



**South Central
Pennsylvania**
Genealogical Society

Our Name's The Game

www.scpgs.org

Monthly Newsletter Vol. 37 No. 6 February 2012

OUR NEXT MEETING

Sunday, March 4, 2012 — LDS Family Research

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 begin at 2:15 PM and the program will immediately follow at approximately 2:30 PM. This program will feature the new Internet web sites that The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has been offering and improving in the past few years. A handout will provide addresses, and the instructors will go live to most of the web sites and introduce the prominent features of each: FamilySearch, new FamilySearch, Wiki, Forums, Indexing, Family History Favorites, FamilyHart Pennsylvania research, and a brief introduction to the Premium Websites in the Family History Centers.

Sylvia Sonneborn, B.S., M.E., (Shippensburg University) was an English instructor for 39 years at Eastern York High School [now retired]. She also served as a family history consultant and staff member of the York Family History Center for 15 years. Sylvia is the mother of one son Patshal Landis and has one grandson. She served as a worldwide support missionary for new FamilySearch, and presently she is a family history Sunday School teacher.

Jack Sonneborn's avid interest in family history since he married Sylvia has blossomed into a large database of connected ancestors. Jack served as a family history consultant and staff member for the Family History Center for over 25 years and also served as the director of the Family History Center in York. He is the president of the Susquehanna Trail Genealogy Club. Jack is a graduate of C.W. Post College Campus of Long Island University. He is retired from the position of project manager for a construction company in Lancaster, PA. He is the father of one son Mark and one daughter Elizabeth, and he has four grandchildren.

Jack and Sylvia write a monthly newsletter, frequently present at family history conferences, and served a family history mission for the church. The couple has also researched in Holland, Germany and France and has frequently attended the Family History conferences at BYU in Provo, Utah.

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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.

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday, April 1st Tax Talk: Using Pennsylvania's Real and Personal Tax Returns, 1711-1913
presented by James Landis

A veteran of family history research will discuss the use of Pennsylvania's Real and Personal Property Tax Returns from the years 1711 to 1913; the most misunderstood records used in genealogy. If you are researching the history of your family or your home, this class will help you to properly interpret data obtained from state and county tax records. "Tax Talk" covers a variety of topics including; the evolution of Pennsylvania's tax system, the mechanisms of the collection process, the creation of tax records, the definition of archaic legal terms, and the classification of taxpayers and their taxable property. The primary emphasis is on the colonial era records with analysis of case studies and detailed discussion of the numerous problems and pitfalls of genealogical research in these unique and intriguing records.

Sunday, May 6th Family Bible Documentation Day from 1 PM to 4 PM

Join the York County Heritage Trust and the South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society at our second annual Family Bible Documentation Day. 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 YCHT Library & Archives. Family bibles are sometimes the only source for vital statistic information, such as births and marriages. Our volunteers will record the family information, condition, ownership and publication information of the bible.

Saturday, June 2nd Seminar: *Exploring the Past and Touching the Future*

The York County Heritage Trust and South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society will co-sponsor a Genealogy Conference titled Exploring the Past and Touching the Future on Saturday, June 2, 2012 from 9 AM to 4 PM at the Heritage Trust. This genealogy conference will be of interest to all levels of researchers, beginning, intermediate and advanced. There will be a wide variety of presentations, including exploring internet research, the use of court, land, church and military records for research. The full schedule of programs to be presented will be announced at a future date. Lunch will be included in the registration fee.



WWW.SCPGS.ORG

Did you know that you can find links to York County blogs on the "links" page of our web site?

York County Heritage Trust librarian emerita June Lloyd looks at how events have converged on our hometown, past and present, and how York really is the center of the universe in her blog, *Universal York*. James McClure blogs daily on York County's past and its connections to the news of the day in *York Town Square*. Local historian Scott Butcher shares the history of local buildings through the stories behind their facades, offering a "window" into York's past in his blog, *Windows into York*. The *Cannonball* blog, written by Scott Mingus, explores York County's rich Civil War heritage through stories and anecdotes from the war years and makes note of present-day events having to do with the war. Community news editor Joan Concilio is a lifelong Yorker who examines the things we say and do in York County and invites you to read her blog, *Only in York*, awhile. Just don't forget to outen the light when you're done.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Franklin R. Grove, Jr.

Members from the South Central Pennsylvania region; do you remember the “good old days” of winters years ago? I recall when main roads before interstate roads were closed due to large amounts of snow. Snow was so high that special equipment was called in for use (the BIG V plow). With the recent 68 degree temperatures, your president strolled through an old cemetery enjoying a beautiful winter day looking for a specific Revolutionary War family. The art work on the various stones is just inspiring. As we search for family members in cemeteries or visit family homesteads it's easy to forget to enjoy the beauty around you. Winter is a time for some to review their work from the previous year and plan their travel time for the upcoming year's trip. As volunteers from this society help visitors at the York County Heritage Trust Library, the volunteers often delight in visitor's finds. Maybe you could find some time to assist others by volunteering a little of your time this year.



CHANGES COMING

Our thanks to each member who responded to our recent survey concerning cost cutting measures. We have carefully weighted our options, and have decided to increase our membership fee for the 2012-2013 fiscal year to \$25 for an individual membership and \$30 for a family membership; life membership fees will remain unchanged. There will also be a September 1st deadline for membership renewal. If you do not renew your membership by September 1st there will be an additional fee assessed to cover the postage for back copies of our newsletter and any special publications.

In addition, some special publications will be offered as “for purchase only” rather than included in the annual membership fee. 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 be now be a charge to help cover the printing and mailing costs. Your SCPGS membership will afford you the opportunity to purchase the “for purchase only” special publication at a reduced rate.

And finally, we will offer our newsletter 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

Again, thank you to all who provided input ... we value your opinion.



HERITAGE TRUST LIBRARY

The York County Heritage Trust Library & Archives has been blessed over the years with the support of the community; including both individuals and organizations. Over the past few years we have been given four collections of long-time genealogical researchers in York County. The collections came from the estates of Alfreda Patton-Davidson, Harry Diehl, Cynthia Miller and Betty Eichelberger Brown. For three years, library volunteer, Linda Feeser has been working to organize these collections to make them more accessible for researchers. Linda organizes the research by family name, making a slip to place into the corresponding YCHT family file and then places the research into archival folders and boxes for storage. We extend a huge thank you to the South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society for providing funding for the archival boxes and folders to properly store these wonderful collections.

THINGS TO DO

Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society Spring Conference

New Insights, New Records

Saturday, March 31st from 8:30 AM to 4 PM at Holiday Inn Laurel West, 15101 Sweitzer Lane, Laurel, Maryland. The speaker is Warren Bittner. Additional details can be found at <http://www.magsgen.com>.

Susquehanna Valley Family History Conference

Saturday, April 14th from 8 AM until 3 PM — The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 2100 Hollywood Drive, York, Pennsylvania will present a genealogical workshop with Don Hartman of Bountiful, Utah the keynote speaker. All classes will be filled on a first-come-first-served basis, and classes will be limited. A free simple lunch will be provided and bottled water will be available all day. Visit the Conference Website: www.SVFHConference.org for more information.

National Archives 8th Annual Genealogy Fair

Branching Out, Exploring Your Family Tree

Wednesday, April 18th and Thursday, April 19th at the National Archives Building, 700 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC. This year the entire fair is outside and in tents on the grounds of the National Archives Building. The fair showcases federal records located at the National Archives as resources for family history research and provides information and guidance for experienced genealogy professionals and novices alike. *This event is free and open to the public.* Additional details can be found at <http://www.archives.gov>.

Lancaster Family History Conference

Deep Roots: Using DNA to unlock Your Family's Ancient Past

Saturday, April 21st from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM at the Lancaster Host Resort and Conference Center, Lancaster, Pennsylvania. This will be Lancaster's 33rd annual educational event for genealogists and family historians and feature a keynote address by scientist Darvin L. Martin. More than a dozen seminars from leading genealogists will be held. More than half a dozen field trips, roundtable discussions and research opportunities precede the conference. Advance registration is required by April 15th. Call LMHS at (717) 393-9745 or e-mail historyconference@lmhs.org for additional information.

Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania and Northeast Pennsylvania Genealogical Society:

Searching for Our Ancestors: Navigating Federal, State and Local Records

A program for experienced and novice research enthusiasts on Saturday, April 21st from 8 AM to 3:30 PM at the Luzerne County Community College Educational Conference Center, Nanicoke, PA. Program and registration information will be available soon at

<http://genpa.org/news-events/gsp-upcoming-events-2012/gsp-upcoming-events-2012>.

National Genealogical Society 2012 Family History Conference

The Ohio River: Gateway to the Western Frontier

May 9th to 12th at the Duke Energy Convention Center, Cincinnati, Ohio.
Visit the NGS website: <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org> for more information.

Palatines to America National Conference and Annual Meeting

June 14th to 16th in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Visit the NGS website: <http://www.palam.org> for more information.

AGRICULTURAL and INDUSTRIAL MUSEUM

written by Becky Anstine

Our January meeting was held at the Agricultural and Industrial Museum. Tom Gibson and Ed Horvath traced the development of transportation in York County. Pennsylvania was crossed by many Indian trails, which usually followed the rivers. Many of our roads follow these original trails – the most well known being the Monocacy trail, which ran from Berks County through York County and down into Maryland. A petition in 1739 was granted to turn this trail into the Monocacy Road. This trail later became part of the Lincoln Highway. Original road petitions can be found at the York County Archives.



Tom explains the development of roads

Canals were another early form of transportation used. The Codorus Navigation Company was a series of locks and dams on the Codorus river in York County. Several ferries also operated in York County along the Susquehanna River. Andersons Ferry began operating in 1730, Wrights Ferry in 1733, and McCall’s Ferry in 1740. By 1825, the first steamboat, the “Codorus” was running on the Susquehanna.

After that, the railroads came to York County, thanks to York’s own Phineas Davis. Phineas entered a contest sponsored by the B & O railroad and his steam engine design won and revolutionized railroad transportation. The oldest railroad tunnel in the country, Howard Tunnel, was built in 1836 and is now part of the Rail Trail. Ed Horvath spoke about the various railroads which operated in York County and how they were formed. The Ma & Pa is one of the better known railroads which ran from Delta to York. York County has had over twenty airports and still has several operating facilities.

Tom took us on a guided tour of several exhibits in the museum.

Further information on the development of transportation in York County can be found in Prowell’s *History of York County* and in Gibson’s *History of York County. The MA & PA* written by George W. Hilton traces the history of the Maryland and Pennsylvania Railroad. For those who grew up in the southern end of the county around New Freedom and Stewartstown, this book with its pictures and maps is particularly interesting.



Ed maps the growth of the railroads in York County



GENEALOGICAL NOTES

Former President John Tyler’s (1790-1862) Grandchildren Still Alive

posted by Dick Eastman on January 26, 2012



How many people born in 1790 have living grandchildren today? Not great-grandchildren, but second generation descendants? ... John Tyler was born in 1790. He became the 10th president of the United States in 1841 after William Henry Harrison died in office. Tyler fathered Lyon Gardiner Tyler in 1853, at age 63. Then, at the age of 71, Lyon Gardiner Tyler fathered Lyon Gardiner Tyler Jr. in 1924 and four years later at age 75, Harrison Ruffin Tyler. Both men are still alive today.

Ancestry.com Partners with Historical Society of Pennsylvania to Place Birth, Marriage and Death Records Online

posted by Dick Eastman on January 26, 2012

The following announcement was written by Ancestry.com:

PROVO, UTAH – (January 26, 2012) – Ancestry.com, the world's largest online family history resource, announced today that it has added over seven million records detailing more than 300 years of Pennsylvanians' life history spanning from 1593-1908 to its already expansive collection of Pennsylvania state records. Presented in partnership with the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, these latest additions cover pivotal years, when the Keystone State was not only growing itself, but contributing to the overall development of the country. This comprehensive collection includes details about the lives of everyday Pennsylvanians as well as those who helped forge the state's rich historical past, with records for the Hershey family, Benjamin Franklin, John Coltrane and many others.

“Ancestry.com is committed to the continued expansion of our existing collections and increasing the breadth of information for all Americans looking to learn more about their past,” said Josh Hanna, Executive Vice President and General Manager, Ancestry.com. “Pennsylvania was a crucial state during the formation of our country and these records detail the daily lives of its citizenry during these critical years. We look forward to continuing our work with the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and allowing people to learn more about this state's rich past.”

Research conducted by Harris Interactive within the United States revealed that four in five Americans have an interest in learning about their family history and three out of four Americans claim that knowing their family history is important to them. Working with the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Ancestry.com is easing the burden of those with Pennsylvania roots who want to learn more about their family history by bringing records that were traditionally created and maintained locally, online. Research that previously required countless hours of time, finances and travel to make discoveries can now be done with the click of a mouse.

As the foundation of family history research, civil vital records – recordings of births, deaths and marriages – serve as an essential tool for the millions of Americans who are beginning or continuing their family history research. The newest vital record additions, containing information from each county in the state of Pennsylvania, include:

- **Pennsylvania, Births, Church and Town Records, 1593-1708:** The documents in this database contain records from churches, funeral homes, cemeteries, newspapers, historical societies, as well as personal records and other various sources.
- **Pennsylvania, Naturalizations, 1794-1908:** This database contains records created as immigrants applied for U.S. citizenship through Pennsylvania courts. They include petitions for citizenship, certificates of citizenship, court naturalization lists, country of origination and more.

“The Historical Society of Pennsylvania decided to partner with Ancestry.com to make more than seven million of our vital records more accessible to family historians,” said Kim Sajet, president and CEO of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. “Through this partnership, our records will reach millions of people who are searching for their ancestors. The vital records we have posted to Ancestry.com are just a small portion of the genealogical records here at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. We welcome anyone interested in family history to visit our library in Center City Philadelphia.”

These new vital record databases are available to current Ancestry.com subscribers and can be found at www.ancestry.com/vitals. As always, Ancestry.com is free of charge for 14 days to all new users.

Presidential Candidates are Related to Most Everyone Else

posted by Dick Eastman on December 20, 2011

The Presidential campaigns are heating up. There is an interesting side effect, as mentioned in an old saying: "Why pay money to have your family tree traced; go into politics and your opponents will do it for you." Indeed, that is happening now. Until Election Day 2012, you will see many news stories about the ancestors and other distant relatives of every major candidate. Of course, most of the candidates have family trees that go back for many generations in the United States. If your ancestry also goes back several generations in the U.S., it's likely that you share at least one common trait with the candidates: you are probably related to many famous people. We all are. After all, you have two parents, four grandparents, eight great-grandparents, sixteen great-great-grandparents, and so on in a straight mathematical progression. If you go back 300 years, you have about 4,000 ancestors, assuming no duplicates. Of course, most of us have duplicates. Now add in an unknown number of aunts, uncles, and cousins, and you have perhaps hundreds of thousands of relatives. There's bound to be somebody famous or infamous in a group of that size! According to an article by Elizabeth Weise in USA Today, "If you have blue eyes, you may be related to every other blue-eyed person in the world. Researchers in Denmark have found that every person with blue eyes descends from just one "founder," an ancestor whose genes mutated 6,000 to 10,000 years ago. Before then, everyone had brown eyes."

Okay ... The news articles are about to begin, stating that every political candidate is related to almost everyone else who ever walked the face of the earth. Actually, that's probably true although proving it may be a bit difficult. Here are a few of the latest relationships for which proof has been found:

Rick Perry is a first cousin six times removed of Sam Houston, the commander-in-chief of Texas Revolutionary forces and twice-elected President of the Republic of Texas. Rick Perry is also the 5th cousin four times removed of Harry Truman. Perry, the 47th governor of Texas, is also related to Captain John Paxton, a hero of the U.S. Revolutionary War who survived the infamous winter encampment at Valley Forge with General George Washington.

Mitt Romney, the former governor of Massachusetts, is connected to Presidents George W. Bush (10th cousins twice removed), George H. W. Bush (10th cousins once removed) and Franklin D. Roosevelt (8th cousins, twice removed) through Ann Marbury Hutchinson, a key figure in the development of religious freedom in America and early settler of Rhode Island and New York. Romney is related to Presidents Calvin Coolidge (10th cousins), Herbert Hoover (10th cousins) and Franklin Pierce (6th cousins 4 times removed) through Thomas Richardson, an English landowner in the late 1500s from Hertfordshire. Romney also shares a common ancestor with former first lady Barbara Pierce Bush: Franklin Pierce. In addition, he is related to three consecutive presidents of the U.S.: Calvin Coolidge, Herbert Hoover and Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Former Utah Governor Jon Huntsman is related to four American presidents. Huntsman is related to Presidents Franklin D. Roosevelt (8th cousins three times removed), George H.W. Bush (11th cousins) and George W. Bush (11th cousins once removed) through Ann Marbury Hutchinson. Huntsman and President Calvin Coolidge are 7th cousins three times removed through William Goddard, who brought his family to Massachusetts colony in 1665 to escape London's plague and search for better opportunities.

Barack Obama's distant cousins include actor Brad Pitt, Dick Cheney, Sarah Palin, billionaire financial investor Warren Buffett, and radio talk show personality Rush Limbaugh.

Relatively speaking - if I can use that expression here - the one candidate who stands out as being different from the others is Minnesota Representative Michele Bachmann. Her ancestry is 100 percent Norwegian. So far, the researchers at Ancestry.com have not been able to find any relationship to any other famous Americans in her family tree. But there's hope, especially if any president had Norwegian ancestry.

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ADAMS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

“Adams County Conscientious Objectors: Courage of a Different Kind”

Join ACHS Volunteer Roger Heller as he explores the issue of Civil War conscientious objectors with a particular focus on men from Adams County who were called to service via then draft and then claimed an objection based on religious grounds. These men did not fight based on a moral objection despite pressure from their peers, their community, and their nation.

Roger Heller is a native of Adams County, and is a retired secondary American History teacher. Interested in the subject of this talk, he has spent a year of detailed study on the subject. He lives in Gettysburg with his wife Lynn and considers it an honor to work at ACHS. This meeting will be Tuesday, March 6 (snow date March 13) at 7 PM in Valentine Hall located in the campus of the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg.

CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

Monthly meetings are held at the York County Heritage Trust on the third Wednesday at 7 PM

March 21st — The Battle of Pea Ridge, Arkansas: March 7-8, 1862
presented by Dick Simpson

April 18th — Floating Iron: the New Navies of the Civil War
presented by Dr. Lawrence E. Keener-Farley

May 16th — Lincoln and Grant: The Westerners Who Won the Civil War
presented by Edward H. Bonekemper, III