



**South Central
Pennsylvania**
Genealogical Society

Our Name's The Game

www.scpgs.org

Monthly Newsletter Vol. 39 No. 1 July/August 2013

OUR NEXT MEETING

Sunday, August 25, 2013 — *The Fiery Trial: York County's Civil War Experience*

At our first meeting of the 2013-2014 year we will tour the Trust's newest exhibit: *The Fiery Trial: York County's Civil War Experience*. The exhibit highlights York County's and the South Central Pennsylvania Region's national role in perhaps the United States' greatest conflict, from its beginnings in the 1820s to its enduring legacy.

Join us for a tour of the exhibit with Lila Fourhman-Shaull, Director of Library & Archives at the York County Heritage Trust and member of the exhibit team. She will share the exhibit's creation following seventeen months of research and fabrication. Discover the community's connection to national people and events, explore an array of period artifacts, objects, and unique papers, documents, and printed items and experience the fears, sacrifice, and loss as well as the joy, pride, and beliefs of a community and its citizens who witness the war first hand.

We will meet in the Meeting Hall at York County Heritage Trust Library & Archives, 250 East Market Street, York, Pennsylvania for a brief business meeting at 2:15 PM prior to the tour.

UPCOMING MEETINGS are tentatively scheduled as follows ...

Sunday, October 6, 2013	<i>to be announced</i>
Sunday, November 3, 2013	tour Mount Rose Cemetery and Mausoleum
Sunday, January 5, 2014	round table discussion ... Who Do You Think You Are?
Sunday, February 2, 2014	Gerald Smith ... Court of Quarter Sessions Records
Sunday, March 2, 2014	<i>to be announced</i>
Sunday, April 6, 2014	<i>to be announced</i>
Sunday, May 4, 2014	<i>to be announced</i>
Saturday, June 7, 2014	conference ... watch for more details as they become available

IMPORTANT MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER

If you have not renewed your membership for the year 2013-2014, please mail your payment as soon as possible. Your annual membership expired on June 30th and you will not continue to receive membership benefits if you do not renew. Please remember that there will be an additional fee assessed to cover the postage for back issues of our newsletter and any special publications if you do not renew by September 1st. Renewal information was included in the April edition of this newsletter.

SCPGS OFFICERS 2013-2014

The following officers were either elected at our June meeting or will be serving the second year of a two-year term:

President: Richard Konkel
 Vice President: Kimberly Grim
 Treasurer: Margaret Burg
 Corresponding Secretary: Becky Anstine
 Recording Secretary: Melody Kraus
 Directors-at-Large: Thomas Gibson and Franklin R. Grove, Jr.

Thanks also go to those who served in appointed board positions during the past year and will continue to do so in the 2013-2014 year:

Cynthia Hartman, Director of Publications and newsletter editor
 Patricia Gross, Director of Operations
 Mardella Brenneman, Director of Public Relations
 Barbara Rudy, Director of Special Projects
 Lila Fourhman-Shaull, Representative for the York County Heritage Trust

Thanks to these members for making room in busy schedules to accept a position of responsibility.



What is Wrong with this Tombstone?

Posted by Dick Eastman on July 6, 2013

Look closely at the picture to the right. Do you see what is wrong with it?

Christiana Haag's gravestone is in the Old Mission Church Cemetery in Upper Sandusky, Ohio.

EU Regulation Could Restrict Genealogical Research Throughout Europe

Posted by Dick Eastman on June 24, 2013

Access to old parish, local, and national vital records throughout Europe would be restricted immediately if a proposed European Union regulation on data protection is passed.

The Genealogical Society of Ireland's secretary of the organisation, Michael Merrigan, said the EU proposed general data protection regulation requires public records held by the State, including public records at Ireland's General Register Office, such as birth certificates, to be considered as personal information. "For data protection purposes, we could end up in a situation where genealogical, biographical, historical or even journalistic research will be in some way curtailed," he said.

HENRY JAMES YOUNG AWARD RECIPIENTS: THEIR STORIES

Three Henry James Young Award recipients were honored at the June 2, 2013 meeting of the SCPGS, and presented a certificate. Following is the biography of each recipient:

Victoria Allen presented the life and contributions of Donna and Gerald Shermeyer, whom June Lloyd nominated for the award.

Donna and Gerald Shermeyer

Donna Potteiger was born in Harrisburg, but she came to York before she was a year old and spent her childhood and growing up years with grandparents Hilda Johnson Porter and Samuel Porter on Salem Avenue, a beautiful area of the city at that time. After graduating from William Penn Senior High School, Donna attended Thompson Business College and had courses in childhood education from Lebanon Valley College. She spent many years working with children in Sunday School, workshops and camps, starting at the family church, St. Luke's United Methodist, which was located at West and King Streets, not far from her home.

Gerald was the son of Elizabeth Sipe Dellinger Shermeyer and Curvin Henry Shermeyer. They lived at 919 Hay Street, and Gerald too graduated from William Penn Senior High School. He then worked in his father's welding shop until he enlisted in October 1940 in the Army Air Corps. Gerald also studied at the New York School of Photography. During his time in the service Gerald had classes at Northwestern University and the University of Illinois. He was stationed at Seymour Johnson Field, Goldsboro, N.C., and then sent to be an instructor on aircraft and engines at the 121st Royal Air Force Technical Training Center in England.

Donna and Gerald were married in 1943, and she accompanied him to North Carolina, but she came back to York while he was in Europe. After being discharged in 1945, he attended the Pittsburgh Institute of Aeronautics, and then worked at York Airport, starting when the airport was on Roosevelt Avenue, and later at Thomasville. Gerald's job was inspecting and relicensing aircraft. He obtained his pilot's license and was a member of the Civil Air Patrol. Gerald was employed as chief mechanic

and inspector of aircraft at L.B. Smith Aircraft in Harrisburg. He was maintenance inspector for fixed- and rotor-wing aircraft at New Cumberland Army Depot, retiring from there in 1980.

He gave many hours volunteering for Habitat for Humanity, and, following Donna's lead, came to volunteer in the Library/Archives at the then Historical Society of York County. Some of his many projects included cleaning, organizing and cataloging the motion picture films in the collection. One major project was organizing the 1,746 original Dempwolf architectural drawings, housing them in archival folders and creating a comprehensive index. He retyped many family index cards that were deteriorating from age and kept the microfilm readers operational with his mechanical skills.

Some of Gerald's memberships were in the Philatelic Society, Numismatic Society, and the Izaak Walton Society. He served on the Administrative Board and as Treasurer of St. Luke United Methodist Church, and he enjoyed his flights as a private pilot.

Donna worked as a bookkeeper at Harper Myers in York in the 1950s, using "an early prelude to a computer." She has also been busy over the years doing freelance accounting. She was officially Assistant Librarian at the Historical Society of York County for 27 months in the early 1990s. She then went back into "retirement," which meant volunteering at least three days a week at the HSYC Library/Archives. That volunteering went back to 1978 when son Mark, a student at Carnegie Mellon University, was doing a work study project at HSYC organizing the German-language Almanac collection, under then Librarian/Archivist Landon Reisinger. He told

his mother, who had always loved history, especially local history, that the library needed her. Some of Donna's early projects were organizing the extensive Zahn genealogical collection and working with another early computer. She especially liked working with the school classes that came in to research their families and local history. She spent much time researching the Strayer family back to its very early York County roots, and she also worked with military author Franklin Gurley concerning the General Jacob Devers papers. Besides helping on-site patrons, Donna coordinated the research-by-mail service and did a lot of that research herself.

Donna also served as Treasurer and Administrative Board member at St. Luke United Methodist Church. She also shared Gerald's interests as a member of the Philatelic Society and Izaak Walton League. She is currently a member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and active in the Lutheran Women in Mission there. Her other interests include working with children, baking, going to the gym and exercise classes. She is very active on numerous committees at Normandie Ridge, where she now resides.

Donna and Gerald have always been proud of their family: daughter Pamela Ann Woodward and husband Fred, son Mark David Shermeyer and wife Lavonne and granddaughter Erika Ann Woodward Gomez and husband Adolfo. Pam is an elementary and special education teacher in Ellicott City, Maryland; Mark is the founder of SAAarchitects of York and Erika is a magazine

editor, currently working in Japan. Besides her years of researching family histories for others, Donna has done genealogy on the Shermeyer, Dellinger, Dietz, Sipe, Boeckel and Zimmerman families for her and Gerald's family.

After taking off a few years because of some eye problems and other obligations, Donna came back in 2011 to the York County Heritage Trust Library/Archives, again working on the long distance research as well as helping patrons on site. Sadly, Gerald passed away in 2010, but his many projects live on.

Donna is grateful to have had the opportunity to meet so many people through the YCHT Library/Archives, "never having met a person she didn't like." She says she is so glad to be back, that everyone needs to move on, and her advice is to "Don't ever stop." Donna is a perfect example of that philosophy.

continued on next page ...



left to right ... Donna Shermeyer, Richard Konkel and Violet Zech

Cemetery Database for Dauphin County, Pennsylvania

A cemetery database for Dauphin County is available online at the Capital Area Genealogical Society Website. The database consists of two parts: (1) an alphabetical listing of over 115,000 names of deceased individuals: This index of names was compiled from information transcribed from the gravestones from each of the 247 cemeteries located in Dauphin County as well as information transcribed from newspaper obituaries taken from *The Harrisburg Patriot-News* newspaper over the past ten years. This index, however, does not include gravestone information for the Harrisburg Cemetery, the Hummelstown Cemetery or the Hershey Cemetery; (2) a numerical listing of the names and locations of the 280 cemeteries located in Dauphin Co., Pennsylvania. For more information about the society, and to access the cemetery database please visit capitalareagenealogy.org/page_500a.htm

continued from page 4 ... Lila Fourhman-Shaull presented the life and contributions of Glenn Zech.

Glenn P. Zech was born on the family farm in Codorus Township on September 17, 1921. He was the son of the late Harry Zech and Katie May (Bollinger) Zech. He was a 1939 graduate of Codorus Township High School and was a farmer his entire life. He first worked at his father's hatchery "Zech Brothers" then farmed his own land in North Codorus Township for 44 years.

Glenn married Violet Barrick on May 4, 1946 and they shared over 65 years of marriage. According to Vi he was not eligible for military service due to ringing in his ears. They have a son, Glenn E. Zech and his wife Marlene, three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. He was pre-deceased by their daughter Janet Smith in 1984 and his brothers John and Edward Zech.

Vi told me that Glenn loved research and was good at it, and she wished sometimes he had not been stuck on the farm. He was always interested in where he came from and like all of us, had wished that he had started sooner asking questions about his ancestors. His Grandmother on his mother's side had lived to be ten days shy of 100 years old and he wished he had asked her more questions.

Glenn began researching in the library of the then Historical Society of York County in the late 1970s and many times their daughter Janet accompanied him. He researched not only his family but also Vi's. He also joined the South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society and became friends with fellow researchers Samuel Saylor and Betty Brown.

Glenn began volunteering in the Historical Society library utilizing his knowledge of the German language. Every Wednesday morning he sat with librarian June Lloyd and consulted over the thousands of surnames and their variations and deciding on the best method of organizing them. Some surnames have dozens of variations and it was Glenn's expertise in the pronunciation of them that guided their organization over the years. Each surname has a 'control' slip that lists the control spelling and

its numerous variations, these of which I sometimes refer to as "Glenn slips". He shared much of that knowledge of pronunciation and spellings with June who now performs the same task.

Glenn passed away on October 3, 2011. Through the efforts of his niece, and the generosity of his widow Vi, 142 files housed in fourteen boxes of his years of family research was donated to the library & Archives of the York County Heritage Trust. Found within these boxes is information on the following families: Barrick, Altland, Albright, Bartram, Appler, Barnhart, Bauman, Baer, Bear, Behler, Betteridge, Bollinger, Bomberger, Bortner, Brown, Bosserman, Carl, Clodfelter, Cleland, Diehl, Ehrhart, Emig, Esterle, Eyster, Fisher, Forry, Glatfelter, Hildebrand, Gladfelter, Haines, Haldiman, Hamm, Hart, Hays, Hershey, Hoffman, Hallenbach, Hollinger, Houser, Huber-Hoover, Kennedy, Klinedinst, Kohler, Leader, Maus, Meiser, Menges, Messersmith, Miller, Minnich, Minehart, Moore, Neidley, Pflieger, Reiff, Renoll, Rensonberger, Rudisill, Runk, Schenck, Schleppi, Schwartz, Schwartz, Schy-Simon, Shaffer, Shaffer, Shive, Shie, Shue, Six-Sixt, Smyser, Spessard, Sprengle, Stauffer, Strayer, Swartzbaugh, Thoman, Thommen, Tome, Uhler, Varnum-Vernon, Wagoneer, Watson, Walter, Weiser, Wertz, Yoder, Zech, and Ziegler; Zech. His niece, Merrill Priess generously donated \$120.00 to purchase fourteen acid-free boxes and 142 folders for their proper storage to keep Glenn's organization intact and preserving it for future generations.

Can you help ...

SCPGS member, Rick Thoman is looking for someone who is skilled at reading early 19th century handwriting. He is working on transcribing Jacob Thoman's 1803 will and 1805-07 estate documents and there is one name that he can't quite make out. If you are willing to help please email scpgswebsite@wildblue.net and we will put you in contact with Rick.

The Black Family of Gettysburg: Witness to History

written by Melody Kraus, *all rights reserved by author*

In the 1840s, William H. Black purchased a farm in Straban Township, which was located about four miles northeast of Gettysburg near Good Intent School. The Black family had lived in this portion of Adams County prior to the American Revolution.

Another war was about to involve the current residents, the Civil War. Despite the approach of the Confederate Army, William H. Black, Jane Bayly Black, his wife, and their daughter, Susan King Black, who was almost 19 years old, did not leave their home.

In an undated letter, Susan King Black writes about her experiences of the Battle of Gettysburg to her great niece Belle Miller Willard. A typed transcript of which is stored in the Civil War Room of the Adams County (Pennsylvania) Historical Society. Excerpts from it appear in quotation marks.

The family knew that part of the Confederate cavalry was camped in the woods at Good Intent School. However, the first Southerners to appear at their house were six officers, "all of them on fine sorrel horses."

Overall, the family was treated decently by the invaders, but they had to provide for them. The generals who first appeared asked the two women of the house for food and were given bread, butter and water. Another time three men brought a three bushel bag of flour to Jane Bayly Black and asked her to bake; she made a shortcake. "One wet day" [July 4th? 1863], soldiers retrieved eggs from the family's barn and wanted them cooked.

At least 100 men were in the yard of the house at one time. Some individuals treated the two women quite well. One man gave a 50 cent silver piece to Mrs. Black for her baking. He also gave "a big bunch of silk skeins, all colors" to Susan King Black. He offered her more, but she refused. A different man gave her a jaws harp (aka mouth harp), a reed attached to a frame, which was placed in the mouth and plucked to create a sound.

However, the Blacks lost hay and feed, which were taken from their barn to the Confederate camp, and sheep. They saw Southerners chasing their flock through an oat field and shooting at them.

A neighboring family, the Boyers, left their home and did not fare so well. The Confederates entered and vandalized it. Specifically, they carried window shades, pictures and other similar objects to the nearby woods, fed horses in the doughtray, and used a drawer of the sideboard to mix dough. "They opened a jar of black cherries, poured it down the stair steps, then cut a chaff bed open and spread it all over them." Someone wrote on the wall, "Done in retaliation for what was done in the South."

Furthermore, the Boyers had all of their food taken. However, an article from the Gettysburg Times, dated July 1938, reported that, after the battle, they shared a ham with the Black family, which was missed by the Confederates at the latter's home.

Later, Susan King Black continued to witness history. "The time Lincoln made his speech (the Gettysburg Address) here, Capt. Bell's Company was Guard of Honor. Jim and Ad (two of her brothers, James and Adam) were there. Ad stood close to the platform holding Fleet (a horse). I stood beside, could have laid my hands on the platform. Afterward, Father, Mary (her sister) and I shook hands with Lincoln in the Judge Wills house," the home of David Wills on York Street, where Lincoln finished writing the Gettysburg Address.

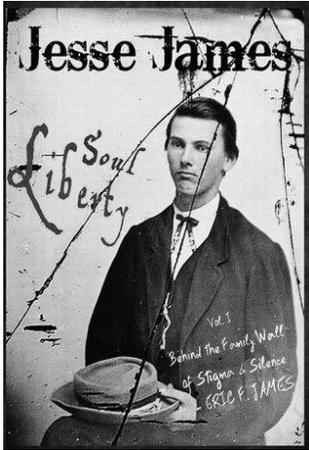
Jane Bayly Black died a few years after the Battle; William Black died in 1883. Despite the experiences in her early years, Susan King Black lived a quiet life. She, her sister Mary and brother John lived in their parents' house. None of them married. Susan died at age 89 in Scotland, Adams County, in 1933, shortly after an operation. Her obituary in the Gettysburg Compiler, dated November 18, 1933, states that she was the oldest person at that time to have surgery at the hospital in Chambersburg. Again, she made history.

Book Reviews

from *Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter*,
Posted on June 22, 2013

The following book review was written by
Bobbi King:

Jesse James, Soul Liberty. Volume I. By Eric F. James. Published by Cashel Cadence House, Danville KY. 2012. 411 pages.



Eric James was asked to take on the task of researching and writing the story of the James family, specifically the many members of the family who merited fair consideration distinct from the myth and legend of the notorious outlaw brothers Frank and Jesse.

Mr. James succeeds in acquainting us with a family of characters who do deserve to be featured apart from the tarnished brothers. The book's subtitle, "Behind the Family Wall of Stigma & Silence" offers a not-so-subtle hint on the family's take on their historical connection. Apparently, the more well-informed members of the family vigorously sought to put the kabosh on any kinship to Frank and Jesse James when naïve queries arose.

Mr. James introduces the family:

In the emerging democracy of colonial Virginia, the early Kentucky frontier, and throughout the American heartland, the James were renowned as community builders, public office holders, ministers of faith, financiers, educators, writers, and poets. From these roots shot Frank and Jesse James.

Following the Civil War, Frank and Jesse James eclipsed the family's destiny. War may have splintered the family ideologically, but Frank and Jesse James disjoined the family's compass

and direction, casting a longer and darker shadow on the James family, like no other.

Like their royal ancestors of old when beset by crisis, the James family turned suspicious and distrustful of its own. The larger James family kept apart from one another, holding in muted reverence what relic of itself that it could. The line of Frank and Jesse James was left isolated, unsupported and abandoned. Goaded by family in-laws, the Jesse James family withdrew into a citadel of its own. Their ostracism was enforced by every other family line of the James.

Mr. James' book locates the various families' residences, describes their personal occupations, details relationships and kinships to one another (a six-generation descendant chart is included), chronicles their military service, catalogs their movements about the regions, and quotes a good deal of material from their letters and journals, which always evokes a personality, a spirit, a temperament.

Mr. James' research appears to be extensive across a wide variety of sources, with references at the end of the book that contain explanatory tidbits adding even more to the story. The photographs and illustrations, even those blurred by age and decomposition, are vivid and well produced, summoning up their subjects and places.

Mr. James, along with Judge James R. Ross, a great-grandson of Jesse James, is co-founder of the James Preservation Trust. He writes and publishes on the official web site of the James family, and is without a doubt the family cheerleader.

His writing is strong, perhaps a bit hyperbolic for my taste, but this is a good book for fans of Western history who want to know the real story. His research supports a claim to authenticity, and his writing keeps us reading.

Mr. James has conquered the Everest of writing a family history genealogy book that is interesting enough for the rest of us to want to read.

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DATED MATERIAL—DO NOT DELAY

Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society Fall Conference

New Sources for Mid-Atlantic Germans

When: Saturday, October 5th from 8:30 AM to 4 PM

Where: Holiday Inn Conference Center, 2000 Loucks Road, York, Pennsylvania

The speakers are: James M Beidler, *Searching For Your Pennsylvania German Ancestor*, Beth Levitt, *Introduction to the National Archives in Philadelphia*, Patrick Connelly, *Introduction to the National Archives in New York City*, and James M. Beidler, *Success Story: Finding a European Village of Origin*

Additional details can be found at <http://www.magsgen.com>

Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania

Genealogy and the Law

When: Saturday, October 26th from 10 AM to 3:30 PM

Where: auditorium of Delaware County Bar Association, 335 West Front Street, Media, Pennsylvania

The sessions are: *Don't Forget the Ladies - A Genealogist's Guide to Women and the Law*, *Finding and Using Online Legal Resources*, *Government Documents: A Rich Genealogical Source*

Additional details can be found at <http://genpa.org/civicrm/event/info?reset=1&id=69>