

Our Name's The Game

www.scpgs.org

Monthly Newsletter Vol. 44 No. 4 January/February 2018

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Sunday, March 4, 2018

The Scotch Irish: Their Origins in the British Isles and Their Impact in South Central Pennsylvania

This month's meeting will be held in the meeting hall at the York County History Center, 250 East Market Street, York. A brief business meeting will begin at 2:15 PM and the program will immediately follow.

This program will examine the Scotch-Irish who were one of the major groups to settle in South Central Pennsylvania in the 18th century. The program will examine the origins of the Scotch-Irish in Scotland and Northern Ireland and the settlement in Pennsylvania. Their overall influence on our region as well as their religion, language, cultural and food will also be discussed. Richard Konkel, our society's vice-president will be the speaker.

Sunday, April 8, 2018

Navigating Pennsylvania's Revolutionary War Militia Records

This month's meeting will be held in the meeting hall at the York County History Center, 250 East Market Street, York. A brief business meeting will begin at 2:15 PM and the program will immediately follow.

The Pennsylvania Revolutionary War militia records are some of the most popular records at the Pennsylvania State Archives. Even so, few fully understand the records or how to interpret them. With this in mind, this month's program will cover the various militia documents found in the collection and the information they contain. It will also cover how to interpret and use them to expand on a veteran's overall service during the war. Our speaker, Aaron McWilliams is a research archivist at the Pennsylvania State Archives. His areas of expertise include Pennsylvania state land records, Pennsylvania's Revolutionary War militia, and genealogy.

UPCOMING MEETINGS ...

Sunday, May 6, 2018

Tour of Prospect Hill Cemetery

Sunday, June 3, 2018

Henry James Young Awards

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 return 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

Serendipity ... an apparent aptitude for making fortunate discoveries accidentally (*Webster's New World Dictionary of the English Language*, 2nd college edition). At our monthly meeting in January, this word came to mind as several participants described interesting finds about their ancestors upon which they just happened to stumble. I have experienced this luck a number of times over the years that I have been researching my lineage.

Many years ago, before the days of online access, SCPGS member and former president David Hively was digging into Revolutionary War pension files for one of his forebears when he discovered an affidavit made by my ancestor John Gundrum of Annville Township, Lebanon County, Pennsylvania. David recalled that I was working on the Gundrum family, so he copied the document for me. John testified that he carried David's wounded ancestor off the battlefield at Princeton, New Jersey, but he provided no information about his own military service. I have been unable to find any other evidence that John Gundrum served in the Continental Army, so he might have been attached to the regiment as a wagon driver or in some other civilian capacity.

Another serendipitous discovery occurred at the Lancaster County Historical Society (now LancasterHistory.org). I was tracking my elusive

ancestor David Boyce (1806-1873), who resided in the region covered by northern Lancaster County, eastern Dauphin County and southern Lebanon County. While I really wanted to determine the names of his parents, I searched for any evidence of his presence in that area.

After finding little more information than what I had already collected over the years, I decided to make another attempt to locate his grave (before the days of FindaGrave.com). I had a copy of his will and related estate papers, but I did not know where he was buried. Knowing that he died in the vicinity of Mt. Joy, the librarian on duty pointed me to tombstone transcriptions of cemeteries in that locality. The first volume I selected covered the Camp Hill Cemetery in Mt. Joy, which had been transcribed since I last investigated this matter. And there he was! The stones of both David Boyce and his wife Elizabeth were listed. Later, I obtained pictures of the markers from BillionGraves.com.

As you continue your genealogical pursuits this year, be open to moments of serendipity. Almost by accident, you might find something for which you have been searching for many years, or you might uncover an intriguing tidbit about one of your ancestors. Happy hunting!

Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society (MAGS)

Saturday, April 14, 2018

8:30 AM - 4 PM

DoubleTree by Hilton 15101 Sweitzer Lane, Laurel, MD

Some Other Approaches to your German Research

Speaker: Michael Lacopo, D.V.M.

Visit https://magsgen.com for more information or to register.

Morning Program

Deconstructing Your Family Tree: Re-evaluating the "Evidence" ... When information passed on from researcher to researcher doesn't "add up", it's time to tear down the walls and rebuild anew. This methodology lecture shows how erroneous conclusions can sneak into our research uncontested. This lecture is pertinent especially today with so many internet family trees that get cut and pasted into our own research.

Mennonite Research: The Forgotten Swiss Germans ... The Mennonites came to America in two "waves" - primarily the 18th century migration from Germany to America and the 19th century migration from Switzerland to the Midwest. Learn how research techniques and repositories in America and in Europe can help you locate your Anabaptist ancestor!

Afternoon Program

Methods for Identifying the German Origins of American Immigrants ... If all you know from conventional records is "Germany" as a place of origin, then this lecture will help you mine other resources to locate WHERE in Germany your ancestor came from.

How to Overcome Brick Walls in German-American Research ... Several case studies will be presented showing lesser-utilized research tactics, repositories and resources used to find information about our German-speaking ancestors.

Our January Meeting

At our January meeting our members and the invited public attending were encouraged to share interesting genealogical stories and artifacts they have come across in the pursuit and research of their ancestors. Following are a few of their stories ...

"Much that is Satan's will in California" written by Jonathan R. Stayer

In 1921, my great-grandparents, Edward H. and Amy P. (Royer) Stayer, moved from their farm outside Denver, Pennsylvania, to join Edward's family in LaVerne, California. His father, David B. Stayer, had migrated to LaVerne from the Eastern Shore of Maryland about 1899, hoping for an improvement in his financial situation. At that time, my Stayer family was actively involved in the Church of the Brethren.

Among my treasured family documents is a letter written from LaVerne on "Monday Morning" April 25, 1932 by Amy Stayer, my great-grandmother, to her mother and sister in northeastern Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. The following transcript of a portion of that letter illustrates her religious temperament and convictions (original spelling and punctuation have been retained):

"Well we are in the midest of a serious of meetings, and Edward and [I] say to one-another and others say it. We have never heard the like from a man who gives you such wonderfull messages so deep and then makes it so plain that we common folks to understand, and the best of it is not his opinion but the Lords words And his will and what else do we want, for nothing short of that will do Now maybe you folks don't here any things but Gods will preached to you. But I tell you here in California you can hear much that is Satans will instead of Gods Will and you need not go out of the brethren church. But Praise the Lord we have a place to go where the Lords' will is preached. This Bro Baker has been with for the 3rd time for a serious of meetings in side of a year.

"I told him last night his preaching has the ring of the old brethren used to have. When He spoke he had no use for the instruments in the worshiping of the church. He said our Lord and the Holy Spirit had not told the apostals to put that in the order and organizing the churches. We don't read it so. But we do read the orders of the church and it is not once mentioned to use instruments in the New Testament, I know you would say so too. But now days not many preachers would stand up in the pulpit and say so. for

it is so sad how many seem to be blinded who seemingly once knew better.

"I often feel like I would like to sit down and have a talk with you of that future Home where we are all invited too That Home where no parting is known. But Oh! That we would of studied the word of God more in our younger days. Then may be we would not of made so many mistakes, even if the Lord can blot them out with the blood he has shed on the cross for us. Some how it greives me and is a hindrance to me in the faith."

Letters from a Classmate written by Erica Runkles

My mother, Mary Douglass Ritz (Risser) and her father, John Ritz, and stepmother, Sadie Kopp Ritz, lived on West High Street in Red Lion in the late 1930s. After her death, I found a delightful collection of wide-ruled newsprint letters written to her by her elementary school classmates in 1938, probably at the bequest of their teacher, during my mother's recuperation from chicken pox. It was also Easter time which provided an opportunity for each to report on their Easter baskets and candy. There were handwritten letters to her from Morton Bender, Joe Klinefelter, Cleo, Vada Daugherty, Phyllis Barnhart, Danny S., Frances Beaverson, Robert Wagman, Dwight Miller, Alvin Frey, Jeane Raab, Richard Ritz, Ronald, Elwood Bick, Una Billet, Jill Markey, Betsy Cause, Bobby Bull, Harvey Myers, Dorothy Sitne, Thelma, Kenneth, Lamar Waltimyer, Audrey McCleary, Joan Peters, Nancy Becker, Phyllis Frederick, Marian Hoover, and Janet Mundis.

More stories shared at our January meeting follow on pages 4, 5 and 6.

Members are encouraged to share their stories for publication in a future newsletter.

If you have a story that you would like to share, you can send it to us at

scpgswebsite@wildblue.net

or via mail to PO Box 1824, York, PA 17405

One Serendipity Moment written by Margaret Burg

For over 20 years my poor mother, who really wasn't interested in genealogy, had to hear about my attempts to locate a Great Aunt Valerie who was the sister of my paternal grandfather and seemed to disappear. The only proof I had of her existence was a Catholic birth record from the 1870's in New Orleans, LA, and a copy of a newspaper obituary from 1925 when her mother died and she was listed as a survivor as Mrs. J. Johns, and at the end of the notice, it said Modesta, Kansas newspapers should copy. On the 1900 Census she was living next door to her brother, my grandfather, and she was married to Taylor Cousin. But she disappears after that.

There was also a family story that always had my interest. My Aunt Elise told me that my grandfather moved the family from New Orleans to Independence, LA which was about 25 miles away because Valerie, who lived across the street from their home, was known to "entertain gentlemen callers" at all hours and his sons and neighborhood boys would hang on the iron fence out front to try to see what was going on at her house.

My mother passed away in February of 2016 and I was in California staying at her home for a couple of months to take care of settling the estate and prepare to sell the house. One night not long after she passed, I was sitting in her favorite chair and something "flew" into my mind that I should go look for Valerie. I got the laptop and logged into Ancestry and in response to my search for Valerie Bouillon, all the answers were there. The first thing that popped up was the Social Security Application and Claim, then Find A Grave, with an obituary for Valerie Bennett, which said she was the daughter of Eugene Bouillon who was born in France and Theresa Gadpaille, who was born in Cuba. (Exactly right) Her third husband was Benjamin Bennett. They had the same date of death. The 1930 Census which had never come up before with the "Johns" name, also was listed with her as the wife of John T. Johnson living in Neodesha, KS. Valerie Bouillon was listed on the Kansas City and County Censuses from 1939 to 1951, and listed as Valerie Bennett from 1952. Finally, my search concluded with The Salina Journal, Salina KS which had a news article from February 28, 1965 of a Neodesha couple, Benjamin Bennett and wife who were asphyxiated in their home due to a chimney flue which may have been stopped up. Thank you, Mom.

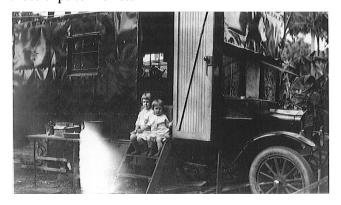
Early Snowbirds written by Becky Anstine

In the mid 1920's, many northern laborers would migrate to Florida during the winter for work and then return to the North in spring. Among them, were my grandparents, Myrl and Alice (Dietz) Burdick and their two daughters, Lucille and Marian. From 1925 to 1928, they would head to Daytona Beach, in what my Grandmother described as "the strangest mode of transportation that I've used while on a trip". The



transportation was a "house-car" that my Grandfather built himself. He was a mechanic and tinkering with machines was a favorite past time. The pictures show the outside of this car- complete with curtains and a glimpse of a teakettle inside. Notice the picture which shows a missing tire and the car propped up on cinderblocks.

My grandmother never learned to drive, so she walked everywhere. Farmers brought their products to the auto camp for the campers to buy. My mother, Mildred, was born in December 1928; she never got to travel in the house-car – the trips ended by then – for many years. But shortly after I was born in 1949 and before the birth of my sister in 1955, my father would hook up the house trailer and take it to Florida - where my mother would stay for about 6 weeks while he went back to New Freedom and worked. I know my grandparents went down and stayed in the trailer several times. On these trips, my grandfather was able to relax and go fishing. My grandfather died in 1954 but his family remembered those trips – especially my Aunt Marian. The family claimed that unlike her sister, Lucille, Marian spoke with a Southern drawl because she learned to talk during those trips to Florida.





Identifying an Old Photograph written by Cynthia Hartman

I inherited several boxes of old photographs, most of which are unlabeled. The above picture intrigued me. After comparing several photographs, I concluded that the first gentleman from the left in the front row was the same person that was in a 16x20 charcoal photo of an older couple. I identified this man as Lewis Gerbrick Bortner (1818-1895), my 3xgreatgrandfather. There are a total of thirteen people in this photograph, and coincidently Lewis had twelve siblings. I searched online for pictures of Lewis and his siblings without much success. I was, however, contacted by someone who informed me that there was an article in The York Daily on March 9, 1886 concerning this photograph. The article ARemarkable Family is as follows: "The family of the late ex-Commissioner Bortner, of Codorus, though now some are living in other States, all met on last Saturday in Glen Rock at the photograph gallery of J. A. Shomaker, who photographed them in one group. They are, of thirteen born, eight males and five females, the oldest now seventy years and the youngest forty-seven years, and all enjoy good health to this day. This is certainly a rare occurrence. There are now engaged nearly fifty pictures of the group."

So as I suspected the people in this photograph are the children of Jacob Bortner (1793-1857) and his wife Catharine Gerbrick (1793-1880), namely: Elizabeth wife of Peter Lau Rohrbaugh, Lewis, Jesse, Daniel, Amos, Lusianna wife of George W. Steffey, Jacob, Charles, Catharina wife of Jonas M. Bortner, Matilda wife of George Deveney, Emanuel, Levi and Julian wife of Israel G. Fair.

According to SCPGS Special Publication #56: York Area Photographers, in 1870, J. A. Shoemaker had a studio in Glen Rock and New Paradise (aka Jacobus).

Following are excerpts from a few of the personal experiences shared by Robert Shaub.

What Do You Believe? written by Robert Shaub

Do you believe in miracles, the spirit world or do you think it is just dumb luck?

A man, a total stranger, looking for the birth place of Catherine Faust, stopped by my house. He came to my door and he was researching the Faust family who he descended from. He had learned that they once lived in the area round Shrewsbury. He had gone to the Historical Society in York, but they could not tell him specifically where she was born. Someone there, he did not know who, suggested he come to me. When he asked if I knew who his ancestor was and if I could tell him where she was born. I told him I not only tell him where she was born, I could also show him. Step inside and you will be in the very room where she was born. I think he was so shocked he could not believe what I had just said. How lucky could you be? To think he drove into town not knowing where he was going and stopped at my house, the very same house where Baltzer Faust lived and his ancestor was born. My house was one of several properties that Baltzer Faust owned in the Shrewsbury area. The small end section of my house was once a one story log cabin. When Baltzer moved from the Fissel's Church area to Shrewsbury he had five children, then came five more children. Catherine was the youngest of the five.

The next strange encounter was with a man from California. He came into Albany New York on a business trip. He got through his business about a day ahead of schedule. His family came from York County but he did not have the slightest idea where. He had heard one time someone in the family mention Shrewsbury. As soon as he was free from his business, he rented a car and drove from Albany to Shrewsbury. He had about a day to get back to catch his flight home. He drove into Shrewsbury and went back West Forrest Street. The first person he saw was the barber and he asked him if anyone in the area knew anything about the Klinefelter family? The barber told him to come see me. He asked me about certain Klinefelter names and he was surprised that anyone ever heard of them and he was even more surprised when I told him he was standing on a portion of the first Klinefelter land grant. He was more interested in where his ancestor Klinefelter lived. I told him he needed to go the Sweitzer farm at Susquehanna High School. He had heard about the Seitz-Klinefelter cemetery being near the farm. I told

him how to locate it. I could not go with him but with my directions, a copy of the Kermit Klinefelter land grant map he would be able to find and see the house where his ancestor lived. He certainly had a wonderful genealogy trip. After he returned home I received a letter of appreciation. Again was he just lucky or did some other force drive him to me.

The last time I could help anyone was in the fall of 2015 a man and his wife from below Washington was driving the side roads around my farm and he saw my son. He asked him if he knew where the Bortner Homestead was located. He didn't know but he told him I would know. He came to see me and when I got to talking to him I found he was from a Bortner line that little is known about. I looked up his information in the Bortner Gantz family tree and found we were cousins. His family originated from the Bortner Gantz family on the Rockville Road, near Glen Rock. They moved from there and went west. Not only did he learn the location of his homestead site of his ancestor but found a new cousin as well.

A two day trip to Virginia my wife and I took one week was a personal experience in the unexpected. We went to a post card show at Harrisonburg, VA. I had been doing some research on a distant great great grandfather Rudolph Yount. I had made an inquiry about him to the Harrisburg Historical Society. Their reply was they knew of him but not much detail. He was buried in a family plot. I had also heard that he helped start the Lineville church. With that little bit of information we started out early on a Sunday morning to find out further information. First stop was to locate the Lineville church. It was easy to do. We pulled into the church parking lot early before any of the congregation began to arrive. Then a car pulled in and stopped. An older lady got out and walked to our car and asked if she could help us. I said we are looking for information on Rudolph Yount. She then asked me if I was Mr. Shaub? Who is this lady and how did she know my name? It turned out that she did volunteer work at the Historical Society and was elated to learn that I was from the area where the Yount family came from. I asked her about the family cemetery and she pointed out a clump of trees growing in a pasture field and she said that was the family plot. She also said that the next farm down the road was Rudolph's son's farm. She invited us to her house in the afternoon and we had a delightful chat. Returning home I found out we were fifth cousins. Before I could talk to her again she was involved in a fatal car accident. Was it dumb luck or some other force that the first person we talked to was my guiding light?

Another happening occurred early in my experiences. A man by the name of Hammer was looking for families who came from Germany with his family. Again the Gantz family came into the picture. The Gantz family and the Hammer family both were from the same village in Germany. He had a description of the Hammer homestead and I told him that the place that fit the description was the farm on the left as you pass Catholic Valley Road and Route 616 to Seven Valleys. It turned out I was right. He knew little about researching but he must have been a fast learner. Through the years we kept in touch. He became as expert and one day I got a book with more than 500 pages. In the book he acknowledges the help that I and Lou Ella Martin supplied him. I had previously helped Mrs. Martin with her book.

I hit a brick wall in locating the village in Germany where my ancestors came from. Will I be so lucky and will I know the clue when I find it?

2018 Annual Genealogy Lecture

Saturday, March 10, 2018

10 AM - 4:30 PM

Maryland Historical Society, France Hall 201 West Monument Street Baltimore, MD 21201

The Maryland State Library Resource Center's 17th Annual Genealogy Lecture will honor Women's History Month by welcoming three prominent genealogists, who will each present a lecture on the topic of "Finding Your Female Ancestors."

- Elissa Scalise Powell will present "Hiding Behind Their Skirts: Finding Women in Records."
- Lisa Alzo will present "Silent Voices: Telling the Stories of Your Female Immigrant Ancestors."
- Barbara Vines Little will present "Femme Covert or Femme Sole: Women and the Law."

We will end the day with a question and answer session, "Daughters, Mothers and Wives: Researching the Women in Your Family Tree." Don't miss this opportunity to pick the brains of three distinguished professional genealogists with almost 85 years of combined experience.

To register, call 410-396-5468, or email mdx@prattlibrary.org

Tales of Long Ago: The Cabinet Makers

from *The News*, a newsletter of the Kreutz Creek Charge of the Reformed Church; April 1930, Vol. XIII No. 4

The Pennsylvania Germans had some very fine mechanics and carpenters in the early days. These men took pride in their work, laboring for a long time on a job. In fact time did not count, but what they wanted was a finished product, one that would do justice to the maker's reputation and last through ages. Our Tale this month will deal with the Cabinet Makers

John Pentz kept store at the crossroads where Andrew Poff now lives on the East Prospect road in Lower Windsor Township. Pentz was followed as store-keeper by David Hengst and then by Reuben A. Paules. This John Pentz had two brothers who were deaf and dumb. These men were both expert cabinet makers. They lived in the shop in the rear of the janitor's house belonging to the Canadochly Church, now occupied by Charles Stine.

Among their master-pieces were fine bureaus. We are indebted to the wonderful memory of Samuel Roddy Leiphart, now deceased, but who in his 93rd year told the Pastor these facts. Mr. Leiphart recalled three of these bureaus distinctly. They were made of cherry wood and had a mahogany veneered front, inlaid with box wood or other white wood around the kev-holes. Each bureau was finished with glass knobs. The first of these bureaus Mr. Leiphart's stepmother bought; the second he saw on exhibition at the York County Fair which was listed at \$60.00; the third came into his own possession. He bought it from one of Canadochly's school-teachers who moved west and did not wish to be hampered with such a heavy piece of furniture. This purchase was made when he was a young man of eighteen years of age; and his mother furnished the money (about \$24.00) The date was therefore 1854 when it came into Mr. Leiphart's possession, although the time when it was manufactured is not thus determined.

Another patriarch now gone to his reward that spoke to the Pastor about these skilled cabinet makers, was David Leiphart. He told of a bureau which was made for his mother, in 1860, by Fred Wagner, a "Schweitzer" or Swiss who also lived in the same Canadochly shop as the above mentioned men. This bureau now is in possession of Mr. Leiphart's daughter, Mrs. Clayton Dietz. On one occasion, Wagner went with Mr. Leiphart to the "fish pot" at Turkey Hill to fish. He was warned as to the strength and treachery of the currents on the river, but he

laughingly said that he knew all this. In a short time he was caught in the current and thrown violently into the river. He was rescued a sadder but wiser man.

In this same Wagner's time a new brick house was built at the Canadochly shop. On one occasion some one put an oil can on the stove and all went to dinner. The oil can exploded and the house was burnt out. The tools were burnt and all furniture and lumber destroyed.

Any museum will have fine specimens of the care and skill lavished on the furniture by these old time artisans.

39th Annual Lancaster Family History Conference

Extra! Extra! Research All About It! How Newspapers Enhance Family History

Imagine an intensely localized document created within the circumstances in which your ancestor lived. What was going on in the local community? What were your ancestors reading? What information did they have access to, shaping their own worldviews? Perhaps you'll even find your ancestor listed, in a specific issue within a specific context, bringing the connection to life. Historic newspapers provide a valuable sense of the way our local communities functioned a century or more ago. Now more than ever, historic newspapers are becoming digitized and easily accessible to everyone everywhere.

Join us for a special week of family history activities focused around the theme of historic newspapers.

Tuesday, April 17 through Saturday, April 21, 2018 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Make the most of your time in Lancaster by visiting the library and archives at the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society (2215 Millstream Road, along Lincoln Highway East). LMHS is one of Pennsylvania's best genealogical libraries with over 3,000 published genealogies, 2,500 cemetery transcriptions, local court and tax records, access to Ancestry.com, a unique family card file with genealogical data on hundreds of thousands of families, and an obituary database with more than 190,000 names. The use of the library and archives is free for registered conference participants.

Visit www.lmhs.org/events/history-conference/ for more information about this conference.

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DATED MATERIAL—DO NOT DELAY



Historical Society of Pennsylvania Announces Two Summer Genealogy Courses in Philadelphia

Researching Family in Pennsylvania

July 30 to August 3, 2018

Researching Family in Pennsylvania is an intensive five-day course exploring the records and repositories available for research in the Keystone State. This course offers a complete "How to" curriculum, training you to use the resources available at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania (HSP) as well as record sources for all 67 counties. During the course week, HSP's library and archive will remain open two evenings to accommodate researchers who want to apply their new-found knowledge base to the society's unique holdings.

For more information or to register visit: hsp.org

The Historical Society of Pennsylvania (HSP) has partnered with the International Society for British Genealogy and Family History (ISBGFH) to conduct a four-day program of researching family in the British Isles. ISBGFH conducts the British Institute held annually in Salt Lake City to provide weeklong education by well-known genealogists on British Isles research topics. The ISBGFH has arranged for several presenters to provide an overview of researching British Isles topics at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. These presentations will explore DNA, Scotland, Ireland and England research.

Researching Family in the British Isles

August 13 to August 16, 2018

HSP presents an in-depth, four-day curriculum featuring international instructors on researching family in the British Isles. Through these expert-taught classes, you'll learn how to conduct genealogical research in Scotland, Ireland and England, plus how to apply DNA to your studies. Each instructor will offer personal consultations; separate registration required.