



**South Central
Pennsylvania**
Genealogical Society

Our Name's The Game

www.scpgs.org

Newsletter Vol. 45 No. 5 January/February 2019

OUR NEXT MEETINGS

Sunday, May 5, 2019

Securing the Lands over the Susquehanna: The Blunston Licenses, 1734-1737

Since we cancelled our March meeting due to inclement weather, we rescheduled the speaker for our May meeting. The 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.

Between 1734 and 1737, approximately 331 licenses were issued by Samuel Blunston to settlers for lands west of the Susquehanna River. Compiled in a single, small register, these "Blunston" licenses serve as an early record of European settlement west of the Susquehanna in what is now Adams, Cumberland, Franklin, and York Counties. The presentation will take a detailed look at what they are, why they were issued and how to locate individual tracts.

Our speaker, Aaron McWilliams is a reference archivist at the Pennsylvania State Archives. He is responsible for handling research inquiries at the Archives and frequently represents the agency at genealogical events. His areas of expertise include Pennsylvania state land records, Pennsylvania's Revolutionary War militia, and genealogy. He has appeared on WITF's Radio Smart Talk and "Who Do You Think You Are?" Prior to joining the Pennsylvania State Archives, Aaron worked as a reference archivist at the Maryland State Archives and as a professional genealogist.

Sunday, June 9, 2019

The Young Center: Preserving and Interpreting the Legacy of Anabaptist and Pietist Groups

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.

Jeff Bach, the Director of the Young Center, will introduce the Young Center and its special collections of rare books and manuscripts as well objects that relate to the Church of the Brethren, Mennonites, the Amish, and the Ephrata Cloister. He will also describe the research opportunities with some of the files of scholars such as Donald B. Kraybill at the Young Center. The presentation will highlight some of the programs at the Young Center such as lectures and conferences that are open to the public.

Jeff Bach is director of the Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies at Elizabethtown College and teaches in the Department of Religious Studies. Before coming to the Young Center in 2007 he taught for thirteen years at Bethany Theological Seminary in Richmond, Indiana. He earned a Ph.D. in religion from Duke University in 1997, concentrating on the history of Christianity. He has studied and written on topics related to Radical Pietist groups in Europe and America, including the Ephrata Cloister in Pennsylvania.

There will be no meeting in July. The first meeting of the 2019-2020 society year is tentatively planned for Sunday, August 25th. This meeting will be announced in the July/August issue of our newsletter.

From the President

Richard Konkel

The History of Goshen Farm, Chanceford Township, York County, Pennsylvania: Tracing a the History of a Property without Recorded Deeds

This article on genealogical real estate research centers on one property, that did not have a recorded deed of any sort until 1863, and parts of which passed through the ownership of several of my ancestors. Goshen Farm was a tract of land, now in Chanceford and East Hopewell Townships, York County, Pennsylvania spanning the North Branch of Muddy Creek. It was originally obtained from the Penn Proprietors through West Side Application #4448 on 3 October 1767, for 300 acres to Thomas Kelly. It was surveyed on 31 March 1768 as 207.8 acres to Thomas Kelly and called "Goshen." It was Patented by Thomas Kelly's son, Colonel John Kelly on 28 August 1789, along with a number of adjoining tracts. *The Chanceford Townships, Chanceford and Lower Chanceford Townships, York County, Pennsylvania Original Pennsylvania Land Records (Volume 8)*, Neal Otto Hively (1997, page 76, Survey C-169). The Rev. Dr. Hively's complete works are available for purchase from the York County History Center, and give full reference to original land records to be found in the Pennsylvania State Archives and the Deputy Surveyor's records for York County which are at the York County History Center Library and Archives.

Thomas Kelly died around 1786, having written his will in 1782. In the will he devised his land to his oldest son, Colonel John Kelly, and mentions a stone house which he described as "two stone apartments which was built at two Sundry times and now under one Roof, which I now live in." Thomas Kelly and his son Colonel John Kelly acquired most of the land around what would later become Laurel Station on the MA & PA Railroad. They owned more than 1,000 acres in this area. Of interesting historical note, the second son of Thomas Kelly was James Kelly, Esquire, (1760-1819) who graduated from Princeton University and studied law in York. He was admitted to the York County Bar in 1790. He was married successively to two of the daughters of Colonel James Smith, York County's signer of the Declaration of Independence. He served two terms in the United States House of Representatives from 1805 to 1809. He did not own any of the lands in Chanceford Township.

Colonel John Kelly (1754-1835) willed his stone mansion house and about 900 acres to his son

Thomas Kelly, Esquire (died 1842), an attorney in York, who did not live on the property. From the properties being obtained from the Penn Proprietors or the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania until the death of Thomas Kelly, Esquire, all transfers of this real estate from owner to owner was by last will and testament. No deeds ever existed for these transfers.

At the time of Thomas Kelly's death in 1842, the property was being farmed by one of my ancestors, Michael Wolf (1795-1847) who came from Robeson Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania. An after recorded deed dated 11 March 1840 and recorded in Berks County Deed Book 205 page 117 and recorded on 6 January 1894 clearly identifies Michael Wolf as residing in Chanceford Township, York County, Pennsylvania and selling his Berks County real estate to one James O'Neal.

I had previously assumed that Michael Wolf had moved to York County with the express intent of farming the lands of Thomas Kelly, Esquire. A few years ago when thoroughly examining the Chanceford Township tax records I found an interesting entry for Michael Wolf in 1837/38 showing his occupation as "founder at Susan Ann Furnace." This greatly surprised me. A founder was a very important and skilled person who kept an iron furnace in blast. Upon further research I discovered that Millersville University Library had in its collection an account book for Susan Ann Furnace from the 1830s. Upon inspection of that document I found moving expenses and a large salary recorded for Michael Wolf therein from around the year 1837. Further research at the Berks County Historical Society revealed a contract for Michael Wolf to serve as founder at Joanna Furnace in Robeson Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania in 1832.

Thomas Kelly's Chanceford Township lands were divided into nine (9) different tracts and ordered to be sold by Order of the Orphans' Court dated 21 March 1843. A survey map recording the division of the property is recorded in York County Orphans' Court Docket U, pages 172 and 173. The sale of some of the land did not take place for another two and one half (2½) years, on 3 October 1845. The advertisement from the York Gazette newspaper dated 9 September 1845 contains much interesting information.

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Remembering Lila

In a February 23rd FaceBook post, Joan Mummert, President & CEO of the York County History Center shared ...

We are sad to share the news about the passing of our dear friend and colleague, Director of Library and Archives, Lila Fourhman-Shaull. For over a year, she courageously endured a debilitating illness. Lila was the heart and soul of our Library and Archives, and for over twenty years she has helped hundreds of individuals from all over the US and Europe find their family history. Lila had an unbelievable memory, kind heart, and passion for making history personal. We ask at this time you lift up Lila's family and friends in your thoughts and prayers. She will be missed immensely.

"Lila selflessly gave our community and those far beyond our county boundaries connections to their history in a manner that ignited a desire to learn more. Her passion for history was contagious and her knowledge, astounding. We have lost a true York County treasure."

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Lila, 59, was born in York County and graduated from Dallastown High School and York College. She lived in Felton with her husband Brian to whom she was married for 30 years.

Lila was an esteemed member of the South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society board. She was a well-versed writer and editor, having worked on multiple publications, including "*Millers' Tales: The Mills of York County*," which was published in 2010.

Membership Renewal Notice

The South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society welcomes and values your continued membership. Renewing your membership will help us continue to provide services such as special publications and research assistance in the York and Adams County area. Unless you are a life member, your membership will expire on June 30, 2019 and you will not receive membership benefits beyond that date if you do not renew.

To renew your membership for the fiscal year 2019-2020, please promptly mail your payment with the renewal notice included in this newsletter. Please return the entire page, and don't forget to complete the survey.

They Mixed Fact and Fiction

from Michael John Neill's Genealogy Tip of the Day
March 24, 2019

Family traditions are often a mix of fact and fiction – where the fiction has been slowly, and sometimes unintentionally, added to the facts over time. The teller of the story may believe it because they heard it many times or because a beloved family is the one who told it to them. Other times relatives intentionally embellish stories of their own life with details that are not true or complete events that did not happen. They may tell the story so many times over so many years that they begin to believe it is actually more true than it is.

Write the story down as the person told it, including their name, date, and (if applicable) details of how likely it was their memory was accurate or if the individual appeared to be having recall issues.

Then work on seeing what parts of the story can lead to actual records.

Henry James Young Award

Do you know someone who made a significant contribution to the preservation of South Central Pennsylvania's history and/or genealogy?

We are always accepting nominations for the Henry James Young Award.

Nominations can be sent to us at scpgswebsite.net

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POSITIVE SALE
OF
Valuable Real Estate.

THE subscriber, Executor of the last Will and Testament of Thomas Kelly, Esq., late of the Borough of York, dec'd., will positively sell at Public Vendue, by virtue of a decree of the Orphans' Court of York County, at the public house of William Patterson, in said Borough, on **FRI-DAY**, the 3d of October next, at 7 o'clock in the evening, the following Real Estate, viz:—

Tract marked I, on a draft made by John Becker, Esq., containing

325 Acres of Land,

and allowance, being the Mansion Farm of the late Col. John Kelley, dec'd.—28 acres first-rate **MEADOW**, 125 acres prime **WOODLAND**, & the remainder arable land, a portion of which has been limed. The buildings are a large two story



STONE HOUSE,

A **LOG BANK BARN**, **WAGON SHED** AND A **SPRING HOUSE** erected over a never-failing spring of excellent water and other out-buildings. Muddy Creek running through the Tract affords an eligible mill seat.

Tract marked H, containing

115 ACRES

and allowance. On this Tract is a **LOG DWELLING HOUSE**, and an excellent Apple Orchard. Said tract is bounded by Tract marked on said draft G, and Rudolph Miller, Matthew Douglass, Robert Gibson and Michael Strebigs' heirs.

Drafts of the above property, laid out by John Becker, will be exhibited by the Executor residing in York, or by Michael Wolf, who resides on the premises, and will show the tracts.

E. M. DONALDSON,

August 26, 1845.

Executor.

From this advertisement we know that the land being sold was the "Mansion Farm" of the late Col. John Kelly. The large two story stone house is mentioned, as well as a log bank barn, wagon shed, and spring house. It describes how many acres of meadow, and woodland, with the remainder of the 325 acres said to be arable land. We also know from this advertisement that Michael Wolf was residing on the land. Newspapers from the 18th and 19th centuries are full of advertisements for land such as this which can be very rewarding if one is willing to search for them. Currently most old newspapers are to be found only on microfilm. The Library of the York County

History Center has the best collection of microfilm of these historical newspapers for York County. Digital online scans of newspapers are becoming increasingly available.

Michael Wolf ended up being the purchaser for the 325 acre tract at the auction on 3 October 1845, but he lived less than two years, dying on 10 July 1847. From the Administration Account of Thomas Kelly, Esquire, it appears that Wolf was on a multi-year installment plan to pay for the land, and died before the final payments were made. The deed to Michael Wolf was never recorded. Michael Wolf died intestate and the land was subject to further Orphans' Court proceedings and Orders. The 325 acre tract was further divided into two tracts: one of 234 acres with the stone house and other buildings; and the other 90 acres mostly in Hopewell Township without buildings. These two tracts were sold at public sale on 20 January 1848 to my ancestor John Shaul, Sr. (1805-1870) and his brother-in-law William Workinger, respectively. A deed from Michael Wolf's Administrators to John Shaul for the 234 acres is dated 1 April 1848, but was not recorded until 24 August 1863 in York County Deed Book 4L page 475. John Shaul, Sr. further divided the land between his sons, selling the elder two sons Henry Shaul and John Shaul, Jr. tracts that are described in my last article, and the remainder which he lived on, he willed to a younger son Jacob D. Shaul. The stone house was presumably on the tract sold to John Shaul, Jr. Its fate is something of a mystery, but it appears that it was gone sometime before 1900. A large stone embankment wall formerly existed which may have been the remains of the stone house. The spring house still stands.

Find What You Can – Not What You Want

from Michael John Neill's Genealogy Tip of the Day September 28, 2015

Your genealogical goals should be to discover as much as you can about your ancestor using all records at your disposal (not just those that agree with you) and trying to represent those records and what they say as accurately as possible. And sometimes that might not be what we actually want to find out.

In other words ... don't research with an agenda of what you want to prove, but rather locate whatever you can – even if it goes against a preconceived notion you may have about the ancestor or family in question.

Tales of Long Ago: An Old Account Book

from *The News*, a newsletter of the Kreutz Creek Charge of the Reformed Church; August 1928, Vol. XI No. 8

An old Account Book now is in the possession of Emanuel D. Landis, the present owner of the John Schultz House, built in 1734, the first stone house erected in York County, and located a mile south of Lincoln Highway, at Stony Brook. This old book is in a fine state of preservation. It measures 13 inches by 8 inches and is ½ inch in thickness.

The book with two others was rescued from the flames by Emanuel D. Landis when but a youth. He then lived with three old ladies, Susan Witmer, Magdalena Stauffer and Martha Lehman, an older sister of Jacob Lehman. These old ladies lived in the house next to the Hiestand home, on the Lincoln Highway, at Hiestand's Station, and now owned by the Throne sisters, in what was known as the Kauffman place. Emanuel Landis lived there for sixteen years, in fact up to the death of Susan Witmer. In clearing out the accumulation of the years, these books were to be burned, but were saved by Mr. Landis.

The book contains accounts from 1820 on down to 1888. Also observations on the weather and the record of work on the farm and at the mill, with the note of some market prices. These notes begin in English in 1846. The accounts are written in German by John Kauffman, the miller at Hiestand's Mill, as we know it today; and from 1846 in English by David Witmer, John Kauffman's son-in-law, and the uncle of John A. Witmer's father.

The first account appears on page 1 and is dated November 20, 1820 — "John Landis milled 1 st. & ½ bush. at 19 2/4 a bush, \$2.53."

Another account is dated January 22, 1823 — "Hab ich, Johannes Kauffman mit Daniel Hengst Gerber abgesetzt; Bleibt mir schuldig, \$1.80." This is translated, "I, John Kauffman, have settled with Daniel Hengst Gerber. He remains debtor to me (he owes me) \$1.80."

This form is used in his accounts by John Kauffman for years. The accounts are in German up to 1839. Then from April 1, 1844, the receipts and accounts appear in English and are signed by David Witmer, who seems to have been John Kauffman's successor as miller.

The following names appear under date of 1850 as having cider made. These may be interesting to us as

the farmers of eighty years or more ago residing about Stony Brook. Some of these names will be recognized as being members of Kreutz Creek Church and appear in the records, either as communicants or having children baptized. The list follows: John Hauser, John Stauffer, Samuel Kauffman, Joseph Forry, Joseph Kauffman, Andrew Ruppert, Rudolph Forry, Magdalena Throne, Elias Witmer, John Beeler, John Throne, Joseph Dietz, George Cormeny, Henry Forry, Jacob Dietz, Andrew F. Tyson, Henry Kauffman.

In this article we shall quote observations on the weather and the routine life on the farm in the years 1845 to 1850. We will conclude this article with the following prices taken from the year 1847, as entered in the old Account Book, giving the dates, showing the fluctuations of prices in the different seasons, about the same as now:

- June 12 — "Sold on Market, Butter 16 lb. at 14 cts., \$2.24."
- June 19 — "Sold at Market Butter 12 lb. at 15, \$1.80."
- June 26 — "15 doz. Eggs at 10, \$1.50."
- July 17 — "7 lbs. Butter at 20 cts., \$1.40. Eggs 13 at 9 cts., \$1.17."
- July 24 — "Eggs 9 doz. 8 cts. .72."
- Sept. 25 — "Butter 10 at 20 cts. — \$2.00."
- Oct. 2 — "Butter 13 pounds — \$1.77."
- Nov. 6 — "Butter 10 lbs. at 18¾ — \$1.87½."
- Dec. 28 — "Sold Butter in 1847 for 90 Dollars. Eggs for 10 Dollars."
- Dec. 16, 1824 — "Johannes Heindel hat empfangen Ein bushel Welshkorn, 30 cents." That is, John Heindel received one bushel corn at 30 cts..
- "Abraham Heistand, May 25, 1832, ein Kalbhaut, gewogen 7 2/4;" that is, "Abraham Heistand, May 25, 1832, one calf hide, weighing 7½ lbs."
- "1824 ich Hab weitzen ausz der Katharina Tron ihr Land 9 bushels;" that is, "1824, I have sowed 9 bushels of wheat on Katharine Trone's land."
- Sept. 22, 1827 — "Henry Miller bought 3 bushels rye \$1.50."
- Sept. 7, 1828 — "William Peterson received 3 bushels of wheat at \$1.00 a bushel — \$3.00."

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Now quoting from the second book we have the following prices:

May 18, 1868 — “Paid to John Lehman for a pair of shoes, \$1.60.”

June 6 — “To a pair of pants and hat, .77; to a pair pants and hat, \$2.29”

Oct. 24 — “To a pair of boots, \$3.50; Handkerchief, .25.”

Dec. 11 — “To a spelling book, 30c.”

Jan. 23, 1885 — “Butter, 5½ lb. at 25 — \$1.37.”

Apr. 16, 1885 — “Butter 5½ lb. at 20 — \$1.10.””

June 13, 1885 — “Eggs at 14, .42.”

All Dogs Bark

from Michael John Neill's Genealogy Tip of the Day
October 30, 2017

All dogs bark. Things that bark grow on trees. Therefore, dogs grow on trees.

Always read over your logic and reasoning used to reach a conclusion.

Also make certain you understand definitions of words and the context in which they are used.

Genealogical records are full of legal and esoteric words more nuanced than “bark” and it can be easy to confuse them.

Avoid barking up the wrong genealogical tree – check your reasoning and your definitions.

Tom Thumb Weddings

Jeff Kirkland showed a picture of a Tom Thumb wedding at the York History Night in December of 2018. Talking about this event later, someone asked “What was a Tom Thumb wedding?” It was named after “General Tom Thumb” — an employee of P.T. Barnum. His real name was Charles Stratton and he married Lavina Warren in 1863 in New York City. Both Charles and Lavina were dwarfs. In the early 1900's, the weddings were held as fund raisers by churches and other organizations. Children, usually under ten years old, portrayed all the members of the wedding party. It was a traditional wedding ceremony and many photographs were taken. These photos were taken in Millheim, Centre County, Pennsylvania, and are undated. The maid of honor was Ethel Leitzel (who later married William Rollin Anstine). Ethel was born in 1912 – so the picture was probably taken between 1915 and 1920. The other members of the wedding party were Jane Musser, Richard Musser, and Bill Swarm.



As you can see from the photographs – these weddings were quite elaborate and large affairs.

**OUR NAME'S THE GAME
SCPGS INC.
P.O. BOX 1824
YORK, PA 17405-1824**

DATED MATERIAL—DO NOT DELAY

RENEWAL NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Now is the time to renew your membership for the fiscal year July 2019 to June 2020. Any member, who does NOT PAY their dues by September 1st will automatically be dropped from the mailing list and there will be an additional fee assessed to cover the postage for back copies of our newsletter and any special publications. Please return this notice with your renewal and note any address correction.

Please make check payable to SCPGS (in US funds *only*) and mail to

South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society, PO Box 1824, York, PA 17405-1824

Name _____

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Please send a SASE (self addressed stamped envelope) with your payment if you desire a membership card.

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