



**South Central
Pennsylvania**
Genealogical Society

Our Name's The Game

www.scpgs.org

Monthly Newsletter Vol. 37 No. 7 March 2012

OUR NEXT MEETING

Sunday, April 1, 2012 — Tax Talk: Using Pennsylvania's Real and Personal Tax Returns

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.

James C. Landis, a veteran of family history research, will discuss the use of Pennsylvania's Real and Personal Property Tax Returns from the years 1711 to 1913; the most misunderstood records used in genealogy. If you are researching the history of your family or your home, this program will help you to properly interpret data obtained from state and county tax records. 'Tax Talk' covers a variety of topics including; the evolution of Pennsylvania's tax system, the mechanisms of the collection process, the creation of tax records, the definition of archaic legal terms, and the classification of taxpayers and their taxable property. The primary emphasis is on the colonial era records with analysis of case studies and detailed discussion of the numerous problems and pitfalls of genealogical research in these unique and intriguing records.

Mr. Landis is a genealogist and historian with over thirty-five year experience in researching family history. Jim has been an active researcher and volunteer at both the Lancaster County Historical Society and the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society for many years, and serves on the Genealogy Committee which plans the Family History Conference. Since 1992, He has taught sessions on a number of genealogical topics for both organizations with Pennsylvania's colonial tax records being a special area of expertise. Jim is also a long-time member of the Historical Society of Berks County and the Tri-County Historical Society, and a life member of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion and of the Lancaster County Chapter of the Sons of the Revolution. He is a native Lancastrian and resides near Mount Joy, PA, with his wife, Stephanie, and is employed by the Township of Manheim (Lancaster County) as a staff accountant.

Sunday, May 6, 2012 — Family Bible Documentation Day

from 1 PM to 4 PM

Saturday, June 2, 2012 — Seminar: *Exploring the Past and Touching the Future*

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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.



Linking the Past with the Present through DNA

written by Cynthia Hartman

Our February meeting was *Linking the Past with the Present through DNA* presented by scientist Darwin Martin of Lancaster County. The presentation answered some key questions that many genealogists have concerning DNA testing.

We began with a biology lesson on *What is DNA?* DNA, Deoxyribonucleic acid, is a series of chemical markers inherited from our parents that makes each of us unique. DNA is a generally a combination from each parent, with two exceptions: Y-Chromosomal DNA which is inherited by male children from their father and mitochondrial DNA which all children inherit from their mother. DNA provides the chemical information that is transformed into traits that are passed from generation to generation.

Why is it useful for family history? Our genetic code holds the story of our heritage that has been passed down through the generations. Comparing DNA between individuals can tell you whether or not the individuals are closely related, the approximate distance to a common paternal or material ancestor, and whether people with a specific surname are related through that surname.

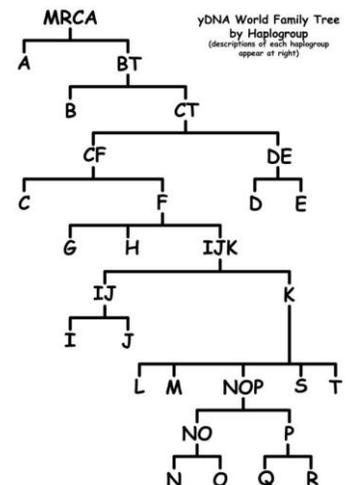
The most common DNA test is the Y-DNA test that looks at the male inherited Y-chromosome DNA. As the Y-chromosome is passed on from a father to his sons, it is only found in males. Y-DNA testing can then be used to trace clearly a direct paternal line. While Y-DNA short tandem repeat (STR) testing tells about the most recent generations (1 to 45) of a male's paternal heritage, single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) tell of the line's deeper history and trace back to ancient times.

A mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) test looks at your female-inherited mitochondrial DNA. Maternal DNA testing offers you the opportunity to at least partially overcome that barrier of inadequate historic records by testing your mtDNA to learn about your maternal heritage in both recent and ancient times.

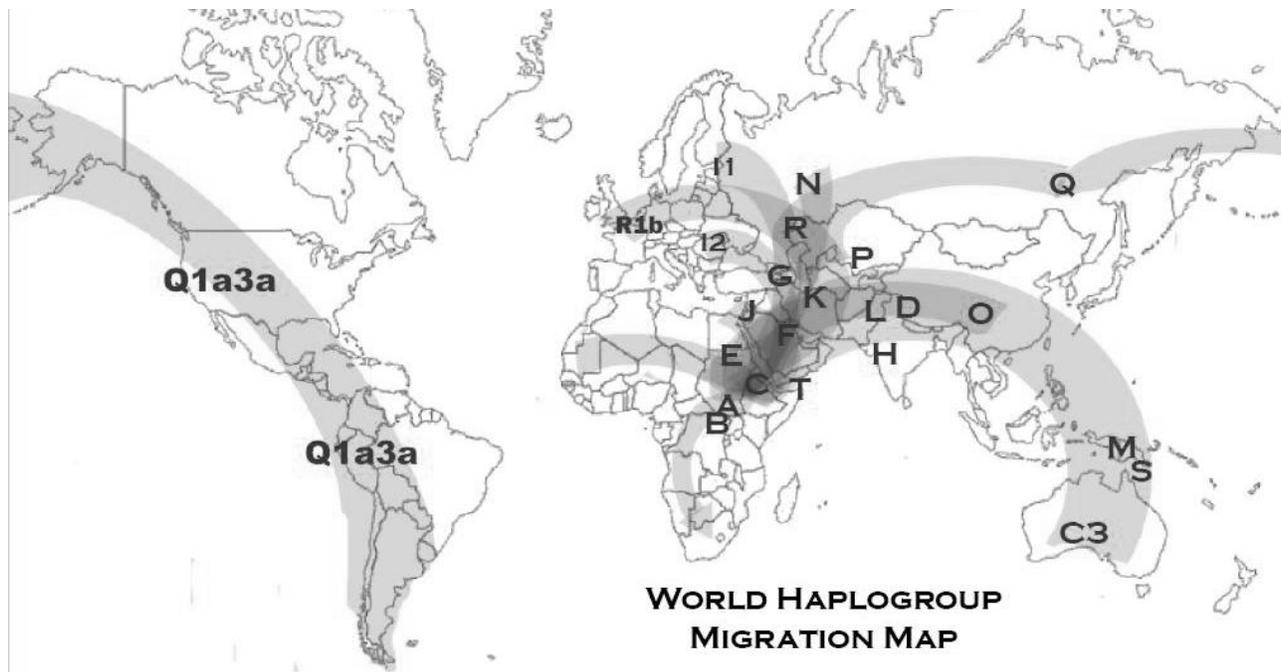
How does one take a DNA test and interpret the results? A DNA test is painless and only requires a small amount of saliva and a few skin cells from the inside of the cheek. Probably the most important decision is how many markers to test. Testing at 67-markers is preferred as the standard 37-marker test only provides basic information. An advanced 111-marker test is used in rare cases to solve genealogical puzzles that are unsolvable by testing at fewer markers. However, information on deeper origins (historical and anthropological) may be better answered with a Y-DNA Deepclade test. There are on-line resources available to help you interpret your results ... www.familytreedna.com, www.ysearch.org, and the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society's online forum at <http://lmhs.org> to name a few.

What does one's DNA reveal about one's ancient lineages? The human genome project began in 1990 and sought to decode the entire genetic sequence of humanity. The project was completed in 2003, and concluded that humans have around 3.3 billion base pairs that are 99.9% the same. The differences can be traced back through time to link every human to a common origin in East Africa. These common African ancestors eventually populated the entire globe. Paternally all people descend through one of twenty haplogroups. Your haplogroup can be determined by a DNA test. Regardless of whether your ancestry is African, Asian or European, you fall into one of these haplogroups. Europe's most common Y-DNA haplogroup is R1b. Ironically, Swiss families appear quite diverse, and fall within at least six of the twenty haplogroups ... E, G, I, J, L, and R.

[If you are interested, I found a discussion of the origins of the various haplogroups on-line at www.kerchner.com/haplogroups-ydna.htm]



MRCA = Most Recent Common Ancestor



Using DNA we can confirm which ancestors were the original Germanic tribes, which were Roman, and which lived in Switzerland long before any of these. Information gathered from DNA, combined with political and social history, begins to reveal the migration patterns of our ancestors. Darwin Martin authored an article in the July 2010 issue of *Pennsylvania Mennonite Heritage* that extends genealogy and family history research to a whole new level that of one's deep ancestry ... "Imagine uncovering which of your ancestors have Greco-Roman, central Asian or Mid-Eastern ancestry. Imagine discovering that one's ancestry shares a DNA signature with the ancient Hebrews or ancient Egyptians. Imagine finding a common ancestor among the indigenous tribes of India, the Chaldeans of the Tigris and Euphrates, or the ancient peoples of East Africa. Today family historians, through the interpretation of genealogically-based DNA testing, can not only speculate origins prior to written records but prove family connections back thousands of years." The Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society offers DNA tests to trace your "Deep Ancestry" and has set up a forum for the discussion of DNA research as it relates to Mennonite family history at <http://lmhs.org>.

DNA testing can be expensive, however, almost every genealogist has spent money and a great deal of time and effort attempting to learn even the smallest bit of information about an individual in their family tree. DNA is another way to add to that information.



U.S. Government Still Pays Two Civil War Pensions

Posted by Dick Eastman on February 14, 2012

When was the last time the U.S. government paid a Civil War pension payment? Answer: Would you believe the government is still making payments? Not bad for a war that ended nearly 147 years ago!

According to an article by Lauren Fox published in U.S. News & World Report, records from the Department of Veterans' Affairs show that two children of Civil War veterans, as of September, are receiving pensions from their fathers' service. At that date, both were alive, but in poor health. These payments probably won't last much longer. Trevor Plante, a reference chief at the National Archives says it's also possible that the beneficiaries were young when their fathers died and had no living mothers to care for them, which would also qualify them for their fathers' pensions.

HERITAGE TRUST LIBRARY

Rev. Frederick Sheely Weiser was born November 25, 1935 in Hanover, the son of Donald Koehler and Elizabeth Sheely Weiser. Rev. Weiser was a member of Christ Lutheran Church in York and a graduate of Gettysburg College and Gettysburg Lutheran Seminary. He was an avid researcher and genealogist. In 2009 he was honored with SCPGS's Henry James Young Award, given to honor significant accomplishments in the field of local genealogy and history. Rev. Weiser died January 26, 2009. The library and archives of the York County Heritage Trust was offered books from his estate to compliment our collection of regional history and genealogy. Following is a list of publications received from his estate:

- 42nd Annual Fortenbaugh Memorial Lecture
Gettysburg College c. 2003
- 120 Years of engineers in the Elsner Family
- Andreas Kolb, 1749-1811; Mary Jane Lederach
Hershey
- Jacob Angstadt's designs drawn from his
weavers patron Book; Ruth N. Holroyd c.1976
- Jacob Angstadt his diaber Book; Ruth N.
Holroyd c. 1976
- Jacob Angstadt his weavers patron Book; Ruth
N. Holroyd ca. 1976
- Aux Pennsylvawnia; Wm. S. Troxell c. 1938
- Bonneauville History & Lore; Karl Orndorff c.
2003
- Descendants of Melchior Diehl of Under
Cappeln, Kusel, Pfaltz, Germany; Mary Fields
Stoebuck, undated
- Descendants of Bartholomew Jacoby; Helen E.
(Jacoby) Evard c. 1955
- Distelfink Country of the Pennsylvania Dutch;
Mildred Jordan c. 1978
- Emmanuel United Church of Christ Two
Hundred and Twenty-five years of Service to
God 1765-1990; Estelle King c. 1990
- Engineering at Gettysburg College; William A.
Darrah c. 1973
- Finding our Roots in Bavaria; John A.
Romberger c. 2003
- German Press of the Shenandoah Valley;
Christopher L. Dolmetsch c. 1984
- G'shbos und arnsht a volume of Pennsylvania
German Poetry and Prose; Solly Hulsbuck c.
1939
- Peter Gerhart and Descendants; Maude B.
Gerhart c. 1982
- Hanover the Greatest Name in Harness Racing;
Donald P. Evans c. 1976
- Hanover Pictorial History Volume I – 1995 ed
- Hanover Pictorial History Volume II – 1996 ed
- History of Emmitsburg, MD; James A. Helman.
reprinted 1975
- History of the German Society of Pennsylvania
Bicentenary Edition 1764-1964; Harry W.
Pfund c. 1964
- Index to Adams County PA Septennial Census
1779-1821; Joan R. Hankey c. 1999
- Index of bill of mortality – Frederick Co.,
Maryland 1818-1892; Helen Brown c. 1966
- John's Pursuit 1790 – 1976 Arendtsville c. 1976
- Jonas Martin Era 1875 – 1925; Amos Hoover c.
1982
- Journal of the Johannes Schwalm Historical
Association, Inc. volume 5 # 1
- Lebanon County, PA – a history; Edna J.
Carmean c. 1976
- Logs, bricks and people; Eugene H. and Norma
H. Moore c. 1981
- M. & M. Karolik collection of American Water
Colors & Drawings 1800-1875; Museum of
Fine Arts c. 1962 (2 volumes)
- Mehn is a Main is a Mayne in Frederick County,
MD they stated with George; Helen Winters
Seubold c. 1980
- David and Anna Miller Story; c. 1979
- Moravian Families of Carroll's Manor Frederick
County, MD; George Ely Russell, c. 1989
- My Albert Line; Carl Albert c. 1976
- Northeast Adams County PA; c. 1974
- Obituaries of Mifflin County 1822 – 1880; Dan
McClenahan c. 1982
- Origins, Development, & Meanings of German
Names; Arta F. Johnson c.1984
- Our Lutheran Homes, York and Gettysburg;
dedication c. 1970
- Pattern in the Material Folk Culture of the
Eastern United States; Henry Glassie c. 1968

- Pennsylvania German Collection; Beatrice B. Garvan c. 1982
- Railroads of Lebanon County; Lebanon County Historical Society c. 2000
- Reflections; John P. Geiselman c. 1996
- Saint James Lutheran Church Hellam, Pennsylvania 1740-1970 230th anniversary
- Salem Church of Kissel Hill Warwick Twp Lancaster Co; Eva M. Myers c. 2001
- Andrew Schwartz Family 1744 – 1985; Ray D. Schwartz c. 1985
- Shenandoah Pottery; A. H. Rice and John Baer Stoudt c. 1929
- Time Marches on Biglerville Sesqui-centennial 1817-1967
- Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Arendsville, PA Bicentennial 1781-1981
- Trautman/Troutman Family History; Steve E. Troutman c. 1988
- Wills of Mifflin County 1789-1860; Dan McClenahan c. 1983
- Tulpehocken Settlement Historical Society. Volume XXXI, November 1999, Volume XXXII, November 2000, Volume XXXIII, November 2001, Volume XXXIV, November 2002, Volume XXXVII, November 2005, Volume XXXVIII, November 2006, Volume XXXIX, November 2007
- Descendants of Christian Fisher and other Amish-Mennonite Pioneer Families; Janice A Egeland, 1972
- Schuylkill County in the Civil War. Volume VII, No. 3 of the Historical Society of Schuylkill County, 1961
- Publications of the Historical Society of Schuylkill County, 1932
- Publications of the Historical Society of Schuylkill County, 1989
- Pennsylvania/Kentucky Long Rifle and Its Lebanon County Connection; Beverly J. Manbeck & Bruce R. Reed, Lebanon County Historical Society Volume 18, No. 5, 2003
- History of Lawn, Lebanon County, Pennsylvania, Lebanon County Historical Society Volume 18, No.3, 1999
- Brewers and Breweries: A Brief History of the Brewing Industry of Lebanon County, PA; Robert A. Heilman, Lebanon County Historical Society Volume 18, No.1, 1997
- A Salute to General Harry C. Trexler: Occasional Papers of the Lehigh County Historical Society, 1981
- Occasional Papers of the Lehigh County Historical Society, 1976
- Proceedings of the Lehigh County Historical Society, 1939, 1947, 1952, 1960, 1962, 1964, 1966, 1968, 1970, 1972, 1974, 1976, 1978, 1980, 1982, 1984, 1986, 1988, 1990, 1992, 1994
- Publications of the Lebanon County Historical Society, Volume 10-17
- Western Maryland Genealogy, Volume 1-5, 1978-1982, Volume 9-10, 1993-1994, Volume 11-12, 1995-1996, Volume 13-14, 1997-1998, Volume 15-16, 1999-2000, Volume 17-18, 2001-2002
- Northumberland County Historical Society Proceedings, 1936, 1938, 1942, 1948, 1949, 1960, 1963, 1967, 1978, 1979, 1984, 1990



Orphan Train Riders, Offspring Seek Answers About Heritage

Posted by Dick Eastman on January 25, 2012

USA Today has an interesting article about the orphan trains of the early twentieth century and the long-lasting effects on the children on those trains. The Children's Aid Society and New York Foundling Hospital put orphaned or abandoned children on trains headed west. The children were adopted into families at various whistle stops along the way. Lukas Weinstein, archive coordinator for the Children's Aid Society, says that about 200,000 children rode the trains. Some were adopted by loving families; others were treated as servants when there were no child labor laws. Many ended up in the Midwest. A growing number of their offspring want to know more about the orphan train riders.



Catalog Online

Genealogical Publishing Company (GPC) offers their latest catalog on-line at:

www.genealogical.com/content/products_catalog.html

PA VITAL RECORDS

Many thanks to those members who helped to get Bill SB-361 passed. The Act 110 of 2011 went into effect February 15, 2012. Under the new law, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and the Department of Health are expanding public access to birth and death certificates. Birth certificates are now available to the public 105 years after issuance and death certificates are available 50 years after issuance. This means that births from 1906 and deaths from 1906 to 1961 are available, and one year of births and deaths will be added each year from now on. Records prior to 1906 are held at the county level. To access the records, visit www.health.state.pa.us and click on the "Birth and Death Certificates" link, or visit the State Archives at 350 North St. in Harrisburg. Researchers will need to know the year of the event, the correct spelling of the name they are searching for, and/or the county of the birth or death.

BIBLE DOCUMENTATION DAY

written by Frank Grove

Our second annual Bible Documentation Day is scheduled for Sunday, May 6, 2012 from 1 PM to 4 PM at the Historical Society Meeting Hall. Please share this date with your friends and church family, as well as at senior centers and other events where people in attendance may be interested in learning how they can share and preserve the information in their family Bible.

Family members often do not know or have forgotten who has the family Bible. The family Bible may be the only place that a birth, death or marriage is recorded. Since only one family member can be the "keeper" of a family Bible it is important to make "old Bible records" available to other researchers by having the pages copied and place in the family files in the YCHT Library & Archives.

The day's events will also include a program on the restoration, preservation and care of old Bibles.

**JUNE CONFERENCE SESSION DESCRIPTIONS**

- "Where do I begin" Kim Grim, Margaret Burg, Lila Fourhman-Shaull
This session provides a brief overview of genealogy, conducting oral histories, the holdings of the York County Heritage Trust Library & Archives, York County Archives and Pennsylvania State Archives.
- "Ancestry.com using the Library Edition" Becky Anstine
This session focuses the usage of the Library Edition of Ancestry.com available at the YCHT Library & Archives
- "Civil War military and pension records" Dennis Brandt
Learn about the wealth of genealogical information that can be uncovered within these records.
- "York County Court, Land and Church records of genealogical significance" Richard Konkel
This session will illustrate the genealogical benefits of using the records created by the York County government as well as those recorded within church registers.
- "The Ethnic Influences in York County" Gordon Freireich, Myra (Neicy) DeShields-Moulton
additional speakers TBA
A round table discussion with members of the African American, Jewish, Greek and Italian communities. Ethnic research sources will be available.
- "What do I do when I hit a brick wall"
A question and answer session with today's speakers that may also include "A Funny thing happened on the way to discovering my Roots." Audience participation is encouraged!

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QUERIES

Looking to make contact with someone working on the ...

Olewiler family... Michael born ca. 1820, married to Catharine Frey, in 1860 they lived in Lower Windsor Twp, York Co, Pa

Lutz family ... Charles born ca. 1830, married to Elizabeth Ann Hefner, born ca. 1840. Both are from York Co, Pa

Dr. Benjamin Franklin Grove 30 Aug 1834 – 17 Mar 1882 & wife Elizabeth (Anderson) Grove Miller 3 July 1834 – 2 Sept 1920 ... specifically looking for pictures.

Franklin R. Grove, Jr. 2998 Cape Horn Road, Red Lion, PA 17356;
email FRGJR@juno.com or telephone (717) 244-6248
