



**South Central
Pennsylvania**
Genealogical Society

Our Name's The Game

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Monthly Newsletter Vol. 38 No. 7 March 2013

OUR NEXT MEETING

Sunday, April 7, 2013 — York County in the Civil War

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.

York County provided more than 6,000 men to the Union army during the Civil War (and a handful of Confederates), despite voting against Abraham Lincoln twice. During the Gettysburg Campaign, one out of every seven rebels in Robert E. Lee's army invaded York County in the days before the Battle of Gettysburg, and York was the largest Northern town to fall to the Confederates in the entire war. Come hear the story of this region in the Civil War, brought to you by Scott Mingus, an author and local tour guide.

Scott L. Mingus, Sr. is a scientist and executive in the global paper industry, and holds patents in self-adhesive postage stamps and bar code labels. He was part of the research team that developed the first commercially successful self-adhesive U.S. postage stamps. The York, Pennsylvania resident has nine Civil War books listed on amazon.com. A native of southeastern Ohio and graduate of the paper science and engineering program at Miami University, Mingus also has written several articles for *The Gettysburg Magazine*. He maintains a popular blog on the Civil War history of York County, Pa. (www.yorkblog.com/cannonball), and is a Civil War tour guide for the York County Heritage Trust. He also has written six scenario books on miniature war gaming and was elected to the hobby's prestigious Legion of Honor in 2011.

Upcoming Meetings

Sunday, May 5, 2013 — 3rd Annual Bible Documentation Day

Family bibles are sometimes the only source for vital statistic information, such as births and marriages. Bring your family bible to the Historical Society Meeting Hall at 250 East Market Street from 1 PM to 4 PM. We will copy, free of charge, your family information to place in the family files in the York County Heritage Trust Library & Archives. Our volunteers will record the family information, condition, ownership and publication information of the bible. ... *Spread the word*

Sunday, June 2, 2013 — Henry James Young Award

... at the Meeting Hall at York County Heritage Trust Library & Archives

Susquehanna River Islands Near Goldsboro

written by Becky Anstine

Susquehanna River Islands Near Goldsboro was the topic of Evans Goodling, our speaker for our March meeting. As a child, Evans spent summers on Goodling's Island, which was owned by his grandparents. Curiosity about the island and surrounding islands, led him to do research on them and he talked about the ownership and told some interesting stories about the islands. The area is now known as Lake Frederick and Evans searched for information on Shelley's, Hill, Duffy, and Conewago islands.

Patents for the islands were issued by the Penns to Daniel Shelly as early as October 13, 1760. The Shelley family farmed the islands. Daniel is buried in the family cemetery on Hill Island. Shelley Island contains the East and the West Cemetery.

In 1844, the Millerites gathered on Hill Island. Their leader, William Miller, was a Baptist minister, who in 1822 predicted a Second Coming. On October 22, his followers in Pennsylvania came to the island to await their transportation. Faulty calculations were blamed for "The Great Disappointment".

The York Haven Power Company bought many of the islands. Hoping to rechannel the river to help prevent flooding, they built a dam. In the early 1900's, James Duffey was the owner of

what was then known as Elliot's Island. He farmed the island. In 1903-1904, the river froze and with the thawing, Duffy's crops were destroyed. He proceeded to sue the Power Company and finally won his case, after appealing all the way up to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. Today the island, is the home of the Three Mile Island Nuclear Power Plant.

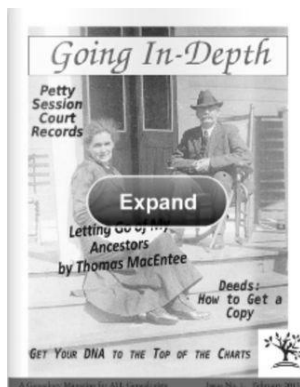
Evans also talked some of the smaller islands – some are privately owned, some are leased out by Exelon, others are used as public recreational area.

Several islands have disappeared completely. Shelly's Little Island disappeared in the 19th century, while others like Muddy Island were washed away during Hurricane Agnes in 1972. Goodling Island itself has shrunk from 5 acres to 2 acres. The cottage owned by Evan's grandparents was damaged during flooding, and then washed away during Hurricane Agnes. On a visit to the island, Evans was able to dig through shallow water where the original kitchen had been and found a cook plate for the old stove.

Living close to the Susquehanna River, we've known the islands were there, but never really considered their history – Evans talk was not only interesting but very informative.

Announcing "Going In-Depth," a Free Digital Genealogy Online Magazine

Posted by Dick Eastman on February 16, 2013



Prepared by the team at The In-Depth Genealogist, the premier issue of Going In-Depth was introduced to subscribers earlier today. Filled with over 70 pages of guest articles, regular columns and free resources, it is a great publication for every genealogist, no matter the age, stage or focus of your research.

The owners of this new, free new online magazine plan to issue a new edition on the 15th of each month. Sign up today for your free subscription so you do not miss an issue.

You can learn more at <http://www.theindepthgenealogist.com/>

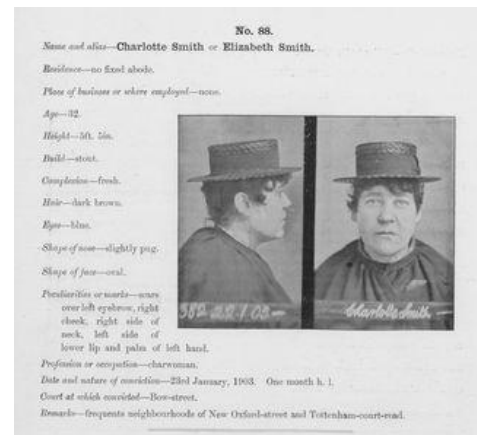
Is There a Murderer in Your Family Tree?

Posted by Dick Eastman on February 20, 2013

The National Archives (of England and Wales) and findmypast.co.uk are cooperating to place 2.5 million records online, dating from 1770 to 1934, including murderers, drunks and petty criminals. This is believed to be the biggest collection of historical criminal records from England and Wales. The documents include mug shots, court papers, and appeal letters. The Crime, Prisons & Punishment records will be crucial to your research as they contain information about your ancestors that isn't available in other records.

On the right is a record from the collection – click on the image for a larger version. The record tells the story of charwoman Charlotte Smith, also known as Elizabeth Smith. Charlotte was convicted of being a habitual drunkard in 1903 and sentenced to one month of hard labour.

As well as two photos, the record also provides a detailed physical description: Charlotte was 5ft 5 inches tall with a stout build, fresh



complexion, oval face, dark brown hair and blue eyes. She had a slightly pug nose and scars over left eyebrow, right cheek, right side of neck, left side of lower lip and palm of left hand.

The same documents often lists names and locations of victims and witnesses. Even if your ancestor was not the criminal, you often can find information about your ancestor and the life he or she led.

You can learn more at

<http://www.findmypast.co.uk/content/news/crime-prisons-punishment>

MennoTree searches Mennonite

Ancestry

Posted by Dick Eastman on February 14, 2013

A new Mennonite genealogy search engine has gone online that should be a huge help to anyone searching for Mennonite ancestors. The new web site already claims to have more than two million names in its database.

The search mechanism is super simple. The goal of the web site is to address some of the common search challenges: how to find Mennonite names and locations having many variant spellings intending to search genealogy, but getting mostly results unrelated to genealogy how to quickly filter through search results by a specific category (census, obituary, cemetery, etc.) search engines missing results when the intended places/years are listed too far removed from a person's name.

The site reportedly uses custom Mennonite style

name soundexes. For example, it catches over 50 variations on the surname Sawatzky, and over 300 variants on the forename Margaretha. It also has custom Mennonite style place soundexes, most useful for Prussian/Russian place names.

The site has results for both Prussian/Russian and Swiss Mennonites, but it seems there is much more information available on the Prussian/Russian side.

MennoTree is available to everyone free of charge. The site is accepting advertising although I didn't see any ads when I used it. I believe the site owner is recruiting advertisers so we will probably see ads in the future.

The site is new and presently contains almost no information about the site's owner or long-term plans. An email message lists the owner as Michael Penner. To try MennoTree for yourself, go to <http://mennotree.com>.

Book Reviews

from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter

The following book reviews were written by Bobbi King ...

Posted on February 20, 2013

White Maryland Runaways, 1770-1774
Compiled by Joseph Lee Boyle. Printed for Clearfield Co. by Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, MD. 2010. 364 pages.

The title phrase "white Maryland runaways" characterizes the thousands of white Europeans who did not come to colonies as free men and women. They came as indentured servants, political exiles, or transported convicts. Bound whites preceded the use of black slaves in every colony, and as runaways, they were hunted just as we recall the slaves were.

This book is a collection of transcribed newspaper notices of the white runaways. The introduction expands upon the history of white servitude in the colonies, a topic not widely discussed nor acknowledged.

One example of a transcribed notice:

June 12, 1773 TEN POUNDS Reward

RAN away, the 17th of last month, from the subscriber, living on Elk Ridge, in Anne-Arundel county, Maryland, a convict servant man, named ANTHONY JACKSON, born in the West of England, and speaks a little in that dialect, about 25 years of age, 5 feet 8 or 9 inches high, a red-fac'd well-looking fellow, stoops in the shoulders, has short brown hair, thin dark beard, and has a down look when spoken to; had on, and took with him, when he went away, two oznabrigs shirts, a pair of country coarse linen trousers, two pair of country made old shoes, a felt hat, white cotton and kersey jacket, much worn, and an iron collar. – I am informed by a servant, who ran away with the above, that he has stolen a brown cloth jacket, without sleeves, two pair of yarns stockings, one pair of shoes, a pair of oznabrigs trousers, a linen handkerchief, a pair of boots, and a matchcoat blanket, and 17/6 in money—I am also informed, that he has a pass, signed Jonathan Plowman, dated May, 1773, and will endeavour to pass by the name of Thomas Ryan,

and has got his collar off. Whoever takes up the said servant, and secures him in any gaol, so that his master may get him again, shall receive, if taken 20 miles from home, FORTY SHILLINGS, if 40 miles, FOUR POUNDS, and if out of the province the above reward, including what the law allows, and reasonable charges, if brought home to JOHN HOOD, jun.

The Pennsylvania Chronicle, From Monday, June 14, to Monday, June 21, 1773. See The Maryland Gazette, September 13, 1770, The Pennsylvania Gazette, September 20, 1770, and The Maryland Gazette, May 27, 1773.

Newspapers consulted were: Boston Evening Post; The Boston Gazette, and Country Journal; The Boston News-Letter; Boston Post Boy; Connecticut Courant; Connecticut Gazette; Connecticut Journal; Dunlap's Pennsylvania Packet or, the General Advertiser; Essex Gazette; Essex Journal; The Maryland Gazette; The Maryland Journal, and the Baltimore Advertiser; The Massachusetts Spy Or, Thomas's Boston Journal; The New-Hampshire Gazette; The New-Hampshire Gazette, and Historical Chronicle; The New-London Gazette; The New-York Gazette, and the Weekly Mercury; The New-York Journal, or The General Advertiser; The Norwich Packet and the Connecticut, Massachusetts, New-Hampshire and Rhode-Island Weekly Advertiser; The Pennsylvania Chronicle, and Universal Advertiser; The Pennsylvania Gazette; The Pennsylvania Packet, and the General Advertiser; The Providence Gazette, And Country Journal; Rivington's New-York Gazetteer; and Der Wöchentliche Pennsylvanische Staatsbote (Philadelphia).

There are 341 pages of transcribe notices, and the index has over 1700 names. I had no idea such subject matter, to this extent, existed in American records. I'm grateful Mr. Boyle has brought these records to light. Mr. Boyle has also published *White Maryland Runaways, 1763-1769*.

Book Reviews (continued)

Posted on February 23, 2013

Zap the Grandma Gap by Janet Hovorka
Published by FamilyChartMasters, Pleasant Grove, UT. 2013. 193 pages.

Ms. Hovorka wants to zap the gap between generations as she introduces her super-hero Grandma who is armed with the weaponry of story-telling and the will to leave her family the treasures of the past and help them prepare for the future.

This book is written in a casual style using the theme of the superhero, featuring Grandma in her many super-power roles. Each chapter takes on a theme of super Grandma with her power regalia making family history exciting, inviting the younger generation to experience the past and become inspired to appreciate their ancestors.

Gorgeous Grandma puts on her super goggles and frames the family photos throughout the house making family history an integral part of the home surroundings. Geek Grandma with her high-tech super gloves struts her stuff when she guides the family through the Internet towards their family history and finding cousins on the social media sites. Groovy Grandma's virtual helmet brings the historical context of her ancestors' times to life with the sights and sounds of their specific histories.

The book is full of ideas for engaging the younger generation in remembering their past families. This is an easy-to-read book, and would be a good gift for folks who are not heavily invested in genealogy, but who could use a nudge reminding them of the value of family history and the old stories.

Effective Friday, March 15, 2013, the National Archives will reduce public hours at two locations in the Washington, DC, area as part of actions it is taking due to sequestration. These reductions will affect exhibit spaces and research rooms at the National Archives Building in Washington, DC, and research rooms at the National Archives at College Park, Maryland.

Posted on February 10, 2013

QuickSheets. Authored by Elizabeth Shown Mills. Laminated, folded, 4 pages, 8 ½ x 11. Published by Genealogical.com.

The *QuickSheets* are laminated 4-page guides published by Genealogical.com, similar to the "At A Glance" series. Durable book-size pages that can be stowed in a bag, these QuickSheets replace the full volumes of *Evidence!* Or *Evidence Explained* that are nearly impossible to carry around, say, if you're in Salt Lake City for the week. These are quickie references that survive coffee drips, sandwich crumbs, and stuffed suitcases.

The *QuickSheets* are the products of one author, Elizabeth Shown Mills. As adept as she is at turning out weighty volumes of citational analysis, she is equally adept at generating these short guides. Her introduction reviews the elements of the material, and a prominent box on the front page gives the basic template outline from which the examples work. Footnotes are explanations of exceptions and special cases. These *QuickSheets* don't replace her books, but they're a lot easier to carry around.

"QuickSheet: Citing Ancestry.com Databases & Images *Evidence!* Style.

"QuickSheet: Citing Online African-American Historical Resources *Evidence!* Style.

"QuickSheet: Citing Online Historical Resources *Evidence!* Style. First Revised Edition.

"QuickSheet: Genealogical Problem Analysis.

"QuickSheet: The Historical Biographer's Guide to the Research Process.

"QuickSheet: The Historical Biographer's Guide to Cluster Research (the FAN Principle).

"QuickSheet: The Historical Biographer's Guide to Finding People in Databases & Indexes.

"QuickSheet: The Historical Biographer's Guide to Individual Problem Analysis.

QuickSheets are available from the publisher, Genealogical Publishing Company.

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DATED MATERIAL—DO NOT DELAY

The Sultana Disaster: Death on the Mississippi

It remains the worst maritime tragedy in US history, and cost more lives than the sinking of the Titanic, but the Sultana disaster is a story history has largely forgotten.

In April 1865, at least 1,700 people, mostly Union soldiers returning home after the end of the Civil War, lost their lives when the riverboat exploded on the Mississippi. Captain J.C. Mason had allowed the Sultana to become dangerously overloaded with passengers - it was carrying six times its capacity of 376 - and the vast majority of helpless victims suffocated, burned or drowned.

Captain Mason was encouraged to pick up Union soldiers trying to get home by the government's offer of five dollars for each enlisted man and ten dollars for each officer. He left New Orleans with around 100 passengers and headed north but each time he stopped more and more soldiers would get on. Many had spent months or years in prisoner camps and were desperate to get home. At one point the ship had to stay docked for several days while one of steam boilers was repaired which allowed even more passengers to get on. When an Army officer raised his concerns, Captain Mason assured him that the Sultana was more than capable of carrying the load.

Despite being packed in like sardines, the soldiers spirits were high and they were singing songs and telling war stories. But after leaving Memphis, the extra load finally took its toll. Early in the morning of April 26th, one of the steam boilers exploded quickly followed by the other two. The enormous blast split the ship in two and victims were thrown into the icy water while others suffocated or burned.

The bow of the Sultana remains at the muddy bottom of the Mississippi River as a sad memorial to the men who never made it home. You can read more about this tragic event in the book *Sultana* by Alan Huffman.