



**South Central
Pennsylvania**
Genealogical Society

Our Name's The Game

www.scpgs.org

Monthly Newsletter Vol. 39 No. 5 January 2014

OUR NEXT MEETING

Sunday, February 2, 2014 — Bastards, Bridges & Bawdy Houses: Using Quarter Sessions Records in Genealogical 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.

At this meeting will learn about where to find Quarter Sessions records, dealings of the court, and the genealogical information within. These courts had broad jurisdiction over oaths of office, licenses, illegitimate children, re-enslavement, crimes, punishments, roads, and administrative matters. The presentation discusses terminology, using the records in your research, and case studies drawn from Pennsylvania research.

Our speaker, Gerald Smith is a professional Certified Genealogist who specializes in Pennsylvania research. He is an expert in Proprietor and Commonwealth land records, mapping, and land placement, and has authored a number of books and journal articles. Mr. Smith is a speaker and educator for local, regional, and national events, as well as, a faculty member at Samford University's Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research (IGHR). He is a member of the National Genealogical Society, the Association of Professional Genealogists, the Genealogical Speakers Guild, the Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society, Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania, and New England Historic Genealogical Society. He is also a member of a number of local Pennsylvania genealogical associations and a life member of the Bedford County, Pennsylvania, Historical Society.

York County Archives has an index to the following Clerk of Courts Quarter Session Dockets on their web site (<http://www.yorkcountyarchives.org>) ...

1749-1876 — Includes court term and case number, name of defendant(s), attorney, witnesses, prosecutor, jurors and judge, plea, verdict, disposition, and cost. Includes road records from 1749-1790. May also include information on appointment of township officials such as constables, supervisors of highways and overseers of the poor; appointment of Grand Jury; tavern, public houses of entertainment and liquor licenses through 1806; tavern rates; cases involving apprentice and indentured service matters; recognizances; Commissioners qualified; bail bond; election result for Commissioners; surety of the peace; livestock brands; oyer and terminer cases; peddler licenses through 1834; licenses to ask for charity; and traverse jurors.

1877-1949 and 1950-1989 — Includes court term and case number, name of defendant(s), attorney, witnesses, prosecutor, jurors and judge, plea, verdict, disposition, and cost.

And, Clerk of Courts Quarter Session Papers ... Papers created during proceedings heard in the court of Quarter Session. In 1969 the name of this court was changed to Court of Common Pleas, Criminal Division. These records consists of papers filed in criminal matters which may including the following: affidavits, agreements, answers, appeals, bail bonds, bills of costs, certifications, citations, colloquies, commitments, complaints, docket transcripts, fingerprint request cards, indictments, information, motions, opinions, orders, petitions, pleas, praecipes, requests, returns of service, rules, stipulations, transcribed testimony, verdicts, waivers, and warrants.

Notice regarding 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 Richard Konkel at 717-843-7043.

OUR UPCOMING MEETINGS are tentatively scheduled as follows ...

Sunday, March 2, 2014

Ron Hershner ... "Letters from Home"

Mr. Hershner's most recent book offers a rare personal insight into the Civil War home front through twenty-three letters written to soldier Harvey Anderson from 1863 to 1865 ... the candy box and several of these unique letters are now on display in the library exhibit area of the York County Heritage Trust

Sunday, April 6, 2014

Frank Grove ... Alphabet Soup of Revolutionary Lineage Societies

Frank has been helping people with their application paper work for the Children, Daughters, and Sons of the American Revolution since about 1990. In 2006, he became the "official" genealogist/registrars for the Continental Congress Chapter, S.A.R. We will look at many of the current requirements of the national organizations, review the "must" areas that need to be very complete, and provide hints to help with unknown dates. We will also discuss the importance of record copies from the organizations and the "cut off" date after which older applications will not be accepted without it being updated.

Sunday, May 4, 2014

round table discussion ... Are You My Mother?: Tracing Your Female Ancestors

Saturday, June 7, 2014

conference ... Thinking Outside the Box?: Take Your Research to a New Level
... watch for more details as they become available

There are a variety of *free* programs at the York County Heritage Trust ...

Lunch with the Librarians

On the first Friday of each month, join the York County Heritage Trust librarians for an informal lunch hour from 1 – 2 PM. Order an optional deli lunch or bring your own. Due to popularity registration is required by the Wednesday prior to each event, contact: aeveler@yorkheritage.org

February 7 ... "Free-for-All February: Bring a Question for Discussion"

March 7 ... "Tracing Your Roots: Basic Genealogy"

April 4 ... "Unlocking a Building Using Property Research"

Second Saturday

The York County Heritage Trust offers a morning of entertainment and fun on the second Saturday of each month at 10:30 AM. Programs are *free* and open to the public unless noted otherwise.

February 8 ... "American Indian Storytelling"

February 8 ... "The Bible in America"

March 8 ... "Recreating the Fort McHenry Flag 200 Years Later"

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

March 21, 2014: Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society (MAGS) workshop, "Dissecting a Civil War Pension File" at the Holiday Inn, Laurel, MD. For more information: www.magsgen.com

March 22, 2014: Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society (MAGS) Spring Meeting, "Creating Access for Genealogists 24/7" at the Holiday Inn, Laurel, MD. For more information: www.magsgen.com or call 252-281-5000

April 26, 2014: Lancaster Family History Conference, "Family History Through Photographs Daguerreotypes to Digital" in Lancaster, PA. A picture is worth a thousand words, but what secrets do they keep? This year's keynote features Maureen Taylor, "the nation's foremost historical photo detective," speaking on "Say Cheese! Family History and Photography." For more information www.lmhs.org or 717-393-9745

May 7-10, 2014: National Genealogical Society 2014 Family History Conference, "Virginia: The First Frontier" at the Marriott Hotel, Richmond, VA. For more information: www.ngsgenealogy.org or call 800-473-0060



SPECIAL PUBLICATION

Publication #75 ... An Index for the Scrapbook of World War I Letters from Soldiers and Others was recently mailed to the current members of SCPGS.

In 2005, SCPGS charter member and former president, Ruthetta Jacobs donated her aunt Mildred Glass' large scrapbook of newspaper clippings of letters from soldiers and others serving in the American Expeditionary Forces, American Red Cross and YMCA from York and Adams Counties, Pennsylvania to the Library of the York County Heritage Trust. Due to the scrapbook's condition of severe deterioration, SCPGS offered to digitize it in order to preserve its significant historical value.

This Special Publication contains not only an index of the soldiers and others writing home during 1918 and 1919, but also includes a World War I timeline to help the reader follow the progression of events that led to American Expeditionary Forces entering the war and for the reader to place events which the letter writer talks about in a time frame, as well as, sundry items abstracted from the book, "York County and the World War: Being a War History of York and York County, and a Record of the Services Rendered to Their Country."

Additional copies of the Special Publication are available for a cost of \$15.00 each. The complete scrapbook on CD is available for a cost of \$12.00, which includes tax, shipping and handling.

What's Clutter and What's Keepsake?

Dick Eastman (eogn.com), December 26, 2013

I am not a packrat, I am an archivist!

While the time between Christmas and New Year's Day is often spent with family and friends, it is also a good occasion to sort through family memorabilia. Those cards the kids made for your birthday, the ticket stubs from a rock concert, and great-aunt Betsy's wedding certificate — what is worth keeping, and what should be thrown away? What is clutter, and what is keepsake?

The answer is probably as individual as every person. If something evokes memories, or captures important events, chances are the item holds meaning and importance for you. If it's potentially useful but has no other meaning, or evokes bad memories, there may a strong case to discard it.

There is also the family history to be considered. While a document or photograph may not be important to you, it may be an item of historical interest to others in the family or community, or for those yet unborn generations. It could be the last remaining record of traditions, stories, hardships, successes, and precious moments.

Too often later generations lament the lost documents and photographs that their parents and grandparents failed to preserve.

New Restrictions on the Security Death Master File



According to a December 30, 2013 blog post by Judy Russell, author of *The Legal Genealogist* ... the big immediate impact is that genealogists should not order SS-5 forms (requests for issuance of a Social Security number) for anyone who has died in the last three years. The exemption of SSDI information from the federal Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) means that all requests for "information on the name, social security account number, date of birth, and date of death of deceased individuals

maintained by the Commissioner of Social Security" of people who died within the three calendar years before the request will be denied.

The second big effect will be to stop reporting new deaths on the Social Security Death Index (SSDI). It is unlikely that any updated version of the SSDI will be available from now on until three calendar years have passed from the date of any individual's death.

The good news is that the restrictions apply only for records of individuals who died within the past three calendar years. As of now, existing SSDI data that's online will remain online. But new information won't be available for some time.

100 Years Ago...

articles from the February 14, 1914 edition of Adams County News, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

FOR ICE PLANT

Spring Grove will have a New Industry.

The Spring Grove Ice and Ice Cream Manufacturing company was organized on Tuesday night with a capitalization of \$5,000. Its officers are: president, Charles F. Emig; vice president, W. A. Stambaugh; secretary and treasurer, A. D. Swartz; directors, R. B. Bortner, P. R. Emig, A. H. Swartz, A. Stambaugh, and C. H. Stover. A charter will be applied for and an order for 10-ton ice machine has been placed with the York Manufacturing Company. The new plant will operate in the building formerly occupied by the Spring Grove Garage and Supply company and will begin operations May 1.

LUTHERANS WARNED

York Pastors May Dismiss Those Who Aided Saloons.

Lutheran ministers of York have decided either to discipline or dismiss from their congregations all members who recently signed liquor license petitions. The names of the signers of such petitions were published recently in a York paper by the Women's Christian Temperance Union. The signing of a liquor license petition is in violation of a rule of the church. The West Pennsylvania Lutheran Synod, at its convention last summer, in Gettysburg, decided that no member of the church within the jurisdiction of the synod would be allowed to offer bond, sign a liquor license petition or engage in the liquor business.

Sharp Student.

"If 20 men reap a field in eight hours, how long will it take 15 men to reap the same field?" a student was asked. He thought long before writing down his answer, and when he handed in his paper this is what the examiner read: "The field, having already been reaped by the 20 men, could not be reaped a second time by the 15."

HAZING AT HANOVER

Run Down at Night While on his Way Home.

A Hanover High School boy, aged 15, was set upon Monday night by ten members of the school and other boys of larger size for the purpose of "hazing" him at the Walnut street school building. He was on his way home at the time. It is said the lad was thrown on the ground and chastised with sticks. His captors are supposed to have wound up the proceedings by suggesting a trip to Newcomer's spring to throw him in. At this juncture the young fellow desperately resisted, and broke away from the gang. He was followed and caught again when a struggle ensued, which, it is said, resulted in wrenching the boy's back and wrist and caused blood to flow from his hand. Finally he again succeeded in running away and at last reached home. The names of the parties are omitted, pending an investigation by the school authorities.

Husbands Will Agree.

When we consider woman's extravagant desires we are inclined to think that Eve was made from a wishbone instead of a rib.

Book Reviews by Bobbi King

Without Indentures: Index to White Slave Children in Colonial Court Records (Maryland and Virginia). By Richard Hayes Phillips, Ph.D. Published by Genealogical Publ. Co., 2013. 283 pages.

The title is a shocking one. ‘White slave children’? Who would have thought such a heartbreaking list could exist? Dr. Phillips prefaces an example: “Your poor petitioner was spirited out of his native country, unknown to any of his friends, and shipped aboard for this country as a servant.” So begins the petition of John Lyme, presented to the County Court in Somerset County, Maryland on 15 January 1690.

John Lyme was one of thousands of white children spirited out of their native countries, unknown to their families and friends, transported to America, and sold into slavery. The history books like to call them “indentured servants.” But this is not true. They had no indentures. The children were kidnapped.

Indentures were contracts of servitude between a purchaser of ship’s passage for an immigrant who worked off the price with years of unpaid work duty, earning only freedom after a certain number of years. Children who arrived by ship into colonial ports alone and without indentures were brought into the courts and sentenced to years of bondage duty.

Dr. Phillips has compiled an index of over 5000 names of children collected from the *Court Order Books of Colonial Maryland and Virginia*. These county courts, with their panels of appointed judges called “Worshipfull Commissioners” in Maryland and “Gentleman Justices” in Virginia, left behind alphabetized names of thousands of children without

indentures, lists of the names of the judges who sentenced the children into slavery, and the lists of the ships upon which the children were transported along with the names of the captains who commanded the vessels. A significant percentage of Worshipfull Commissioners and Gentleman Justices assumed ownership of the children they sentenced into servitude.

Dr. Phillips provides a brief but thorough explanation of the statutes and customs that sanctioned state-sponsored kidnapping and subjugation of children in England and the practices that followed into the American colonies. Difficult as it is to comprehend, he explains these institutional practices with clarity and objectivity even as the shock of it all sets in.

This compilation does not contain names of confirmed indentured children, Negro or Indian children (they were slaves for life), orphan children (they were assigned guardians), nor children given up for adoption (parents affirmed their voluntary decisions to give the children).

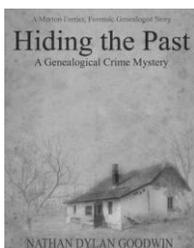
Dr. Phillips describes his sources and repositories so well that a researcher in colonial records could find reason to consider looking at the same records for reasons aside from the indentured children cases.

This book brings to light another secret and unpleasant piece of American history. Thanks to Dr. Phillips these ancestors’ early and difficult lives will be secret no more.

from Dick Eastman (eogn.com), October 11, 2013

Hiding the Past. By Nathan Dylan Goodwin. 2013. 256 pages.

... find a comfy hideaway seat and lose yourself in this genealogical whodunit.



Mr. Goodwin has written several local history books about his home region, Hastings, East Sussex. This appears to be his first fiction work and there are not that many genealogy fiction books on the market. *Hiding the Past* is a very good read. The story goes back

and forth between the tale set in wartime 1944 of a mysterious Emily and her infant son fleeing a

shadowy set of circumstances, and the present-day narrative of one Mr. Morton Farrier.

Morton Farrier is a Forensic Genealogist who has taken on the thorny case of Peter Coldrick while dealing with his own family demons and troublesome past. Farrier scrutinizes the same research records we’re used to looking at, so many of his research situations will be familiar to us. But familiar routines takes on sinister qualities in the realm of murder and wartime terror and fright.

The book is easy to read, easy to follow, and holds your attention.

from Dick Eastman (eogn.com), December 29, 2013

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DATED MATERIAL—DO NOT DELAY

Excerpts from Tips for Getting Past Genealogy Burnout

written by George G. Morgan

from Pennsylvania Family Roots by Sharman Meck Carroll (January 1, 2014 The Press and Journal)

“It happens to all of us at one time or another. Our genealogical research becomes so frustrating or confounding that we feel like throwing in the towel. At other times, we may feel overwhelmed with the other extreme of having acquired so much information about a person or family, some of it conflicting with no means to reconcile it, that we want to give up. You are not alone!”

Following are some tips developed by Mr. Morgan to help avoid the feelings of genealogy burnout and get beyond them when they do creep up:

- **Set Your Problem Aside for a While** — Your objectivity can be compromised when you fixate on one person or one fact that you are trying to discover, prove or disprove. When frustration sets in it’s time to set the so-called “brick-wall” aside and redirect your energies to another person or family line.
- **Reread Everything You Have Acquired on the Person or Family** — Over time we acquire a lot of genealogical materials about people. When you get stuck on an individual it’s time to organize all of your information on that person chronologically and then reread through everything as if you’ve never seen it before.
- **Create a Timeline** — Everyone is influenced by the people, events, and places around them. Study old maps and read histories of the areas where your ancestors lived, and then create a timeline. Creating a written, chronological timeline should include the presence at every point possible of the person(s) you are researching and their family members.
- **Attend a Conference for New Ideas** — Get reenergized by attending a conference or workshop.

“Whatever you do, don’t give up. This genealogical odyssey we’re making is fun, interesting, instructive, and helps build lasting relationships that can make your life richer.”