



**South Central  
Pennsylvania**  
Genealogical Society

# Our Name's The Game

www.scpgs.org

**Monthly Newsletter Vol. 41 No. 1 July/August 2015**

## **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**Sunday, August 30, 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.

Our speaker, Gerald Smith, a professional Certified Genealogist who specializes in Pennsylvania research, will present his program: "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.

**Sunday, October 4, 2015**

### **40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

Founded in 1975, the Society has chosen this date to celebrate with members and friends, the success and accomplishments of the Society over the past 40 years.

Members and the public are invited to attend where they will be entertained and enjoy an ice cream social following a short business meeting. The festivities will begin at 2:15 PM and will be held at the York County Heritage Trust. Recognition of past officers, past Henry James Young Award winners and some of the Society's history will be featured. Door prizes will also be given out.

If you are planning to attend, please R.S.V.P. to [scpgswebsite@wildblue.net](mailto:scpgswebsite@wildblue.net) or call Margaret Burg at 717 266-3807.

## **IMPORTANT MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER**

If you have not renewed your membership for the year 2015-2016, please mail your payment as soon as possible. Your annual membership expired on June 30<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup>. Renewal information was included in the March/April edition of this newsletter.

Our newsletter is now offered via email if you so desire. To receive the newsletter via email, please submit your request along with your email address to ... [scpgswebsite@wildblue.net](mailto:scpgswebsite@wildblue.net)

**From the President**

Jonathan Stayer

Many years ago, the SCPGS established the Henry James Young Award to honor the memory of Dr. Henry James Young, a history professor at Dickinson College who had previously served as executive director of The Historical Society of York County (now York County Heritage Trust) during the 1930s and 1940s. He contributed much to the Trust's fine library that we know today. His family reports, York County Revolutionary War transcripts, and many other genealogy and local history products remain in heavy use.

On a personal note, Dr. Young was employed at the Pennsylvania State Archives, where I currently work, in the 1950s, conducting much research into the state's Revolutionary War records. His notes continue to assist us in understanding this complex set of source materials. I had the privilege of meeting him later in his life, and to my surprise and delight, he always remembered my name after our first contact.

Fittingly, the award that bears his name is given to a nominee who has achieved significant accomplishments in the field of genealogy and local history by contributing directly to the preservation and dissemination of primary and secondary genealogical and historical information and sources. The person may be living or deceased, and they are not required to be a member of the SCPGS. Past recipients have included Landon Reisinger, long-time York County researcher and librarian of The Historical Society of York County, and Dr. Charles Glatfelter, executive director of the Adams County Historical Society for many years.

The SCPGS board is seeking nominations for this prestigious honor. To make a submission, send a letter to us describing the nominee's accomplishments and contributions to our local genealogical community. I will appoint a committee to review the nominations, and we hope to honor the selected person at our regular monthly meeting in June 2016. We look forward to your letter!

**Special Publication #77**

Bible Records from Family Files, Vol 7 containing more Family Bible records copied from original Bibles and placed in the York County Heritage Trust family files was recently mailed to members.

**SCPGS OFFICERS 2015-2016**

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

Jonathan Stayer, President  
 Richard Konkel, Vice President  
 Margaret Burg, Treasurer  
 Gerald Smith, Recording Secretary  
 Becky Anstine, Membership & Corresponding Secretary  
 Thomas Gibson, Director-at-Large  
 Franklin R. Grove, Jr., Director-at-Large

Thanks also go to those who served in appointed board positions during the past year and will continue to do so in the 2015-2016 year:

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

**Query**

We have a Bible to give to someone in the family — surname looks like MAYER; six births from 1836 to 1844; and two that look like KESLER born 1844 and 1849.

Frank Grove  
 frgjr@juno.com

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

SCPGS member Donna Jean Ford reports that she is researching the following surnames ...

Bracken	McGrew
Carson	Orr
Hutton	Reed / Reid

Please contact Donna at 1633 Cheryl Way, Aptos, CA 95003-2801 if you are also researching these names.

## York Countians Climb the Family Tree with Genealogical Society

Sean Philip Cotter, a reporter for the York Dispatch, wrote the following article about our May meeting. It appeared on the front page of the Monday, June 8, 2015 edition of the newspaper.

Erika Runkles had brought a box full of “treasures,” as she said — photos from her family’s history, old postcards, that kind of thing — that the South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society members passed around, turning over and inspecting. She held one up, pointing out a distant relative she’d heard about from a few difference sources; a man who, apparently, was known for his fiddle playing.



He’s sitting there, in a crowd, holding a fiddle. “It’s the goosebump moment,” Runkles said.

Genealogy: It’s neither a simple pastime nor an easy one. The digital age has helped broaden the access to records and make them more searchable, but at the same time it’s not as if your entire family history will be unlocked by a quick Google search. Digitization of records has been spotty at best, and it takes some creativity and legwork — often literally — to find what you’re looking for, the society’s members say.

The complications that come from all the different spelling and pronunciation variations that have popped up over the centuries some of the families have been in York County and the surrounding area are one way of illustrating how tricky it can be.

One of the surnames that Runkles and a couple other people talked about was the Douglass family, which makes up part of Runkles’ family tree. Some of them spell it Douglass and pronounce it the common way. But then one branch dropped one of the S’s. “They didn’t want ‘ass’ on the end,” Runkles said, causing a round of chuckles to circle the table.

She then offered up a further twist: Some of them pronounced it DOOG-lass — a more traditionally Scottish way, she said.

But it’s those intricacies that help make the hobby so rewarding. The members, most on the older side, all seem to be longtime genealogy enthusiasts. They sit and swap tales, talking in a whirlwind of weird connections, happenstance discoveries and maiden names.

Many clearly like to tell a story, delighting in sharing what they’ve found. But all genuinely seem to like to hear them, too; people pay attention to what the others have to say, happily filing the new information away in the records of memory. Several are working together on genealogical projects.

Getting started: Jonathan Stayer, the society’s president — and a relation of just about everyone in the northern half of Lancaster County, as he tells it — said the first thing to do if you want to try to climb to some of the farther-out branches of your family tree is to write down all the names and birth and death locations of everyone in your family, as far back as you and your relatives can remember.

Then take to some of the genealogically oriented websites. Ancestry.com is a good, well-known starting point; Newspapers.com, a related site that has many years of archives for several local papers — including this one, all the way back to its genesis in 1876 — has some good stuff, too.

And then it’s up to your sleuthing skills to pull information from a variety of places together. The attendees Sunday afternoon talked about tax records, church records, community newsletters, classified newspaper advertisements, cemetery records, petitions and many, many more sources.

Lila Fourhman-Shaull, the Heritage Trust’s director of library and archives and one of the society’s board members, said York countians should come into the Heritage Trust library, as she can help them. The library has thousands of files on local families, she said.

“You get to see how your particular family fit into history,” Stayer said after the meeting. “You begin to get a personal connection to historical events.”

South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society: The South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society will celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding this fall.

The society usually has meetings the first Sunday of each month at the York County Heritage Trust building at 205 E. Market St., York City. Check out [www.scpgs.org](http://www.scpgs.org) to find a full schedule and what the theme of each meeting is.

Anyone is welcome to attend for free, but to be a full member receiving a regular newsletter and access to publications and trips, one must pay \$25 a year.

## York County Heritage Trust Library Update

Genealogists recognize the value of a family bible. The Bible first and foremost was possibly the only book that the family may have had when learning to read. The Bible was where family memories and events were recorded and stored. Sometimes these events were written on a slip of paper stuffed next to a particular Bible verse and other times scrawled on the inside cover. Eventually Bibles were printed with special pages identified with “births”, marriages, and “deaths” where family members could record such events. In many instances hidden within its pages may be the only reference to ancestor’s birth and baptism. The York County Heritage Trust had accepted bibles until the 1970s and recently selected this collection as one of four special collections to digitize and make available online.

The YCHT has used the collection and contact management software, *PastPerfect* for several years providing in-house library researchers searching access to the thousands of books, documents and photographs. Staff and volunteers continue to systemically enter descriptive text of the library holdings into this program. Through the generosity of the Anne M. and Philip H. Glatfelter, III Family Foundation the *PastPerfect* on-line component has been purchased for the hosting of 10,000 records on the worldwide web.

Four unique collections were selected and prepared for the uploading process. Library volunteers and staff verified each item’s text entry into *PastPerfect* and then confirmed and attached a digital image for each record.

These collections include photographs of the following special collections:

- YCHT Bible collection

- York City Streets and Alleys
- Dempwolf Architectural Drawing collection
- York County Post Card Collection

The Bible collection shares the Bible’s title page as well as those pages that contain important family data: birth and baptismal records as well as marriages and deaths. The York City Streets and Alleys illustrate the city beginning with the 1870s and include images of individual buildings as well as city events. Just as the photographs capture a specific moment in time, so do the York County post cards. Finally, the J.A. Dempwolf Architectural firm designed residential, commercial and public buildings, most of which are located in southern Pennsylvania and northern Maryland. The nearly 2000 original architectural drawings have been catalogued and digitized. Many of the Victorian and Edwardian buildings of York were designed by the Dempwolfs, most notably the Central Market House, which still serves as a farmers market and eatery today. They had a great influence on York’s architecture from the 1880s through the 1930s, which was spread by seven of their students all of whom went on to, become architects in or near York, PA.

With the exception of the Dempwolf Architectural Drawings that came in as a collection, all of these collections reflect individual items for that category that had been donated to the YCHT over the years. The project allows researchers from across the globe to view four unique York County Heritage Trust collections.

Visit the Trust’s website homepage at [www.yorkheritage.org](http://www.yorkheritage.org) today.

*Are the names  
adorning your family  
tree really your  
ancestors or just  
crowd-sourced fiction?*

### from Genealogy Tip of the Day

If you’re stuck on a problem person, make a list of all the assumptions you have made about that person. Don’t forget things like where you think they were born, married, and died; what types of job they had; how many times they were married; their educational level; their socioeconomic status; how many places they lived; when they moved; etc.

Then cross one of those assumptions off.

How would your research change if that assumption were not true?

*We recently received the following appeal* ... My name is Milt Kelly and I am on the Board of Directors of the Sacramento German Genealogy Society (SGGS) and have been tasked with sending out this urgent appeal for assistance for a project of serious interest to all German researchers researching German Immigrant ancestors in the Project "German Immigrants in American Church Records". Dr Roger Minert and his staff have been extracting data on German Immigrants who have settled in the United States. His project was funded by a wealthy benefactor who recently changed his philanthropic interest into other worthy projects. To date Dr Minert has published 18 volumes of research data on German immigrant families who settled in several U.S. states listed in the material below. His funding has been interrupted, hence the reason for this urgent appeal for assistance. He is seeking \$10,000 to carry on this project until a more stable source of funding can be obtained. The data below have been attached fully describing the project, its aims, and accomplishments. We are requesting donations of any size from individuals most likely to benefit from the information obtained. Please bring this information to the attention of your members and ask for their help and any sister organizations researching German ancestry. Tax-exempt donations to the university will be appropriately documented. Prof. Minert is a tenured faculty member at Brigham Young University. Thus checks should be made out and mailed to: Dean Brent L. Top, Brigham Young University, 370B JSB BYU, Provo, UT 84602-5669. Every dollar received will go directly to Prof. Minert's research fund and flow into the pocket of a student. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated. On Behalf of SGGS and Dr Roger Minert, we thank you in advance for any and all assistance. Regards, Milt Kelly, SGGS

### **German Immigrants in American Church Records**

Applicant Name: Prof. Roger P. Minert, Ph.D., A.G.  
270 K JSB 801 422 2370  
Funding Sought: \$10,000

#### **Abstract**

One of the greatest challenges for genealogists in the United States is the identification of the hometown in Europe. The records of German churches in the Midwest very often contain precisely that information on immigrants. However, those records were initially written in what is now an archaic alphabet called "Gothic" and as such can rarely be read by researchers. Under this mentoring program, I train students to read and interpret old German church records in Midwest states. The details extracted about immigrants are published in a series of books under this program title (currently numbering seventeen volumes). Without new funding, this program will come to a halt in late 2015 after a run of nearly twelve years. This series of books is already popular among family history researchers nation-wide (and some volumes have been purchased by family history societies in Germany). Volume 17 will be published in spring 2015 and volume 18 in summer 2015.

#### **Background and Importance of the Project**

With volume 17 of this series we reached a significant milestone: more than 130,000 immigrants listed. Of those, approximately seventy percent have an exact birth place. Twenty percent more can be traced to a specific province in Germany. This makes our series of books one of the three most valuable in this regard.

#### **Methods**

Midwest U.S. churches that functioned in the German language are identified from several indices. Copies of the records of all of those churches are sought and many obtained from one of three sources: microfilm on the Family History Library system; microfilm from the archives of other churches; photocopies or digital images from individual churches.

Students are hired to extract vital data and immigration dates from those records. The data are extracted by one student, checked by another student or the principal investigator, then audited by another student or the principal investigator.

The data are compiled by regions in each state and submitted to the publisher. The principal investigator writes an introduction to each volume that includes a lengthy exposition on German immigration in that region.

All students recruited to work under this program either (1) have successfully completed History 422 (Germanic paleography) at BYU, (2) are qualified by virtue of previous experience in reading old German handwriting or (3) are capable of speaking and reading German on an advanced level. All research assistants in this program spend a significant amount of time in training and remediation with the principal investigator.

*continued on next page ...*

**Student Tasks**

Students working in the GIACR program do the following:

- Identification of Protestant churches with German origins in a specific state
- Communication with those churches regarding the accessibility of records
- Communication with church archives regarding the accessibility of records
- Procurement of microfilms or paper copies for processing
- Scanning of critical pages from microfilm or paper copies
- Evaluation of records to be extracted
- Assignment of extraction, checking, and auditing of records
- Extraction of immigrant data (all team members participate in this function)
- Compilation of records into books

**Anticipated Outcomes Related to Mentoring**

Students hired to work in this program become (more) proficient in the deciphering of German-language texts written in the old Gothic alphabet not in use since the 1940s. They become experts in identifying immigrants and extracting all critical information about those immigrants. They also develop extensive knowledge in the geopolitical structure of the German empire that existed from 1871 to 1918. Veteran team members are entrusted with the pre-extraction evaluation of church records, the checking of work done by other students, and editing of text for publication.

The principal investigator is actively involved in checking and auditing work done by student team members. He works at the same location in the BYU family history center, where students have access to

the gazetteers and maps needed to establish the exact locations and official spellings of German, Austrian, and Swiss place names (many of which were authored by the principal investigator). The principal investigator is thus in a position to supervise the work and to serve as an ongoing instructor in paleographical and geopolitical questions.

Students who have participated in this project (some for as long as four years) have become excellent readers of archaic German church records. They are qualified to function as professional researchers and translators.

Students of the BYU paleography course also contribute on a non-compensated basis to this program. This becomes then the ideal practicum for paleography students.

**Qualifications, Experiences/Successes in Mentoring**

The principal investigator has more than 35,000 hours of experience in Germanic family history research and envisioned this project before receiving an appointment at BYU in 2003. He is the author of the leading book on German paleography in the English language (*Deciphering Handwriting in German Documents*) and in the German language as well (*Alte Kirchenbücher richtig lesen*). He has been the instructor of the BYU paleography course (History 422) since 2002.

**Financial Considerations**

All funding is used for student wages.

No royalties have been received for the volumes already printed.

No royalties for any volumes are anticipated.

If royalties are received, they will be added to the fund for student wages.

---

**Carroll County Genealogical Society (CCGS)**

Many of us have collected death certificates and are aware of the associated costs. One of our members suggested sharing our collections and has donated over one hundred copies of death certificates in his possession to the CCGS so that they can be shared with fellow researchers. Others may want to donate copies of death certificates in their collections to be shared the same way. The quality of the copies does vary, but so does the quality of those ordered from the Maryland State Archives.

An index and the ordering procedure can be found on the Society's website ([www.carr.org](http://www.carr.org)) under "Carroll County Genealogical Resources". CCGS is charging \$2 for the first copy and \$1 for each additional copy in the same mailing.

Your donated copies of Carroll County death certificates can be sent directly to CCGS. PO Box 1752, Westminster, MD 21158. Please make the copies as reproducible as possible.

## Calendar of Local Events

### Tuesday, September 1

*Camp Sharpe's "Psycho Boys": From Gettysburg to Germany*

Lutheran Theological Seminary Campus at Gettysburg, Alumni Auditorium, Valentine Hall, 61 Seminary Ridge, Gettysburg [7 PM]

The program will be presented by Dr. Beverly Eddy, professor emerita of German at Dickinson College in Carlisle, PA. *Camp Sharpe's "Psycho Boys": From Gettysburg to Germany* is the title of her latest book which draws upon company histories, memoirs, and interviews, tracing the history of the men of the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Mobile Radio Broadcasting Companies during World War II. It begins with the establishment of a secret camp in Gettysburg, PA, and the specialized training in military intelligence and propaganda services that the men received there. It then follows these men abroad: to further training in Britain, to the D-Day landings, Battle of the Bulge, Conquest of Germany, and liberation of the concentration camps. It includes stories from those German- and Austrian-born men from Sharpe who returned in U.S. army uniform to their old hometowns, and concludes with a discussion of the soldiers' immediate postwar activities as translators, interpreters, radio broadcasters, and journalists in the American zones of occupation in Germany and Austria. This program is free and open to the public.

### Friday, September 4

*Lunch with the Librarians: Genealogical Information that Can Be Found in County Records*

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

Although they were originally created for court administrative purposes, civil records contain a wealth of information for genealogists. We'll highlight the most useful records found at the York County Archives, many of which are also available on microfilm or through indexes and abstracts at the Trust's Library & Archives. FREE and open to the public. Pre-registration required by Wednesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>. (contact [aeveler@yorkheritage.org](mailto:aeveler@yorkheritage.org))

### Thursday, September 10

*Webinar: Researching Philadelphia's Wards*

Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania, 2207 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA [genpa.org] [7 PM-8:30 PM]

Need help understanding Philadelphia's ward

system? Join GSP Board member and genealogist Susan Koelble as she provides an overview and answers your most difficult questions.

### Friday, September 11

*Homemade History: Researching Your Historic Home at the Lancaster County Archives*

Lancaster County Archives [9 AM to Noon] 150 N. Queen St., Suite 10, Lancaster, PA [web.co.lancaster.pa.us/127/Archives-Division]

Since walls do not talk we cannot rely on the physical fabric or 'bricks and mortar' of an old home to tell its history. Was your home once owned by someone notable in the local community? What kind of people lived in your home and how was it furnished? Written records within the Lancaster County Archives can provide answers and reveal direct evidence of your home's history. This course provides an introduction to the beginner researcher on sources available at the Lancaster County Archives to find the history of your old house. It also shows how to use the records found here to uncover a wealth of sources outside of the archives. Deeds are the framework of your home's history while county maps depict your home at a certain point in time. Orphan's Court records may provide the clues necessary to understanding the people that once lived in your home. Discover a variety of records and learn valuable research tips. *Free and available to everyone ... to reserve your seat call 717-299-8318.*

### Friday, September 18 and Saturday, September 19

*The President James Buchanan National Symposium* LancasterHistory.org

230 North President Avenue, Lancaster, PA

*Registration for this event must be received no later than September 5, 2015*

The theme for this Symposium is *The Worlds of Thaddeus Stevens & James Buchanan: Race, Gender & Politics in the Civil War Era*. The Symposium will use Congressman Stevens and President Buchanan as unique lenses to look at nineteenth-century American political history through an in-depth examination of party formation and re-formation; slavery, race and civil rights; and the role of gender in nineteenth-century politics. Participants will have an opportunity to interact with three moderated panels of historians on the second day of the Symposium.

Saturday, September 19

*The 9th Annual Bucks County Ancestry Fair*

Bucks County Genealogical Society

[ancestryfair.org/]

[8 AM-4 PM]

The venue will be the Bucks County Community College. There will be three tracks of speakers throughout the day, exhibitors representing many local and national organizations and vendors of genealogy-related products, and an exciting Main Event showcasing our research into the family roots of a local Bucks County celebrity! ... *Are Your Roots Showing? Get the Scoop on the Goodnoe Family!*

► General lectures ...

*City Directories: How Do I Love Thee, Let Me Count the Ways*, presented by: Susan Koelble.

*Don't Forget the Ladies*, presented by: Carol Sheaffer and Nancy Nelson. Female ancestors are often the keepers of family traditions, heirlooms, photographs, memories, and records. The presenters will share tips and advice for helping you identify your female ancestors and their family of origin.

*Maximizing Ancestry.com*, presented by: Sydney F. Cruice Dixon. Ancestry.com is one of the most popular and valued genealogical tools in the world. Understanding and maximizing its usefulness is essential in order to efficiently search and record your family's history.

*Pier 53: The Ellis Island of Philadelphia*, presented by: Susan McAninley.

*Preserving Family Photographs*, presented by: Gary Saretzky. Since the introduction of photographic portrait studios in 1840, photographs have been among the most treasured of family records but, while most are long-lasting when stored optimally in archives, in the home environment, they are all too often prone to fading and discoloration. In this slide lecture, Gary Saretzky will provide guidance on how the life of family photographs can be extended so that they can be passed down to future generations.

*Probate Records: More Than Just Wills*, presented by: Rebecca Whitman Kolford, CG. This lecture discusses terminology for probate estates, types of estate records, testate vs. intestate, and how estate records can be valuable to our research.

► Technology lectures ...

*Going Paperless: Digitizing Your Genealogical Research*, presented by: Melissa Johnson, CG. Digitizing years of genealogical research documents,

notes and research logs may seem like a daunting task, but advances in technology make going digital easier than ever. Learn how using various electronic devices, as well as mobile apps, metadata and tagging, to digitize your existing files and work paperless in the future can help you become a more effective, efficient and organized genealogist.

*Integrating Your Ancestors Into Desktop, Mobile and Cloud Technologies*, presented by: Shamele Jordan. Technologies most useful for genealogy research will be discussed by using a case study, integrating desktop, mobile and cloud applications for genealogists.

*Jump Start Your Online Research: Some Sites You Haven't Yet Explored*, presented by: Joyce Homan. You've delved into Ancestry and FamilySearch, but have you used any of the other sites online (many of them free!) that can help enhance the research you've already done? Join presenter Joyce Homan as she takes you through a tour of some of the Internet's most useful genealogy websites.

*Using Evernote for Genealogy*, presented by: Michelle Tucker Chubenko.

► Beginners lectures ...

*Who Are My Peeps: Six Easy Steps to Starting Your Family History Research*, presented by: Christine Roberts. Get started on your journey to find your family roots! Learn how to begin the research process in six simple steps, including examination of basic genealogical records, documentation, and examples from the speaker's personal research.

*Hatched, Matched and Dispatched: Discovering Your Ancestors' Life Events*, presented by: Michelle Tucker Chubenko. This lecture is an introduction to vital records. It discusses the history of vital registration in the United States, as well as how to obtain records for family history research.

*Making Sense of the Census*, presented by: Lora Kline. This program describes the changes in the US Federal Census, the influences on its development, and what that means for genealogical researchers. Other censuses and alternate resources are also discussed.

*The Dead and the Dying: Cemetery and Funeral Home Research*, presented by: Rebecca Whitman Kolford, CG. This lecture focuses on death records, especially those in cemeteries and funeral homes, and will also cover alternate sources, cemetery etiquette, deathly superstitions and traditions, and cemetery iconography.

Monday, September 21*Immigration and Naturalization Records at the Maryland State Archives*

Carroll County Genealogical Society  
 Dixon Room, Westminster Library,  
 50 East Main Street, Westminster [7:30 PM]

Naturalization is a complex topic; the laws governing the process have changed across the years. This presentation by Michael G. McCormick, Director of Reference Services at the Maryland State Archives, will discuss those laws, their implications for records, and how to locate documents relating to naturalization at the Maryland State Archives.

Sunday, September 27*Brick Walls*

Baltimore County Genealogical Society  
 The Parkville Senior Center, Room 308 (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor)  
 8601 Harford Road, Parkville [3 PM]

Learn genealogical research techniques and strategies to move beyond your brick wall and continue exploring your family history. Speaker is Debra Hoffman, a professional genealogist and the owner of Hoffman Genealogical Services.

Thursday, October 1*Jump Into Genetic Genealogy webinar with Diahna Southard*

Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania [genpa.org]  
 2207 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia [7 PM-9 PM]

DNA testing for genealogy seems to be all the rage. But what can it really tell you? Perhaps even more importantly, what CAN'T it tell you? Come learn the basics behind DNA testing and genealogy, and walk away with confidence in this new area of research.

Friday, October 2*Lunch with the Librarians: Tracing Your Roots: Basic Genealogy Using YCHT Collections*

York County Heritage Trust, 250 East Market Street,  
 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. FREE and open to the public. Pre-registration required by Wednesday, September 30<sup>th</sup>. (contact [aaveler@yorkheritage.org](mailto:aaveler@yorkheritage.org))

Friday, October 2*Discovering Your Roots: Genealogy Sources at the Lancaster County Archives*

Lancaster County Archives [9 AM to Noon]  
 150 N. Queen St., Suite 10, Lancaster, PA  
 [web.co.lancaster.pa.us/127/Archives-Division]

Are you curious about an ancestor that came to Lancaster County from the "Old Country?" Records within the Lancaster County Archives are a unique resource and can provide valuable information for researchers. Unravel the mystery behind the records kept at the archives which may be the key to finding your own family history. This course provides an introduction to the beginner for searching the traditional sources found within the archives. Get familiar with the birth, marriage, death, and land records that may hold vital information about your ancestors. Learn valuable research tips when examining a variety of records and see how to make connections to additional sources. Begin the search for discovering your roots at the Lancaster County Archives. *Free and available to everyone ...* to reserve your seat call 717-299-8318.

**Volunteers Needed**

The Baltimore County Genealogical Society is seeking teams of volunteers for scanning, transcribing and indexing marriage records and certificates at the Maryland State Archives.

Copies of marriage records that we scan will be available on the Society's computers and copies may be printed at a nominal cost, \$1.00 for nonmembers and 50¢ for members when printed by the member in the library.

If you are interested in joining the scanning team contact Greg Burton at [gburton.mobile@gmail.com](mailto:gburton.mobile@gmail.com)

The transcribing and indexing teams will be organized by Ken and Elaine Zimmerman and you can contact them at [info@familythreadsgenealogy.com](mailto:info@familythreadsgenealogy.com)

There is a big advantage to join the team, while working on the project you may find records for your family.

Saturday, October 3

*Identifying Your Ancestors and Telling Their Stories*  
Maryland Genealogical Society [mdgensoc.org]  
Holiday Inn-Laurel West  
15101 Sweitzer Lane, Laurel [8:30 AM-3:15 PM]

Join us for a day of four one-hour lectures by Dr. Thomas W. Jones, author of *Mastering Genealogical Proof*, a popular textbook on genealogical assessment and reasoning. Lectures:

*Solving the Mystery of the Disappearing Ancestor ...*  
Genealogists may be frustrated by not finding ancestors in the records and places where they logically expect them to be. This presentation will explain seven reasons why such ancestors seem to have disappeared, provide examples of each from actual case studies, and suggest strategies to help attendees find their elusive ancestors.

*Missing Something? Getting the Most Out of Genealogical Evidence ...*  
Attendees will learn five ways to get more information from the genealogical sources they use: paying attention to all of the evidence in the sources; examining each source's context; using an entire series; paying better attention to what is not in the source (using negative evidence); and combining sources to build a case.

*Can a Complex Research Problem Be Solved Solely Online? ...*  
Step by step, attendees will suggest online sources and research strategies for tracing an ancestor who seems to disappear and reappear. The interactive case study will show both how such cases can be solved online and the limits of material online today.

*Going Beyond Bare Bones: Reconstructing Your Ancestors' Lives ...*  
Attendees will learn how to extract information from frequently used genealogical sources to create biographies that bring ancestors to life.

Cost: \$65 Members (Pre-registered by Sep 30)  
\$75 Non-members (Pre-registered by Sep 30)  
walk-in registration (space permitting) is an additional \$5.

Saturday, October 24

*GSP's Italian Genealogy Day!*  
Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania [genpa.org]  
2207 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia [9 AM-3 PM]  
Mary Tedesco from *Genealogy Roadshow* presents a day of researching your Italian Genealogy at the Ethical Society in Philadelphia.

Tuesday, October 6

*Adams County in the French and Indian War*  
Lutheran Theological Seminary Campus at  
Gettysburg, Alumni Auditorium, Valentine Hall,  
61 Seminary Ridge, Gettysburg [7 PM]

Timothy H. Smith, head research assistant for the Adams County Historical Society will explore how world events affected the people who once lived in the area of Adams County. The so-called French and Indian War (1754-1763) was in essence, a power struggle between the English and French over the control of the North American continent. By 1756, the war had spread into the West Indies, onto the continent of Europe, and eventually India. Many historians have termed the conflict the First World War. At the time, the settlements located here were in their infancy. French and Indian forces raided the settlements, pillaging and burning and spreading fear. The local inhabitants were forced to either flee the area, or raise militia forces and build forts to defend their homes. This program is free and open to the public.

Monday, October 19

*Honoring Our Heritage: The Greek Families of Westminster*  
Carroll County Genealogical Society  
Dixon Room, Westminster Library  
50 East Main Street, Westminster [7:30 PM]

Two years ago, a group of Greek-American families began meeting to discuss how their ancestors had come from Greece and settled in Westminster. The idea for this research project was the brain-child of Dr. Dean Griffin and Zoe Amprazis Sirinakis. They gathered ten families for monthly meetings, encouraging one another to conduct on-line research of immigration records, dig through boxes of family documents, and identify countless old photos with no names or dates. In addition to organizing their individual family records, they realized that there was a community culture that had evolved. The Greek families in Westminster not only knew one another, they had helped each other in establishing businesses, finding places to live, even christening one another's children. Though they had come from different parts of Greece and Turkey, they had common bonds - language, religion, customs, music, and dancing. They adapted to the American culture, but they wanted to keep their Greek culture alive as well. This community story became an important part of the family history project that is now in book form and ready to be shared with the public for the first time.

Sunday, October 25*Baltimore's First Century*

Baltimore County Genealogical Society  
 The Parkville Senior Center, Room 308 (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor)  
 8601 Harford Road, Parkville [3 PM]

Trace the history of Baltimore from its founding in 1729 through the War of 1812. We will look at the developments that transformed Baltimore Town from a sleepy village on the Patapsco River to a major American city by 1820, with emphasis on the people, places and events responsible for our amazing growth. We will look at how Baltimore came to be in 1729 and will discover that its early history was actually a tale of three towns: Baltimore Town, Jonestown and Fell's Point – each with an important role to play. Learn Baltimore's role in the American Revolution and the War of 1812 and how we earned the nickname of "that nest of pirates on the Chesapeake." Finally, we will look at the architectural heritage of this period and those buildings that are still standing today, which include Mt. Clare Mansion, St. Paul's Rectory, Otterbein Church, the Flag House, Carroll Mansion, the Old Town Quaker Meeting House, Homewood Mansion, St. Mary's Chapel, the Battle Monument and others.

Friday, October 30*Understanding German Church Records*

Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society [magsgen.com]  
 Ramada Plaza, 1718 Underpass Way, Hagerstown  
 [1-4 PM]

Church records are a unique and potentially valuable resource for family historians. This workshop will introduce you to the kinds of records churches may have kept and give you tips on how to navigate the records. Instructor Bob Greiner will look at records of baptisms, marriages, and deaths. He will instruct you on the types of information these records are likely to contain and how to find the information among the documents. He will explain different record formats, providing tips on how to locate pertinent information even if you cannot read or translate the entire entry. He will suggest strategies to tackle documents written in German Gothic (Fraktur). Bob will provide samples of a variety of records to discuss and that the participants can use in the hands-on portion of the workshop. Attendees will receive a set of standard word lists and other resources that are available to assist in translating the German terms that may appear in the records.

Saturday, October 31*Fall Conference: MAGS of the Future*

Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society [magsgen.com]  
 Ramada Plaza, 1718 Underpass Way, Hagerstown  
 [8:30 AM-4 PM]

*Embracing Technology: The New MAGS Website ...*

This presentation will guide you through the many new and enhanced features of the redesigned MAGS website. Speaker: Carol Carman will demonstrate how you can use the website in your research ... how to sign in to the members only section of the site, how to post surnames you are researching, how to register for meetings and shop in the MAGS store.

*Federal Photographs of Germans in America ...*

This presentation will focus on the photographic collections pertaining to German Americans found in the holdings of the Still Pictures Branch at the National Archives. Speaker Richard Green will provide an overview of the branch, highlighting how still photo archives may differ from ones containing primarily paper documents.

*Hidden German-American Workers: An*

*Introduction ...* to the George Meany American Federation of Labor and Congress of International Organizations Archive This lecture will introduce you to an underutilized, but extremely valuable source for family historians. German-Americans comprised a large portion of America's work force. These records are a treasure trove of documenting the role of our ancestors in building America. Speaker Tyler Stump will talk about the AFL-CIO collection at the University of Maryland (a collection consists of approximately 40 million documents, photographs, and other materials relating to American workers and their jobs).

*Our Fractured Fatherland-Facing Political-*

*Geographic Problems ...* This presentation will help you tackle problems that family historians of other ethnic groups do not encounter. Germany consisted of dozens of separate states until 1871, and even then many of those states retained great autonomy. Some German states shared part of their name with another state, separated only by a hyphen; for example Hesse-Darmstadt, Hesse-Cassel, etc. Perhaps worst of all, many German states had odd boundaries; the territory of most German states was not even contiguous. Speaker Kenneth Heger will alert you to the issues you may face and explain terms you need to know to do your research. He will use maps to illustrate the problems, suggesting different kind of maps to solve different problems.

**OUR NAME'S THE GAME  
SCPGS INC.  
P.O. BOX 1824  
YORK, PA 17405-1824**

**NON-PROFIT  
ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT #40  
YORK, PA**

**DATED MATERIAL—DO NOT DELAY**

---

## **If You Build It, They Will Come**

from The National Archives AOTUS Blog written by David S. Ferriero, Archivist of the United States

For several years we have discussed the possibility of an Innovation Hub as a place dedicated to incubating, accelerating, and promoting innovative projects that staff could work on with the public. We envisioned students working with our volunteers to learn about handwritten documents and to try transcribing them for our catalog. We talked about holding scanathons and hackathons with local chapters of coders and hosting Wikipedian meetings throughout the year.

The Innovation Hub is open. Located on the first floor of the National Archives building in Washington, D.C., the Hub has two sections: a meeting area, and a citizen scanning room where researchers can scan our records with state-of-the-art equipment at no cost as long as they also contribute a copy of their digital scans for our online catalog.

The Hub is already buzzing with activity. Our first week, we hosted the Primarily Teaching group of educators, who scanned almost 100 records, equaling 432 pages, on Chinese immigration to be included in our online DocsTeach system, the online tool for teaching with documents from the National Archives, and our Catalog. We have planned transcription parties as well as hosting Wikipedian meetings as well.

Here is our very first scan coming from the Hub: <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/20014029> (the Civil War Compiled Military Service Record of William E. Strong, which even has his picture at the end).

Perhaps you would like to transcribe it? It's easy to log in and start transcribing.

Visit <http://www.archives.gov/innovation-hub/> for more information.

