



**South Central
Pennsylvania**
Genealogical Society

Our Name's The Game

www.scpgs.org

Monthly Newsletter Vol. 39 No. 9 May/June 2014

OUR NEXT MEETING

Saturday, June 7, 2014

Thinking Outside the Box?: Take Your Research to a New Level

This conference is sponsored by the York County Heritage Trust and South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society, and will be held Historical Society Museum and Library, 250 East Market Street, York, PA from 8:30 AM until 4 PM. The scheduled speakers are Darvin Martin, Jonathan Stayer, and Kevin Shue. Registration and additional information is available on our website scpgs.org and was published in our April newsletter.

Conference Schedule ...

8:30	Registration coffee, tea, juice and doughnuts	
9:00	“Exploring Your Heritage Through Expatriate Newspapers”	Kevin Shue
10:00	<i>break</i>	
10:15	“Archivists Dirty Little Secrets: How to Get the Most Out of Archives and Manuscript Collections”	Jonathan Stayer
11:30	<i>lunch</i>	(variety of wraps, sides, and beverage)
12:30	“Advanced Genealogy. Hitting Genealogical Problems Out of the Park!”	Kevin Shue
1:30	<i>break</i>	
1:45	“Finding Your Ancestors Through DNA – Which Test is Best for Me?”	Darvin Martin
2:45	<i>break</i>	
3:00	Q&A and roundtable discussion with guest speakers	
4:00	<i>dismissed</i>	

There will be no SCPGS meeting in July. The first meeting of the 2014-2015 society year is tentatively planned for Sunday, August 24th. 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, 2014 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 2014-2015, please promptly mail your payment with the renewal notice included in the April newsletter. Please return the entire page. A membership form is also available on our website ... scpgs.org

Our newsletter is now offered via email if you so desire. To receive the newsletter via email, please submit your request along with your email address to ... scpgswebsite@wildblue.net

PA State Archives Records on Ancestry.com

The initial batch of Pennsylvania state death certificates is now online through Ancestry.com. Remember only birth and death certificates that are open records will be online (50 years for death certificates and 105 years for birth certificates). If you have an Ancestry account you can access them by clicking "Advanced Search" on the home page, then click "Pennsylvania" at the bottom, and on the left-hand side, scroll to Pennsylvania Death Certificates 1906-1924.

If you do not have an Ancestry account, any of the Pennsylvania State Archives records they have scanned are *free* to Pennsylvania residents, and can be accessed free via Ancestry.com Pennsylvania

http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/research_topics/3162/ancestry_com_pennsylvania/1575348

Enter your zip code, then click on the link provided. You will then be able to search all the records from the Pennsylvania State Archives that are on Ancestry.com. The first time you click to view a particular record you will be prompted to enter your name/email etc, but are not required to create an account.

Some of the records available for *free* via Ancestry.com Pennsylvania are:

- Pennsylvania, Veterans Burial Cards, 1777-1999
- Pennsylvania, Births, 1852-1854
- Pennsylvania, Land Warrants and Applications, 1733-1952
- Pennsylvania, Oyer and Terminer Court Papers, 1757-1787
- Pennsylvania, Spanish War Compensation, 1898-1934
- Pennsylvania, Naturalizations, 1794-1908
- Pennsylvania, War of 1812 Pensions, 1866-1879
- Pennsylvania, Land Warrants, 1733-1987
- Pennsylvania, Civil War Border Claims, 1868-1879
- Pennsylvania, Marriages, 1852-1854
- Pennsylvania, Deaths, 1852-1854
- Pennsylvania, Records of Marriages, 1885-1889
- Pennsylvania, Tax and Exoneration, 1768-1801
- Pennsylvania, Septennial Census, 1779-1863
- Pennsylvania, WPA Church Archives, 1937-1940
- Pennsylvania, Veteran Compensation Applications, WWII, 1950
- Pennsylvania, Death Certificates, 1906-1924

NEW "For Purchase Only" Publication

Reminder ... We are taking orders for our newest "for purchase only" publication. This publication is our third volume of the United States Direct Tax of 1798 for York County, Pennsylvania (aka Glass Tax because it lists the number of windows and window panes, called lights in the homes for which the home owner was taxed) and will include York Borough and York Townships. The publication includes a surname index, and will sell for \$20 plus a \$5 fee to cover postage and sales tax.

As a current member you have the opportunity to purchase this publication for only \$12.50 (sales tax and postage included) during the "pre-sale". We must receive your payment by June 15th in order for you to receive this "for purchase only" Special Publication at the reduced "pre-sale" price.

To reserve your copy please make your check payable to SCPGS and mail to

South Central PA Genealogical Society
Attention: Margaret Burg
PO Box 1824
York, PA 17405-1824

Reunion of the Schürch Family Association of North America

The 2014 Schürch (Shirk, Sher, Sherrick) Family Association Reunion will be held on August 1 and 2 at Millersville University. The Reunion provides many opportunities to have fun and learn such as: participating in tours and other group activities, auction including an 19th century sewing machine made by inventor Joseph Shirk, learning about your Schürch ancestors and present-day Schürchs, visiting your Schürch cousins and meeting new ones, and much more including activities for children

Details of the reunion including daily agendas and schedules, activity descriptions, fees, meals, lodging and registration forms are available on the Schürch Family Association website

<http://www.schurchfamilyassociation.net>

or from Sue Shirk at suesbug@msn.com or 717-394-2947. Please register, no later than July 15, 2014

Original Records Can Clarify Some Family History Puzzles — An Example —

contributed by David P. Hively

In past years when I regularly attended genealogy and history presentations, numerous speakers emphasized the value of attempting to find original records, even if abstracts were readily available. Numerous magazine articles stressed the same point. Today many original documents are digitized on the Internet and thus much easier to access than they would have been twenty or thirty years ago. But it may be many years before some original documents are on the web.

I descend from Johannes Forrer (per will signature; hereafter John Forry) who arrived in Philadelphia in October 1727, along with his shipmate and acquaintance Henry Strickler, also my ancestor. Both men settled on adjoining properties in what is now West Hempfield Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, not far east of the town of Columbia. Joseph Shirk and Christian Gerber settled nearby, creating a connected block of land owned by these four Mennonites. They seem to have been successful farmers, typical of many members of that religious group, with the ownership of land a primary goal. Their descendants intermarried and all four men are my ancestors, either on my paternal side or my maternal side. Actually, three of them are on both sides. My descent from them, in combination with the Stoner and Herr families of Hellam Township, York County, is so complex it is difficult to pictorially show my descent from the six families. For instance I descend from three children of Jacob Strickler (1755-1837), son of Henry Strickler Jr., son of 1727 immigrant Henry Strickler. If the maiden names of all the wives of these families were known, I might have even more descent from these families.

But I will now get to the point of this article, which is a document associated with the Forry family. The above John Forry wrote his will 26 April 1753. It was probated 30 June 1753. He specifically named sons John, David, Daniel, Jacob, Abraham, and Henry, including them in the distribution of his various land holdings. He names no daughters, but notes his whole estate was to be divided equally among all his children. There may have been daughters. Sons Jacob and Abraham were each to have half of John's tract of 355 acres on the "west side of Susquehanna [River] whereon he [Jacob] now liveth." This land in Hellam Township, York County was to be "divided between them as equally in meadow ground watter and timber, as possible."

Each of the two sons was surveyed exactly half of the acreage — 177½ acres.

Neither Jacob nor Abraham kept their share of the land for a lengthy time period. Jacob sold his portion to Christian Stoner "of Lancaster County" in November 1758. Christian patented it in 1761. (There are some who feel Christian Stoner's wife may have been a daughter of John Forry, making him a brother-in-law of Jacob. I do not know of proof of this.) Abraham by a deed poll dated 19 April 1760 sold his half to Henry Forry. Henry asked for a "patent of confirmation" in 1761 and this patent gives the full ownership history of the land and clearly states Henry was a brother of Abraham. This source is the definitive proof that the Henry Forry who purchased land from Abraham Forry was a son of John Furry who died in 1753. Henry is the son of John from whom I descend.

Now fast forward to 1986. Donna Valley Russell was then publishing *Western Maryland Genealogy*. The July 1986 issue continued abstracts from Frederick County, Maryland wills recorded in Book A1. An abstract of the will of Abraham Furry was given as follows:

Abraham Furry of Frederick Co., farmer. Will dtd. 30 March 1764, very sick. To wife: all my estate real and personal, except as noted. Land to be sold. To the daus. of my brother Jacob, £40, that is £8 each to Mary the oldest, Elizabeth, Martha, Barbara, and Agnes. Wife and brother Henry exec. /s/ Abraham Furry. Wit: Jacob E. Shingletaker, Michael Meyer, Benjamin Whitmire. Proved 3 May 1764 by 3 wit. (pp 212-3).

This abstract was almost certainly made from the recorded will book. (We may have a tendency to think will books contain originals, but they only contain recorded copies of original wills.) At the time I thought the abstract was interesting. Abraham, Jacob and Henry were names of three of the sons of John Forry of Hempfield Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania who died in 1753. But why would a man living in what was then Frederick County, Maryland, which at the time included all the land west of present day Frederick County, name his brother Henry living in Hellam Township, York County, an executor? Certainly Abraham had friends and neighbors in Frederick County, if not relatives,

who could have served as executors, rather than have his brother make one or more long and possibly difficult and dangerous trips to Frederick County. If this indeed was “my” Henry, then this executorship was part of his story and needed to be added to my information on him.

It was 2006 before I acted on the above matter (not a swift action!). That year I traveled with a few other people to the Maryland State Archives to do some research. Among other items, I asked to see the estate file of Abraham Furry. The only document in the folder was the original will—no inventory, no administration account. But the unexpected information written on the outside fold of that document caught my attention and gave me an “aha” moment. That information would not have been included with the recorded will, as it was not part of Abraham’s will. His recorded will is now available on the internet, but unless an individual has posted the original will’s outside information, the comment that got my attention is not yet digitized and available on the web.

Here is the statement on the outside of the will: The testator lived in Pennsylvania[,] came into this Province to buy land & dyed. They [the executors] take out Letters to enable them to pay the Remainder of the money due on the Land he bought, so as to get a Conveyance [to sell the land] agreeable to his Will.

Abraham was actually not yet a permanent resident of Maryland. There was apparently no one living there to whom he was comfortable granting power over his estate. Thus I am rather certain it is “my” Henry, his brother, he named as executor. It is also possible Abraham’s wife was still in Pennsylvania when he died, having not made the trip with him to Maryland to buy land. Anyway, Henry and Abraham’s wife were at the Frederick County courthouse on 3 May 1764 to assume executorship when the will was probated. A few days later they “pay remainder of what due on land to Samuel (Colwell??),” the land Abraham had just recently bought. [Frederick County Deed Book J, pages 311-313]. The microfilm of this deed was extremely difficult to read and perhaps it contained additional important information, including to whom they sold the land. (I have found no evidence that any estate records were created for Abraham Forry in York County, Pennsylvania. Perhaps he had moved to a Pennsylvania County other than York before deciding to buy land in Maryland, or perhaps there was no need to formally settle his personal estate.)

Sadly Henry Forry himself was dead by 12 May 1766, the date an administration bond on his estate was granted to Feronica Furrey (his widow), Henry Strickler, and Christian Stoner. The inventory was made on 20 June that year. The inventory shows him possibly to have been more involved in black smithing than in working as a farmer. The administration account was filed on 20 March 1768 and includes payment of £1 to “Joseph Adlum Cor [Coroner] for viewy the body of the decd.” Henry had died violently and/or mysteriously. If only York County coroner records would exist for that time period. Did he die from a black smithing accident? Did he have funds from Abraham’s estate in his possession and was killed because of them? Or was it yet another type of death?

Henry Forry had one daughter at the time of his death, and a son Henry was born after he died. Henry’s widow, Veronica, married Jacob Baltzly. They remained on the older Henry Forry’s land until the son Henry was of age, when the property in Hellam Township was sold to the son. The son Henry married twice, had numerous children, and has many descendants. At some point Veronica (Rode/Road) Forry Baltzly and her second husband moved to Bullskin Township, Fayette County, Pennsylvania, where she died.

Do you have a story to share?

Members are encouraged to submit articles for publication in the Society’s newsletter.

The best way to submit an article for publication is to send it as an email attachment in either Word or RTF (rich text format) format to the Society’s email address ... scpgswebsite@wildblue.net

Of course, you can also submit articles via hard copy mailed to ...

South Central PA Genealogical Society
Attention: Newsletter Editor
PO Box 1824
York, PA 17405-1824

Good News ...

The *York Gazette and Daily* for 1937 through 1967 is now available online at newspapers.com

Articles from the *Columbia Spy*, Columbia, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania

O'er the River.

Mr. Joe J. Jacobs is stocking his new store room, corner Front and Hellam streets, with a fresh supply of boots, shoes, hats, &c., just received from the city. The room, since remodeled, is both convenient and tasteful, in style, something after the Columbia model. Mr. Jacobs certainly deserves great credit for this new departure from ancient usage. We predict for him a successful run of custom, by judicious advertising in home and neighboring papers.

The canal department of the Philada. & Reading Railroad Co. has commenced the construction of a new dam, about forty feet below the present one, to take the place of the old dam, so badly shattered by the heavy ice this spring.

It is their intention, we understand, to construct the new dam from the York county shore to the fish weir this summer, and complete it next year.

Mr. Hilt, who had his foot so badly burnt several weeks ago, at the Aurora Furnace, is recovering from the injury without the loss of his foot or any portion of it; he will, however, be lamed for life, as the sinews are contracted by the severe burning.

Wm. McConkey, esq., and Calvin L. Budding, of this place, were present as delegates to the Republican State Convention, held at Lancaster, on Wednesday.

Mr. James Patton, boatmen, from this place, lost three valuable mules and harness one night last week by the stable attached to Mr. Zimmerman's grocery, at Middletown, burning down. Mr. Patton was also severely burnt about the face and hands in attempting to rescue the animals from the burning building.

Mr. Daniel Detwiler came into involuntary possession of a fine swarm of Italian bees, which had lodged upon some timbers lying near the bridge. They came from the Lancaster county shore it is said. No owner, as yet, has put in an appearance.

Wm. Miller, our enterprising confectioner, and ice cream dealer, commenced on Tuesday morning delivering ice daily to our citizens. This has been a want long felt, and we trust he will be liberally supported in the enterprise. GEORGE.

WRIGHTSVILLE, May 28th, 1875.

from April 1, 1882 ...

Wrightsville Notes.

Mr. James Leece, of the United Hotel, Front and Hellam streets, is improving his hotel property by having a balcony erected on the eastern and northern fronts of the building. It will be a decided improvement.

And now the Wrightsville ladies are getting ready to hold a "broom drill" with tableaux, music, &c. Challenge the Greys for a drill and make it more interesting. A "broom drill" is always best when there is a man about.

Mr. S. S. Koehler, one of the large cigar manufacturers of Wrightsville, has removed to town with his family, and about 100 friends welcomed them to Wrightsville on Tuesday of last week. The band gave the gentleman and family a serenade in the evening.

The Presbyterians, we learn, are contemplating the rebuilding of their church, on the corner of Second and Locust streets. The *Star* thinks a building creditable to the town and congregation will soon take the place of the present building.

The tobacco business is improving. Messrs. Keller & Kline, and D. T. Lehman have commenced receiving and packing tobacco, and it is thought there will soon be a boom in the business.

Mr. Noah Strickler, of Hellam township, will move his cigar factory April 1st, to the building on Hellam street formerly used for the same purpose by Leah Blessing.

The furnace, saw mills, planing mill, hardware works, cigar manufactories and all Wrightsville's industries are moving along finely. The merchants are doing right well, and Wrightsville generally has no reason to complain, except that she would like more prosperity and additional manufacturing establishments to bring it.

The *Columbia Spy* began publication June 17, 1830, with John L. Boswell as the editor and publisher. The paper was allegedly named "Spy" to reflect the strong anti-slavery sentiment in the community.

Newspapers from July 1830 through December 1889 are available online at the Lancaster Historical Society's web site ... LancasterHistory.org

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

NON-PROFIT
ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #40
YORK, PA

DATED MATERIAL—DO NOT DELAY

YCHT BOOK BLAST

The York County Heritage Trust is accepting donations of gently used books for the annual Book Blast. Books may be dropped off Tuesday through Saturday from 9 am until 5 pm at the Historical Society Museum, 250 East Market Strweet, York. The last day for donations will be Saturday, June 28th.

The 14th Annual Book Blast will open to the public at 9 am on Thursday August 14th at the Agricultural and Industrial Museum at 217 West Princess Street, York. 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. 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.

Trust members receive a special invitation to attend the *members only* afternoon, Wednesday August 13th from 4 until 7 pm where they can preview and purchase books.

The event culminates on Saturday, August 16th 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