



**South Central
Pennsylvania**
Genealogical Society

Our Name's The Game

www.scpgs.org

Monthly Newsletter Vol. 36 No. 7 – March 2011

LOOKING AHEAD

SUNDAY 3 Apr 2011 — We will visit the Colonial Courthouse located on the corner of Pershing Avenue and West Market Street in York, Pennsylvania. The business meeting will start at 2:15 PM and the tour at 2:30 PM.

SATURDAY 30 Apr 2011 — Bible Documentation Day

This is a reminder that the York County Heritage Trust and South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society are co-hosting a Bible Documentation Day. Bring your family bible to the meeting hall of the York County Heritage Trust at 250 East Market Street in York on Saturday, April 30, 2011 from 10 AM to 2 PM. Family bibles are sometimes the only source for vital statistic information. We will copy, *free of charge*, your family information to place in the family files in the YCHT Library & Archives. A documentation sheet covering the bible owners' name, family connection, provenance, etc. will be completed and kept with the copies from the Bible.

At 1 PM, learn what information may be found in your family bible and ways to do more genealogical research in the Trust's Library & Archives. Staff and volunteers will be available to assist with reading the information, whether the handwriting is hard to read or if the script is in German. For more information on this event please contact Victoria Miller, YCHT Assistant Librarian at (717) 848-1587 ext. 225 or vmiller@yorkheritage.org.

SUNDAY 1 May 2011 — Visit Bethlehem Steltz Reformed church and cemetery in Codorus Twp

SUNDAY 6 Jun 2011 — Henry James Young Award Ceremony

Notice – Winter meetings and inclement weather. To avoid placing speakers and members in potentially dangerous situations, SCPGS will cancel meetings if roads are snow covered or icy, or if there is the possibility roads will become snow covered or icy before those attending a meeting would be able to reach home. Cancellations are made on the conservative side. To learn the status of a winter meeting that could be cancelled because of the weather, please call Frank Grove at 717-244-6248 or Richard Konkel at 717-843-7043.



The York County Heritage Trust Museum Shop now has 3 different pedigree charts available for purchase. The first chart is an 8 Generation Fan Pedigree Chart, the second is a 12 Generation Pedigree Chart and the third is a 10 Generation Ancestry Circle. These charts are available for \$3, \$5 and \$19.95, respectively. Please contact Kate Redshaw, YCHT Receptionist at 717-848-1587 ext. 210 with any questions.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Franklin R. Grove, Jr.

Boy! At least some of us in York County were surprised to wake to find snow on the ground after so much rain on Sunday. Many bird families stopped by my house this morning for their breakfast. The attendees at the March meeting may have gotten a little wet but enjoyed an informative presentation. We received tips on where to look for tidbits of information within a newspaper. Several sources for free access and pay-per-view were addressed, as well as some of the history of preserving newspapers and trends for the future.

In April, we hope to have nice weather to visit the York Colonial Courthouse. I am so pleased that we have such a beautiful replica of such an important part of our history to enjoy in 2011 and, hopefully, for many years to come. If you have never visited the courthouse, reserve Sunday, April 3rd as a day to step back into our countries early history. We will see a number of original items inside the courthouse from the colonial era. In May, hopefully we will have a beautiful day to travel to the southern portion of York County to visit Bethlehem Steltz Reformed Church.

As I wrote in the last newsletter; April 30th will be the last day we will accept nominations for the 2011 Henry James Young Award ... two people will be honored this year. If you are planning to nominate someone, living or deceased, time is quickly running out.

Several people commented recently that in years past, especially before the internet; our newsletter contained large numbers of queries. Queries are still accepted, and who knows when a member or someone else looking at our newsletter just may have an answer or connection or information that you are looking for. I recall a number of years ago I answered a query and gave the person a great addition to their research ... a picture of a great grandfather. So, submit a query and hope for a surprise.

Note ... All queries submitted will also be posted on our website, <http://www.scpgs.org>. Queries from the current fiscal year along with those from the previous three years have already been posted on the website. The plan is to continue to add older queries as time permits. On the “queries” page there is a search button that can be used to search all of the queries currently posted on our website ... *give it a try.*



GEORGE WASHINGTON'S TEETH

Despite the legends, George Washington did not have wooden teeth. In fact, the set of teeth he used in 1789, the year he took his oath of office in New York City, are now on display at Mount Vernon and a picture is available on the Mount Vernon web site. Washington reportedly had only one of his original teeth left by 1789. John Greenwood made dentures for Washington. The picture shows a denture made of hippopotamus ivory with real human teeth attached by brass screws. The denture, which was anchored on the one remaining tooth in Washington's mouth, has a hole which fit snugly around the one tooth. All this sounds uncomfortable. I am especially sympathetic this week as I had a tooth removed on Wednesday and am now wearing a temporary denture for a couple of weeks. I find it most uncomfortable but at least I don't have to suffer with hippopotamus ivory and brass screws attaching someone else's teeth. I'll receive a new dental implant in a couple of weeks, an option not available to George. You can see a picture of George Washington's dentures at

<http://www.mountvernon.org/calendar/index.cfm/fuseaction/event/calID/207/>

Posted by Dick Eastman on January 1, 2011 in History | Permalink

CIVIL WAR VOICES FROM YORK COUNTY

written by Becky Anstine

Scott Mingus was guest speaker for our meeting on February 6th. Scott has been researching and writing books about the Civil War and has been focusing on the human interest stories from that time.

Using maps and quotes from a variety of sources – Scott set the background for the invasion of York by the Southern army. In 1860, York had a population around 68,000 people. The three largest towns in York County were York, Hanover and Wrightsville. Farming was the number one industry in the area; followed by the lime industry. The county voted primarily Democratic – but it was divided into two sides – those supporting the war and those who felt that war was a sin. African Americans who came to York, seeking safety from slave catchers, were advised to move across the Susquehanna River to Columbia – an area known for its anti-slavery sentiments.

By 1863, the Southern army was in need of food and horses. The Southern government had signed a contract with Florida to have beef cattle shipped north to supply the army. General Lee wanted to take the pressure off Virginia to give it time to recover from being a battlefield. He also knew that south central Pennsylvania farmers were in the midst of harvesting a good crop and that there were plenty of horses in the area. He had to other goals – (1) to capture and destroy the railroad at Hanover Junction – an important junction for several railroad lines and (2) to destroy the bridges across the Susquehanna river. Destruction of these sites would disrupt Northern supply lines. Lee also wanted to fight his main battle at Dillsburg.

For the most part, the local feeling was that rumors of an invasion were just that – rumors. Local newspapers were urging people to prepare for an invasion. President Lincoln feeling that an invasion was imminent called for 100,000 volunteers. Only 116 men from Hanover and 5 from York responded.

By June 18th, the Southern army had seized Chambersburg. Refugees from West Virginia, Virginia, and Maryland were flooding the roads – all heading towards safety in Philadelphia. Conmen from New York were also active in the area – selling protection cards to local farmers. The New Yorkers claimed that all the farmers had to do was hold up their cards, proclaiming them as member of the “Knights of the Golden Cards”, shout “peace” and the Southern soldiers would spare their food, crops, and horses. Southern soldiers recorded that this action by the farmers, had them quite puzzled – and it didn’t spare the farmers. The markets in York were active with farmers selling their harvest. The 20th PA Militia was in charge of guarding the 15 mile stretch of railroad between Hanover Junction and Harrisburg.

On June 28th, York surrendered. A ransom of \$100,000 dollars was paid and the Columbia bridge was burned. The Rebel army returned to Gettysburg and Yorkers had to feed the invading army.

On July 1st, General Stuart occupied Dillsburg and the Battle of Gettysburg began.

Scott’s presentation gave us a picture of Yorkers and their feelings and reactions to the events during this time. He has tracked down letters, diaries and newspapers accounts that show a side that is not covered in the history classes that we took in school. Scott has a blog which discusses this time period that can be found at yorkblog.com under the heading of Cannonball. Scott also has his own website: scottmingus.com that discusses his history interests and the various books that he has written.

Flames Beyond Gettysburg: The Gordon Expedition, June 1863 written by Scott Mingus gives more detailed explanation of these events. *East of Gettysburg* by James McClure focuses more specifically on York during this time period. Scott and James McClure have a new book coming out called: *Civil War Voices of York County, Pennsylvania: Remembering the Rebellion and the Gettysburg Campaign* which will give an even better idea of his interesting presentation to our meeting.



GENEALOGICAL NOTES

Accuracy of Genealogy Information on the Internet

Today I read an online message from a reader of this newsletter in which she bemoaned the quality of genealogy information found on the Internet. She went on at some length to say that the information found online is full of inaccuracies, is posted by people who don't know what they are doing, and that "genealogy information found on the Internet should never be trusted." I was sympathetic to what she wrote until that last part. NEVER be trusted? I will be the first to agree that there is a lot of inaccurate SECONDARY information on the Internet. But let's not overlook the fact that the internet also brings us images of ORIGINAL source records as well.

Want to see the record of your great-great-grandparents in the U.S. Census? Click with your mouse and look at the **IMAGE** of the original entry without leaving your home. Want to see a naturalization record? **IMAGES** of many of them are available online. Would you like to see granddad's World War I Draft registration form that lists information about parents? The **IMAGE** of the original document is available online. Want to see an obituary? Several online services provide **IMAGES** of the newspaper obituaries. And how about the Southern Claims records, many of which were never available before on microfilm? **IMAGES** of each record are now available online.

Yes, the Internet certainly is a mix of good and bad news, but let's not condemn everything. Looking at images of original source records on the Internet makes us better genealogists than those of us who used to be limited only to transcribed (secondary) sources. We have much more information available today than ever before. Some of it is good information, such as **IMAGES** of original records. Other information found online is questionable, such as secondary information contributed by someone else. Let's not condemn everything simply because some of it is bad. We do have an education problem. We need to educate newcomers as to what information is immediately believable versus what information requires independent verification. This education process must be active on all genealogy sites, including this one, and must continue forever as new genealogists join us. However, I will suggest that this requirement for education should not stop us from looking at images of original records. There is an old saying that pops to mind, something having to do with babies and bathwater. Looking forward ten or twenty years, I suspect that eventually all of us will focus primarily on images of original records, as found on the Internet. As millions and millions of additional images come online, the references we all enjoy will continue to improve. I see that as a great advance in genealogy scholarship.

Posted by Dick Eastman on March 3, 2011 in Genealogy Basics | Permalink



Chris de Burgh's Mother Was a Superspy

Singer Chris de Burgh's daughter Rosanna Davison made an amazing discovery about her grandma's Cold War exploits on the TV show *Who Do You Think You Are?* Her grandparents had been involved in Cold War espionage. Her grandmother had worked for traitor Kim Philby. She also was in Malta training British spies to fight the communist regime in Albania, and attended polo and parties with Lord Mountbatten. The revelations astonished the 26-year-old model who, in the making of *Who Do You Think You Are?* had visited her quiet grandmother Maeve - mother of singer Chris de Burgh - in her home at Wexford's Bargy Castle to gently admonish her, "You never told me!" "You never asked," Maeve had replied, to the bemusement of thousands of TV viewers.

You can read more at <http://goo.gl/S2RFX>

Posted by Dick Eastman on January 1, 2011 in History, Video & Television |

Possible Move of Military Records out of the Washington, D.C. National Archives Facility

A rumor is again circulating regarding the possible move (after 2012) of military records, including pensions, from NARA's Washington D.C. facility to another NARA facility — possibly in St. Louis. We've been trying to get facts before sending "red flag alerts." But facts are hard to come by since no firm decisions have been made. We think it is important to get word out about the possible move, so researchers can weigh in now — before a decision is taken and it is too late. See the background and details below (and on the NARA blog).

Action ... We hope researchers will comment about this issue on the NARA blog:

<http://blogs.archives.gov/online-public-access/?p=4620>

NARA has been urging researchers to use the blogs to communicate their needs. Under the new archivist, NARA is advocating greater transparency and urging users to become involved. Here is an opportunity. **Please let NARA know what you think.**

Storage space is running low at NARA, Washington, D.C. and College Park, Maryland ... the current space plan goes only until 2012. At that point undoubtedly records now in Washington and / or College Park, Maryland, will have to be sent elsewhere. Apparently, despite local researchers' strongly expressed concerns, military records, including pensions, ARE among the records being considered for relocation.

We sense that those military records are the ones most heavily used by researchers at NARA — at least by family historians — although we have not yet seen statistics (NARA apparently is compiling them). Moving them would put a large hole in the records of genealogical value available to researchers doing on-site work in Washington D.C. Additionally, if the pension and service records move while other military records remain in D.C, it is more difficult to do a complete search as we typically use other military records in conjunction with the pension and service records. We are concerned about even the "remote" possibility that military records, including pensions, may be among those tagged for moving.

Apparently NARA officials are trying to identify and designate for moving first those records "least used" or those digitized and available online. The question is whether that will free up sufficient space for future needs. We are told that if the military records are moved, there is a "good faith" plan (but no guarantee) to have them digitized before moving them. Digitizing the records will take quite a lot of time, so if that's the case, the records will remain in Washington D.C. for a good while. (Right now, FamilySearch and Footnote are digitizing just the Civil War widows' pensions, and the proposed time for completion is about 50+/- years.) But again, NARA officials are not guaranteeing the records would be digitized before moving.

This issue has been discussed at the "user meetings" held quarterly at NARA, most recently on 18 February. The minutes of that meeting are posted to the NARA blog at:

<http://www.archives.gov/dc-metro/researcher-users-group/2011-feb-18.pdf>

Please take a look to get the whole story — or as much as we know at the moment — and then give your feedback to NARA.

Thank you for your attention.

Claire Bettag, CG, CGL

*Posted by Dick Eastman on March 06, 2011 in Current Affairs | Permalink
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QUERIES

The compilation of the “Descendants of 1741 York Co. Immigrant J. Wilhelm Ehrhart” is finally about ready for publication ... hopefully this year. Any descendants wanting to be sure that their line is included should email the address below. Some daughter married lines not yet much followed are: Beatty, Bowan, Brenneman, Brown, Bowers, Cassel, Cowen, Decker, Falconer, Gemberling, Heidler, Hoffman, Holton, Husson, Kerchner, Koch, Koller, Kopp, Landis, Lau, Lish, Olp, Peterman, Prosser, Reber, Rohrbaugh, Royer, Ruth, Schmid, Schreiber, Shaeffer, Shindel, Slagle, Snyder, Smith, Strayer, Swartz, Young, Zeller and Zorbaugh. When it is completed and indexed and the cost for printing, binding and mailing is known, I will send notifications of the price. This is a labor of love.

Evedene Bennett, merusbennett@gmail.com

Willing to share copies of pictures of ...

- John and Lydia (Mitzel) Hannigan; family pictures; and other Hannigan pictures
- Samuel Miller, 1st wife Lucinda (Wise), and 2nd wife Anna (Darrah); and a number of their children's families
- Caroline (Emenheiser) Smeltzer, Olewiler; some family pictures which include many of her children, both to Smeltzer and Olewiler, one picture from 1922 has most of her grandchildren, plus others
- Jacob Grove, Sr. 1799-1882; and wife Margaret (Trout) Grove 1807-1883

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