakers were pleased to have full audiences at the York County Heritage Trust. Members within driving distance, surely get a varied taste of history at the society's programs. Please take a few moments to review the many exciting programs for 2011 then reserve the dates and plan to attend some of the society programs.

Nominations are still open for the Henry J. Young award. The presentations to be made at our June meeting held at the York County Heritage Trust. The deadline for the 2011 nominations is April 30th.

Franklin R. Grove, Jr.
President



YORK CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

Meetings of the York Civil War Roundtable are held the third Wednesday of every month at the York County Heritage Trust Meeting Hall. The meeting begins at 7 PM and lasts approximately two hours. Meetings are free and open to the public.

- March 16th John T. Krepps presents "A Strong and Sudden Onslaught: The Cavalry Action at Hanover, Pennsylvania"
- April 20th Dr. Lawrence E. Keener-Farley presents "The Gathering Storm: The Coming of the Civil War"
- May 18th Joseph Stahl presents "Identification Discs of Union Soldiers in the Civil War at Gettysburg"



PENNSYLVANIA STATE ARCHIVES

The Pennsylvania State Archives anticipates reopening for public use on Wednesday, February 16th.

Records series currently online through the Archives Records Information Access System (ARIAS) are:

- PA National Guard Veteran's Card File, 1867-1921
- Civil War Veterans' Card File
- Revolutionary War Military Abstract Card File
- World War I Service Medal Application Cards
- Spanish American War Veterans' Card File of United States Volunteers
- Mexican Border Campaign Veterans' Card File
- Militia Officers' Index Cards, 1775-1800.

The State Archives plans to make additional records available online in the near future.



NEW ACQUISITIONS

SCPGS recently purchased the following publications for the library at the York County Heritage Trust

...

- First Presbyterian Church Records, Baltimore, Maryland 1840-1879 ... *A listing in alphabetical order of baptisms (1840-1878), marriages (1840-1879), burials (1840-1866), and communicant records (1840-1879) of the First Presbyterian Church in Baltimore.*
- Frederick County, Maryland Land Record Abstracts, Liber O 1771
- St. John Evangelist (Baltimore, Maryland) Baptisms 1853-1882 ... *The author has included all baptisms from St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Baltimore, Maryland from 1853-1882. Listed are the child, the parents, the sponsors, and the priest.*
- St. Paul's PE Church Records, 1826-1935 ... *a collection of baptism, marriage, and burial records of St. Paul's Protestant Episcopal Church covering the years 1826-1935.*
- St. Peter the Apostle Church Marriage Records, 1842-1918 ... *Arranged alphabetically by groom and bride and based on the microfilm titled, "Register of Marriages performed at St. Peter the Apostle Roman Catholic Church, Baltimore, 1842-1918." Includes date of marriage, often the name of the father of both the bride and groom, and witnesses.*
- Concise Encyclopedia of Amish, Brethren, Hutterites, and Mennonites ... *by Donald B. Kraybill*
- Let These Stones Speak: Volumes 6-8 ... *CDs containing high resolution photos of tombstones in Providence, Martic and Drumore Townships in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania*



SCPGS WEBSITE

If you haven't already, check out our website at ...<http://www.scpgs.org>

The list of Special Publications and the Surname Index are now up to date. The next project will be to start adding recent queries from members.

SCPGS can be contacted via email at ...scpgswebsite@earthlink.net



NEW PUBLICATION

Millers' Tales — The Mills of York County is a newly published volume by the York County Heritage Trust's Director of Library & Archives, Lila Fourhman-Shaull. It provides a photographic tour of selected York County mills. Milling, an excellent example of a secondary industry, was one of the first industries found in York County, and for many years was its number one enterprise. Combining facts with over 130 photographs from two York County Heritage Trust collections, *Millers' Tales* will both engage and educate. Contact the York County Heritage Trust at <http://www.yorkheritage.org> to purchase a copy of the new publication.



THINGS TO DO

Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania: *Crossing the Pond: Research Strategies to Find the Origin of Your Irish Ancestor*

Friday, March 4th from 12 noon to 2 PM at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) Mid-Atlantic Region, 900 Market Street, Philadelphia (entrance on Chestnut Street between 9th and 10th streets). *First Friday programs at NARA are free and open to the public*, however registration is required due to limited space. To register, please email Anita Coraluzzi (ProjectManager@genpa.org). Bring your lunch; coffee and snacks will be available. Join GSP board member Susan Koelble and GSP Project Manager Anita Sheahan Coraluzzi for a case study presentation which highlights research methods to find the place of origin for your Irish ancestors. There will be time for open discussion after the presentation.

Lancaster Family History Conference: *New Ways to Reach Our Roots*

Saturday, April 2nd from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM at Doubletree Resort at Willow Valley, Lancaster, PA. This will be Lancaster's 32nd annual educational event for genealogists and family historians and feature genealogist George G. Morgan and sociologist Dr. Donald B. Kraybill. More than a dozen seminars from leading genealogists and family historians will be held. Advance registration is required by March 15th. Call LMHS at (717) 393-9745 or e-mail perb@lmhs.org. Visit <http://lancasterroots.org/?p=375> to download a brochure.

Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society Annual Conference: *Underutilized Twentieth Century Records*

Saturday, April 2nd from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM at Comfort Inn Conference Center, 4500 Crain Hwy, Bowie, Maryland. The speakers include Megan Lewis, Chris Naylor and Dr. Ken Heger. Additional details can be found at <http://www.magsgen.com>.

LancasterHistory.org: *Who is the Relative in that Picture: Identifying Old Photographs*

Monday, April 11th from 10 AM to 12 noon at 230 North President Avenue, Lancaster. Marianne Heckles, Research Assistant and Coordinator of Photograph Collections is the instructor. Bring along your old family photographs and discover how to identify them by looking at photograph type, clothing, and hairstyles. Be able to pinpoint a timeframe for unidentified images. Pick up valuable tips on preserving and caring for your family photographs. Cost \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members.

National Archives 7th Annual Genealogy Fair: *Become Your Family's Detective*

Wednesday, April 20 and Thursday, April 21 at the Pennsylvania Avenue Plaza and Research Center that can be reached through the Pennsylvania Avenue side of the building. The fair showcases federal records located at the National Archives and professional genealogy organizations' resources for doing research on family history, and will cover information to help genealogist get started with their research, explain what information is currently online and the types of records that are not online. The fair will provide information and guidance for experienced genealogy professionals and beginners. *This event is free and open to the public*. Speakers will include National Archives staff, historians and professionals from the genealogy community who are experts in records that assist with genealogy research. Additional details can be found at <http://www.archives.gov>.

National Genealogical Society 2011 Family History Conference: *Where the Past is Still Present*

May 11-14 in Charleston, South Carolina

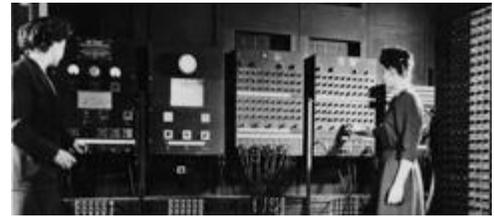
For more information on the conference, and to register, visit <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org>



GENEALOGICAL NOTES

World War II's Top-Secret Rosies

In 1942, when computers were human and women were underestimated, a group of female mathematicians helped win a war and usher in the modern computer age. Sixty-five years later their story has finally been told.



On Sunday, December 7, the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor and changed the lives of many people forever. With Pearl Harbor suddenly drawing the US in to WWII, the Army launched a frantic national search for women mathematicians. The story of these women was classified at the time and has been kept secret ever since. Now a new documentary raises the veil of secrecy and describes their work. Scheduling is now underway for a year-long tour of the documentary *Top Secret Rosies: The Female Computers of WWII*.

The new documentary will be shown in public at several colleges and one computer museum. It will also be shown on some PBS television stations, although not on all, and is even available for purchase on DVD. You can learn more at <http://www.topsecretrosies.com/>

Posted by Dick Eastman on February 9, 2011 in History | Permalink



Comment About Contradictory Genealogy Claims

A newsletter reader wrote with a question that is asked often. I have paraphrased her questions a bit for readability purposes: Using the hints function of Ancestry.com's *Ancestry Family Trees* it's possible to copy information from other public trees, but I've noticed there's no way to pinpoint the original source of undocumented data to ask how they came about their conclusion. As a case in point, one of my ancestors is found on seventeen different public trees, fifteen of those trees name parents for him I've never heard of before, all sourcing *Ancestry Family Trees*. Clicking on "view details" it then indicates nine of the trees are the source of the information. But which of those nine was the first? Which is the correct tree?

My answer: Who cares which was first to be posted online? As with ALL genealogy information found online, in books, or anyplace else, you ALWAYS need to look at the original records. In most cases, that means looking in microfilms or at online images of original records.

I love Ancestry.com's user-contributed family trees in order to find CLUES as to what the truth might be. Online information submitted by users can save a lot of time searching "dead ends." However, *Ancestry Family Trees* is not a proper genealogy source citation even if that is what people write in the source fields.

Online sources and books and other secondary records are great CLUES and can save you a lot of time by telling what MIGHT be true. It is quite common, however, to find contradictory claims online and in books that were published years after the facts. All of these records combined are otherwise worthless until you look at the original records.

Online sources have added a lot of convenience over the years but the basic fundamentals of genealogy research have not changed. In fact, old genealogy books printed years ago also often contained similar errors, the same as today's online family trees. Nothing has changed. You still need to verify every claim that you read in order to determine for yourself what is truth versus what is fiction. Good luck!

Posted by Dick Eastman on February 9, 2011 in Genealogy Basics | Permalink

Excerpts from ... My Notes from a Conversation with Rosie O'Donnell

I had a unique opportunity today. I was invited to participate in a teleconference with Rosie O'Donnell. The primary topic of conversation was her upcoming appearance on *Who Do You Think You Are* that will be broadcast on NBC on February 18. Below are my notes taken in a hurry. I don't type fast enough to make word-for-word transcriptions but I believe these notes are close to what was said. Questions are shown, followed by Rosie's comments that appear in quotations.

You have been out of television spotlight for a bit. Why did you decide to participate in *Who Do You Think You Are*? ... "I watched the show and was impressed. Since I knew Lisa Kudrow and I also was interested in my mother's family about whom I know so little."

What was the most revealing thing you found about your family background? ... "It was the amount of suffering they endured."

How did learning about your ancestry help you? ... "I never knew anything about my family so I took this journey with my brother Ed. It definitely changed my view of my own childhood, my own family, and what I could share with my children."

Your father emigrated from Ireland. Did your father or mother instill any traditions? ... "We did only my mother's side and she was an only child. All we did was my mother's Irish heritage. I didn't know anything about my mother's heritage and what her family endured to get here."

Where did you have to travel, did you do the research or was it done for you? ... "My brother Ed is the oldest of the five children so he recalled whatever he could plus I added in what I could remember. We went to several different countries and ended up in Ireland, as you might guess from the name O'Donnell."

Why did you decide to go with your mother's side? ... "I knew a little about my father and his family but nothing at all about my mother's side. What we found was rather shocking and revealed things about Irish history that I was unaware of. It changed my perception of myself."

In response to another question ... "After my mother died in 1973, nobody ever mentioned her again. This recent experience with *Who Do You Think You Are* really helped me learn more about her, especially through the eyes of a woman. It got to me emotionally. I'm really happy that I did it. I now feel closer to her and now understand more about her life."

What do you think viewers will take away from this? ... "They will see how rewarding it is for themselves. I think this will encourage people to go to Ancestry.com and start their own search for themselves. I thought the story would be boring but it turned out to be the exact opposite. I think the show will encourage others to do the same. I never expected this to have the impact it had on my life."

After a question about Rosie's mother dying of cancer when Rosie was a child ... "The bottom line is that everyone has a primal connection. When severed, it becomes a wound. This experience helped me understand my mother better."

With the genealogy information you found, was homosexuality a part of the family story? ... "No, I didn't find anything that indicated that. I didn't find any record of any gays. Of course, we don't know how well that would have been recorded years ago, so who knows? We found lots of Irish Catholics who got married and had lots of children."

In response to other questions ... "The story opened my heart in a way I never expected." ... "It was hard and it was painful but it was also very revealing." ... "I think all the show episodes are fascinating to watch but I didn't think there was much of interest in my family tree. It gave me knowledge of my Mom that I never had before. I feel thankful and grateful that I had the opportunity to do this." ... "I did learn about my grandfather and his family and found some surprises I never knew about."

How much do you think about learning about your roots will shape what you will become? ... "I don't think it is what you will become as much as whom you are already. I thought I had a difficult childhood. After learning what my mother and her family went through, I found that I actually had it rather easy. It was pretty amazing to me."

While your mother's name was never mentioned again after she passed away, how did this search affect you and your family? ... "All of us are close to 50 years old and the five of us have never had a conversation about our mother. My brother Ed and I alone now have had several conversations about her since this recent experience and we are now able to talk about her."

About your humanitarian spirit: How much of this do you think you inherited from your mom? ... "A lot. I remember as a child her always packing up old clothes and taking them to St. Vincent de Paul to give to less fortunate people. I suspect her concerns for less privileged people were passed on to me."

Posted by Dick Eastman on February 7, 2011 in Video & Television | Permalink



JFK Library Opens 1st Online Presidential Archive

I published a couple of articles in recent months about the John F. Kennedy Library's plans to become the nation's first online presidential archive. See <http://goo.gl/tO0Uk> and <http://goo.gl/efPsu> for those earlier articles. Now the plans have become a reality. More than 200,000 printed pages, 1,200 recordings and 300 museum artifacts, as well as reels of film and hundreds of photographs, have been digitized and are available online now.

Kennedy himself broached the idea of making his records available to the masses in 1961. At a news conference, a reporter asked if he would consider putting his papers in Washington, rather than his hometown, to make them more accessible to scholars.

"Through scientific means of reproduction ... and this will certainly be increased as time goes on, we will find it possible to reproduce the key documents so that they will be commonly available," the president responded. You can read more at <http://goo.gl/PtxNE>

Will ALL libraries and archives eventually be built like the new JFK Online Presidential Archive?

Posted by Dick Eastman on January 13, 2011 in History | Permalink



How Your Ancestors Researched Their Ancestry in 1913: the Genealogical Indexing Bureau

In 1913, the Library of Congress had a free service that would research your ancestry at no charge. The "service" was actually one person: Mrs. Katherine Cavanaugh Dorsey.

Mrs. Dorsey, a Civil War widow, would research family trees on request from a Congressman. You can read about her work in an article from the February 9, 1913 edition of the Troy Northern Budget at

<http://ma-bonne-vie.blogspot.com/2011/02/family-trees-while-you-wait.html>

My thanks to Mark Aubrey for telling me about this old newspaper article.

Posted by Dick Eastman on February 2, 2011 in History | Permalink

**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

QUERIES

We have a family picture of MAGDALENA ROSELINE BREIDLING (1839-1918) and JOHN HENRY ROUSE (1840-1914). Willing to share a copy of the picture and maybe you might be able to identify some of the children.

Franklin R. Grove, Jr. 2998 Cape Horn Road, Red Lion, Pa. 17356;
email FRGJR@juno.com or telephone (717) 244-6248

Looking for pictures of MARY ANN TYSON (1853-1940) and husband HERMAN ADAM METZEL (1856-1900), they lived mostly in York Boro, PA

Franklin R. Grove, Jr. 2998 Cape Horn Road, Red Lion, Pa. 17356;
email FRGJR@juno.com or telephone (717) 244-6248

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society has in its possession a family bible from the Hildebrand and Kapp families. This Bible was recently offered to the York County Heritage Trust. They declined because they only place copies of family bible information into the family files held in the YCHT Library & Archives rather than accepted the family bible into their collection. The bible is in German and includes a few genealogical entries for William H. Hildebrand and his wife Mary Ann Kapp, both born 1839. If you are a descendant of this family and would be interested in having the bible, please contact SCPGS either by email at scpgswebsite@earthlink.net or by mail at South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society, Attention: Becky Anstine, Corresponding Secretary, PO Box 1824 York, PA 17405.