



**South Central
Pennsylvania**
Genealogical Society

Our Name's The Game

www.scpgs.org

Monthly Newsletter Vol. 37 No. 5 January 2012

LOOKING AHEAD

February 5, 2012 — “Linking the Past with the Present through DNA”

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.

DNA has recently become a very useful tool for researchers of family history, with the potential to extend our family trees back deeper in time than ever possible through written documents. In fact analyzing one's DNA will indicate the migratory path of one's ancient ancestors. This presentation covers three main areas: 1) What is DNA and why is it useful for family history? 2) How does one take a DNA test and interpret the results? 3) What does one's DNA reveal about one's ancient lineages?

Our speaker, Darvin Martin's interest in DNA stems from a long-standing drive to understand his family history—which contains multiple Swiss components. As soon as DNA tests for genealogical purposes became available commercially, Darvin began to explore his deep ancestry, using DNA to link his Swiss and German Mennonite/Amish surnames into a world family tree. The results are striking, and reveal a complex ancestral diversity for most people of European ancestry, including Asian and African components.

Darvin Martin has degrees in Analytical Chemistry from Millersville University and Agriculture from Eastern Mennonite University. He works as a regional sales manager for Sotax, a Swiss company that specializes in manufacturing analytical testing equipment for pharmaceutical products.

Sunday, March 4th	LDS FamilySearch Website	<i>presented by Jack and Sylvia Sonneborn</i>
Sunday, April 1st	Tax Records	<i>presented by James Landis</i>
Sunday, May 6th	Family Bible Documentation Day from 1PM to 4 PM	
Saturday, June 2nd	Seminar: <i>Exploring the Past and Touching the Future</i>	

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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.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Franklin R. Grove, Jr.

Hope everyone had many memorable times on the many special days since our last newsletter. Have you ever really looked at your calendar beyond your next days off, upcoming events you need to attend, or vacations? We celebrated Thanksgiving, remembered the many people who gave their lives in Hawaii, on December 7th Pearl Harbor Day and the United States actively entering World War II. December 14th marked the 212th anniversary of the death of George Washington. Fall ended as winter began on December 21st and Hanukkah began. Then on December 25th many celebrated Christmas Day, and on the 31st the world celebrated the beginning of a new year, 2012. Soon we will celebrate, the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. on January 16th. Before we know it, February 2nd and ground hog day will be upon us again. Abraham Lincoln's actual birth date is on the 12th, followed by Valentine's Day on the 14th, President's Day is observed on the 20th, and George Washington's actual birth date on the 22nd.

Taking some time to reflect and wonder how our family in the past may have celebrated these events. Some people place wreaths on graves of veterans from the Revolutionary War, Civil War, Mexican War, World War I, World War II, Korean, Vietnam, and the recent wars, as well as the graves of civilians. This year, take a little time to really look at the calendar before the months fly by too quickly.

Members and friends living close enough to attend the South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society meetings need to mark the dates to remember to attend! Wishing all members a happy New Year, and an especially a good year adding more members to your family trees.



DECEASED MEMBERS

Former member Arthur William Weaner, 85 died 15 December 2011 at his residence, the house in which he was born on October 18 1926. He was the son of Edgar William and Margaret Jane (Plantz) Weaner, residing all his life in Straban Township. He was associated for over 50 years with the Adams County Historical Society in various capacities, and author and co-author of numerous maps, historical and genealogical works. He was awarded the Dr. Henry James Young Award in 1999. He was buried in the Evergreen Cemetery, in a coffin made from black, red, and white oak boards from trees on his farm. Funeral services were private.

Former member Harry E Zortman, Jr, 86, died on Saturday 17 December 2011. Born in York on 15 June 1925, he was the son of Harry E Zortman Sr. and Grace (Miller) Zortman. He was married to Joan (Raubenhold) Zortman for 58 years. He leaves 4 children and 9 grandchildren. He retired in 1988 as Nursing Home Administrator at Yorkview Convalescent and Nursing Home. He served in the Army Air Forces in World War II and was a retired Major in the United States Reserve.



Fantastic News! Governor Corbett signed Vital Records Bill SB-361 into law on December 15, 2011 as Act 110 of 2011. It goes into effect on February 13th, 2012. State death records more than 50 years old and birth records more than 105 years old will then be available to all at the Pennsylvania State Archives in Harrisburg. However, the new law does not require that they be made available online, but now makes it legally possible to do so. We have to be vigilant in making sure the Governor and the State Archives do all they can to make sure the records are made available online and that we don't end up with the very real possibility of foot dragging or empty promises.

HERITAGE TRUST LIBRARY

The York County Heritage Trust Library & Archives has the Ancestry[®] Library Edition. It is an annual subscription for a historical society library. Access is FREE with Library admission or to Trust members. Remote access is NOT available to historical societies, so the program must be used on the public computers in the Library.

Ancestry[®] Library Edition is one of the most important genealogical collections available today. It has unparalleled coverage of the United States and the United Kingdom, including census, vital, church, court, and immigration records, as well as record collections from Canada and other areas. This collection of more than 4,000 databases and two billion names is essential to having a broad genealogy collection. Database available include key collections such as U.S. Federal Census images and indexes from 1790 to 1930 (and this year will grow to include the 1940 census); the Map Center containing more than 1,000 historical maps; American Genealogical Biographical Index containing over 200 volumes; Daughters of the American Revolution Lineage with over 150 volumes; The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England, 1620-1630; Social Security Death Index, which is updated monthly; WWI Draft Registration Cards; Federal Slave Narratives; and a strong Civil War collection, which is growing in response to the sesqui-centennial of the war.



GENEALOGICAL NOTES

"Finding Your Roots," a 10-part Series on PBS

posted by Dick Eastman on January 4, 2012



Another genealogy series is about to be launched on television in the U.S. "Finding Your Roots" with historian Henry Louis Gates Jr. will launch on March 25. That will be the first episode of a 10-part series on PBS stations.

The new series will feature two people in each one-hour episode, including husband-and-wife actors Kevin Bacon and Kyra Sedgwick, who jokes she's afraid they might turn out to be cousins. "They are indeed distant cousins," revealed Gates. "Talk about six degrees of separation, right?"

Check your local listings for the exact time and channel in your area.



Pennsylvania Sinkhole Threatens Graves at Historic Cemetery

posted by Dick Eastman on December 30, 2011

A large sinkhole spread into a historic cemetery in Allentown, Pennsylvania, prompting officials to obtain a court order to allow exhumations of graves, if necessary. About sixty graves in Union and West End Cemetery are threatened and were roped off. Many of the burials were in the 1880s, with at least one as far back as 1858.

The cemetery holds about 20,000 graves, including 714 Civil War veterans. Among them is a Medal of Honor winner, Ignatz Gresser.

A dozen homes on nearby Tenth Street were vacated and 25 people evacuated because of the sinkhole.

National Archives Places Videos of Popular Records Workshops Online for First Time

posted by Dick Eastman on January 4, 2012

The following announcement was written by the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration:

Washington, DC ... For the first time, the National Archives has launched online videos of its most popular genealogy “how to” workshops. These videos cover “hot topics” in genealogical research such as census, immigration and military records. Now, these popular workshops led by National Archives experts are available on the National Archives YouTube channel

<http://www.youtube.com/user/usnationalarchives>.

The National Archives produced *Know Your Records* video shorts cover the creation, scope, content, and use of National Archives records for genealogical research. “The National Archives is proud to make our most popular genealogy lectures available online and ready for viewing by anyone, anywhere, at any time,” said Diane Dimkoff, Director of Customer Services.

Genealogy Introduction — Military Research at the National Archives: Volunteer Service (8:22)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=2zgKBrSvpxY

Archives specialist John Deeben discusses compiled military service records at the National Archives.

Genealogy Introduction — Military Research at the National Archives: Regular Service (6:11)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=IOMO-PbmMEw

Archives Specialist John Deeben explains how to use Army and Navy registers of enlistment and rendezvous reports for research.

Genealogy Introduction — Military Research at the National Archives: Pension Records (9:04)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=oT-AgYFhX1k

Archives Specialist John Deeben discusses how to research military service using pension records dating from 1775 to 1916. Deeben shows samples of both Revolutionary War and Civil War pensions.

Genealogy Introduction — Immigration Records at the National Archives (11:57)
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OCZTSrSvxyC>

Archives Specialists Katherine Vollen and Rebecca Crawford provide an overview of immigration records from 1800 to 1957, including Customs Service and Immigration and Naturalization records, as well as records of ports and border crossings.

Genealogy Introduction — Census Records at the National Archives (11:57)
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y154NX_H1ko

Genealogy expert Constance Potter shares tips and strategies for researching U.S. Federal Census Records 1790 to 1930, and explains how they can be used for genealogical research.

Background on “Know Your Records” programs The National Archives holds the permanently valuable records of the Federal government. These include records of interest to genealogists, such as pension files, ship passenger lists, census and Freedmen’s Bureau materials. The Know Your Records Program offers opportunities for staff, volunteers, and researchers to learn about these records through lectures, ongoing genealogy programs, workshops, symposia, the annual genealogy fair, an online genealogy tutorial, reference reports for genealogical research, and editions of *Researcher News* for Washington DC area researchers.

Does the Calendar Need an Overhaul?

posted by Dick Eastman on December 28, 2011

The western world doesn't change the calendar very often. Julius Caesar straightened out the previous confusion of calendars in 46 BC. The Julian calendar continued unchanged for more than 1,600 years until Pope Gregory announced the Gregorian calendar in 1582 that handled some "extra days" that had crept in. The Catholic countries adopted the Gregorian calendar almost immediately but others held out. A few countries did not adopt the Gregorian calendar until the early twentieth century.

Now researchers at The Johns Hopkins University have proposed a new calendar and claim that it makes much more sense than the previous one.

Under the Hanke-Henry Permanent Calendar, for instance, if Christmas fell on a Sunday in 2012 (and it would), it will also fall on a Sunday in 2013, 2014 and beyond. Your birthday would fall on the same day of the week every year as would all holidays.

"Our calendar would simplify financial calculations and eliminate what we call the 'rip off' factor," explains Steve H. Hanke. "Determining how much interest accrues on mortgages, bonds, forward rate agreements, swaps and others, day counts are required. Our current calendar is full of anomalies that have led to the establishment of a wide range of conventions that attempt to simplify interest calculations. Our proposed permanent calendar has a predictable 91-day quarterly pattern of two months of 30 days and a third month of 31 days, which does away with the need for artificial day count conventions."

The Hanke-Henry Permanent Calendar would dropping leap years entirely in favor of an extra week added at the end of December every five or six years. This brings the calendar in sync with the seasonal changes as the Earth circles the sun.

Of course, it would be a headache for calculating those dates in old records made before the changeover. As great as the new calendar sounds, I wonder how we all would handle birthdays of children born in that "extra week added at the end of December every five or six years."



Heroin Found in U.K. National Archives File

posted by Dick Eastman on December 20, 2011

A sealed package containing heroin was found in an 80-year-old Foreign Office file at the U.K. National Archives. It was filed with a document from the British Consulate in Cairo about a 1928 court case. The off-white powder, discovered by a member of the public who asked to see the file, was sent for analysis. And having been confirmed as heroin, the substance was handed over to the Metropolitan Police.

You never know what you will find in the old records!



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DATED MATERIAL—DO NOT DELAY

EHRHARTS of YORK COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

EHRHARTS of York County, PA book is now as done as can be at this time, after decades of research in primary documents by many descendants. Ancestors and descendants of 1741 emigrant from Staudernheim, Germany, Johann Wilhelm Ehrhart and wife Anna Catharina Shreiner. Sorrowfully, it is no longer safe to include living people. 200 pages on acid-free paper of data, charts, maps, index, photocopies of primary documents, 35 pages color-copied photos, laminated tag covers, spiral bound. Available at cost, including packaging and shipping — \$35.00 from descendant (Mother was the Ehrhart) and compiler:

Evedene Bennett, 1525 Broadway SW, Albany, OR 97321
email: merusbennett@gmail.com

HASS FAMILY BIBLE

The York County Heritage Trust was recently contacted by Elizabeth Hagan of Baltimore about a family bible that was given to her. The bible has a lot of family information in it about the John P. Hass family in Dover. She is very anxious to return this family bible to people who will appreciate it, as she would want the same done for something related to her family. If this is your family and you are interested in the family Bible, please contact South Central Genealogical Society at scpgswebsite@earthlink.net

REMINDER

If you have not already responded to the brief survey in last month's newsletter, please do so soon. We value each of our members and your continued support through your membership in our society. Please send your comments and/or suggestions via email to scpgswebsite@earthlink.net or mail your response to the attention of the President, Franklin R. Grove, Jr., SCPGS, PO Box 1824, York, PA 17405