Our Name's The Game

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South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society

Monthly Newsletter Vol. 42 No. 4   January/February 2017

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Sunday, March 12, 2017   **Irish Research**

This month's meeting will be held at the Historical Society Museum, 250 East Market Street, York. The program is scheduled to begin at 1 PM and last until 5 PM. This lecture is free to SCPGS members and members of the York County History Center, however, there will be a $30 charge for non-members.

Join Fintan Mullan and Gillian Hunt from the Ulster Historical Foundation during their annual North American lecture tour to learn how to get the most out of Irish resources and records, gain strategies for breaking down brick walls, and grasp important historical context that may help fill in gaps in your research. Whether you are just beginning your Irish research or have been at it for years, you won't want to miss these workshops!

The sessions will be ...

Introduction to Irish and Scots-Irish Family History Research (1 hour)

Using Land Records: Griffith's Valuation, Tithe, & Estate Records (1 hour)

~ BREAK

Emigration from the north of Ireland to North America – strategies for researching emigrant ancestors (45 minutes)

Q & A (30 minutes)

Sunday, April 2, 2017   **Pennsylvania Land Records**

This month's meeting will be held at the Historical Society Museum, 250 East Market Street, York. A brief business meeting will begin at 2:15 PM and the program will immediately follow at approximately 2:30 PM.

Did you ever wonder how far back the title of a piece of land could be traced? Come learn about "records of original title" that document the sale of land from William Penn and the Commonwealth government to the first owners of property in Pennsylvania. Having worked with the state land records of Pennsylvania for thirty years, Jonathan Stayer, supervisor of reference services at the Pennsylvania State Archives, will describe the "five basic" documents in that process — the land warrant application, the land warrant, the survey draft, the return of survey, and the land patent. The arrangement of and indexes to these records will be discussed, and research suggestions offered for finding both the originals and the online digital copies. Special programs of the Land Office, the claims of other states on Pennsylvania lands, and tracts granted for military service also will be covered. If you are researching colonial ancestors in Pennsylvania, you will not want to miss this informative program!

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 visit our website scpgs.org, facebook page or call Richard Konkel at 717-843-7043.

From the President

Jonathan Stayer

In 2017, Americans will be marking the one hundredth anniversary of the entry of the United States into World War I. More than 320,000 Pennsylvanians served in military and civilian capacities during that great conflict. For those genealogists who have an ancestor that entered World War I service from Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania State Archives holds an invaluable series of records under the title "World War I Veterans Service and Compensation File" (series #19.91) in Record Group 19, Records of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

Commonly called the "World War I bonus applications," these files generally contain a service record card provided by the federal government in the 1920s, the compensation application submitted by the veteran, and frequently a World War I Victory Medal application. Other items that might be found in the files include a Pennsylvania War History Commission War Service Record survey form, a photograph of the veteran in uniform, newspaper clippings or notes about the veteran, and copies of telegrams, particularly if the veteran had been wounded.

The veteran's compensation application ("bonus application") is of greatest value to the genealogist. In addition to asking for service information, the application had spaces for the veteran's place and date of birth and for the names and addresses of spouse, minor children and parents. If the veteran was an immigrant to the United States, the specific place of birth in a foreign country usually was noted on the form, or on the service record card. Obviously, these records are helpful in establishing family relationships in the early twentieth century, and they are a boon to someone seeking an exact location of family origin in Europe.

These files resulted from 1934 legislation that awarded monetary bonuses to World War I veterans. To be eligible for the bonus, a veteran was required to have been a Pennsylvania resident at the time of entering service, to have served between April 6, 1917 and November 11, 1918, and to have been honorably discharged. The Pennsylvania Department of Military Affairs accepted bonus applications between February 1, 1934 and July 1, 1948. Women as well as men applied for the bonus, and the next of kin of individuals who died in service could file a claim.

The records are arranged by branch of service—Army, Navy and Marines — with an additional segment of "Out of State" applications for each branch that were filed by veterans who were not Pennsylvania residents at the time of enlistment. Within each branch, the records are arranged alphabetically by veteran's name.

While the original bonus applications are held by the Pennsylvania State Archives in Harrisburg (www.pastatearchives.com), they are readily accessible on www.ancestry.com. If you are a Pennsylvania resident who does not subscribe to Ancestry or who does not live near a library that does, you can search or browse them free of charge by entering Ancestry through the "Ancestry.com PA" link on the State Archives website (www.pastatearchives.com). Follow the instructions on that page to gain free access for materials that the Archives provided to Ancestry.

When searching the World War I bonus applications on Ancestry, keep in mind that you usually will find multiple documents for the same person and that some items have writing on both sides. Consequently, these factors will result in several images for the same file, so browse forward and backward through the images once you have found one for your ancestor to make certain that you see the complete file. In most cases, Ancestry only indexed the first image in a series for the same record. For files of different veterans with the same name, look for the same serial number on various documents to compile the record for your ancestor. Each veteran had a different serial number.

If you would like more information about these World War I records or if you need assistance in using them on Ancestry, feel free to contact the State Archives staff at ra-statearchives@pa.gov or call (717) 783-2669. Have fun!

A New Special Publication

Special Publication #80 was recently mailed to SCPGS members in good standing. This publication is our fourth volume of the United States Direct Tax of 1798 for York County, Pennsylvania (aka Glass Tax because it lists the number of windows and window panes, called lights in the homes for which the home owner was taxed) and includes Hellam, Newberry and Windsor Townships.

Where in the World is Tolna?

Our January meeting was led by Lila Fourhman-Shaull, Director of Library and Archives at the York County History Center. Lila talked about long lost place names from York County.

In 2004, Lila prepared our Special Publication #63 Gazetteer of York and Adams Counties, Pennsylvania. A gazetteer is defined as a geographical dictionary. This particular gazetteer was based on the work of Henry J. Young, researcher and director of the Historical Society of York County from 1933 to 1949, and supplemented with information from other sources in order to broaden and enrich the compilation. This Special Publication lists more than 2,000 names of places and streams, towns, villages, boros and townships located in both York and Adams (formed from York County in 1800) counties. Place names from the gazetteer formed the basis for the program.

What we learned is that many of the place names come from local families (Emigsville and Wrightsville), famous people (Loganville named for Col. Henry Logan), Native American words (Canadochly, Conejohela, Codorus, Conewago and Susquehanna), or locations in Germany (Hanover, Heidelberg and Manheim), England (Dover, Manchester and Hopewell) and Ireland (Castle Fin).

Many areas were named between 1850 and 1890 when the number of post offices tripled. Each post office had to have a unique name most often chosen by the postmaster; such as Dolf, Hartley, Lucky and Rye. The post office names were often used for stations along the railroads that meandered across the county; Larue, Orwig, Sinsheim, and Woodbine, to name a few. We had a lot of fun hearing about the old names for places that may only be a crossroads or small cluster of houses today. For example …

Pleasant Hill in West Manheim Township was also known as Bandanna

Glenville in Codorus Township was also known as Klinefeltersville

Admire in Dover Township was also known as Slabtown, Voltair and Newport

Goram in Lower Chanceford Township was also known as Hogtown

Long Level in Lower Windsor Township was also known as Pleasant Garden

Potosi in Springfield Township was originally known as Mount Zion Crossroads

Longstown in Springettsbury and Windsor Townships was also known as Tilden

Kralltown (or Hall) in Washington Township was also known as Noodletown

Sticks in Codorus Township was also known as Hetrick's

And of course, Tolna in Shrewsbury and Hopewell Townships was also known as Sheffer

Some place names are preceded by "The" such as The Brogue, The Jack or Jack's Tavern (aka Kyleville and Centerville in Lower Chanceford Township), The Forge or Woodstock a community south of East Prospect, The Glades, and The Gut.

The program was concluded with the following quiz (match the old name with the new)…

1.	Apple Grove	A.	Adamsville
2.	Arbor	B.	Airville
3.	Ballytown	C.	Bryansville
4.	Conrads	D.	Cape Horn
5.	East Yoe	E.	Loganville
6.	Innersville	F.	Mulberry
7.	McSherrystown	G.	New Bridgeville
8.	Martinsburg	H.	North York
9.	Millerstown	I.	Pleasureville
10.	Mount Pleasant	J.	Shrewsbury
11.	Neffstown	K.	Spry
12.	Possumtown	L.	Winterstown
13.	Raffensberger Store	M.	Yoe
14.	Snydertown	N.	Yorkana
15.	Strasburg	O.	York New Salem

For anyone interested in learning more about place names in York County, Special Publication #63 is still available for $15.

Quiz Answers:

(1) Winterstown, (2) Adamsville, (3) North York, (4) New Bridgeville, (5) Cape Horn, (6) Spry, (7) Airville, (8) Loganville, (9) Yorkana, (10) Bryansville, (11) York New Salem, (12) Pleasureville, (13) Mulberry, (14) Yoe, and (15) Shrewsbury

World War I Burial Case Files

by Lynna Kay Shuffield
as published in *Ancestry Daily News*, 25 May 2000

When Cpl. William W. Brown, Co. D, 141st Battalion, 36th Division, "went over the top" during the Battle of St Etienne in World War I on 8-9 Oct 1918, he fought as only a Texan should. While courageously advancing under violent artillery and machine gun fire, Brown was killed in action by German shrapnel, which resulted in fractures of the skull and left arm at the elbow.

He was originally buried in an isolated battlefield grave on the Medeah Farm at St. Etienne-a-Arnes (Ardennes). He was posthumously awarded the French Croix de Guerre with a silver star for extraordinary heroism. Brown was disinterred and reburied four times before he reached his final resting place at the Meuse Argonne Cemetery #1232 at Romagnesous -Montfaucon in Meuse, France in Grave 174, Sec. 85, Plot 4.

You are probably wondering how I learned so much about Corporal Brown and his death. There are little-known documents called "burial case files" for most World War I casualties contained in Record Group 92 at the National Archives in Washington, DC. These files are related to servicemen or women who died while in the military during the time period 1915-39; the files were maintained for war casualties as well as for military domestic deaths.

The folders are arranged alphabetically and contained documents related to the individual's name, military organization, place of residence, date of death, circumstances of death, places of burial, next of kin, etc. These files also contain documentation if the mother of the deceased participated in the "World War I Mothers' Pilgrimages" program, which was sponsored by the U.S. government. This program transported mothers and wives of the deceased to the overseas military cemeteries.

When requesting copies of these burial case files, address your letter to the National Archives, ATTN: Old Military Records - RG 92, 700 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20408. Be sure to include as much information as you know about the solider, i.e., full name, date of birth/death, service number (if known), places of residence, etc.

Visit the National Archives website archives.gov for more information.

Deceased Members

Donna M. Shermeyer, 92, died Monday, February 6, 2017 at York Hospital. She was the wife of the late Gerald C. "Jerry" Shermeyer. Born March 11, 1924 in Harrisburg, she is the daughter of the late William Potteiger and Sidney B. Zimmerman Snook. Donna is a 1942 graduate of William Penn Senior High School and a graduate of Thompson Business School. She was a member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church where she participated in many activities, especially Young at Heart and Missionary Studies. She was also a member of the former St. Luke United Methodist Church where she was the treasurer and also involved with numerous religious education activities. Prior to Donna serving as treasurer for St. Luke United Methodist Church, she was a bookkeeper for both Washington National Insurance Company and Harper Myers.

She was also an assistant librarian and volunteer librarian and archivist for The Historical Society of York County. In 2014, she received the Volunteer of the Year award from the York County Heritage Trust for her long term extraordinary service in genealogical research and library services. Together with her husband, Donna also received the Dr. Henry James Young Award in 2013 from the South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society.

Since 2010, Donna lived at Normandie Ridge where she was very active in all facets of the Community. Her activities included serving on the Association where she was a vice-president and assistant secretary and organizing speakers and entertainment for the Catered Dinners. Donna enjoyed baking and creative cooking. She was a loving and devoted wife, mother, and nana.

She is survived by daughter, Pamela A. Woodward and her husband, Fred of Ellicott City, MD; a son, Mark D. Shermeyer and his wife, Lavonne of York; a granddaughter, Erika A. Woodward Gomez and her husband, Adolfo of New York City, NY; a sister, Lois Lam of Manchester; a brother, Wayne Snook of York; and numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by a brother, Wilson E. "Dutch" Snook.

Funeral services were held Friday, February 10, 2017 at 11 a.m. at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 2121 Roosevelt Avenue, York, with her pastor, the Rev. Leonard "Skip" Nizinski, officiating. Burial was in Mount Rose Cemetery.

Published in York Daily Record and York Dispatch on Feb. 9, 2017

Flames Beyond Gettysburg

The speaker for our November meeting was Scott Mingus, author of *Flames Beyond Gettysburg: The Confederate Expedition to the Susquehanna River, June 1863*.

In June 1863, York County farmers were preparing for the summer harvest. Summer crops typically provided money to sustain the family. The Confederate Army had been in Virginia for about eighteen months and the farm land had been ravaged. They were hauling food from Florida to feed the troops. Confederate General Robert E. Lee knew that he had to get out of Virginia and he had his eye on Pennsylvania's summer harvest.

Lee was passionate about invading Pennsylvania for several reasons. He had to draw the enemy from Virginia because he knew he could not sustain his army through the summer there, and he needed to take the pressure off the southern farmers. He also needed a victory on northern soil, and would need to disrupt the Union's railroad supply routes to gain the advantage. Victory on northern soil was an all or nothing gamble.

The Union began preparing to defend the Susquehanna River in order to protect the capital, Harrisburg. No armed Confederates would be allowed to cross the Susquehanna River. With its swift and erratic currents and abundance of rocks, it was a natural barrier to east west movement. The bridge at Wrightsville was the only bridge between Harrisburg and Conowingo, Maryland since ice destroyed the Norman Wood Bridge in 1857.

Governor Andrew Curtain, a leading Republican and ardent supporter of President Lincoln, called for an emergency militia of 50 thousand men. The locals had heard "the enemy is approaching" for 18 months, and consequently only seven thousand men volunteered including only 40-50 men from York County. The emergency militia was hastily trained at Camp Curtain. Of the seven regiments organized, the 20th PVM was sent to York, the 26th to Gettysburg, the 27th to Columbia, and the remainder guarded Harrisburg along with 10,000 volunteers from the New York National Guard.

The Confederates began raids on Adams and Franklin counties on June 15th searching for food and horses, and any other supplies they could find.

The residents of Chambersburg fled toward York County clogging the roads leading to the river with a steady stream of horses and wagons.

June 22, 1863 the Confederate Infantry invaded Pennsylvania. Their goals were to seize York and destroy the Northern Central railroad connecting Harrisburg and Baltimore; more specifically to destroy the Hanover Junction commercial railroad interchange, destroy the bridge over the Susquehanna River at Wrightsville and be in position to march to Dillsburg.

June 26th the Confederates occupied Gettysburg. The next day while Elijah White's cavalrymen raided Hanover and moved toward the railroad station at Hanover Junction, Brigadier General John Gordon's troops marched eastward toward York. A small delegation from York led by A. B. Farquhar met Gordon at the home of Jacob S. Altland near Farmers to negotiate protection for the people of York and their private property. This meeting has been generally interpreted as the surrender of York.

On Sunday June 28th Confederate troops marched into York, and then on to Wrightsville where Pennsylvania militiamen and black civilian home guards worked feverishly to extend trenches and rifle-pits. Realizing that they were out manned, the Pennsylvania militia retreated across the bridge toward Columbia and proceeded with the plan to blow up a 200 foot span of the bridge. The efforts to topple the span failed so a section of the bridge was set on fire. Soon the bridge was fully engulfed in flames.

Wind-blown embers spread to the roof of a lumber mill in Wrightsville and soon consumed the several more riverside buildings. Frustrated in their failed effort to save the bridge the Confederates turned their energy toward subduing the fire and assisting shopkeepers in their efforts to save their merchandise. Bucket brigades led by Confederate troops saved the rest of the town of Wrightsville from burning. Ironically when the Confederates asked Wrightsville residents for buckets to extinguish the bridge fire there were none to be had.

On the last day of June the Confederate troops began marching toward Gettysburg and the infamous battle that occurred there on the first few days of July.

Although no one could have known it then, York would be the largest Northern town Confederate troops would occupy during the entire Civil War.   — Flames Beyond Gettysburg, Scott L. Mingus Sr.

Tales of Long Ago: Old-Time Business

from *The News*, a newsletter of the Kreutz Creek Charge of the Reformed Church; February 1929, Vol. XII No. 2

This farm, which forms the basis of our Tale this month, is owned and occupied at the present time by Peter M. Fake, he being the owner since 1922. The Pastor was invited to look over the old deeds, which seem so complete as to cover nearly every sale throughout these 175 years.

The first settler was John Freet Pener, to whom a patent was given by John Penn, dated April 4, 1754. This is just one year later than the date of the warrant for 25 acres to Canadochly Church. The date was discovered by the Pastor in a document from John Penn to the executors of Phillip Gohn, the second purchaser, (which we will quote at length below), in which occurs this statement:

"Being part of a tract originally surveyed in a warrant granted to John Freet Pener, dated 4th April 1754." If you refer to our Kreutz Creek History, page 69, you will see that this man's land adjoins Canadochly Church on the east. And in Pener's deed you will see his boundary on this section described as "a line by the Church land"; or in another deed as "lands in possession of Conochochola Church."

So this is the original settler on the Fake farm. Of course, the farm was much larger then, containing 227 acres instead of the 75 acres of the present farm.

The next owner was Phillip Gohn. But just when he purchased it can not be discovered from these deeds. He appointed as his Executors, George Oberdorff and George Dietz, in his will dated July 3, 1806. Let the old deed tell its story:

("And being also the same Tract of Land which John Penn by his Attorney, John R. Coates, and the said John R. Coates and his wife, in their own right by their Indenture under their Hands and Seals dated the eighth day of October Anno Domini, One thousand eight hundred and eleven, did grand and confirm the same to George Oberdorff and George Dietz, aforesaid in trust for the heirs of Phillip Gohn, deceased, as in and by said Indenture recorded in the office for recording Deeds in and for said County of York in Book V.V. page 457 & ca., reference being thereunto had may more fully appear.")

These Executors, in consideration of $7,382.30, sold 216 acres and 3 perches to Philip Jacobs, October 8, 1811.

It is interesting to note the names of the neighbors, which are as follows: George Oberdorff, George Fake, Michael Dellinger, Jacob Neaf, Jacob Dellinger, Anthony Keller and Phillip Goon (Gohn).

Philip Jacobs, June 22, 1818, sold 166 acres and 134 perches to Henry Dellinger, who died intestate, leaving his widow and six children. His administrators were Peter Keller and Mathias Becker, who, by a decree of the Orphans' Court, sold to Daniel Dellinger the same tract April 1, 1820, who in turn re-sold it to the same administrators, April 6, 1826.

The next transaction sells 166 acres and 134 perches to Peter Stehley, of Chanceford Township, June 5, 1827. Peter Stehley is the grandfather of Mrs. A. H. Ruby.

The next buyer is Peter Keller, to who was conveyed, under date of November 2, 1866, 166 acres and 77 perches. This is the son of Peter Keller, who is buried near the Lutheran Church in Canadochly Cemetery, and is the oldest person in the cemetery, being almost 100 years of age. When he died he had eight heirs. His executors were James Keller, who married Leah Dietz, and Peter W. Keller, who married Catherine Young. His daughter, Mrs. Sarah (Henry) Fauth, March 27, 1875, bought Tract No. 8. The rest of the farm, containing 159 acres, was sold to Henry Thomas, March 27, 1875, for $9,544.00. Then he and his wife, Maria, bought a tract of 27 acres and 75 perches from Christian Kocher, March 25, 1876; and later another tract of 157 acres and 89 perches, March 21, 1879. His son Harry Thomas, farmed for his father and March 25, 1910, bought the farm.

On March 14, 1922, the present owner, Peter M. Fake, bought the homestead and 75 acres of land. In the spring of 1928, he modernized and improved the house, so that now it presents an imposing appearance. The present home was built in 1836, as is known from a date in the attic. The older house stood on the present lawn nearer the barn, being erected some time in the earlier days at a date not now definitely known.

Thus we have traced the ownership of one of the earliest settled farms in the Canadochly region.

Pay attention to the people buried near your relatives ... they may be family members, too.

Calendar of Local Events

Sunday, March 12

B&O Railroad During the Civil War
Historical Society of Baltimore County Almshouse
9811 Van Buren Lane, Cockeysville, [2 PM]
When the Civil War began the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad quickly became the most important railroad in the nation. Located entirely within the state of Maryland and the present day state of West Virginia, it represented the only direct rail link between Washington, DC, and the loyal states. Throughout the war, its destruction was a constant objective of the Confederacy. Dan Toomey will explore this "First Front" concept as presented in his book *The War Came by Train: The Baltimore & Ohio Railroad During the Civil War*. [$5 non-members]

Monday, March 20

The Resources of the McDaniel Library & Archives
Carroll County Genealogical Society
Dixon Room, Westminster Library
50 East Main Street, Westminster [7 PM]

The McDaniel College Archives at Hoover Library is the repository for the historical records of Western Maryland and McDaniel College, and for other documents and artifacts that are related to the history of the College. Andrea Briggs, Archivist and Special Collections Librarian at McDaniel College, will be speaking about the types of resources available to researchers from the Archives both on campus and online, as well as what kinds of information can be uncovered in their collections to assist with genealogical research.

Monday, April 17

Using Identity Characteristics to Locate Your Ancestors
Carroll County Genealogical Society
Dixon Room, Westminster Library
50 East Main Street, Westminster [7 PM]

Characteristics beyond name can help locate individuals in records and distinguish men of the same name. Comparing information found in one record to that of another record can help determine if they refer to the same individual. Many different characteristics of an individual can be used in this comparison, such as age, occupation, residence, birthplace, etc. This technique can be especially useful to overcome indexing issues where your ancestor's name may not be identifiable, or in situations where a name has been changed.

Saturday, April 29

Spring Seminar
Baltimore County Genealogical Society
The Parkville Senior Center, Room 308 (3rd Floor)
8601 Harford Road, Parkville [8:30 AM]

(1) Baltimore: The Golden Door for Immigrants

Baltimore was a major entry point for immigrants to America. Learn about its history and the sources available to document individuals who arrived through this port.

(2) The Dead and Dying: Cemeteries, Funeral Homes, and Obituaries

Get into the spirit of cemetery research by introducing a few superstitions that motivated our ancestors' understanding of death and the afterlife. Next we discuss records of death outside of traditional death certificates, funeral home records, and touch on the importance of finding obituaries. Lastly we look at cemeteries and headstone iconography and how to prepare for a visit to the cemetery.

(3) Are You My Grandpa?: Men of the Same Name

This lecture is for all of us who discover that their ancestor has a name in common with someone else in their community. We discuss techniques for comparing and contrasting the records of these people in order to separate our ancestors with another line. Case studies are included throughout the lecture with a focus on Maryland and Baltimore records.

View the registration form at

http://www.baltimoregenealogysociety.org/BCGShome/program-of-speakers/genealogy-seminar/

Sunday, March 27

Researching Western Maryland Families
Baltimore County Genealogical Society
The Parkville Senior Center, Room 308 (3rd Floor)
8601 Harford Road, Parkville [3 PM]

Research regarding families in the areas of Carroll County to the end of the state and south to Montgomery County and will include an overview of the resources, institutions, things to keep in mind when doing this kind of research.

What Are You Searching?

From *Genealogy Tip of the Day with Michael John Neill*, February 3, 2017

It is tempting to just type a name in a search box and hope. Research rests more on expectations. When using any database, particularly one you have never used before, try and answer the following questions:

- What records were used to complete the index?

- Is the index an every name index, an index to "main names," an index of names that readers have submitted to be indexed, etc.? This matters–a lot.

- Are the records for your specific location and time period of interest included?

- Is every record included or just some? Some sites with images of newspapers are spotty in their coverage. Some sites do not include records from all smaller jurisdictions that make up the entire area (eg. a database that says "New York State marriages" may only include some counties).

Answering these questions makes you a more effective user of the database.

Did They Change Their Name?

From *Genealogy Tip of the Day with Michael John Neill*, February 1, 2017

If your relative disappears, one possible reason for the disappearance is a change of name. Sometimes these name changes will appear in local court records. In the early days of a state or territory, these changes may have been recorded at the state level. Ancestors who immigrated may have changed their name when they naturalized. Others may never have legally changed their name even if they did in practice.

Land records may mention multiple spellings of a name, particularly if a deed of purchase has a different spelling than a deed of sale. Probate records may mention alternate names for a person if receipts and documents have names that don't match. Pension records may also document a name change.

And … if the person changed their name because they were running from the law, there may be no record.