

**OUR NAME'S THE GAME**

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**SOUTH CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

**P.O. BOX 1824**

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**WWW.SCPGS.ORG**

### ***Upcoming Programming***

#### **2:30 p.m., April 2, 2023: *Researching Pennsylvania's Civil War Draft Records***

Presented by Jonathan R. Stayer, President, South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society

Although thousands of men from Pennsylvania served in the Civil War, many others had no military service during that conflict. Some even purposely avoided service for religious or other reasons. Nevertheless, most males between the ages of 18 and 45 living in the Commonwealth between 1862-1865 were subject to conscription at some point. The resulting draft records can provide additional documentation of an ancestor's life during that period. From a researcher who has been immersed in these records for almost forty years, learn about the implementation of the state and federal Civil War drafts and the records they produced. This program will review the available sources and provide suggestions for accessing them to uncover hidden details about your nineteenth-century ancestors.

Jonathan Stayer retired from the Reference Section of the Pennsylvania State Archives and is the president of the South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society, and a member of the boards of the York County History Center and of the Friends of Camp Security. A direct descendant of Civil War conscientious objector Adam Stayer of Bedford County, PA, he has been researching Pennsylvania's Civil War conscientious objectors for almost forty years. In the spring of 2022, he received a Kreider Fellowship from the Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies at Elizabethtown College to study the questionable claim of the Brethren in Christ denomination that it registered as a Peace Church during the Civil War in response to the Union draft. More recently, the Sider Institute for Anabaptist, Pietist, Wesleyan Studies at Messiah University, Grantham, PA, awarded him a Sider Grant to continue his research on this topic.

#### **2:30 p.m., May 7, 2023: *Tour of Saint Luke's Union Church Cemetery***

Presented by Jean Robertson and June Lloyd

St. Luke Lutheran Church at New Bridgeville in Chanceford Township celebrated its 250th anniversary in 2022. As part of that celebration, Jean Robinson and June Lloyd put together a cemetery walk. The well-received tour is being repeated for the South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society. The tour

focuses on the congregation's long history and then looks into the lives of a sampling of the 125 Veterans known to be interred at St. Luke. The United States military service of these patriots spans eight wars, from the U.S. Revolution through Vietnam. Several of the stories are multi-generational.

After 251 years, many present day people have ancestors that rest at St. Luke, on the tract named *Icy Hill* by the original land owner, Jacob Stehli. Please feel free to let your guides know about any you might have.

Jean Glatfelter Robinson's and June Burk Lloyd's roots both go far back into the 18th century in York County. They both have been actively researching local and family history for many years. Jean is a long-time volunteer at the York County History Center Library and Archives and very active with the Casper Glatfelter Association. June is Librarian Emerita and current volunteer at the York County History Center Library and Archives and is involved with the William Henry and Margaret Eveler Burk Reunion. They got to know each other many years ago at a (What Else?) local history class and have been working together to help preserve and interpret our rich heritage ever since.

2:30 p.m., June 4, 2023: **Unearthing Camp Security**

Presented by John Crawmer

Camp Security is America's last surviving Revolutionary War prison camp. Its exact location was a mystery until 2022 when archaeologists discovered the camp's stockade. The presentation will cover the importance of Camp Security, the techniques used by archaeologists to find the site, and recent research.

John Crawmer is an archaeologist who has conducted research in Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Maryland, and Israel. He is the Lead Archaeologist of the Camp Security Archaeology Project in York, PA.

### ***From the President...***

Your society has been so active since the beginning of 2023 that I don't know where to start in bringing you up to date with all that has been going on. Listed hereunder—in no particular order—are just some of the items that might be of interest to you.

#### **Genealogy Seminar for Beginners**

With our partner and host, the York County History Center, we held a Saturday morning "Genealogy Seminar for Beginners" on February 25. Fifteen eager "newbies" participated in engaging and informative sessions led by our own Becky Anstine, Lynn Nelson, and Richard Konkel. Along with Margaret Burg, Erica Runkles, and Nicole Smith, they remained on site in the afternoon to provide individualized research assistance to the attendees. I would like to thank all those involved in this valuable educational initiative. I heard many commendatory remarks about the program, and the History Center may want us to do it again!

#### **Officer Elections**

In accordance with the Society's by-laws, a slate of officers to fill the positions of those whose terms expire this year will be officially presented at the April 2 membership meeting. If you wish to serve in

one of the offices or if you wish to nominate someone for one of them, please submit your nomination to me. Elections will occur at the June 11 meeting since our May meeting will be held offsite. Presently, the proposed slate of officers is: Treasurer & Membership Secretary – Margaret Burg; Recording Secretary – Richard Raubenstine; Corresponding Secretary – Becky Anstine. We are also looking for a new Director at Large.

### **Director of Public Relations**

Since the passing of our beloved former Director of Public Relations Mardella Brenneman three years ago, we have not had a person serving in that position. We need someone to help us publicize our meetings, our programs, and our activities. We really would like an individual who has experience with social media, who knows how to maximize it for our purposes. Other than attending our monthly board meetings and engaging in publicity activities, the demand on your time would be minimal. If you are that person, please contact me or one of the other officers.

### **Scanning of Christ Lutheran Church Records**

Christ Lutheran Church in York has some of the oldest Lutheran church records in the county, dating back to 1733. Following a meeting with a representative of the church about scanning its earliest baptismal, marriage, and death registers for preservation purposes and genealogical access, Richard Konkell, Lynn Nelson, and I participated in a Zoom meeting with a FamilySearch staff member to discuss how that organization might scan the records and make them available online at no cost to us. We are exploring this partnership that might include scanning other important genealogical resources in York County. Stay tuned.

### **Status of York City Municipal Records**

My last President's Column focused on the municipal records of York City and my endeavor to locate them. I am pleased to report that after several inquiries I was able to visit the city's largest storage areas—one for the executive branch (Mayor's Office), two for the legislative branch (City Council). Their caretakers are dedicated city employees who have a sincere desire to preserve York's historic records. They are Mike Shanabrook for the executive branch and City Council Clerk Dianna Thompson.

A four-decade employee of the City, Mr. Shanabrook rescued many of the records in his custody from destruction when city hall moved from its West King Street home to its current location on South George Street a number of years ago. He literally pulled materials from a dumpster as they were being trashed. His long tenure with the city and his daily work with the records provided him with an intimate knowledge of them and their interrelationships. He is an outstanding resource regarding the city's historic municipal records. Materials of interest to genealogists in his custody include late-nineteenth and early-twentieth-century police dockets, lot and subdivision plans, real estate records, maps, and so much more. He can identify owners of lots in York City as far back as the second half of the nineteenth century.

### **Camp Security Opportunity**

From July 1781 through May 1783, York County, Pennsylvania, was the home of an encampment to imprison British privates and noncommissioned officers captured at the battles of Saratoga and Yorktown, known as Camp Security. Located in Springettsbury Township, the site featured a least one

stockade and a village of huts that housed maybe as many as 1500-2000 men, women, and children. For the past decade, the Friends of Camp Security (FOCS) have sponsored archaeological investigations of the area in an effort to locate evidence of the stockade and ancillary structures. Although a professional archaeologist supervises these digs, most of the work is done by volunteers.

Another excavation is scheduled for this spring, beginning on May 8 and running through June 22. Volunteers are needed both to dig and to clean and label any artifacts found. The digging can be hard and dirty work, so you need to be in relatively healthy condition to be involved. If you always wanted to try your hand at archaeology, this is your chance! To learn more and to request volunteer registration information, consult the FOCS website: [www.campsecurity.org](http://www.campsecurity.org).

### **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

In 2025, the SCPGS will be celebrating its 50th anniversary! Chaired by our Treasurer Margaret Burg, a committee was formed to plan and prepare for suitable celebratory activities. In addition to Margaret, the committee includes Vice President Richard Konkell. If you have ideas for that group or if you would like to serve on the committee, please let them or me know. We want to do a bang-up job!

Jonathan R. Stayer, President

### **Becky Anstine Reviews of Past Two Programs** **Rodney J. Barnett's "African American Genealogy,"**

Note: available at (<https://www.youtube.com/@YorkHistoryCenter/videos>.)

Rodney has spoken to our group in the past about researching African ancestors. Using a slide show, he had six topics that he covered in more depth. He also introduced us to a new tool, the Collens Leeds Method that he is excited about using.

- 1) Why it is important to research one's genealogy – genealogy is a part of the history of African Americans. One needs to figure out one's heritage and its importance in their life. Genealogy research challenges include slavery issues, continued discrimination, lack of knowledge of history and heritage, and misinformation among records and family records.
- 2) The Barnett family – in researching his own family, he discovered branches not only in Virginia (which had been his primary research area) but also in Alabama. As he discovered more connections and branches – his family tree grew and expanded.
- 3) How to start – no matter who you are; the basic research steps are the same: start with what you know through family interviews and vital records. Rodney stressed the importance of recording family interviews and using original documents.
- 4) Other records that he suggested searching were court, church, probate, land, tax, military, newspapers, institutional, and society records.
- 5) Slavery is very often the "brick wall" in African American research but it's possible to break it down. After the Civil War, many families remained on the plantations – census records can provide clues as well as unusual names. Probate files and estate inventories can help make connections. DNA matches can help make and prove connections.
- 6) The Collens Leeds Method is a commonly used tool for clustering your DNA matches based on the Leeds Method. Data is put into a matrix of colored blocks which connect the matches. This

was a new tool that many of us had not heard of. More information and a better explanation can be found by googling "Collens Leeds Method."

### **Tyler Stump's "Researching Ancestors in Prison Records at the Pennsylvania State Archives"**

Note: video is available at (<https://www.youtube.com/@YorkHistoryCenter/videos>.)

Researching family members can sometimes lead down some interesting and unusual "rabbit holes." Tyler's presentation described the resources available at the State Archives that can help one find out more about some of the elusive family members. File cards from the records can sometimes contain photographs, physical descriptions that can include descriptions of tattoos and scars.

The state prison system was established in 1790, with the first state prison built in Philadelphia. Tyler discussed six different prisons located throughout the state. Each prison kept a number of different records that are now under the State Archive holdings. He recommended that all types of records be examined as each of the three types can contain various related bits of information. The three types of records are: inmates, administrative and other.

Inmate records record admissions and discharge dates, type of crime, physical description, an inmate number, information about any escapes that might have occurred and other statistical data about the inmate.

Administrative records can include reports of various types, board of trustee minutes, construction and building files, warden journals, and financial records.

The other category can include photos, newsletters published by the prison, special events that occurred in the prison, inmate and staff handbooks and publicity files.

The State Archives does not have the following: records written by inmates, court records, public newspapers, records created by family members or legal representatives, records from federal or local courts. There are very few inmate records dated after 1980 or later. These records are still held by the State Department of Corrections.

Eastern State Penitentiary opened in 1829 outside of Philadelphia. From about 1820 – 1860, it was primarily a prison of solitary confinement. The majority of the prisoners came from the central and eastern counties of Pennsylvania. It was closed in 1971. Since then, the prison has become a popular tourist attraction, especially at Halloween. The staff at the prison have access to a number of records not held by the State Archives that relate to prisoners held there. Among the prisoners housed there was "Al Capone". Tyler recommended visiting the prison. More information can be found at its website: [www.easternstate.org](http://www.easternstate.org).

Western State Penitentiary was located outside of Pittsburgh. It opened in 1826 and was closed in 2017. Most of the prisoners were from the western part of the state. It was also known as the State Correctional Institution of Pittsburgh. During the Civil War, it was a major prison for Southern POWs.

Other penitentiaries were Rockview (located in Bellefonte, PA), Huntingdon (for minors), Graterford, and Muncy (female prisoners), located in Lycoming County, Pa.

Tyler concluded his talk with several recommendations:

- 1) One man could have been in multiple prisons – check the records of all of them.
- 2) Be prepared for surprises – the records don't always match up to family stories.
- 3) Contact the archives and talk to an archivist before visiting the archives – the archivist may be able to direct you to the best sources to check.
- 4) Have as much information on the individual as you can: full name, aliases, date of incarceration, residence at time of incarceration, county where crime was committed, name of prison of incarcerations, inmate number if known.
- 5) Check local courts, historical societies, and archives for records.
- 6) To access the records:
  - a. search ancestry.com for “Pa. US Prison, Reformatories, and Workhouse records
  - b. go to the Archives website to see what is available online or at the archives (<https://www.phmc.pa.gov/Archives>)
  - c. google “Power Library” ([powerlibrary.org](http://powerlibrary.org)), Pennsylvania’s Electronic Library -click “PA Photos and Documents” tab, Using “Pennsylvania state prison records” in the search box will bring up a variety of results, including copies of “The Umpire” (Eastern Penitentiary’s newspaper), photographs taken at the Muncy State Prison, and Annual Prison Reports.
- 7) Tyler’s presentation was interesting and informative. Prison records are often an overlooked resource when researching your family’s story.

## ***Searching for John Jones: A Case Study in using Pennsylvania State Prison Records in Genealogical Research***

***by Richard K. Konkel, Esquire  
SCPGS vice-president***

At our most recent monthly meeting of the SCPGS in March, our speaker was Tyler Stump of the Pennsylvania State Archives who presented an excellent presentation on state prison records held by the Pennsylvania State Archives in Harrisburg. This presentation brought to mind some interesting research I was involved in back in 2007 regarding an ancestor that for years I only knew of as John Jones.

Now this “John Jones” character is my fourth great grandfather on my matrilineal line. This I knew for many years from the Pennsylvania death certificate of his daughter, my third great grandmother Mary Jane Reno born 2 June 1845 and died 4 April 1908 in Chanceford Township, York County, Pennsylvania. The informant on the death certificate was Mrs. Reno’s son-in-law Wiley J. Crawford, my great great grandfather. He listed her parents as John Jones and Sarah Ann Rease, both said to be born in Pennsylvania. Diligent searches while I was still in high school in the 1980s failed to reveal such a Jones couple in York County.

My next clue came from the death certificate of the brother of Mary Jane Jones, George W. Seal born 1 October 1832 and died 29 May 1911 in the York County Almshouse. He was listed as having been born in “Stausburg”, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, the son of John Seal and Sarah Reese. The informant was Mrs. Lucretia Clayman of 296 West Jackson St. York, PA. She was the wife of George Washington Clayman, a son of Rebecca “Jones”, a sister of Mary Jane Reno and George Washington Seal. George

Seal had lived for some time with his niece, my great great grandparents Mary E. Reno Crawford and her husband Wiley J. Crawford on their farm in Chanceford Township. Mary Crawford sent her uncle to the Almshouse right before she gave birth to her eighth child, a daughter Ethel on 1 May 1911. He was sent there because he was getting to be too much for her to handle and properly care for. Family tradition states that she regretted sending him there because she didn't think he would die so quickly. He was at the Almshouse for 1 month and 19 days. George Seal's death certificate pointed me to searching in Lancaster County for this family. It appeared that George Seal was probably a half-brother, sharing the same mother, Sarah Rees, with Mary Jane.

I finally found the Jones/Seal children in 1988 during my first year of College at Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. On Friday afternoons or Saturdays, I would sometimes research census on microfilm at the Hamilton Library of the Cumberland County Historical Society. While researching in the 1850 census of Bart Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania I found the following family:

Henry Bird	age 46	Labourer	born in Pennsylvania
Sarah Bird	46		
Mary Bird	15		
Catharine Bird	13		
Henry Bird	17	Labourer	
Elias Bird	9		
George Seal	19	Labourer	
Benjamin Jones	12		
Rebecca Jones	9		
Ann Jones	6		
Mary Jones	4		

On finding this census entry, I believed I had found Sarah Rees living in 1850 with a new husband Henry Bird, and his four children and her five children from two prior marriages. The questions now arose as to what happened to John Seal, father of George, and John Jones, presumed father of the four Jones children. The most probable answer being that both prior husbands had died.

This caused me to do a number of years of research in Lancaster County probate, deeds, tax records, and any other sources to find John Seal and John Jones, as well as Henry Bird. One of the few records found was a marriage record dated 10 August 1822 at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Lancaster, Pennsylvania for John Seal and Sarah Ries.

During this time, I was also actively researching the Rees family, which was also elusive. There were some unusual names of grandchildren of Sarah Rees such as Issachar Jones and John Amer Jones. Some of these unusual names were also to be found in people named Rees in the area around Strasburg in Lancaster County in the early 1800s.

In May 1992 I hit pay dirt on the Rees family at the library of the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society with a one-page genealogy from 1885 by Issachar Rees of Lancaster County recounting the 13 children of his parents John Rees and Hannah Leonard, including his sister Sarah. The account indicates that most of the children of John Rees went to Ohio except for Sarah and Issachar. The following brief information is provided about her:

4. Sarah [Rees] [born] 1804 250# [weight!] 5'7" [height] m[arried] John Sele [Seal] dsp

From this we learn that Sarah was born in 1804, which matches her age in the 1850 census, and her husband John Sele [Seal] matches the marriage record from 1822. The Latin abbreviation dsp stands for *decessit sine prole* which translates as died without issue. Does this refer to Sarah or to John Seal in Issachar Rees's account? This has puzzled me for many years. If it refers to Sarah, it is a false statement. In more recent years, multiple DNA test results on ancestry.com DNA prove that four of Sarah's children are DNA matches with descendants of a number of Sarah Rees' siblings. For nearly another 15 years the identity of John Jones continued to be a mystery.

About 2006 I embarked on more research into John Jones at the library of LancasterHistory.org. There I found a reference to a John Jones in Lancaster County being arrested and sentenced for burglary in 1844 and being sent away to the Eastern State Penitentiary in Philadelphia. I drug my feet on this for probably over a year, being not overjoyed at the prospect of having a criminal ancestor. Eventually I got around to talking to Jonathan Stayer, who is now SCPGS president. This was well before Jonathan's recent retirement, and he was an archivist at the Pennsylvania State Archives and was familiar with the records of the Eastern State Penitentiary. He was most helpful and discovered some interesting information.

Upon looking up all the entries for John Jones who was incarcerated in 1844 from a case in Lancaster County, the prison records indicated that John Jones was recognized as a former prisoner upon his arrival at the Eastern State Penitentiary. When he was there previously, he was not known as John Jones, but used the name James Gillespie. His previous incarceration was the result of a conviction in the Adams County Court of Oyer and Terminer from an earlier case of burglary in Adams County. Jonathan Stayer provided copies of all records for James Gillespie/John Jones from the Eastern State Penitentiary records at the State Archives.

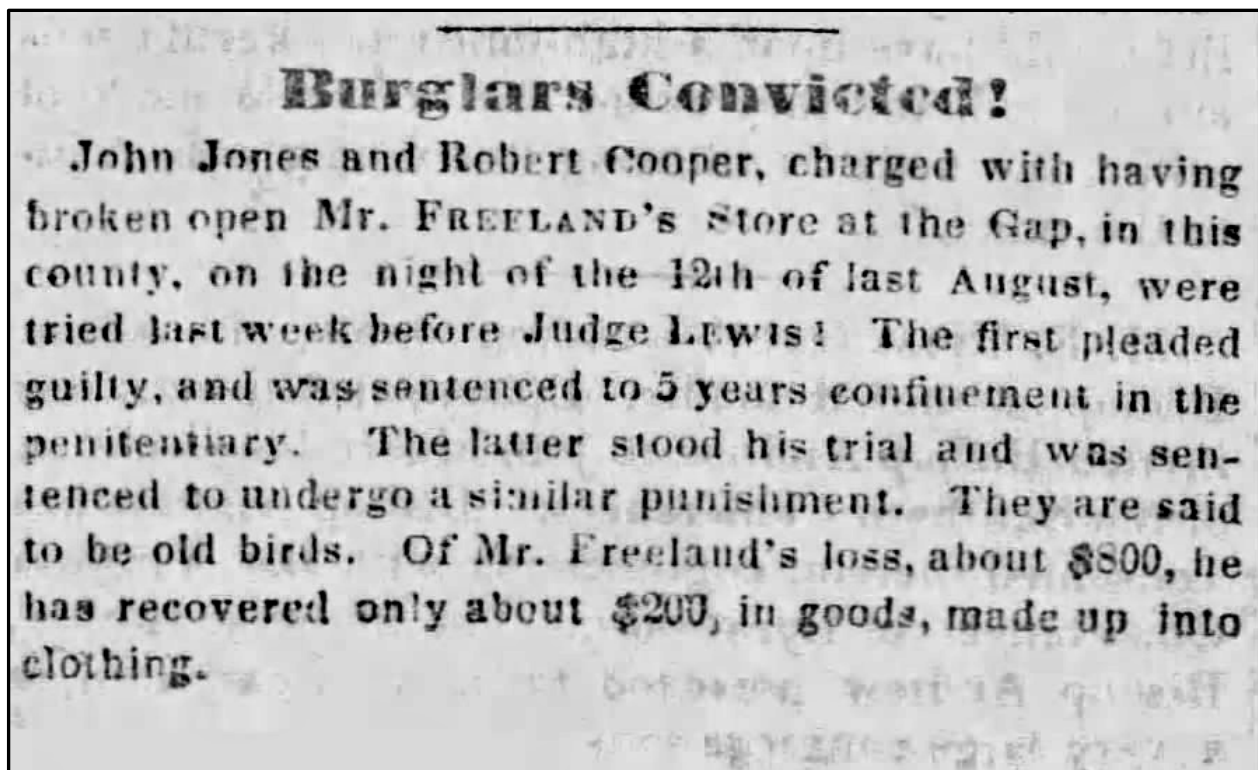
Around the time I was learning about the Adams County criminal case, I discussed it with the late Dr. Charles H. Glatfelter who was then director of the Adams County Historical Society. The original Court transcripts do not exist, but Dr. Glatfelter was kind enough to look up the following account of the crime in the 4 December 1832 edition of the *Gettysburg Compiler*:

**The value of the goods stolen from the store of Mr. Joseph Carl, in Abbottstown, is supposed to be about \$1800—about one-fourth of which were found last week, in two barns in the neighborhood, together with ten watches and various other articles, which had doubtless been stolen elsewhere—probably from Mr. Haller, in Chambersburg.—A man calling himself James Gillespie, who was apprehended in York, on suspicion of being one of the robbers, was lodged in our prison on Thursday last, to await his trial.**



The man identifying as "James Gillespie" was tried and found guilty in Adams County on or about 5 February 1833. He was sentenced to four years confinement in the Eastern State Penitentiary. He was released from his first confinement on 1 February 1837.

Immediately after being released from incarceration, it would appear that James Gillespie went to Lancaster County to return [?] to his wife and became known as John Jones, which is a terribly common name. Whether he was leading a blameless law-abiding life will probably never be known, but if he was not leading a law-abiding life, he at least did not get caught for over eight years, during which time four children were conceived. He either returned to his thieving ways or his luck ran out in 1844 when under the name of John Jones with an accomplice Robert Cooper he burglarized the store of Mr. Freeland in Gap in eastern Lancaster County. An account of this burglary and their convictions is found in the Tuesday 26 November 1844 edition of the *Lancaster Intelligencer Journal*:



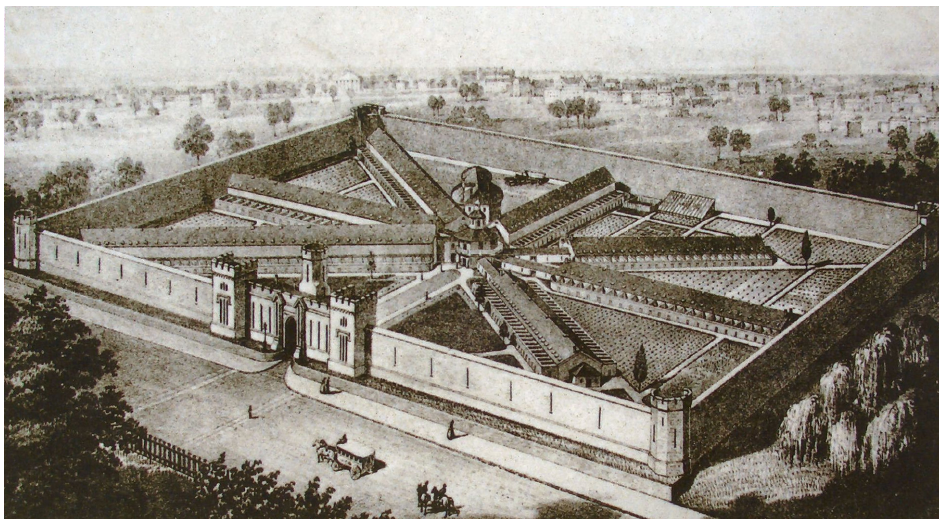
The Eastern State Penitentiary Convict Reception Register, 1842-1850 found in RG-15 of the Pennsylvania State Archives provides the following information:

Page 154, Inmate No. 1906: John Jones formerly Jas: Gillespie. Age 42 years; Native of Baltimore, Maryland; Bound: Not; Trade: None; Complexion: Light; Eyes: Dark Grey; Hair: Brown; Stature: 5ft 4 ¾ inches, Foot 10 ¼ inches long; Marks: scar on right knee above cap, left small finger stiff at 2<sup>nd</sup> joint; No. of Convictions: Second here. See No. 152.; Parents: unknown; Reads, Writes, Drinks, Married; Property: none; Crime: Burglary; Sentence: Five Years; County and Court: Lancaster Co. Oyer & Terminer; Sentenced: November 20, 1844; Received: November 27, 1844; Remarks: This man stated to the Sheriff in overseers presence that he would cut his throat if not released in 6 Months. [was this comment made because his wife was with child and expecting around that time?]

From Discharge Book, 1843-1857 we have the following information: November 20, 1849. John Jones, al, Jas. Gillespie No. 1906 (W) Aged 47. No trade. Reads and writes. Drinks. Married – 2<sup>nd</sup> time here O.C. Time Out resides in Phila. His fellow burglar Robert Cooper was released on the same day. After his discharge he completely disappears from records. Did he change his name again? Is he the same person as Henry Bird who was Sarah's presumed husband in 1850? [probably not but Henry Bird is equally elusive]

One of the questions is whether this John Jones is the husband of Sarah Rees. Although the evidence is circumstantial in nature, I believe that this is the correct person. One of the main reasons being that the births and conceptions of the known children of Sarah occur before and after James Gillespie/John Jones' known periods of incarceration. The other main question is who really is this man with multiple names? At this point in time, I am inclined to believe that he may be the same person as John Seal, Sarah Rees' "first" husband. John Seal may perhaps also have been an assumed name. I continue to research, but we may never really know for certain who John Jones was.

An interesting side note is a certain handmade quilt in the family of YCHC librarian and archivist emeritus June Lloyd's late husband Ronald who was the great grandson of Mary Jane Jones Reno. Tradition in that family is that this handmade quilt was made by George W. Seal (1832-1911) while he was in prison for Mary Jane Jones Reno. There is no record of George W. Seal ever being incarcerated. Perhaps the quilt was actually made by her father, whatever his real name was, during his incarceration at the Eastern State Penitentiary.



Eastern State Penitentiary

The following page contains our standard form for joining or renewing your SCPGS membership for the upcoming July 2023 – June 2024 year. We appreciate receiving your renewal payment before the end of June! Please let us know if you have any questions.

*(Current members who already purchased a 2-year membership last year should disregard this notice for the July 2023 to June 2024 year. The list of already paid-up members was emailed to you in January.)*

## South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & RENEWAL FORM (effective January 22, 2022)

NEW MEMBERSHIP - Please complete the form below. You will receive a New Member packet in two to three weeks. We operate on a fiscal year from July 1 to June 30 of the following year. If you are applying for membership during January, February, or March your membership will not expire until June 30th of the following year.

How I learned about SCPGS \_\_\_\_\_

RENEWAL - Renewals for the July to June fiscal year are due by July 1. Any member who does not pay their dues by September 1<sup>st</sup> will automatically be dropped from the mailing list. Please note that there will be an additional fee assessed to cover the postage for back copies of our newsletter and any special publications. Please return this form with your renewal and note any address corrections.

Make check payable to SCPGS (in U.S. funds only) and mail to:  
South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society, PO Box 1824, York, PA 17405-1824

Or pay via PayPal to: SCPAGenSociety@gmail.com

PLEASE WRITE LEGIBLY

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Please send my newsletter by USPS mail \_\_\_\_\_ Please send my newsletter by E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

REGULAR MEMBERSHIP: 1 year \$35; 2 years \$60

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP: 1 year \$40; 2 years \$70 (two adults sharing a household & dependent children)

Second Adult and Children's names \_\_\_\_\_

LIFE MEMBERSHIP: \$500 (individual *only*)

FAMILY LIFE MEMBERSHIP \$750 (two adults sharing a household *only*)

SOUTH CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
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