



**South Central
Pennsylvania**
Genealogical Society

Our Name's The Game

www.scpgs.org

Monthly Newsletter Vol. 40 No. 4 January/February 2015

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Sunday, March 1, 2015

Genealogical Myths

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 discussion, "Genealogical Myths" explores the impact of popular genealogy myths and scams on your research. Have you ever thought to yourself:

"Skip the pension – he couldn't have served in that war"

"Law libraries are too intimidating"

"Grandma would never have done THAT!"

"I found it in _____ so it must be true"

"Grave stone says so..."

"So many people (and web sites) have said it's so... for so long... and in so many places..."

"The census doesn't show THAT!"

"Gotta be him..."

"There's no need to actually go there..."

or any of a number of oft repeated phrases? Real-life examples (such as the dyslexic stone carver and 1790 census returns with addresses and occupations) show why lax practices should never take the place of constant questioning and proper research. Have any of genealogy scams worked their way into your research? Several of the better known scams are explored.

Our speaker, Gerald Smith is a professional Certified Genealogist who specializes in Pennsylvania research. He provides researches for private clients as well as providing specialized forensic services to the legal profession. He 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 and course coordinator at Samford University's Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research (IGHR). He is a member of the Council for the Advancement of Forensic Genealogy, the National Genealogical Society, the Association of Professional Genealogists, the Genealogical Speakers Guild, 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.

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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.

Upcoming Meetings ... continued from page 1**Sunday, April 12, 2015 Lewis Miller Portraits**

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.

Lila Fourhman-Shaull and June Burk Lloyd, the editors of *Lewis Miller's People*, recently published by York County Heritage Trust, give you a glimpse of York County life in the early 19th century through the eyes of well-known folk artist Lewis Miller. The limited edition hardcover book features over 700 unpublished drawings of York County personalities drawn by Lewis Miller. During their slide presentation, the editors will share unique stories about some of the personalities featured in the book. You can also visit the Lewis Miller gallery to view selected original pages as well as additional works by Miller. The book will be available for purchase, signed by the editors.

Lewis Miller's People is the first major publication featuring Miller's sketches since 1966. Miller captioned these full-length portraits with each person's name and often their occupation, occasionally adding personal and family information. In many cases, Miller's watercolors are the only images of these people, making them especially valuable not only for social history, but also to the thousands and thousands of descendants still living in York County and throughout the country.

June Burk Lloyd is Librarian Emerita of the York County Heritage Trust and the author of *Faith and Family: Pennsylvania German Heritage in York County Area Fraktur*. She has also written articles for the Pennsylvania German Society and other organizations.

Lila Fourhman-Shaull is Director of Library & Archives, York County Heritage Trust. She is the author of *Millers' Tales: The Mills of York County* and *A Walking Tour of Civil War-Era Residents, Prospect Hill Cemetery, York, Pa.*

Sunday, May 3, 2015

Tour of the Dritt House at Long Level

Sunday, June 7, 2015

Henry James Young Awards

From the President

Jonathan Stayer

I don't believe in "brick walls"!

Often, I hear those who are researching their family history say that they have hit a "brick wall." They just can't seem to find documentation of a particular ancestor or they are unable to identify the earlier generation of an ancestral family. Well, I don't believe in brick walls, particularly in Pennsylvania genealogical research!

Clues to our family histories are hidden everywhere. We just don't have the time, money or willingness to exhaust all possible sources. Only a small portion of valuable resources are found online, so we must look elsewhere when we encounter an apparent dead end. Have you truly checked every possibly pertinent record in the courthouse, historical society, archives or library? I can think of a few records series at the Pennsylvania State Archives (where I work) that might yield information about York County families, but they will require much time of dedicated searching to locate pertinent tidbits—Pennsylvania Supreme Court records anyone?

You can find helpful materials in the most obscure places as an example from my own research demonstrates. Many years ago, I learned that one of my mother's Gundrum ancestors attended the Annville Academy, the predecessor to Lebanon Valley College, Annville, PA. While looking for documentation of this educational experience in the Special Collections room of the College's library, I discovered a docket kept by a nineteenth-century justice of the peace in North Annville Township, Lebanon County. Because a number of my mother's ancestral families lived in that area, I found numerous references in the docket to my ancestors, including an entry where my direct ancestor brought charges against his brother and his friends for racing horses in front of the church in Bellegrove on Sunday during the worship service!

I hope that you will join me in breaking down those brick walls and getting past those dead ends in 2015!

Assume Nothing — Check all your facts, don't assume that any particular document is right or wrong, and always try to find other independent sources to corroborate your facts as much as possible. Verify, verify, verify.

German Internet Research

Our January meeting was presented by James Beidler on German Internet Research. Mr. Beidler shared that he began researching his family in 1984 when his mother asked him to help her write a family history to be included in their church's history.

For many years the Family History Library was the "only game in town" when it came to German research. Researching at the Family History Center involved the use of IGI, microfilm and staff expertise. Now all of these records plus more are available *free of charge* at FamilySearch.org.

At FamilySearch you will find access to the catalog of what has been digitalized ... however, keep in mind that not all record groups are searchable. An index for the abstracts of church records is being created and added. The venerable IGI is on FamilySearch, and there are many German articles (help guides) on FamilySearch Wiki (similar to an encyclopedia).

An even more diverse offering of online records are available across and around the internet!

Ancestry.com has the Meyers Gazetteer (a village dictionary) as a free item. This site also has the Hamburg Embarkation Lists (Hamburg being the second leading point of departure), Wuertemberg Emigration Lists from 1808 to the late 1800s, Mecklenburg census (northern Germany), and many other items.

Genealogy.net is considered the "number one source for German genealogy". This site includes DigiBib which makes digital images of important genealogical literature, including family histories, gazetteers, and other reference works available online.

Internet websites with information relevant to German research can help us answer some of the most common questions we ask as genealogists. However, most are in German. Some sites offer an English version. You can use Google Translate for a "literal" translation by pasting the website url into google to get a "translate this page" link.

Other helpful translation websites are

LEO English-German Dictionary

www.leo.org/index_en.html

BYU German Script Tutorial

script.byu.edu/Pages/German/en/welcome.aspx

Some examples of the questions and website that will help follow.

What was the village of origin for my German-speaking immigrant ancestor?

Everyone wants to uncover the HEIMAT of their ancestor! According to Wikipedia, heimat is a German concept. "People are bound to their heimat by their birth and their childhood, their language, their earliest experiences or acquired affinity. For instance, Swiss citizens have their Heimattort (the municipality where the person or their ancestors became citizens) on their identification. Heimat as a trinity of descentance, community and tradition — or even the examination of it — highly affects a person's identity."

Unfindable villages may be neighborhoods or sections of cities. Sometimes it is helpful to search villages for a common surname. Most of these sites are geographic-centric, however, none are one hundred percent complete.

Baden-Wuerttemberg

www.auswanderer-bw.de

Brandenburg: Frankfurt an der Oder

www.genealogicnetz.de/reg/BRG/neumark/auswande.htm

Bremen Passenger Lists, 1920-39 ... it was determined that these records were taking up too much room so they adopted a policy of purging all but the previous two years worth of records. What wasn't already purged was destroyed during World War II.

www.passagierlisten.de/

Brunswick, 1846-1871... this area supplied Hessian soldiers to America

www.thomaserbe.de/ahnen/buch/001.htm

Mecklenburg (Institute for Migration and Ancestral Research)

www.innigrantgensoc.org/searches/imed/igs-imed.html

Niedersachsen

www.aidaonline.niedersachsen.de/

Northern Friesland

www.nordfriiskinstituut.de/datenbank.html



Rhein Emigrants

www.rheineahnen.de/listdoc/auswand.htm

Schleswig-Holstein 1800s

www.rootdigger.de/Emi.htm

Westphalia Emigration Lists

www.amerikanetz.de/beitraege/?&no_cache=1&L=0

If my ancestor was from a city, how can I track down him or her?

First make sure that your ancestor/family legend is not using a larger city as a “place people will have heard of.”

Berlin City Directories, 1799-1943

[//adressbuch.zlb.de](http://adressbuch.zlb.de)

How can I help untangle the garbled name of a village of origin?

A garbled name can sometimes be more frustrating than no name. The corruption is most likely due to translation of German phonetics into English. However, it could also be the result of renaming or recent merger of towns. For example: Glanbrücken ... is the result of the 1969 merger of two historic villages Hachenbach and Neiderreisenbach. You will need a very detailed map to see those ortsteile (a quarter or portion of a city).

Atlas des Deutschen Reichs

www.library.wisc.edu/etext/ravenstein/

GOV Genealogical Gazetteer

... part of genealogy.net supersite

gov.genealogy.net/index.jsp

German Gazetteers include Bavaria, Hesse, Mecklenburg, Schleswig, and East and West Prussia

www.progenealogists.com/germany/gazetteersmain.html

Comprehensive Gazetteer of German Places East of Oder and Neisse Rivers

www.kartenmeister.com/

How can I get in contact with possible relatives from my ancestor's village of origin?

Das Telefonbuch www.dastelefonbuch.de

German National Tourism Board

www.germany.travel/en/germany/about-us/the-gntb/the-gntb.html

Note: You could also Google names of villages and find out which local tourist board the village is a part of and then email them directly.

How can I find out about German archives?

Because of its history (numerous border changes), there is no “national archives” for Germany. You can use FamilySearch wiki for guides to Germany and its component states

familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Main_Page

Archivschule Marburg Portal D

www.archivshule.de/DE/forschung/archivportal-d

How can I find German church records, especially those not on FamilySearch?

Kirchenbuchportal ... www.kirchenbuchportal.de/

Matricula ... www.matricula-online.eu/

How can I find a researcher in Germany?

Verband deutschsprachiger Berufsgenealogen is the Association of German-speaking Profession Genealogists ... there are only a couple dozen researchers listed on site

www.berufsgenealogie.net/english/start.html

Hals-und Beinbruch!

Calendar of Local Events**Tuesday, March 3***Gettysburg and the Great War*

Adams County Historical Society [7 PM]
Valentine Hall auditorium at the Lutheran
Theological Seminary at Gettysburg [achs-pa.org]

This program will focus on Gettysburg's unique participation in the Great War from the home front. Compared to the detailed work being done on the town's Civil War history, shockingly little is known about the turbulent years of the Great War from 1914 to 1918. The draft, Liberty Loan campaigns, food shortages, and anti-German sentiment are major subthemes demonstrating ways a town three thousand miles away from the front could be inundated by war on a daily basis. This program will be presented by Sarah Johnson, a senior at Gettysburg College.

Friday, March 6*Lunch with the Librarians: Tracing Your Roots, Basic Genealogy Using YCHT Collections*

York County Heritage Trust, 250 East Market St,
York, PA [12:30 PM to 1:30 PM]

If you're new to genealogy research and need help getting started, this program will explain the wealth of resources available at the Trust's Library & Archives. Experienced researchers are welcome too, since there's always something new to discover. Pre-registration and lunch orders due by Wednesday, March 4th (contact aeveler@yorkheritage.org)

Tuesday, March 10*Military Records at the Pennsylvania State Archives*

Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania [genpa.org]
webinar [3 PM to 4:30 PM]

Aaron McWilliams, archivist at the State Archives, will present a webinar on the repository's military collections — learn what's available! Free to members, \$10 to non-members.

Saturday, March 14*Second Saturdays; "Cigar Box Guitars, Steam Whistle Concerts and Being a "Sound Searcher"*

York County Heritage Trust, 250 East Market St,
York, PA [10:30 AM]

Join music researcher Shane Speal as he shares his experiences researching homemade and forgotten instruments of the past.

Saturday, March 14*Tour Thurmont*

Frederick County Genealogical Society [1 PM]
Thurmont Historical Society [frecogs.com]

Monday, March 16*Social Media and Genealogy*

Carroll County Genealogical Society [7:30 PM]
Dixon Room, Westminster Library, 50 East Main St,
Westminster, MD [carr.org/ccgs/]

Speaker Margaret M. McMahon will explore the use of social networking in genealogical research - from message boards to Second Life, including the use of Twitter, Pinterest, and Facebook.

Sunday, March 22*The CyberLibrary: Primary Documents and Books Online*

Baltimore County Genealogical Society [3 PM]
Parkville Senior Center, Room 308 (3rd Floor), 8601
Harford Rd, Parkville, MD
[baltimoregenealogysociety.org]

Join Sandy Clunies in a discussion about finding documents, books and newspapers online. Tips and tricks are offered to help you find what you need online.

Friday, April 3*Lunch with the Librarians: Finding Your Civil War Ancestors*

York County Heritage Trust, 250 East Market St,
York, PA [12:30 PM to 1:30 PM]

April marks the 150th anniversary of the end of the Civil War. Many people are interested in finding out if they have an ancestor who served in the War. We will discuss resources available for finding your Civil War ancestors, both at the Trust's Library & Archives and at other archives in the region.. Pre-registration and lunch orders due by Wednesday, April 1st (contact aeveler@yorkheritage.org)

Saturday, April 11*German Catholic Influence in Western Maryland*

Frederick County Genealogical Society [1 PM]
Dixon Room, Westminster Library, 50 East Main St
Homewood at Crumland Farms Community Room,
at 7407 Willow Road, Frederick, MD [frecogs.com]

Monday, April 20

The Pratt's Central Branch: Your State Library Resource Center

Carroll County Genealogical Society [7:30 PM]
Dixon Room, Westminster Library, 50 East Main St,
Westminster, MD [carr.org/ccgs/]

Malissa Ruffner will give an overview of the holdings of the Enoch Pratt State Library Resource Center that are most important and helpful to genealogists. She will highlight offerings that can be tapped from home and provide useful tips for those researching at the historical Pratt Central Branch on Cathedral Street in Baltimore.

Saturday, April 25

Spring Seminar

Baltimore County Genealogical Society [3 PM]
Parkville Senior Center, Room 308 (3rd Floor), 8601
Harford Rd, Parkville, MD
[baltimoregenealogysociety.org]

John Colletta will give four presentations.

- Passenger Arrival Records, Colonial Times-Mid 10th Century
- Library of Congress: An Introduction and Overview
- Using 19th Century Newspapers for Family History.

- US Naturalization Records, 1790-1930's

There is an admission fee and there is LIMITED SEATING. For more information contact
info@baltimoregenealogysociety.org

Saturday, April 25

*2015 Lancaster Family History Conference
Celebrities and Cellmates – Finding The Famous (or Infamous) Ancestor*

Lancaster Host Resort & Conference Center
[lmhs.org] [8:30 AM - 3:30 PM]

PBS has expanded upon America's fascination with family history launching the *Genealogy Roadshow*, currently in its second season. Here, co-host Joshua Taylor aids participants discovering a vibrant, personal, ancestral history previously unknown. We are grateful that Joshua can join us over the course of the conference on Friday and Saturday to share his insight and experience. He'll explore the roots of our sometimes notorious family legends and share insights into sources we can utilize to compile a more complete picture of our ancestors.

We have presentations that cover such topics as obituaries, estate records and taxes, archival research, deciphering German script, and DNA, as well as the practical methodology needed to write and publish a family history.

MAGS Spring Meeting

Saturday, March 21

Bringing Your Family's World To Life

Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society [magsgen.com]
Holiday Inn — Laurel West [8:30 AM - 4 PM]
15101 Sweitzer Lane, Laurel, MD

Speaker is Rebecca Whitman Koford.

- The Dead and Dying: Cemetery and Funeral Home Research ... Step back to a time when superstition reigned and our ancestors' lives and deaths depended on many now obscure customs. In this lecture we will visit early superstitions, cemetery iconography and the value of cemetery research and utilizing funeral home records. In addition we will address a few other ways to find our ancestors' death dates when vital records were lost or non-existent.
- Newspaper Research and Genealogy ... In this session we will discover some of the most important reasons to tackle one of the hardest record types: Newspapers. We will talk about accessing newspapers both on-line and off-line

and use some case studies to help underline the importance of the daily news in our research.

- Grandma, Where Art Thou? Female Ancestors, A Case Study ... Females are some of the hardest of our ancestors to research and they take up at 50% of our pedigree. Learn some early laws that affected females and the records they can be found in. A case study will show how a woman's life can be reconstructed from records made by her family and associates.
- Writing the Family Narrative: Researching Social History ... We will find out how the things we learned from writing those old high school research reports can improve not just our writing skills but our research skills as well. Bring your ancestors to life with social history research that brings new understanding to the way they lived.

Books Donated

South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society member David Hively recently donated the following books to the York County Heritage Trust library ...

1. *Palatine Mennonite Census Lists, 1664-1793* by Guth, Hermann et al
2. *Simple Grammar of Pennsylvania Dutch* by Frey, J. William
3. *A Description of the Country: Virginia's Cartographers and Their Maps, 1607-1881* by Sanchez-Saavedra, E.M.
4. *Guide to Maryland State Archives Holdings of Baltimore City: Records on Microfilm* by Maryland State Archives
5. *Guide to Maryland State Archives Holdings of Baltimore County: Records on Microfilm* by Maryland State Archives
6. *Guide to Maryland State Archives Holdings of Carroll County: Records on Microfilm* by Maryland State Archives
7. *Guide to Maryland State Archives Holdings of Frederick County: Records on Microfilm* by Maryland State Archives
8. *Map Guide to the United States Federal Census* (several) by Thorndale, William et al
9. *Frederick County Maryland Genealogical Research Guide* by Russell, Donna Valley
10. *Ohio Genealogical Periodical Index: A County Guide* by Flavell, Carol Willsey
11. *To Draw, Upset and Weld: The Work of the Pennsylvania Rural Blacksmith, 1742-1935* by Lasansky, Jeannette
12. *Pennsylvania Newspapers and Selected Out of State Newspapers* by Rauco, Louis R.
13. *Virginia Genealogical Resources* by Clay, Robert Young
14. *Guide to Church Records in the Archives Branch, Virginia State Library* by Clark, Jewell T. et al
15. *Virginia Land Office Inventory* by Gentry, Daphne S. et al
16. *Finding Your People in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia and West Virginia* by Ebert, Rebecca A. et al
17. *Federal Court Records: A Select Catalog of National Archives Microfilm Publications* by National Archives and Records Administration
18. *Genealogical and Biographical Research: A Select Catalog of National Archives Microfilm Publications* by United States General Services Administration
19. *Immigrant and Passenger Arrivals: A Select Catalog of National Archives Microfilm Publications* by United States General Services Administration
20. *Ancestry's Guide to Research: Case Studies in American Genealogy* by Cerny, Johni et al
21. *Handbook for Genealogical Research in West Virginia* by Stinson, Helen S.
22. *Lancaster County Churches in the Revolutionary War Era* by Lancaster County Historical Society
23. *Guide to the Published Archives of Pennsylvania* by Eddy, Henry Howard et al
24. *Guide to the Microfilm of the Miscellaneous Manuscripts of the Revolutionary War Era, 1771-1791* by Baumann, Roland M. et al
25. *Extant German Church Records from Virginia and West Virginia: A Checklist* by Joyner, Peggy S.
26. *Will and Estate Records in the Virginia State Library: A Researcher's Guide* by Vogt, John et al
27. *Abstracts of Wills, Inventories and Administration Accounts of Frederick County, Virginia, 1743-1800* by King, J. Estelle Stewart
28. *Personal Property Tax Lists for the Year 1788 for Loudoun County, Virginia* by Schreiner-Yantis, Netti et al
29. *Personal Property Tax Lists for the Year 1787 for Shenandoah County, Virginia* by Schreiner-Yantis, Netti et al
30. *Personal Property Tax Lists for the Year 1787 for Loudoun County, Virginia* by Schreiner-Yantis, Netti et al
31. *Personal Property Tax Lists for the Year 1787 for Greenbrier County, Virginia* by Schreiner-Yantis, Netti et al
32. *Personal Property Tax Lists for the Year 1787 for Botetourt County, Virginia* by Schreiner-Yantis, Netti

33. *Personal Property Tax Lists for the Year 1787 for Augusta County, Virginia* by Schreiner-Yantis, Netti et al
34. *Strasburg Lutheran German Records, 1768-1829, Strasburg, Virginia* by Wust, Klaus et al
35. *Smithfield Lutheran Register, 1792-1826, Middleway, Jefferson County, West Virginia* by Wust, Klaus et al
36. *Solomon Church Baptisms, 1793-1850, Forestville, Virginia* by Wust, Klaus et al
37. *Old Pine Church Baptisms, 1783-1828, Mill Creek, Virginia* by Wust, Klaus et al
38. *Lutheran Zion Pine Church Record, 1786-1827, Stony Creek, Virginia, Volume 1 (1786-1799)* by Wust, Klaus et al
39. *Lutheran Zion Pine Church Record, 1786-1827, Stony Creek, Virginia, Volume 2 (1800-1827)* by Wust, Klaus et al
40. *Reformed Zion Pine Church Record, 1788-1827, Stony Creek, Virginia* by Wust, Klaus et al
41. *Davidsburg Church Baptisms, 1785-1845, New Market, Virginia* by Stewart, John et al
42. *Hebron Church Register, 1750-1825, Madison, Virginia, Volume 1* by Smith, George M.
43. *Hebron Church Register, 1750-1825, Madison, Virginia, Volume 2* by Smith, George M.
44. *German Origins of Jost Hite, Virginia Pioneer, 1685-1761* by Jones, Henry Z., Jr. et al
45. *Record of Hawksbill Church, 1788-1850, Page County, Virginia* by Wust, Klaus
46. *Shenandoah Valley Family Data, 1799-1813, From the Memorandum Book of Pastor Johannes Braun* by Wust, Klaus et al
47. *Land, Piety, Peoplehood: The Establishment of Mennonite Communities in America, 1683-1790* by MacMaster, Richard K.
48. *Nicknames: Past and Present - A List of Nickname for Given Names Used in the Past and Present Time* by Rose, Christine
49. *War of 1812 Genealogy* by Schweitzer, George K.
50. *Civil War Genealogy* by Schweitzer, George K.
51. *Timesaving Aid to Virginia-West Virginia Ancestors, Volume 2* by Wardell, Patrick G.
52. *Basic Researcher's Guide to Homesteads and Other Federal Land Records* by Barsi, James C.
53. *Photographing Your Heritage* by Shull, Wilma Sadler
54. *Pitfalls in Genealogical Research* by Rubincam, Milton
55. *Applied Genealogy* by Stratton, Eugene Aubrey
56. *Deutsches Namenlexikon* by Bahlow, Hans
57. *Journey to Pennsylvania* by Gottlieb Mittelberger (reproduction)
58. *Intimate Glimpses of the Pennsylvania Germans* by Rosenberger, Homer T.
59. *Estate Inventories: How to Use Them* by Smith, Kenneth L.

Search Multiple Genealogy Sites at One Time

Looking for a simple way to search millions of records from dozens of genealogy websites in one place?

There is a new tool on *Family History Daily*, the Family History Search Engine. It's a simple custom search box that allows you to quickly locate documents for your family tree on a wide variety of different genealogy websites.

Mostly free genealogy resources are included in the search – including large research websites and smaller regional archives and government records. To make the tool as useful as possible, and provide as many relevant results as possible, some subscription services have also been included. When

looking through the results, be aware that some places may ask you to sign up to take advantage of their site, and some may charge a subscription fee. Of course, signing up for any fee based site is always optional. Valuable resources are being added weekly, so feel free to suggest a genealogy site you would like to see included.

Whether you're searching for vital records or digging through old newspapers for a lost ancestor, try out this new free ancestry search tool from Family History Daily ...

<http://familyhistorydaily.com/free-genealogy-search-engine>

More than 80,000 Digitized Genealogy and Family History Publications are Now Available Online

Dick Eastman (eogn.com), December 26, 2014

One of the greatest genealogy resources available today is the huge collection of digitized genealogy and family history publications from the archives of some of the most important family history libraries in the world. When I travel to various genealogy conferences and societies, I am often amazed at how many genealogists are unaware of these free resources. Not only are the books and other publications available free of charge, you don't even have to pay for gas to visit these libraries!

These digital books are available at:

- Google Books
- Archive.org
- Allen County Public Library
- Brigham Young University Harold B. Lee Library
- Brigham Young University Hawaii Joseph F. Smith Library
- Church History Library
- Family History Library
- Houston Public Library – Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research
- Mid-Continent Public Library – Midwest Genealogy Center
- Pennsylvania State University Libraries' Digitized Collections

The menus and the search methods will obviously vary from one site to another. However, a few minutes spent exploring each site's holdings could pay big dividends.

I will say that most newcomers search only for names. In fact, I'll admit that I do the same on my first search on a new web site and I suspect a lot of other experienced genealogists do the same. However, after exhausting the search for names, most experienced genealogists start looking for other search terms. I always look for locations. Many times, I have been successful at finding some tidbit about an ancestor by searching for the county or the town in which he or she lived, even after a search for the person's name produced no results at all.

One of my more successful searches came as a result of searching for the name of the small town in which my great-great-grandparents lived. I knew he was a farmer so I searched for his name plus the name of the small town in which he lived. I was rewarded with a scanned digital booklet of only 42 pages, printed in 1842, that listed all the farmers in his county, along with a detailed description of the farm and even the assessed value of the property. It listed the total acreage of his property, the number of acres under cultivation, the number of acres of woodlands, the number of barns and outbuildings, how many head of cattle, sheep, and swine that he owned, and even the number of chickens. It also listed the crops he sold. I learned a lot more about him and my great-great-grandmother in that small booklet than I ever found in census records!

When searching old books and other printed information, you have to be creative. You should search not only for locations, but also for fraternal organizations, religious affiliations, veterans' organizations, and anything else you can think of.

Query

I am researching Hildebrand family in Hopewell Township area. I am back to a Frank Hildebrand (1863-1945) who married a Martha Jane Sweitzer (1864-1935). I know other people have gone back further but I am trying to document everything the best I can. I am doing this for my wife's grandfather who is 90 years old.

Troy Miller
Tromis08@gmail.com

REMINDER ... members can submit an unlimited number of queries for publication in our newsletter and on our website (scpgs.org).

How Do You Find a Professional Genealogist You Can Trust?

Dick Eastman (eogn.com), January 30, 2015

Maybe you've hit a wall in tracing an elusive ancestor, or you've received DNA-analysis results of which you can't make heads or tails. At this point, you might consider getting professional help. Henry Louis Gates Jr. (well known for his *Finding Your Roots* television program) and Suzanne Stewart, a researcher at the New England Historic Genealogical Society, have pulled together some guidance that can point you in the right direction. You can find this interesting, although brief, article about finding a professional genealogist to help you at

<http://goo.gl/KqoJYH>.

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Henry James Young Award Nominations Sought

The Henry James Young Award provides South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society with a means of honoring significant accomplishments in the field of local genealogy and history. The award is named for Henry James Young a local genealogist and historian. Mr. Young was a librarian at the Historical Society of York County (now the York County Heritage Trust) who began the collection of card files and genealogical reports. Through his efforts, skills and energy, the people of today's York County have a better understanding and appreciation of their heritage.

The Henry James Young Award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to the preservation of history and genealogy. To be eligible for the Henry James Young Award, the nominee should have contributed directly to the preservation of history and genealogy, a living, or deceased person will be considered, and the nominee need not be a member of the South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society.

The SCPGS Board of Directors plans to present one or more Henry James Young Awards at its June 7th meeting. Nominations may be made by any SCPGS member. To have a nominee considered for the award the nomination must be received before March 1, 2015.

Nomination letters should be sent to SCPGS at PO Box 1824, York, PA 17405 with the designation Henry James Young Award Nomination on the envelope or may be submitted via email to scpgswebsite@wildblue.net. The letter should enumerate the contributions and accomplishments of the nominee and be signed by the person(s) making the nomination.