

OUR NAME'S THE GAME

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SOUTH CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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WWW.SCPGS.ORG

Upcoming Program Meetings

2:30 p.m., August 28, 2022, Using Online Deeds in Family History Research

Presenter: **Lynn Nelson**

*(Note: This presentation is an in-person only event and will not be available online or recorded)*

Deeds are one of the most valuable but underutilized resources for family history research! These days, with the wide availability of deeds online, you can research them from the comfort of your own home. Learn how deeds can break down brick walls, reveal your ancestors' stories, help you trace the history of your property, and more. An overview of deeds, tips for using them, and a live, step-by-step demonstration using York County deeds online will show how easy it is to use this wonderful resource to grow your family tree.

**Lynn Nelson** is a Certified Genealogist® who specializes in Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Italian research. A former IT professional with decades of personal family history research experience, she turned her favorite hobby into her early retirement job. Lynn is an associate of the Board for Certification of Genealogists, and a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, the National Genealogical Society, the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania, the New England Historic Genealogical Society, and other groups. She volunteers at the library and archives of the York County History Center, where she was a 2020 Volunteer of the Year.

2:30 p.m. October 2, 2022: Indian Languages Influence in the Susquehanna Region

Presenter: **Charles (Chip) Kauffman**

*(Note: This presentation will be recorded and zoomed via YCHC Facebook page and available online)*

From the first inhabitants who migrated into the Susquehanna River area thousands of years ago to the period of European settlement in the 1600s to 1800s, many American Indian languages were spoken by diverse tribes who made the area their home or passed through on trade or exploratory ventures. Although most early languages are dead, their legacy lives on in the Susquehanna Valley through place names from Iroquoian and Algonquian languages once spoken in the area. This presentation will cover 17<sup>th</sup> century European contact with the region's early inhabitants and how those contacts shaped place names we take for granted in York and Lancaster Counties. Highlighting this will be origins and meanings

of such names as Susquehanna, Codorus, Chickies, Turkey Hill, Conewago, Accomac, Tuckahoe, Conestoga.

**Charles “Chip” Kauffman** is an adjunct faculty member at York College of Pennsylvania where he teaches languages and language-related courses. Over many years at several colleges in the region, he has taught Italian, German, Russian and other languages. He is a retired certified U.S. Government linguist and author of various articles on languages and linguistics.

**The election for new officers held during our June business resulted as follows: President - Jonathan Stayer; Vice President - Richard Konkell; and Director-at-large - Tom Gibson**

### **From our new President . . .**

Greetings from your “new” president! My name is Jonathan Stayer, and as you may recall, I previously served in this role from 2014-2018. Since then, many changes have occurred in my life, and I have been very busy. In 2019, I retired from the Pennsylvania State Archives where I worked as a reference archivist for 35 years. Also, that year, I became a grandfather for the first time.

In retirement, I volunteer at the York County History Center helping the staff to identify books for deaccessioning that no longer meet that organization’s mission and at the Pennsylvania State Archives arranging and flattening state hospital admission and discharge papers for easier access by researchers. Of course, I continue my personal genealogical and historical research endeavors.

This spring, I enjoyed a Kreider Fellowship from the Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies at Elizabethtown College, Elizabethtown, PA. My project focused on documenting the story of how the Brethren in Christ denomination allegedly got its current name during the American Civil War. According to the church’s lore, the group then known as the “River Brethren” adopted the name “Brethren in Christ” when it registered as a Peace Church in response to the Union draft. No government policy at that time required such registration, nor does the church have any contemporary evidence that such action actually happened. I scoured denominational sources and draft records for proof of this story, which first appeared in print in the early twentieth century. While my search was not as successful as I had hoped it would be, I uncovered many interesting draft records that will be shared in future columns.

As the incoming president, I have a number of goals for our society. First, I would like to double our membership during my tenure. Each member needs to secure only one additional member to reach this goal quite easily. I am planning an upcoming column on the benefits of membership in a local genealogical society—ours in particular.

Secondly, I want to complete our leadership team and maintain a full roster of officers as we move ahead. Presently, we need a director of publicity. Please let me know if you would like to fill this position.

Thirdly, I plan to sustain and improve our publications program. Our Special Publications contain valuable genealogical materials not found elsewhere. We will continue our effort to increase access to these helpful resources. Over the years, our newsletter editors have shared interesting and useful articles with us. I would like to see even more original articles and the publication of original

research in the newsletter. We welcome submissions of this type, and I encourage you to send us the results of your research or information about an unusual or “hidden” record.

Fourthly, I seek to strengthen our relationship with the York County History Center ([www.yorkhistorycenter.org](http://www.yorkhistorycenter.org)). The Center graciously hosts our meetings and provides space for our records and publications stock. SCPGS volunteers help to staff its library and assist with research in response to inquiries. Occasionally, our society funds the purchase of books and archival supplies for the Center. As the History Center prepares to move to its new facility (the “steam plant” site), we have been asked to provide volunteers to help pack the library. Please contact me or another SCPGS officer if you wish to participate in this opportunity.

Finally, I want to increase our awareness of and our support for the preservation of and access to historical and genealogical records, particularly in York and Adams Counties. We have taken small steps in this direction in the past—such as when we assisted York County in purchasing some documents that had found their way out of county custody; however, this concern needs to be a larger part of the mission of our society if we hope to have sources for genealogical research available in the future.

I look forward to serving as your president for the next two years, and I hope that you will join me in this ambitious agenda. We need YOU! If you have ideas or suggestions for our organization, or if you have an issue or a complaint that you would like me to address personally, feel free to contact me directly at [scpgsprez@gmail.com](mailto:scpgsprez@gmail.com).

### **June 2022 Henry James Young Awards Ceremony Recipients:**



Right: Presenter Margaret Burg and the parents of honoree Cindy Hartman.

Left: Presenter June Lloyd and honoree Becky Anstine.

### **Cynthia (Cindy) K. Seitz Hartman** (posthumous award)

Cindy was born in York on August 3, 1958, the daughter of Burnell K. Seitz and Bonnie L. Freed. She was a 1976 graduate of Dallastown High School and a 1980 graduate of Penn State University.

Cindy passed away unexpectedly on August 22, 2019. She was married to Paul E. Hartman for 35 years. At the time of her passing, she was employed as an accountant for Dentsply Sirona. Her hobbies were gardening and genealogy. She was the coordinator for the Landis Family reunions for several years.

At the time of her passing, she was survived by her husband, Paul E. Hartman. Mr. Hartman, who was the son of Clair E. Hartman and Romaine E. Fitzkee, passed away, this year, on April 21, 2022.

Cindy's family included, besides her parents, sister, Pamela and her husband, Harry Fry, sister, Patti and her husband Kenneth Gingerich and brother, Timothy M. Seitz and his wife Susan, and several nieces and nephews.

Cindy became a member of South Central PA Genealogy Society during the early 2000's and in 2009, agreed to join the Board of Directors, serving as Director of Public Relations. She began rebuilding the Society's website, making it fully operational and current. She served as webmaster until her passing. About 2012, she traded positions with Mardella Brenneman and became Director of Publications. In addition to managing the website, she took over the organization of the Special Publications sent to members twice a year. When Mardella gave up the editing of the monthly newsletter, Cindy took on that job also. The newsletters were full of interesting articles and news from the genealogy world. Ever mindful of the expenses to produce the newsletters and publications, Cindy researched and instituted less expensive printing options, saving significant amounts of money for the Society.

Cindy was responsible for the completion and publishing of the Society's five-volume Special Publication of the 1798 Glass Tax for York County. In 2014 Cindy updated and revised the By-Laws of the Society. She was great at taking up unfinished projects and completing them. While continuing as webmaster and newsletter editor, she organized the set-up of the spreadsheet format for the eight volume Special Publication of the 1862 Civil War Draft Enrollment Lists which are currently being issued to members, 2 volumes each year. It now takes four members on the Board of Directors to do the jobs Cindy handled so well.

Cindy had many York County families for her personal genealogy research. Her father's Seitz family has family names – Bell, Bortner, King, Landis, Meckley, Piersol, Rohrbaugh and Sterner. Her mother's Freed family has family names – Eppley, Haines, Hartman, Holtzinger, Innerst, Koontz, Leader, Peiffer, Schaffer and Shirey. Just to name a few. I'm not sure how far she got with all of them, President Konkel told me he thinks she did list some of the families in the Ancestry family trees. I remember one that gave her a lot of trouble to find – Vernie Koontz. After Board meetings three or four of us would go out for dinner and she would keep us posted on her efforts to find Vernie. I remember her telling us that she thought she had solved that mystery shortly before her passing. Becky Anstine had found a newspaper article from a paper in Maryland that mentioned Vernie.

Welcome to members of Cindy's family who are with us today. South Central PA Genealogical Society was richly rewarded by having Cindy as a member and especially as a member of the Board of Directors. She is greatly missed; we are so fortunate to have known her and are honored to present the Henry James Young Award in her memory.

### **Rebecca Anstine – “in her own words”**

Born in New Freedom, PA - graduated from Susquehannock High School, Shippensburg State College, now University - with a dual degree in Library Science and French, got my MLS from the University of Maryland. Along the way I took many cooking classes from Frannie Dietz, paralegal classes, H & R Block tax classes, chair caning, voice lessons, and a genealogy course through the National Genealogical Society.

I retired from the York City school district after 25 years, worked for B. Dalton Bookstore for 11 years, and have been working in the HACC York Campus Library since 2007. I also worked for several summers at the Royal Doulton China Shop in Rehoboth. I've traveled across the United States, Canada & Europe.

I've done some presentations for OLLI, transcribed and put together several Family Bible publications for SCPGS, and had several articles published in the History Center Journal and researched several properties. Grandchildren got me started researching their African American roots - which involved Civil War pensions, cemeteries, and family research.

My father's family appeared in Virginia in the mid 1600's, were asked to leave there and move to Wicomico Co., Md. - they were the wrong religion. From there they migrated to Baltimore and Harford counties - appearing in York Co. as early as 1752 when they established the Blue Ball Inn outside of Shrewsbury. My mother's family came to the coal mines in Carbondale via New York, Connecticut, and Rhode Island - wrong religion- again! I have only 1 family member who was a legal naturalized immigrant and no revolutionary patriots. My father's family was divided during the Civil War - 2 enlisted on the Union side and 2 on the Southern.

My great, great grandfather on my father's side is my biggest brick wall - two cousins and I tried. He was Kean Curry - born 1806 in Md. - died 1881- buried at West Liberty Cemetery. The earliest I could find him was on a tax list in Shrewsbury Twp in 1829. He married Adam Hendrix's granddaughter and they moved to Baltimore Co., Maryland.

My descendants are two children: John and Sarah, two grandchildren: Juwan and Jayla, and one great grandson: Jayvon.

Genealogical research is like putting together a giant jigsaw puzzle for me and I've said - it keeps me off the streets and out of the bars!

***Philip Livingston, Signer of the Declaration of Independence who died in York  
was an ancestor of First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt***

***By Richard K. Konkel, Esquire***

In June of this year, I was able to venture out and do my first bit of traveling since the COVID-19 pandemic. The trip was to the Hudson River valley of New York, specifically to Hyde Park in Dutchess County where I was able to visit National Historic Sites at President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's Springwood estate and Presidential Library, the Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site at Val-Kill, and the Vanderbilt Mansion. From the tour of Eleanor Roosevelt's cottage at Val-Kill I learned some interesting information that I had never heard before. Namely that Eleanor Roosevelt is a descendant of Philip Livingston, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, who happens to have died and was buried in York, Pennsylvania during the period when the Continental Congress was in York and York, Pennsylvania was the Capital of the United States of America.

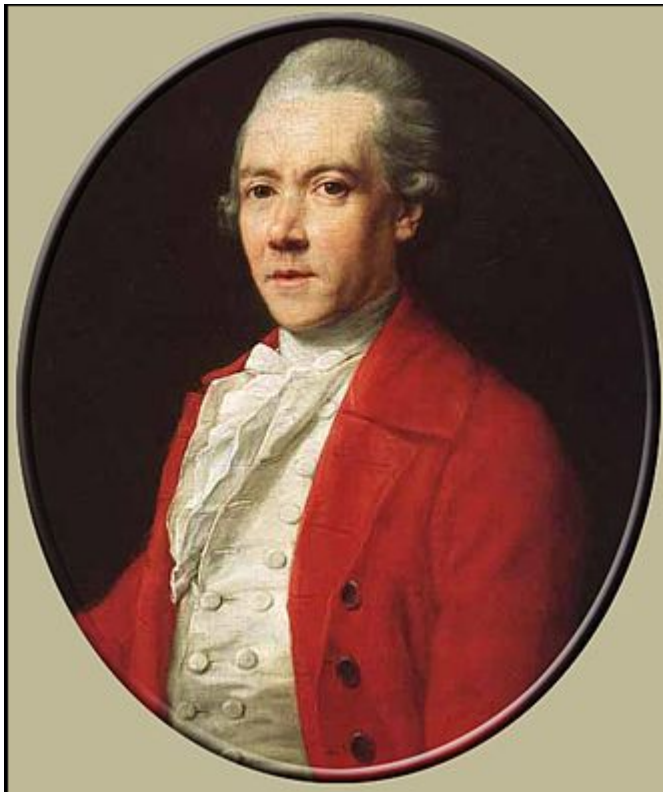
There are two signers of the Declaration of Independence buried in York. The most well-known is Colonel James Smith born 17 September 1719 in County Armagh, Ireland, and died 11 July 1806, York, York County, Pennsylvania. Colonel James Smith emigrated to Pennsylvania as a young boy and eventually settled in York where he was a lawyer for many years. He is buried in the churchyard of the

First Presbyterian Church in York. Colonel Smith unfortunately has no known living descendants. His progeny died out within several generations of him. More specific information on Colonel Smith and his descendants would be more appropriate for another article.

The other signer of the Declaration of Independence buried in York was Philip Livingston of New York. Philip Livingston was born 16 January 1716 in Albany, New York, and died 12 June 1778 in York, Pennsylvania while serving as a member of the Continental Congress, which met for nine months in York in 1777 to 1778.

He was originally buried in the churchyard of First Reformed Church on East Market Street in York, but his grave was later moved to Prospect Hill Cemetery. The inscription on the monument reads as follows:

“Sacred to the memory of the honorable Philip Livingston, who died June 12, 1778, aged 63 years, while attending the Congress of the United States at York Town, Penna. as a delegate from New York. Eminently distinguished for his talents and rectitude, he deservedly enjoyed the confidence of his country, and the love and veneration of his friends and children. This monument erected by his grandson, Stephen Van Rensalaer.”



Philip Livingston 1716-1778



Livingston's Monument at Prospect Hill

Philip Livingston was a member of a large and wealthy family of early landowners in New York. He and his wife had nine children and were the great great great great grandparents of First Lady of the United States Eleanor Roosevelt, whose direct line of descent is listed below:

- I. Philip Livingston, Signer of the Declaration of Independence 1716-1778  
married Christina Ten Boeck 1718-1801
- II. Philip Philip Livingston 1741-1787 married Sara Johnson 1749-1802
- III. Edward Philip Livingston 1779-1843 married Elizabeth Stevens Livingston 1780-1829
- IV. Elizabeth Livingston 1813-1896 married Edward Hunter Ludlow 1810-1884
- V. Mary Livingston Ludlow 1843-1919 married Valentine Gill Hall, Jr. 1834-1880
- VI. Anna Rebecca Hall 1863-1892 married Elliot Roosevelt 1860-1894 brother of Theodore Roosevelt, 26<sup>th</sup> President of the United States.
- VII. Eleanor Roosevelt 1884-1962 married Franklin Delano Roosevelt 1882-1945, 32<sup>nd</sup> President of the United States 1933-1945.

At the FDR Library there are some fine pieces of 18<sup>th</sup> century silver which Mrs. Roosevelt used for entertaining that had come down to her through the Livingston family. Eleanor Roosevelt was keenly aware of her descent from the Livingston family and Philip Livingston the Signer of the Declaration of Independence. The historical community in York however does not appear to have been very familiar with her connection to this famous historical figure whose remains rest here.

### **Obituary for Longtime Member Betty DeReyes**

Betty Maxine Wheeler DeReyes, who was born on June 27, 1940 in Alma, Michigan to Thurston Wheeler and Florence Thompson Wheeler, passed away on April 8, 2021 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. She was described in this notice as an artist, educator, mother, a free, adventurous spirit, and exception to the rule. She is survived by her 4 children: Jewel (Raul) Lopez, Joy Turner (Joseph Buttiglieri), Robert (Julie) Turner and Teofilo Reyes (Dr. Tamara Toidze). She was blessed with 10 grandchildren, 21 great grandchildren and 5 great, great grandchildren. Published by Grand Rapids Press from Apr. 13, 2021

### **Do you want to apply for or renew your SCPGS Membership or gift a Membership?**

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<https://www.scpgs.org/uploads/1/3/3/5/133585819/membershipform2022.pdf>

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Or pay online via PayPal to: SCPAGenSociety@gmail.com

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