



**South Central
Pennsylvania**
Genealogical Society

Our Name's The Game

www.scpgs.org

Monthly Newsletter Vol. 43 No. 1 July/August 2017

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Sunday, August 27, 2017

York County's 1798 Glass Tax

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

The Direct Tax, Glass Tax, or Window Pane Tax was the first federal tax based on wealth. To carry out this taxation program, every structure, lot, and tract had to be accounted for in tax listings, in which each was described and given an assessed value. The result was a housing inventory so complete that it has not been surpassed to this day. A treasure-trove of information lies within the data in this extraordinary picture of eighteenth-century society. The speaker will be Cindy Hartman.

Sunday, October 1, 2017

Using Ancestry Effectively: Tips, Tricks, and Approaches to Improve Your Research Results

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

Topics for this presentation span evidence analysis, making use of database descriptions, search tactics, wild card searches, and more. Navigating Ancestry can be frustrating; solutions for tasks such as locating National Archives microfilm are available! Discussion includes the basics of finding your way around, indexes, tactics for dealing with poor indexes and index errors that might otherwise cause you to miss valuable information. Unlike your usual presentation - expect homework - there will be take-home research tasks to try your new skills. Our speaker will be Gerald Smith is a professional genealogist who specializes in Pennsylvania families prior to 1900.

Sunday, November 5, 2017

"Don't Forget the Ladies" – A Genealogist's Guide to Women and the Law

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

In early America, women were all too often the people who just weren't there: not in the records, not in the censuses, not on juries, not in the voting booth. The common law relegated women to "protected" – second-class – status and understanding how they were treated under the law provides clues to finding their identities today. Our speaker Judy Russell is a genealogist with a law degree. Her goal as *The Legal Genealogist* is "to help folks understand the often arcane and even impenetrable legal concepts and terminology that are so very important to those of us studying family history. Without understanding the context in which events took place and records were created, we miss so much of both the significance and the flavor of what happened."

From the President

Jonathan Stayer

At our meeting on July 13, your Board of Directors made plans for another exciting program year. A series of interesting monthly programs is scheduled, beginning with our publications director and newsletter editor Cindy Hartman talking about the 1798 glass tax on August 27. We are looking forward to a tour of Prospect Hill Cemetery in the spring, and nationally-known "legal genealogist," Judy Russell, will be with us in November. Watch your newsletter and the website for information about upcoming programs.

This year, special publications will include another valuable transcription of Bible records, making those hidden resources more readily available. In the spring, we anticipate a continuation of the 1798 glass tax transcripts. Board members and volunteers also are working on the 1862 York County military enrollment lists.

Do you know someone who has made a significant contribution to genealogy or local history in our area? We need nominees for the Henry James Young Award. Check our website for nomination guidelines and for the names of past Award recipients. We would like to honor one or two people with this award at our meeting in June 2018.

Looking ahead to next fall, our biennial genealogy conference will be held on Saturday, September 22, 2018 at the York County History Center. The theme is Pennsylvania German research, and the program will feature sessions on Pennsylvania German church records, colonial ships' lists and naturalizations, resources for tracing ancestry across the Atlantic, and Pennsylvania German collections throughout the Commonwealth. June Lloyd, librarian emeriti of the York County History Center, will be our keynote speaker, describing artist Lewis Miller and his depictions of Pennsylvania Germans. Plan now to attend!

Finally, don't forget that our membership year ended on June 30. If you have not done so already, pay your dues now so that you do not miss one minute of your membership benefits! Those who have not paid by September 1 will be removed from our membership rolls. We hope that you will continue to join us in our efforts to preserve and make available the genealogical resources of our region and to educate our community about genealogical sources and methods.

Stay cool!!

2017-2018 SCPGS Officers

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 "Jerry" Smith, Recording Secretary
 Rebecca Anstine, Membership & Corresponding Secretary
 Thomas Gibson, Director-at-Large
 Erica Runkles, 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 2017-2018 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 History Center

We Goofed!

In our last newsletter we published an article, "A New Look at the European Origins of the Lau Family". Unfortunately the sponsors at the baptism of Johann Christmann Lau were listed incorrectly in the English translation ...

[1696] den 21sten Aug. st. n ist zu Wintzeln Johann Theobald Lau Schmidt da selbsten und seiner Haußfrauen ein Söhngen gebohren worden so den 26ten getaufft und Johann Christmann genennt worden Gevattern waren 1) Johann Nickel Kooß burg z. Winzeln Luth 2) Johann Daniel Tauenhauer Joh Christmanns Tauenhauer Sohn Luth 3) Anna Catharina Schindeldeckerin Joh. Jacob Schindeldeckers frau Luth

[1696] the 21st of August (new dating style, i.e. Gregorian) born in Winzeln to Johann Theobald Lau, blacksmith there and his wife a son was born and baptized on the 26th and was named Johann Christmann. Sponsors 1) Johann Nickel Kooß citizen of Winzeln Lutheran 2) Johann Daniel Tauenhauer son of Joh. Christmann Tauenhauer Lutheran 3) Anna Catharina Schindeldeckerin wife of Joh. Jacob Schindeldecker Lutheran.

Jumping the Pond 2.0: "Take me back to the Fatherland," Researching your German ancestors in Europe

At our June 4th meeting Richard Konkel spoke about using German records. The following is from the handout from this meeting.

Know your History!!

Understand from where and when your ancestors may have emigrated and what was going on in the area when they lived there. Eighteenth century emigration tends to be from areas of Southwest Germany now comprised of the modern German States of Baden-Württemberg, Rheinland-Pfalz, Hessen, and Saarland, as well as Switzerland and the historic provinces of Alsace and Lorraine now in France. There are some exceptions of emigrants coming from other areas. Nineteenth Century Emigrants came from all German speaking lands across Europe. Germany was not a unified country until 1871 and even then there were a number of separate Kingdoms and Duchies which did not keep records in a uniform manner.

Territories from which Germans Emigrated:

800 to 1806 "The Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation", The First Reich, an "empire" of about 300 semi-independent principalities and ecclesiastical states.

1815-1871 German Confederation: Including a number of more consolidated Kingdoms (Prussia, Bavaria, Saxony, Hannover, and Württemberg) and the German and Czech lands of the Austrian Empire.

1871-1918 Second Reich. The German Empire under the rule of Prussia. Austrian lands were all excluded.

Emigration

For 18th Century emigration, *Pennsylvania German Pioneers* by Strassburger and Hinke remains the best source for emigrants entering Pennsylvania after 1727. The vast majority sailed from Rotterdam at the mouth of the Rhine. There are no records from the port of departure.

19th Century emigration is found mostly through port of entry records kept by the United Federal government at the ports of entry after 1820. Many of these records as well as naturalization and United States passport records can be found on ancestry.com. The primary ports of departure were Bremen, Hamburg, Rotterdam, and LeHavre, France. A few departure records exist for Hamburg. Bremen regularly destroyed them a few years after they were created.

Publications on the origins of German emigrants, especially those of Annette K. Burgert, Werner Hacker, and others. Many of these books are in the library of the York County History Center.

Finding the Heimat (hometown)

Searching by name: Do searches on ancestry.com, familysearch.org, and more general google searches. If you are very lucky, you may find an exact match on ancestry or familysearch. If the surname is unique you may be able to narrow the areas where the name is found. Present day records such as www.dastelefonbuch.de provide lists of modern Germans with their surname.

Searching by place: Many German place names are commonly found multiple places. Make sure you are searching in the correct place. Does the town have an Ortssippenbuch or Ortsfamilienbuch? There are a large number available for Baden and Württemberg many of which can be purchased or are found at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. Some have been filmed. See also www.online-ofb.de for a collection of searchable database of online Ortsfamilienbücher. Also search for local histories.

Finding the Records

Church records: Protestant records (*evangelisch*) which were formerly divided into Lutheran (*lutherisch*) and Reformed (*reformiert*); and Roman Catholic (*katholisch*). Primary records are birth/baptism (*Taufen*), marriages (*Heiraten*), and deaths (*Tote*). Main sources: Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah, for the catalogue search familysearch.org. Films can be rented to your local Family History Center. Some films are indexed or abstracted right from the catalogue entry.

Ancestry.com has in recent years added large numbers of scanned and transcribed German Church records from the LDS FHL collection, and it continues to grow. Some records are transcribed extremely accurately, some are terrible. On ancestry.com, many of the localities for these records are not correctly identified. It is better to check the original LDS film number at the beginning of each scan and look up the entry on the Family History Library Catalogue on familysearch.org. Areas currently covered with scanned images include Protestant records for Württemberg, Rheinland-Pfalz (listed as Bayern or Bavaria as it was part of the Kingdom of Bavaria before 1918), most of the

eastern provinces of the former Kingdom of Prussia (many of these areas are now in Poland, and some records are identified by the modern Polish name, and some by the former German name of the locality. There is no rhyme or reason to it!). Many church records from Baden are abstracted or transcribed including some Roman Catholic records. So far there are no images for any of the church records of Baden. One can only hope that these are being transcribed and indexed and will appear sometime soon on ancestry. Practically all Protestant and Catholic church records for Baden are filmed and in the FHL collection.

For Alsace-Lorraine in France, the FHL catalogue will redirect you to scans of the original church records and civil records held by the Archive of the Department Bas-Rhin in Strasbourg, France. This would include all original records used by Annette Burgert in her *Northern Alsace* book.

A number of regions have not been filmed by the LDS. This includes most of Bavaria. These records can only be accessed through church archives in Nürnberg for Protestant records, Bamberg and Würzburg and others for Catholic records. In some

areas the old original records remain in the actual parishes. For these areas, it is best to obtain the services of a professional genealogist in Germany.

Civil records (*Standesamt*): For most parts of Germany, Civil Registration of births, marriages, and deaths did not start until 1874. In former eastern provinces some records have been lost, some are in Polish archives, many are now on ancestry.com. Civil Registration began in the early 1800s in areas under direct French rule of Napoleon (left bank of the Rhine). A wide variety of other tax, court and property records exist for different areas, mostly unfiled or unscanned. To access these records, most must be searched in regional or town archives. Census records are few and far between, and unlike research on people in the United States they are not a major source of information.

Maps

I am a huge fan of google maps and its various images and ability to “tour” a locality.

There is now a large collection of 19th and 20th century detailed topographical maps of the former German Empire on ancestry.com.

Pennsylvania Soldiers' and Sailors' Home

Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
560 Third Street, Erie, PA 16507-6239 (dmva.pa.gov)

The Pennsylvania Soldiers and Sailors Home, located in Erie, Pennsylvania, is a place for retired veterans to reside. The home has been in operation for the last 131 years and in that time has seen many families, staff, and visitors.

The purpose and mission statement of the PSSH is to maintain the highest quality of resident care considering physical, psychological, and social needs, as well as maintaining their autonomy with family and community. The home has been an important part of the Erie community for the last century and it is imperative that its history and background be understood and preserved. In an attempt to gather as much history and information on the home as possible, we are reaching out to the public and other Pennsylvania communities asking for help.

The goal of this project is to research, gather, and collect photographs, written history, and articles referencing PSSH, as well as any personal histories of those who lived, visited, or grew up around the home. Once all the information has been collected, it will be compiled into a comprehensive video-history, used to

train new employees and volunteers and as a resource for families who are considering sending a loved one or family member to the home. This video is also needed to fill in the missing gaps in the history of the home. We are asking that if your organization has any information regarding the Pennsylvania Soldiers and Sailors Home it please be relayed to us. We are making an effort to compile the most accurate and cohesive history possible, so any information will be greatly appreciated.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns. The project is scheduled to be completed by April 2018, so the sooner we hear from you the better! We thank you for your time and cooperation.

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Videographer and Mercyhurst University Student

Analyze Genealogy Records Like a Pro: For the Beginner

July 3, 2017 by Amie Bowser Tennant [www.thegenealogyreporter.com/]

To analyze a genealogy record is part of the Genealogical Proof Standard. By learning and applying this skill to both the record and its information, you will glean clues that may have otherwise been overlooked. Here are a few things to remember when you analyze a genealogy record.

The Board for Certification of Genealogists has published a book titled *Genealogy Standards*. In it, they discuss the ins and outs of using the Genealogical Proof Standard (GPS) in genealogy research. For some, the book and its language may be overwhelming or intimidating. The GPS includes five components. One of these components reads: *“Critical tests of relevant evidence through processes of analysis and correlation facilitate sound interpretation of information and evidence. They also ensure that the conclusion reflects all the evidence, including the best existing evidence.”* [1]

Essentially, that means that records we use for genealogy should be investigated thoroughly so we can interpret the information there and any information being hinted at. In the following paragraphs, I hope to shine a light on the basic steps of analyzing a record in your genealogy research.

Two Types of Analysis

There are two types of analysis. They are source analysis and information analysis.

Source analysis is in regard to the record itself, such as a birth or death record. When you analyze it, you are looking for its “likely accuracy, integrity, and completeness.” [2] In layman’s terms, for each record you might ask yourself the following questions:

- 1) Is the record readable? Is the writing or type too light?
- 2) Does the document have any rips or tears that might mean some of the information from the record is missing?
- 3) Is the record or document found in loose papers or a bound volume? (Loose items may mean there are additional pieces of information that are missing or misplaced, for example.)
- 4) If it is a digital image, is it blurry or is the image cut off where information may be missing?
- 5) Is this a record or an index created from another source? (An index, transcription, abstraction, or record created from something else is called a derivative source and does not typically “hold water” as well as an original source.)
- 6) Is there a significant time lapse between when the

event happened and when the record was made? (Sometimes, record sets need to be re-created due to loss or damage, and a copy can introduce errors. Another example may be a person creating an affidavit about events that took place long, long ago and perhaps their memory is a bit fuzzy.)

Information analysis on the other hand, is to apply these same types of questions to the information being given. Questions you might ask yourself while analyzing the information may be:

- 1) For what purpose was this record made? (When a record is made to prove legitimacy of a claim, such as a pension, then is it possible some details may have been added, omitted, changed, or hidden? When money is involved, it’s a good idea to be cautious of the the information in the record.)
- 2) Who created the record and did they have any reason to record it incorrectly? (A Bible record of a child’s birth perhaps will be slightly off to protect the parents from anyone knowing the child was born “too soon” after the marriage.)
- 3) Who gave the information being recorded? Did this person have accurate knowledge of what they were reporting? (A widow naming her deceased husband’s parents by name and place of birth, yet she had never known them. How accurate would that be?)
- 4) Are there any contradictions within the information being given?

Analysis in Action

Let’s see some analysis in action.

George Henry Bowser died on 3 July 1948 in Clark County, Ohio. His death record can be seen online and it gives a great deal of information. First, let’s look at the record itself and analyze it:

- 1) *Is this an index, copy, or digital image of the death record?* It’s a digital image found online at FamilySearch. It seems to be an image of the original death record. The image is clear and

able to be read easily. No tears, rips, or blotting out appear on the record.

- 2) *When was the record made?* It seems to have been made at the time of death.
- 3) *Who created the record?* A clerk is likely the person that created the record, though the informant is listed as Clinton Bowser, which is George's son. Clinton would have been approximately 45 years old at this time.

Now, let's analyze the information:

- 1) *Are there any contradictions within the information given on this death record?* Yes, this record gives George's birth date as 19 August 1870, however we have a birth register record giving his birth date as 17 August 1871.
- 2) *Did the informant have any reason to lie?* No.
- 3) *Did the informant have any impediments to why he/she may not know the answers to the questions being asked?* Yes, Clinton was obviously not alive when his father was born. He was likely going on what George had told him and George also did not have firsthand knowledge of his own birth. Additionally, George had left his family in 1916 when Clinton was only 13 years old. George was an abusive drunk and so we might speculate there were not many times when the family sat around the table discussing birthdays or sharing family history dates. (Pure speculation, here.)

If we had applied the same line of questions to the birth register for George Henry Bowser's birth and found the record to be legible, readable, created near the time of birth by those with first-hand knowledge of the event, then we would say that George's accurate birth date is 17 August 1871, not 19 August 1870 as recorded on his death record.

Sound Conclusions

When you analyze genealogy records and information, it will help you "... facilitate sound interpretation of information and evidence"^[3] and come to a sound conclusion regarding names, dates, and places for your family history. Why not consider going back over your records and analyze them like a pro! Happy hunting, friends and best of luck!

ARTICLE REFERENCES

^[1] Board for Certification of Genealogists, Genealogy Standards, 50th Anniversary Edition, (Nashville: Ancestry.com, 2014), page 2.

^[2] BCG, Genealogy Standards, page 21-22.

^[3] BCG, Genealogy Standards, page 2.

FamilySearch to Discontinue its Microfilm Distribution Services

Dick Eastman • June 26, 2017 • Current Affairs, Film/Photos, Genealogy Basics

This announcement shouldn't surprise any genealogists. The end of microfilm has been predicted for years. Microfilm and microfiche has become harder and harder to purchase. Most of the manufacturers have stopped producing microfilm and microfiche so the companies and non-profits that release information on film have been forced to abandon the media.

Over 1.5 million microfilms (ca. 1.5 billion images) have been digitized by FamilySearch, including the most requested collections based on microfilm loan records worldwide. In addition, many records that FamilySearch has not yet published can be found online on partner or free archive websites. FamilySearch plans to finish microfilm digitization by 2020.

The following is an extract from the announcement from FamilySearch:

On September 1, 2017, FamilySearch will discontinue its microfilm distribution services. (The last day to order microfilm will be on August 31, 2017.)

The change is the result of significant progress made in FamilySearch's microfilm digitization efforts and the obsolescence of microfilm technology.

- Online access to digital images of records allows FamilySearch to reach many more people, faster and more efficiently.
- FamilySearch is a global leader in historic records preservation and access, with billions of the world's genealogical records in its collections.
- Over 1.5 million microfilms (ca. 1.5 billion images) have been digitized by FamilySearch, including the most requested collections based on microfilm loan records worldwide.
- The remaining microfilms should be digitized by the end of 2020, and all new records from its ongoing global efforts are already using digital camera equipment.
- Family history centers will continue to provide access to relevant technology, premium subscription services, and digital records, including restricted content not available at home.

Cumberland Pathways Family History and Genealogy Conference

The Cumberland County Historical Society (CCHS), the Army Heritage Center Foundation, the Cumberland Valley Visitors Bureau, Dickinson College, and the Historical Society of Pennsylvania offer you the opportunity to explore your family history at Cumberland Pathways, October 20-22, 2017 in beautiful and historic Carlisle, Pennsylvania. These institutions are home to unique archives and special collections. During Cumberland Pathways, experts will provide guidance for your own family research and present the latest in genealogy trends. Conference topics will range from preserving what you know to using DNA to unlock your family's mysteries.

Millions of Americans trace their family story to the Cumberland Valley. They left clues to their life experiences. You can find them in the Cumberland Valley's rich genealogical treasures. More than 250 years of social, cultural, political and military history are protected and preserved here. Our archives house documents that you will find nowhere else. CCHS, USAHEC, and Dickinson College have led the way in the digitization of family records and the creation of oral history archives. Your family's story will come alive during Cumberland Pathways and you will leave inspired by our expert speakers and workshops.

Begins Friday night with a catered reception at the Cumberland County Historical Society, 21 North Pitt Street, Carlisle PA.

Saturday events at Dickinson College include formal presentations, panel discussions and focus areas. On Saturday evening there will be Special Tour designed just for conference participants: See behind the scenes at USAHEC; followed by social time and a catered dinner where CeCe Moore will deliver the keynote address: "The Power of DNA to Unravel Family Mysteries" by genetic genealogist.

On Sunday enjoy brunch at U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center. (the brunch is not included in conference fees). Followed by a church record discussion: learn how to trace your family through church records.

REGISTRATION — Fee: \$125

For additional information or questions check the Cumberland Pathways website at:

<https://cumberlandpathways.org>

Early German Migrations

Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society Fall Conference
Saturday, October 14 8:30 am to 4:00 pm
Wyndham Garden Hotel, York, PA

Pioneers & Colonists: Historical Background of Germans in Eastern Europe James M. Beidler

Millions of German-speaking people never spent a day in today's countries of Germany, Switzerland and Austria. For centuries, German-speaking enclaves existed in Eastern Europe. This presentation introduces and gives historical background about these "Germans outside Germany."

Germany to America: 18th Century Odyssey
James M. Beidler

There are many stereotypes about the immigrants who came from German-speaking lands to America in the 1700s. This lecture uses the personal memoirs of the immigrants themselves to dispel the myths about why they came, what the voyage was like, and how they liked America.

Keystone Records in the Keystone State
Sharon Cook MacInnes, CG

What can you find in Pennsylvania state, county and historical society repositories? We'll look at the challenge of changing boundaries (both state and county), alternates to vital records, state censuses, and the following record groups: tax, legal, military, and land. Also on the menu: published histories and how to find them, manuscripts, repositories, the Published Pennsylvania Archives and the Pennsylvania Archives in Harrisburg.

Migration Patterns of Germans in America
Sharon Cook MacInnes, CG

Explore the push-pull factors that propelled Germans to settle where they did in America in colonial times and as they spread west in the 19th century. Knowing where your ancestors settled in the mid-1800s can often lead you backwards toward their original settlements in America by considering the migration routes of other Germans within the U.S., particularly allied families. This session explores how historical events channeled Germans into certain areas, how chain migration drew allied families together, and what tools you can use to follow their footsteps.

For registration information, please visit the MAGS Events page at: <https://magsgen.com>

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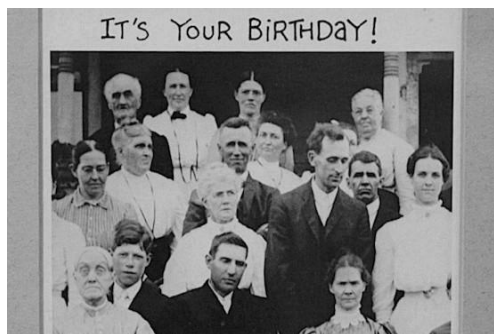
DATED MATERIAL—DO NOT DELAY

Family Buys Hilarious Birthday Card for Grandpa, Finds Out it has an Old Family Photo

Dick Eastman • June 27, 2017 • Photography

Family photos are where you find them!

A 12-year-old in Kansas recently found a hilarious card to give to her grandfather for his 74th birthday. The card had a very old-fashioned family photo on the front, with everyone looking very stern and serious. On top it said, "It's your birthday!" Her mother also laughed when she saw the card. Then she stopped laughing when she looked closer.



A man in the photo looked a lot like her grandfather and of her great-grandmother. The family gave the card to the 74-year-old man celebrating his birthday. He got all excited as he realized the picture was of his father, his grandmother, and of a number of his other relatives! It was a photo he had never seen before.

In fact, the family eventually was able to locate the original photo the card was made from. The family identified almost everyone in the photo that was taken in 1906 at a wedding.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: If you have not renewed your membership for the year 2017-2018, 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 by September 1st.