



**South Central
Pennsylvania**
Genealogical Society

Our Name's The Game

www.scpgs.org

Monthly Newsletter Vol. 41 No. 6 May/June 2016

UPCOMING MEETINGS

There will be no SCPGS meeting in July. The first meeting of the 2016-2017 society year is tentatively planned for Sunday, August 28th. This meeting will be announced in the July/August issue of this newsletter.

CONFERENCE

Saturday, September 24, 2016

South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society and York County Heritage Trust are jointly sponsoring a genealogy conference on Saturday, September 24, 2016 at the York County Heritage Trust, 250 East Market Street, York ... Mustering Up Your Family History.

The keynote speaker will be Ron Hershner, author of "Letters From Home: The Civil War Correspondence of a York County Family".

A registration form for this conference is included with this newsletter and available on the Society's website.

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, 2016 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 2016-2017, please promptly mail your payment with the renewal notice included in the March/April newsletter. Please return the entire page. A membership form is also available on our website ... scpgs.org

In conjunction with your membership renewal, we would like to update our Surname Directory. In the past we maintained two separate directories ... one for members *only* and available upon request from the Membership Director and one on our website. We would like to consolidate these lists and publish all of the surnames on our website. You have the option of having your name and email address published in the directory on our website or *only* your name with the Society's email address as your point of contact. Email addresses published on our website will be text only not a hyperlink. Please help us to update our Surname Directory by providing the surnames that you are researching.

Our newsletter is now offered in PDF format 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.

From Our President: Jonathan Stayer

As I write this, the Friends of Camp Security are undertaking an archaeological excavation of a part of the site of Camp Security, a Revolutionary War prison encampment located in Springettsbury Township, York County. The camp was established in late July 1781 to hold British privates and noncommissioned officers captured primarily at the battle of Saratoga in 1777. Early in 1782, British soldiers captured at Yorktown, VA were added to the prison population. At its peak, Camp Security may have housed as many as 1800 British prisoners and their families. With the preliminary peace agreement in April 1783, the encampment was emptied during the second week of May.

Throughout much of the twenty-two months of the camp's existence, York County militia guarded the prisoners. Several hundred men from York and present-day Adams Counties performed this duty, usually in two-month stints. A number of families in the region covered by our society descend from these militia guards.

Some lists of the guards' names are available on the website of the Friends of Camp Security (www.campsecurity.org). The "museum" portion of the Friends' website also offers copies and transcriptions of records pertaining to the militia guards. Check that site if you believe your Revolutionary War ancestor served at the camp.

If you need assistance in researching your ancestor's service in the Revolution, our genealogy conference on Saturday, September 24, offers a session on this very topic. Reference archivist Aaron McWilliams from the Pennsylvania State Archives will be the presenter. Mr. McWilliams is the Archives' leading expert on locating and understanding Pennsylvania's Revolutionary War records. His knowledge has been recognized by an appearance on the television show "Who Do You Think You Are?" He will describe the available records and offer research pointers. This will be one program that you do not want to miss!

Visit to the Historic Hellam Preserve

On Sunday, May 1st we visited the Historic Hellam Preserve. This property features a log dwelling built in the mid-18th century. Very few log homes have survived.

For the early settlers to York County, log homes were a way of life. Settlers needed shelter. An abundance of woodlands afforded the early settlers of York County the opportunity to construct a log home or cabin fairly quickly. Sometimes these log homes were merely a short-term residence until their stone or brick home was completed. For others, it may have been all that they could afford.

During the restoration process the current owner of the Hellam Preserve had some of the logs tested to determine the age of the structure. It was estimated that the timbers were cut in 1758. Many of the logs had to be replaced to preserve the integrity of the structure, however, most everything else remains in its original state. This log house features oak floors and wooden shingles lapped in a Germanesque style ... lapped top and bottom and side to side.

This 19th century farmstead features a restored stone bank barn, spring house, and farm house in addition to the wonderfully preserved log house.

What a treat to be able to wander about this property and explore the restored log house and other buildings.

*from the 1798 Hellam Township, York County
"Glass Tax": George Dietz Jr. owned property
with a taxable value of \$2,780, described as ...
Wood House – 25x30, 1 story, 11 windows with
48 lights; Spring House, Still House and Wood
Barn on 120 acres adjoining the property of
Andrew Gerber, and there was an additional 80
acres of land labeled as "barren"*

Don't Wait to Write Up Those Notes

from *Genealogy Tip of the Day*, Michael John Neill, June 1, 2016

Never wait to write up research notes from your trip. Write up your temporary conclusions, things you noticed, items you need to pursue further, etc. as soon as you can. You will forget why you looked up certain items and those unclear notations you made that you "would never forget" will be forgotten. Time spent writing up your notes is not wasted. Wasted time is what is spent later trying figure out why on earth you did certain things or in spending an hour to reach the same conclusion you did earlier a week ago when you were actually researching.

Pre-1790 Oaths of Allegiance and Naturalizations in Pennsylvania

Colonial ships' passenger lists and naturalization records &
Revolutionary loyalty oaths at the Pennsylvania State Archives

Pennsylvania State Archives, 350 North Street, Harrisburg, PA 17120-0090
www.pastatearchives.com (717) 783-3281

I. "Passenger Lists"

A. Ships' Lists of German Passengers, 1727-1808 (RG-26)

1. Background

- a. Immigrants from Continental Europe arriving in the port of Philadelphia
- b. Passenger lists are NOT naturalization records
- c. Not required of British citizens—English, Irish, Scottish, Welsh
- d. Oaths to be taken by males over 16 years of age

2. Types of Lists

- "A" – Captain's List
- "B" – Oath of Allegiance to King
- "C" – Oath of Abjuration and Fidelity

3. Published Versions

- a. Ralph B. Strassburger, edited by William J. Hinke, *Pennsylvania German Pioneers*, 3 vols. (Norristown, PA: Pennsylvania German Society, 1934; reprinted by Genealogical Publishing Co. and Picton Press) – names found on www.ancestry.com; facsimile lists found on www.hathitrust.org
- b. *Pennsylvania Archives*, Second Series, Volume 17 (reprinted by Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, in 1967) – see www.fold3.com
- c. Israel Daniel Rupp, *A Collection of Upwards of Thirty Thousand Names of German, Swiss, Dutch, French, and Other Immigrants in Pennsylvania from 1727-1776*, 2nd ed., rev. & enl. (Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1965) – see www.ancestry.com

B. Minutes of the Provincial Council (Provincial Record), 1727-1736 (RG-21)

1. Lists of passengers recorded in minute books of the Provincial Council
2. Published in "Colonial Records" series of the Pennsylvania Archives
 - a. Volume 3, pp. 283-85, 287-88, 290, 327-29, 331-32, 367-69, 384-86, 389-90, 410, 413-17, 428-29, 432-32, 452-59, 465-67, 515-520, 524, 568-70, 593, 597, 607; Volume 4, pp. 58-60, 72-72, 99-100
 - b. Available online at www.fold3.com
 - c. For everyname index, see Mary Dunn's *Index to Pennsylvania's COLONIAL RECORDS* (Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1992)

RESEARCH REFERENCES

Baumann, Roland M., comp. & ed. *Guide to the Microfilm of the Records of Pennsylvania's Revolutionary Governments, 1775-1790*. Harrisburg, PA: Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, 1978.

Beyer, George R., and George Dailey, eds. *Guide to the Microfilm of the Records of the Provincial Council, 1682-1776*. Harrisburg, PA: Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, 1966.

Bockstruck, Lloyd D. *Denizations and Naturalizations in the British Colonies in America, 1607-1775*. Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2005.

Boyer, Carl, comp. *Ship Passenger Lists: Pennsylvania and Delaware (1641-1825)*. Newhall, CA: By the compiler, 1980.

Dructor, Robert M. *Guide to Genealogical Sources at the Pennsylvania State Archives*. 2nd ed. Harrisburg, PA: Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, 1998.

Eddy, Henry H., and Martha L. Simonetti. *Guide to the Published Archives of Pennsylvania*. Harrisburg, PA: Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, 1949; reprinted 1976.

II. Colonial Naturalization Records

A. Minutes of the Provincial Council (Provincial Record), 1698-1773 (RG-21)

1. Entries in the minutes of the Provincial Council
2. Published Versions
 - a. *Pennsylvania Archives*, Colonial Records, Volume 1, pp. 536-39; Volume 2, pp. 184-85; Volume 3, pp. 247-48, 374; Volume 9, p. 71; Volume 10, pp. 103-5 – see www.fold3.com
 - b. *Abstracts of Pennsylvania Records of Naturalizations, 1695-1773*, Special Publication No. 24 (York, PA: South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society, 1983)

B. Engrossed Laws & Law Books, 1709-1773 (RG-26)

1. Naturalizations granted by an Act of Assembly
2. Published Versions
 - a. *Statutes at Large of Pennsylvania* (published laws), Volume 2, pp. 297-99; Volume 3, pp. 424-26; Volume 4, pp. 57-59, 147-50, 219-22, 283-85, 326-31; Volume 6, pp. 270-72, 399-401; Volume 7, pp. 47-49; Volume 8, pp. 166-77, 256-57, 337-38 – available online at www.palrb.us
 - * related material may be found in the Votes and Proceedings of the General Assembly as printed in *Pennsylvania Archives*, Eighth Series, Vols. 2-8 – see www.fold3.com
 - b. *Abstracts of Naturalizations* by South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society
3. Related Materials
 - a. Entries in the Records of the Land Office (RG-17): Patent Book A-2, pp. 45, 663-54, 701, 731 (1701-4) Commission Book A-1, pp. 53-54 (1711)
 - b. "German Qualification for Naturalization in Pennsylvania, 1728," by Barbara L. Weir & Laurie A. Rofini, *Pennsylvania Genealogical Magazine* 37 (1992): 367-73

C. Naturalization Lists of the Supreme Court and Courts of Nisi Prius, 1740-1773 (RG-21)

1. Background
 - a. Authorized by Act of Parliament
 - b. Naturalization not required for British citizens—English, Irish, Scottish, Welsh
 - c. Seven-year residency requirement
 - d. Alien must receive Sacrament and take oath or make affirmation
 - e. Special exemptions for Jews, Quakers and Moravians
2. Published Versions
 - a. *Persons Naturalized in the Province of Pennsylvania, 1740-1773* (Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1967)
 - 1) Available online at www.ancestry.com
 - 2) Reprint of *Pennsylvania Archives*, Second Series, Volume 2, with index
 - 3) Also indexed in *The American Genealogical-Biographical Index*, 171 vols. (Middletown, CT: Godfrey Memorial Library, 1952-92)

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Filby, P. William et al. *Passenger and Immigration Lists Index, and Supplements*. Detroit, MI: Gale Research Co., 1981-92.

Fogleman, Aaron S. *Hopeful Journeys: German Immigration and Settlement in Greater Pennsylvania, 1717-1775*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1996.

Hull, William I. *William Penn and the Dutch Quaker Migration to Pennsylvania*. Philadelphia: Patterson & White, 1935.

Kettner, James H. *The Development of American Citizenship, 1608-1870*. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 1978.

Livengood, Candy. *Genealogical Abstracts of the Laws of Pennsylvania & the Statutes at Large*. Westminster, MD: Family Line Publications, 1990.

MacMaster, Richard K., Samuel L. Horst, and Robert F. Ulle. *Conscience in Crisis: Mennonites and Other Peace Churches in America, 1739-1789*. Scottsdale, PA: Herald Press, 1979.

Wokeck, Marianne S. *Trade in Strangers: The Beginnings of Mass Migration to North America*. University Park, PA: Pennsylvania State University Press, 1999.

- b. *Naturalizations of Foreign Protestants in the American and West Indian Colonies* (London: Huguenot Society of London, 1921; reprinted by Genealogical Publishing Co., 1979)
- 1) Entry books and certificates sent by the Secretary of the colony in Pennsylvania to the Commissioners for Trade and Plantations in England – records in England
 - 2) Names indexed on www.ancestry.com

III. Test Oaths/Loyalty Oaths/Oaths of Allegiance

A. Oaths of Allegiance, 1777-1790 (RG-27)

1. Act of June 13, 1777
 - a. Loyalty oath required of all white, male inhabitants over the age of 18 years
 - b. Opposed by Historic Peace Churches
 - c. See www.palrb.us for text of act

2. Published in *Pennsylvania Archives*, Second Series, Volume 3, pp. 3-86 – see www.fold3.com

B. Lists of Persons Who Took the Oath of Allegiance, 1789-1794 (RG-26)

C. Commission Book 1 (RG-17), pp. 35-83, 99-109, 340 (1777-1790)

1. Copies of oath lists found in RG-27 and RG-26
2. Published in *Pennsylvania Archives*, Second Series, Volume 3, pp. 3-86 – see www.fold3.com

D. Other Sources (arranged by county)

1. BEDFORD COUNTY

“Oaths of Allegiance, Bedford County,” by James B. Whisker, in *Bedford County in the American Revolution* (Apollo, PA: Closson Press, 1985), pp. 167-69 (1778-1786) – “Original documents in Prothonotary’s Office, Bedford County Court House”

2. BERKS COUNTY

Oaths and Index to Berks County, Pennsylvania (Philadelphia: Philadelphia Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, 1949)

- a. Oaths dated 1777-1787
- b. “Copied by B. F. Owen, Reading”
- c. Originally titled “The Names of Persons Who Took the Oath of Allegiance in Berks County, Pennsylvania”
- d. Volume 268 of the Collections of the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania

3. BUCKS COUNTY

Oaths of Allegiance, Allegiance Book #1, Bucks County, Pennsylvankia, 1777 (Will-Britt Books, 1987) by Richard T. Williams & Janet R. Brittingham

4. CHESTER COUNTY

Oaths of Allegiance Chester County Pennsylvania Taken Before the Justices of the Peace, 1777-1785 (Danboro, PA: Richard T. & Mildred C. Williams, 1974) – see www.ancestry.com

Calendar of Local Events

Friday, July 1

Lunch with the Librarians: Using Military Records in Genealogy Research

[12:30 PM - 1:30 PM]

York County Heritage Trust
250 East Market St, York, PA

Pre-registration required by Wednesday, June 29th (contact aaveler@yorkheritage.org)

Friday, July 8

Auction of Rare and Used Books

Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society
2215 Millstream Rd, Lancaster, PA [6 PM - 9:30 PM]

Friday, August 5

Lunch with the Librarians: Online Resources for Genealogy Research

[12:30 PM - 1:30 PM]

York County Heritage Trust
250 East Market St, York, PA

Pre-registration required by Wednesday, August 3rd (contact aaveler@yorkheritage.org)

YCHT Book Blast

Agricultural and Industrial Museum, 217 West Princess St

For the local history buff, there will be the individually-priced collectible section that features local history, genealogy and other unique volumes.

Thursday, August 11

YCHT members *only*

[4 PM – 7 PM]

Friday, August 12

[9 AM – 6 PM]

Saturday, August 13

Collectible section of books will be sold at half-price.

5. CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Pennsylvania Archives, Second Series, Volume 14, pp. 454-68 (1777-1778) - see www.fold3.com

6. LANCASTER COUNTY

- a. Lancaster County, PA Deed Book L, pp. 375-406 (1777-1789) – see R. Thomas Mayhill, *Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, Deed Abstracts & Revolutionary War Oaths of Allegiance: Deed Books "A" Through "M" ca. 1770, With Adjoining Landowners & Witnesses* (Knightstown, IN: Bookmark, 1973)
- b. *Pennsylvania Archives*, Second Series, Volume 13, pp. 393-472 – lists similar to those found in Deed Book L – see www.fold3.com

7. MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Oaths of Allegiance, Associators & Non Associators, Montgomery County, PA (part of Phila. Co.), 1778-1779 (Janet R. Brittingham & Mildred C. Williams, 1986)

8. PHILADELPHIA AREA

- a. *Names of Persons Who Took the Oath of Allegiance to the State of Pennsylvania Between the Years 1777 and 1789* (Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1965) – see www.ancestry.com
- b. *Pennsylvania Archives*, Second Series, Volume 14, pp. 40-61 (Philadelphia City, 1778-1779) – see www.fold3.com
- c. Record Book of Benjamin Paschall, 1778-1784
 - 1) Filed as Entry #1200 at The Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA (www.hsp.org)
 - 2) Record of a Philadelphia Justice of the Peace

9. OTHER

Some of the Earliest Oaths of Allegiance to the United States of America, by Nellie P. Waldenmaier (Lancaster, PA: Lancaster Press, 1944) – oaths in the collections of the National Archives and the Library of Congress (primarily military oaths)

Sherk/Shirk/Schürch Reunion

August 4-7, 2016

The biennial reunion and genealogical gathering of the Schürch Family Association of North America will be held at Waterloo, Ontario, Canada. All descendants from any of the forty or more spellings of the surname Schürch and interested parties are welcome. Activities include bus tours, seminars, children's program, auction, and banquet. For information/registration see www.schurchfamilyassociation.net or contact or Elaine at 519-696-2526.

Gerber-Garner-Garver Reunion –

Sunday, July 24th, 2016

Salem United Church of Christ Pavilion, Intersection of Salem Church and Canal Roads, Dover PA. Noontime covered dish buffet and social. For more information, contact: Charlie Rauhauser, 717-818-3554, crauhauser@doversd.org.

Federation of Genealogical Societies Webinar

(FGS Member Society Events)

Tuesday, August 9

[8 PM Central]

Misbegotten Children; Tracing the Family Lines of the Illegitimate presented by Peggy Clemens Lauritzen, AG

Illegitimacy can be both a surprise and an embarrassment as we discover more and more about our family's history. Treated with care and sensitivity, we can use many available resources to help us in our research. Nearly all families have children with seemingly missing fathers. Yet, there may be clues and resources to help us determine their ancestry.

To register visit:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1406973931847993857>

Tuesday, September 13

[8 PM Central]

Butcher, Baker, Candlestick Maker: Using Occupational Records presented by Amy Johnson Crow, CG

Our ancestors' occupations are a way of identifying them. Exploring records created about occupation and employment can yield specific information about the ancestor, help place the ancestor in historical and social context, and spark ideas for further research.

To register visit:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5222129746649412097>

THE WILLIAM H. DIETZ FARM

from *The News*, a newsletter of the Kreutz Creek Charge of the Reformed Church; January 1926

The farm now owned by Elder William H. Dietz, of Trinity Church, has a very interesting history, going back as far as 1747. It has been in the Dietz name ever since 1791, when a George Dietz bought it. Ever since then until the time the father of William H. Dietz, whose name was also William, it was owned by a George Dietz. We shall trace the history of this farm by a study of the deeds.

The oldest deed is a Patent for 141¾ acres, to Philip Bentz, dated August 29, 1765. This document consists of a large parchment in excellent preservation. It has a seal two inches in diameter, although the edges are broken off. The seal is attached to the document by a ribbon running through the name of John Penn. The patent was given by Thomas and Richard Penn.

But this patent does not represent the first transaction for the possession of this farm. The original transaction is told in these words in this patent to Philip Bentz: "Whereas in pursuance of a Warrant Dated the sixteenth Day of March One thousand seven hundred & forty seven there was surveyed unto Henry Messersmith a certain tract of Land situate in Hallam Township in the County of York," &c.

Notice the spelling of the Township – Hallam; although in other documents about as early as this the other spelling – Hellam occurs also. But the original was spelt Hallam in England. We cannot but wish that the English form had become the most generally used.

It is interesting also to note that among the names of adjoining landowners, occur those of two of the officers of Kreutz Creek Church, who applied for the warrant in 1745, viz, Henry Smith and George Ament (See History page 18). So these two men lived somewhere in the neighborhood of the Dietz farm.

This Henry Messersmith to whom the Penns gave the patent for the farm died intestate, that is, without a will. The land was sold by the heirs to Philip Bentz as seen from the following: "And, Whereas this Henry Messersmith dying Intestate the above Tract of Land & premises with the Appurtenances according to the Laws of this province for settling Intestate Estates descended & Came to Elizabeth his Widow, Samuel & Mathias his sons & Mary & Christiana His Daughters (These Samuel who is the eldest Son having a Double Share).

"And Whereas the said Samuel Messersmith by his Indenture of Bargain & Sale dated the 12th day of March 1755, and the said Elizabeth Messersmith, Jacob Rudisilly & Anna Maria his Wife, Baltzar Spangler & Christiana his Wife & the said Mathias Messersmith (these Anna Maria & Christiana being the Daughters of the said Henry Messersmith as said by their Indenture Dated the 5th January last did grant bargain, sell, remiss, release & forever quit claim all their Estate Right & Title to these Lands & Premises, unto Philip Bentz of Hallam Township at a Fee As by the same Dd now produced appears."

This Philip Bentz then applied to the Penns for his legal "papers" as we would say to day, and thus secured the patent which we have described above. The patent is recorded at York in Patent Book AA, Vol. 6, page 473., C. Brockden, Recorder, under date of October 22, 1765. The following quotation tells this story: "Now at the Instance and Request of the said Philip Bentz that we would be pleased to grant him a confirmation of the same, "Know ye that in consideration of the sum of Twenty two pounds two Shillings & five pence ... lawful money of Pennsylvania ... Do give, grant, release & confirm unto said Philip Bentz — his Heirs and Assigns &c ... forever ... Witness John Penn Esq. Lieutenant Governor of the province, August 29, 1765, the 5th year of King George III & 47th year of the Proprietaries Government."

A third change takes place when Philip Bentz and his wife Elizabeth sold "in consideration of 400 pounds" this same 142¾ acres to Jesse Faulkner. This is entered at York in Record Book GG, page 452 &c., September 26, 1791, J. Barnitz, Recorder.

Then Jesse Falkner and his wife Mary sell June 24, 1766, to Michael Friess and David Myerle, 120½ acres which was part of a larger tract owned by Philip Bentz. On the same date Jesse Falkner also sells 81 acres to the same party for 75 pounds. David Myerle and his wife Magdalena, March 15, 1768 sold their part to Michael Friess (see Book G, page 14 &C.)

The next sale brings it to the Dietz name. This same Michael Friess and his wife Anna Margaret, in consideration of 1100 pounds sold to George Dietz 120 acres (see Book GG, page 454 & C.), under date of September 26, 1791. These same persons sold another tract of 81 acres to the same George Dietz for 100 pounds, under date of September 24, 1791.

There are many old deeds in the possession of Elder Dietz which show the purchase and sale of various tracts throughout the course of 178 years.

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DATED MATERIAL—DO NOT DELAY

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps Online

<https://collection1.libraries.psu.edu/cdm/compoundobject/collection/maps1/id/16961/rec/2>

The Sanborn® Map Company of Pelham, New York, produced large-scale (usually 50 feet to the inch) color maps of over 13,000 towns and cities across the United States from 1867 to 1977 in order to assist fire insurance companies in setting rates and terms. The color-coded Sanborn maps show building footprints, building material, height or number of stories, building use, lot lines, road widths and water facilities. The maps also show street names and property boundaries of the time. This collection of maps is historically significant as it is sometimes the best detailed map of a town or city dating from the mid 1800s.

The Library of Congress web site refers to these color-coded maps as “probably the single most important record of urban growth and development in the United States during the past one hundred years.” ... <http://www.loc.gov/rr/geogmap/sanborn/>



Penn State's University Libraries has a near complete collection of Sanborn Fire Insurance maps for the state of Pennsylvania. They have cataloged and digitized their entire collection, representing 585 cities and communities across the Commonwealth.