



**South Central  
Pennsylvania**  
Genealogical Society

# Our Name's The Game

www.scpgs.org

Monthly Newsletter Vol. 38 No. 9 May/June 2013

## OUR NEXT MEETING

**Sunday, June 2, 2013 — Henry James Young Award**

The presentation of the Henry James Young Awards will be held at 2:15 PM on Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Meeting Hall of the York County Heritage Trust located at 250 East Market Street, York, Pennsylvania. The recipients will be Donna Shermeyer and her late husband Gerald, and the late Glenn Zech. Please plan to attend the meeting and help us honor the genealogical accomplishments of Donna, Gerald and Glenn. Following the presentations, enjoy a time of socializing and light refreshments ... a pleasant way to end another year of SCPGS programs.

No meeting of SCPGS will take place in July. The first meeting of the 2013-2014 society year is tentatively planned for Sunday, August 25<sup>th</sup>. This meeting will be announced in the July/August issue of our newsletter.

## Membership Renewal Reminder

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, 2013 and you will not receive membership benefits beyond that date if you do not renew.

To renew your membership in SCPGS for the fiscal year 2013-2014, please promptly mail your payment with the renewal notice included in the April newsletter. Please return the entire page.

Note: A membership form is also available on our website ... [scpgs.org](http://scpgs.org)

## Who would have ever thought ...

you could order marriage certificates from the Montgomery Ward Catalogue ...

### **Marriage Certificates.**

All new and beautiful designs put up in heavy paste-board tubes ready for mailing.

	<i>Weight, each, 4 oz.</i>	Each.	Per doz.
7497 Printed with blanks for names of parties, witnesses, pastor, date and location. Size, 10x8.....		\$0.03	\$0.30
7498 Printed on heavy paper, lithographed at top, with places for names, location and dates. Size, 11x14.....		.08	.84
7499 Printed on cardboard, lithographed at top, spaces at side, which may or may not be used for photographs; places for names, location and dates. Size, 11x14		.15	1.50
7500 Episcopal form on white heavy paper, with monogram and description, spaces for names and dates. Size, 11x14		.07	.75
7501 Printed on cardboard, blanks for names, location and dates. Size, 14x19		.25	2.50
7502 Marriage Certificate, size, 15x18, printed on heavy cardboard, space for names, dates, etc., beautiful lithographed designs at top, also large bouquet of roses, full size and natural color, on side. Weight, 7 oz.....		.50	5.25
7503 Marriage Certificate, same style and size as No. 7502, with openings for two cabinet photographs. Weight, 7 oz.....		.50	5.25
7504 New 1895 style Marriage Certificate, printed on fine super-calendered paper with extra fine enamel finish and beautiful illustration. Size 11x14. Each.....			\$0.25
Per dozen.....			2.75
7505 Wedding Souvenir, consists of five sheets of parchment, bound by white silk cord and tassel; size, 5½x6½, printed in the highest style of art. Containing certificate texts, etc. Each.....		\$0.26	
Per dozen.....			2.90
7506 Same as 7505, printed on linen paper. Each.....		\$0.20	
Per dozen.....			2.25

Montgomery Ward & Co.'s Catalogue No. 57, 1895

## **How to Achieve Virtual Immortality**

*Posted by Dick Eastman on March 17, 2013*

What do we know about our ancestors?

In most cases, we know their names and perhaps a few important dates in their lives, such as birth, marriage, or death. We might know the names and important dates of their family members. In a few cases, we might even have a few grainy photos. Now, let's turn the tables: what will your descendants know about YOU?

J. Peder Zane writes that people of today have the ability to leave a cradle-to-grave record of their lives so that 50, 100, even 500 years hence, people will be able to see how their forebears looked and moved, hear them speak, and learn about their aspirations and achievements. A growing number of gerontologists also recommend that retirees should engage in the healthy and productive exercise of composing a Life Review.

Today, we have the tools and the desire to record the lives of almost everybody. Genealogists have always suffered from a lack of information about people's everyday lives. We now have the power to change that. Not only can we leave written records and find a way to make sure those records are preserved, we can also leave audio and video legacies. Indeed, the technology available today will someday be improved to the point where our yet-unborn descendants will be able to hold virtual conversations with holograms of their ancestors that draw on digital legacies to reflect how the dead would have responded.

While technology is wonderful, someone today has to go through the digital and non-digital remnants of your life and take steps to preserve the items that will be important to future generations. Cassette tapes, VHS tapes, hard disk drives, flash drives, DVDs, cloud storage and even paper may not last for long and probably will not be readable in the future. How will you be remembered?

Note: It is recommended to use either Mozilla or Google Chrome to view microfilm images on FamilySearch.

## **Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference (FGS)**

*Journey Through Generations*

For more than thirty years FGS has held conferences for anyone and everyone interested in family history. Each year thousands of genealogists gather for a week of informative sessions, networking, and enjoyment. This year the conference will be held August 21<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> in the heart of American genealogy, Fort Wayne, Indiana, just steps away from the world renowned Genealogy Center at the Allen County Public Library.

Additional details can be found at ...

*[www.FGSConference.org](http://www.FGSConference.org)*

## **FamilySearch**

FamilySearch recently added Pennsylvania Probate Records to their website. This collection includes wills, estate records and indexes. Probates have been recorded on a county basis since the origin of the Commonwealth in 1682. Some major cities such as Philadelphia also kept probate records. Complete records are available in most counties. Probate actions taken in a locality before the present county was formed are found in records of the parent county. Probate records include petitions, inventories, accounts, decrees and other court documents. They may include any of the following genealogical information:

- Name of the testator or deceased
- Names of the heirs, such as spouse, children, other relatives, and friends
- Name of the executor, administrator, or guardian
- Names of witnesses
- Residence of the testator
- Dates the documents were written and recorded (used to approximate event dates since a will was usually written near the time of death)

To access these records online visit ...

*[familysearch.org/search/collection/1999196](http://familysearch.org/search/collection/1999196)*

## **Book Reviews**

*from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter, Posted on April 4, 2013*

*Military Bounty Land 1776-1855*, by Christine Rose. Published by CR Publications, San Jose CA. 2011. 156 pages.

Christine Rose is well known for her extensive familiarity with courthouse records. Ms. Rose and her husband Seymour, as likeable and affable as Christine is lovable and affable, have RVed the byways of America introducing themselves to the courthouse clerks, deciphering their courthouse records, then interpreting and explaining them to us in her straightforward guide *Courthouse Research for Family Historians: Your Guide to Genealogical Treasures*.

This *Bounty Lands* book was a long time coming but well worth the wait. 1776-1855 refers to the year the Continental Congress promised free government land to officers and soldiers who served in the Revolutionary War, or, to their heirs. 1855 refers to no more bounty lands being granted for any military service rendered after 1855. (Homesteading effectively replaced bounty land grants as homestead laws gave credit as military service being same-as credit for residency requirements in proving up a claim.)

Ms. Rose's introduction describes the book

thusly: "Bounty land is a story of the hope of the men who enlisted for military service, convinced that they would be justly rewarded after discharge with a few acres of land. It is also the story of the obstacles that often prevented the fulfillment of that hope."

Her chapters chronicle the incentives for federal and state bounty lands, the procedures, and the several Acts. She leads us to the microfilms, finding aids, and websites that will assist our search for our ancestors in the land records. Plenty of examples are presented revealing the information contained therein. The style of the book, with sidebar explanatory boxes, pictures, maps, scanned documents, and illustrations breaks up the monotony of straight text and keeps us interested in the book without effort.

Ms. Rose defers to Lloyd deWitt Bockstruck's *Bounty and Donation Land Grants in British Colonial America* as a comprehensive reference for bounty lands awarded before 1776 and the Revolutionary War grants discussed in her book.

This book is the best for a comprehensive, well-produced book on military bounty lands. This is one book you will not donate to the local library.

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## **Mocavo Announces Genealogy Karma**

*from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter, Posted on May 5, 2013*

What may become a major genealogy site has been announced. **Genealogy Karma** hopes to replace an earlier web site that has been missed by thousands. Many of us used Bridgett and Doc Schneider's *Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness* (RAOGK) web site. The site went offline in 2011. Sadly, Bridgett passed away a short time later. Several people have tried to create replacements for RAOGK but none of the new sites have achieved the popularity of the original. Now a commercial company has created a new web site with similar aims and has dedicated the site to the memory of Bridgett

Schneider. The new site runs on custom-written software that adds features not available on the original RAOGK web site. Best of all, the new site will remain available to all free of charge.

Check out Genealogy Karma at ...  
[mocavo.com/karma](http://mocavo.com/karma)

*a word of caution from the editor ... early reviews indicate that this appears to be nothing more than a glorified message board ... but try it and see for yourself*

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## **YCHT BOOK BLAST**



Opening to the public at 9:00 am on Thursday August 15, 2013, the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Book Blast will be held at the Agricultural and Industrial Museum at 217 West Princess. This three day event supports the York County Heritage Trust collections, programs and educational activities and features previously donated and sorted books at affordable prices.

Trust members receive a special invitation to attend the *Members Only* afternoon, Wednesday August 14 from 4 until 7 where they can preview and purchase. Admission is free and open to the public. Prices begin by featuring hardback volumes at \$2.00, paperbacks at \$1.00, and a special section of collectable/local history books, which are individually priced.

In addition to the thousands of books for sale, there will also be an array of picture frames available for purchase, varying in size, age and quality, surrounding the 72 ton A-frame ammonia compressor.

The event culminates on at 9:00 am on Saturday, August 17th with Buck-A-Bag, a popular event. In addition to Buck-A-Bag, the collectable/local history section will be marked at half price.

For more information contact: Lila Fourhman-Shaull, library & archives director:  
717-848-1587 ext. 223 or [lfourhman-shaull@yorkheritage.org](mailto:lfourhman-shaull@yorkheritage.org)