



**South Central
Pennsylvania**
Genealogical Society

Our Name's The Game

www.scpgs.org

Monthly Newsletter Vol. 42 No. 6 May/June 2017

UPCOMING MEETINGS

There will be no SCPGS meeting in July. The first meeting of the 2017-2018 society year is tentatively planned for Sunday, August 27th. This meeting will be announced in the July/August issue of this newsletter.

From the President

Jonathan Stayer

Your genealogical society has reached the end of another program year, and our thoughts are turning to summertime vacations and travel. Recently, I was reminded that travel plans can include visits to sites associated with our family history.

Several weeks ago, I had the opportunity to tour the grounds of the “Snow Hill Cloister” in Franklin County, PA as a part of the annual meeting of the Pennsylvania German Society. Snow Hill was established in the closing decade of the eighteenth century by what became known as the German Seventh Day Baptist Brethren and was a sister community to the famous Ephrata Cloister in Lancaster County. Some of my ancestors spent time there before moving on to other German Seventh Day Baptist localities, particularly in Somerset County. While the “nunnery” building — as it is called — is now in private hands as apartments and unavailable to tourists, the 1829 meetinghouse was open for our visit. I appreciated the experience to walk on the same ground on which my forebears probably trod over two hundred years ago.

As you travel this summer, look for places to visit that are linked to your ancestry. If the old family homestead still stands, ask the owner for a quick tour. Drive the country roads around your ancestor’s farm. Walk through the family burial plot. Stroll down the city streets that your great-great-grandmother may have taken to get to market. Tour a museum that holds artifacts related to occupations, organizations or communities in your lineage. The museum of the York County History Center (yorkhistorycenter.org) offers glimpses into the past of York County, PA. For those of us with Pennsylvania German ancestry, the Landis Valley Farm Museum (landisvalleymuseum.org) in Lancaster County provides a fine introduction to our eighteenth- and nineteenth-century agricultural heritage. This summer, let’s connect to our ancestors through the places they lived and the materials that they left behind!

REMINDER!!

Our membership year ends on June 30, so pay your dues now. If we do not receive your dues by September 1, you will be removed from our membership and you will no longer receive the newsletter or the Special Publications, or enjoy the other benefits of membership.

Original Sources: Are They Always Accurate?

written by Lorine McGinnis Schulze for *Legacy News* (12 Feb 2016)

Is your genealogy accurate? Genealogists strive for accuracy. We want to be sure we have the right great-grandmother, the correct year of birth or death, the correct parents for our 3rd great-grandfather.

We spend hours, days, weeks, even months looking for original sources. But what are original records and sources? They are documents and records that were created at or around the time that an event occurred. These include such documents as vital statistic registrations, newspapers, tax lists, court records, church records, land records, funeral home documents, census records, personal letters and diaries, and other more obscure items such as funeral cards, coffin plates, and so on.

An original source might contain primary information or secondary information. Primary information is information given by a witness to the event, or a knowledgeable participant. Secondary information is information provided by someone who was not a witness to the event. Our joy at finding such important records results in what is often referred to as the "Genealogy Happy Dance!"

But beware! Original sources are not always accurate. As careful and methodical genealogists we must consider the possibility that there may be errors in a record. What are the ways this can happen?

The informant (the person giving the information) might not be the person who is participating in the event. For example, it's obvious that the deceased does not provide the personal information on a death registration. A third party such as a son, a daughter, a spouse, a family friend, a doctor or other individual provides personal information about the deceased.

The informant may not know the answers and may thus provide incorrect details. Don't assume, for example, that details on a tombstone are correct. Remember that the information on a tombstone was almost certainly provided by a family member, who may or may not have known the correct details. For example, my great-grandfather's stone was erected by his daughter who told the stonemaker the wrong birth date for her father. His baptismal record provides his birth and his baptism year which was two years before the date his daughter gave.

The informant might lie. This is especially true where ages are concerned. Sometimes brides subtract a few years from their ages when asked by the minister at their marriage. The clerk recording the information

may not hear the response correctly and may enter it incorrectly.

The information on the record might have been entered after the event took place. Memories are often wrong, and the recorder is relying on memory. Here's an example – a minister or priest performs a baptism but doesn't enter it immediately in the register book. A day or two later he sits down to enter the past week's baptisms, marriages and burials. He forgets the exact day little Henry Smith was baptized. Worse, he can't recall the first name of the child he baptized, he only knows their parents' names. But he thinks it was James so he records that in the book. In actuality James is the name of an older brother and the child he baptized was called John.

The informant might be confused by the question. In my own family tree, my great-grandmother's official government death registration is incorrect. Her parents' names are wrong. Since I already knew who her parents were (Isaac Vollick & Lydia Jamieson) from other genealogy sources, I was completely bewildered by seeing her parents' names recorded as Stephen Vollick and Mary.

Then it dawned on me — Stephen was my great grandmother's husband's first name (Stephen Peer). Mary was my great grandmother's own name. (Mary Vollick)

But who was the informant? The informant was Mary's 17-year old son. Her husband had died when their son was a toddler, and their older children were married and gone. The task of answering the official questions fell to her 17-year old son who had cared for her in her final days.

It is easy to see how the young boy, when asked by a government clerk "*Father's name?*" (meaning father of the deceased), might have replied "Stephen", for in fact Stephen was HIS own father's name. The question "*Mother's name?*" referring to the mother of the deceased, would be answered with "Mary" which was HIS mother's name. And thus the official death registration for parents of Mary (Peer) Vollick daughter of Isaac and Lydia Vollick, is forever rendered as Stephen and Mary Vollick.

So be cautious when you encounter an original source that simply doesn't match other reliable sources. Investigate! Think! Don't just accept the new details without further research to prove or disprove them.

A New Look at the European Origins of the Lau Family

By Richard K. Konkel, Esquire

Twenty-five years ago in 1992 Annette Kunselman Burgert published *Eighteenth Century Emigrants from the Northern Alsace to America*. In that work she uncovered the origins of the Lau family of York County, Pennsylvania by identifying four emigrants from the Lutheran parish of Lembach, Department Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France, who appear to have been siblings, namely Johann Christmann Low/Lau, Conrad Low/Lau, Johann Peter Lau, and Susanna Catharina Lau wife of Johannes Joho. Three of the Lau emigrants, namely Conrad, Johann Peter and Susanna Catharina were identified as children of Hans Theobald Lau through him being mentioned as their father in their marriage records. A baptismal record was found for Johann Peter Lau born in 1701 listing his parents as Hans Theobald and Margaretha Lau. No other baptisms for the other three Lau emigrants were recorded in the Lembach church records. For Johann Christmann Lau there was no baptism or marriage records to indicate his parentage. Since 1992 it has generally been assumed that Johann Christmann Lau was also a child of Hans Theobald Lau. These assumptions have now proven to be correct.

The marriage and emigration of Johann Christmann Lau is indicated by a notation made to the baptism record of his wife Anna Cleophe Frey born April 27, 1696 in the nearby village of Wingen. The notation in the Wingen Lutheran church records is as follows: "*Anno 1732 mit ihrnen Mann Christmann Low in Pennsylvanien gereisset.*" (In the year 1732 with her husband Christmann Low emigrated to Pennsylvania) The tombstone of "Christian Lau" in the old cemetery at St. Paul's Wolf's Church in West Manchester Township, York County, Pennsylvania reads as follows: "HIER RUHET CHRISTIAN LAU ER IST GEBOREN D-21 AUGUST 1696 ER IST GESTORBEN D-21 ABRIL 1772 A 75 Y 8 M" (here rests Christian Lau he is born the 21st of August 1696 he died the 21st of April 1772 aged 75 years 8 months.)

Recently the baptisms of three children of Johann Theobald Lau have come to light on ancestry.com including Johann Christmann Lau with a birthdate that exactly matches that given on his tombstone. The records are from the evangelische Kirche Pirmasens, Bezirksamt Pirmasens, Rheinland-Pfalz (Rhineland Palatinate), Germany. Unfortunately ancestry.com has very poorly indexed and identified the records as to locality. The record group is

Germany, Lutheran Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1519-1969; the individual church record is indicated as Bayern, Vinningen, Taufen, Heiraten, Tote, Konfirmanden u Konfirmationen 1640-1732. This record is actually the earliest church book for the Lutheran congregation at Pirmasens. The ancestry.com index for the record further confuses matters by indicating that the Lau children were baptized in "Rohrbach, Bayern, Deutschland." In this case, all three children were born in Winzeln, a small village just outside of Pirmasens, and were baptized at the Lutheran church in Pirmasens. While these localities are located today in the German State of Rheinland-Pfalz (Rhineland Palatinate) at the time the children were born, this area was part of the principality of Hanau-Lichtenberg, which also included territories in historical Alsace in present day France. In the 19th century and before the establishment of modern German states, Rheinland-Pfalz was a province of the Kingdom of Bavaria (Bayern), detached from the rest of the Kingdom of Bavaria. The following is a transcription and translation of the original records for the births and baptisms of Agnes, Maria Elisabetha and Johann Christmann Lau taken from the Pirmasens Kirchenbuch. They are a joint effort of myself and German genealogist Sabine Schleichert of München, Germany (website: www.ggrs.com (German Genealogical Research Service)).

Pirmasens Lutheran KB 1640-1732:

[1693] *Den 14ten 9bris seyndt zu Wintzelen Theobald Lau schmidten und seiner haußfrauen zwilling nemblich zwey junge tochterlein zur welt gebohren so den 18ten ... nach verrich[te-] ten gottesdienst allhie zu Pirmasenz in der kirch geteufft und das erste mit nahmen Agnes genennt worden Gevattern waren gebetten gestanden 1) Agneß Knerrin Thomas Kneren zu Winzeln hinterlaßene wittib luth. 2) Elisabetha Kuntzin Joh. Marx Kuntzen zu Winzeln ehl. hausfr. Reform. 3) Nicolaus Reithwenn ledig von Winzeln Pontif. Das andere ist genennet worden Maria Elisabetha dazu gevattern gestanden 1) Margaretha Tauenhauerin Christmann Tauenhauers zu Wintzeln ehl. Hausfrau Luth. 2) Elisabetha Kreßin Joh. Nickels Kreßin zu Winzeln ehl. haußfr. Reform. 3) Adam Kneer von Pirmasens Luth.*

[1693] The 14th of November in Wintzelen to Theobald Lau, blacksmith there and his wife were born into this world two young daughters, and on the

18th were baptized after worship services at the church in Pirmasens. And the first is named Agneß (Agness) Sponsors were 1) Agneß Knerrin surviving widow of Thomas Kneren of Winzeln, Lutheran 2) Elisabetha Kuntzin, wife of Johann Marx Kuntz of Winzeln Reformed 3) Nicolaus Reithwenn single of Winzeln Roman Catholic. The other [daughter] is named Maria Elisabetha and her Sponsors are 1) Margaretha Tauenhauerin wife of Christmann Tauenhauer of Wintzeln Lutheran 2) Elisabetha Kreßin wife of Johann Nickels Kreß of Winzeln Reformed 3) Adam Kneer of Pirmasens Lutheran

[1696] den 21sten Aug. st. n ist zu Wintzeln Johann Theobald Lau Schmidt da selbst und seiner Hausfrauen ein Söhnngen gebohren worden so den 26ten getaufft und Johann Christmann genennt worden Gevattern waren 1) Johann Nickel Kooßburg z. Winzeln Luth 2) Johann Daniel Tauenhauer Joh Christmanns Tauenhauer Sohn Luth 3) Anna Catharina Schindeldeckerin Joh. Jacob Schindeldeckers frau Luth

[1696] the 21st of August (new dating style, i.e. Gregorian) born in Winzeln to Johann Theobald Lau, blacksmith there and his wife a son was born and baptized on the 26th and was named Johann Christmann. Sponsors 1) Margaretha Tauenhauerin wife of Christmann Tauenhauer of Wintzeln Lutheran 2) Elisabetha Kreßin wife of Johann Nickels Kreß of Winzeln Reformed 3) Adam Kneer of Pirmasens Lutheran

With the addition of these three baptisms we know a little bit more about the family of Johann Theobald Lau. Some research on the family from about 2005 by German genealogist Uwe Portens of Bingen am Rhein can be found online on Yoho family genealogy sites. This can be further augmented by information from the Lutheran parish records for the parishes of Lembach, Wingen, Mattstall, and Niedersteinbach. Digital scanned images of these original church records can be viewed free of charge at archives.bas-rhin.fr, a link to these records can also be found at the Family History Library Catalogue found at familysearch.org. By further searching these records we can now construct a family of nine children:

Johann Theobald Lau born circa 1664, probably in Germany. died 19 December 1739 between 8:00 and 9:00 a.m., age 75 years, Niedersteinbach, Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France. buried at Niedersteinbach 20 December 1739. Described in records as a *Schmidt* (blacksmith) and later for many years was *Hoffmann* (farm administrator) at Sultzthal. married **Margaretha NN** born circa 1670 died after 1714 (last

recorded record at baptism of daughter Maria Margaretha). She may or may not have been the mother of all the children. In the Pirmasens KB she is never specifically named, merely listed as *Hausfrau*.

1. **Agnes Lau** born 17 November 1693, Winzeln, Bezirksamt Pirmasens, Rheinland-Pfalz, Deutschland, baptized 18 November 1693, evangelische Kirche Pirmasens, Bezirksamt Pirmasens, Rheinland-Pfalz, Deutschland. Sponsors: 1) Agneß Knerrin surviving widow of Thomas Kneren of Winzeln, Lutheran 2) Elisabetha Kuntzin, wife of Johann Marx Kuntz of Winzeln Reformed 3) Nicolaus Reithwenn single of Winzeln Roman Catholic. died 8 March 1732, Katzenthal, Lembach parish, Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France. married **Johann Michael Klein**

2. **Maria Elisabetha Lau** born 17 November 1693 Winzeln, Bezirksamt Pirmasens, Grafschaft Hanau-Lichtenberg (Rheinland-Pfalz), Deutschland, baptized 18 November 1693, evangelische Kirche Pirmasens, Bezirksamt Pirmasens, Rheinland-Pfalz, Deutschland. Sponsors: 1) Margaretha Tauenhauerin wife of Christmann Tauenhauer of Wintzeln Lutheran 2) Elisabetha Kreßin wife of Johann Nickels Kreßen of Winzeln Reformed 3) Adam Kneer of Pirmasens Lutheran. married **Michel Fischer, Weber** (weaver) son the deceased *Weber* Georg Fischer, 2 November 1717, Niedersteinbach, Lembach parish, Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France.

3. **Johann Christmann Lau** born 21 August 1696, Winzeln, Bezirksamt Pirmasens, Rheinland-Pfalz, Deutschland, baptized 26 August 1696, evangelische Kirche Pirmasens, Bezirksamt Pirmasens, Rheinland-Pfalz, Deutschland. Sponsors: 1) Margaretha Tauenhauerin wife of Christmann Tauenhauer of Wintzeln Lutheran 2) Elisabetha Kreßin wife of Johann Nickels Kreßen of Winzeln Reformed 3) Adam Kneer of Pirmasens Lutheran. Emigrated 1732 on the Pink *John & William* (S-H, 1: 102, 103, 104, 105). He died 21 April 1772, (West) Manchester Township, York County, Pennsylvania. Buried St. Paul's "Wolf's" Church Cemetery, West Manchester Township, York County, Pennsylvania. married **Anna Cleophe Frey**, daughter of Johann Jacob Frey and Anna Maria Schaub born 27 April 1696, Wingen, Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France, baptized 30 April 1696, Lutheran Church, Wingen, Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France. died after 1772, York County, Pennsylvania.

4. **Johann Conrad Lau** born circa 1698. Emigrated 1732 on the Pink *John & William* (S-H, 1: 102, 103, 104, 105). died circa 1775, Orange County, North

Carolina. married **Maria Barbara Frey**, daughter of Johann Jacob Frey and Anna Maria Schaub, 25 February 1721, Lutheran Church Lembach, Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France. Maria Barbara Frey born 17 April 1701, Wingen, Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France, baptized 21 April 1701, Lutheran Church, Wingen, Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France. died 25 April 1731, Sultzthal, Lembach parish, Bas-Rhin, Alsace. He was married at least twice, as additional children were born in America.

5. **Johann Peter Lau** born 11 April 1701, Lembach, Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France, baptized 14 April 1701, Lutheran Church, Lembach, Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France. Sponsors: Hanß Peter Trautmann, Hanß Peter Bey citizens of this place, and Maria Salome wife of Caspar Dillmann. died circa 1775, Orange County, North Carolina. married **Maria Elisabeth Guthmann**, daughter of the late Samuel Guthmann, baker at Strassburg (Strasbourg), 5 May 1721, Lutheran Church, Lembach, Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France. Emigrated before 1749, he does not appear on any ship list.

6. **Anna Catharina Lau** born circa 1702. married **Georg Rieffling** son of Georg Rieffling, 2 February 1723, Niedersteinbach, Lembach parish, Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France.

7. **Infant daughter Lau** born 27 March 1712, Obersteinbach, Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France, died 28 March 1712, Obersteinbach, Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France.

8. **Maria Margaretha Lau** born 5 July 1714, Frünsburg, Lembach parish, Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France. "Born on July 5th in the afternoon at 2 o'clock, was born near Frünsburg in a self made hut." Baptized 6 July 1714, Niedersteinbach, Lembach parish, Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France. Sponsors: Hans Fraurhüger, farm administrator in Katzental, Maria, single daughter of Peter Haury, farm administrator in Obersteinbach. married **Nicolaus NN** (name is illegible due to water stain in the original KB), 21 September 1734, Lutheran Church, Mattstal, Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France.

9. **Susanna Catharina Lau** born circa 1715 married 1 March 1735, Lutheran Church, Lembach, Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France. Emigrated 1738 on the *Snow Two Sisters* (S-H, I: 209, 210, 211) died before 1795, present Marshall County, West Virginia. married **Johannes Joho**, son of Johann Michael and Susanna Joho born circa 1712, died circa 1795, present Marshall County, West Virginia.

Photography as a Research Tool

At our May meeting, Jan Barnhart spoke about using family pictures to enhance your genealogy.

Jan discussed various types of photos as he shared pictures from his collection:

Daguerreotype — the first photographic images; small metal photographs with reflective surfaces

Tin Types — an iron plate coated with light-sensitive chemicals

Ambrotypes — a glass image; usually backed with black velvet or paper

Albumen Prints — prints consisting of paper stock of various thicknesses coated with egg whites; these prints tended to fade

Cabinet Cards — a paper print mounted on cardboard stock; the most popular type of paper print; often included the name and address of the photographer which is helpful in dating the photograph

The turn of the 20th century saw the introduction of the box camera. Candid photography allowed for more casual family pictures, and made it easier to photograph the family.

What do you do with an box of old photographs? If they are labeled you are one of the lucky few. If they aren't, talk to older family members and look for clues. The type of photograph will place the image in a time period. What style of clothing is worn? A style of hat or the way a woman wears her hair can help assign a date to an unidentified image. Do you recognize anything in the background of the picture? ... furniture, buildings, landscape, or other props. Is the photographer identified?

The digital era encourages scanning old photographs in order to preserve them for future generations. And, also brings new challenges — What file format should be used? What naming convention should be used? Where should the images be stored? Digital photos can also be easily edited ... without scissors!

SCPGS Special Publication #56 lists York's oldest photographer, most prominent photographers, historic photo studios of the past, and a concise History of Photography. And, includes an index for the past and present York area photographers with business addresses and dates.

Pennsylvania Land Records Warrants, Surveys and Patents

The following information is from a handout from our April meeting presented Jonathan Stayer.

Definitions

Deputy surveyor — surveyor located in the county, working in the field, who usually conducted the actual survey

Draft/draught — drawing that shows property boundaries

Land Office — generic term for the State agency or offices that handled transfers of original title

Patentee — person who obtained the land patent

Perch — 16½ feet linear measurement (same as pole or rod); 1/160 of an acre in area measurement

Vacant — no land warrant for the property

Warrantee — person to whom the warrant was issued

The Five Basic Records

APPLICATION ... a request to purchase land from state government

- Generally arranged chronologically by date of warrant; for the years 1762-1776, applications grouped alphabetically within each year
- Digital copies of some applications now available online at: www.ancestry.com
- Commissioners of Property minutes (1687-1732) — published in *Pennsylvania Archives*, Second Series, Volume 19 & Third Series, Volume 1 — see: www.fold3.com
- Application books (1732-1767)
- Loose papers (1745-present)

WARRANT

- Functions of a warrant
 - 1) Allowed legal residence on land
 - 2) Authorized survey
 - 3) Initiated title of tract
- Warrant to survey
- Warrant to accept (survey was already done)
- Warrants are arranged by county, then by warrantee's surname, then by warrant number — indexed in Warrant Registers
- Digital copies of some warrants available at: www.ancestry.com (indexed by county, year, alphabetical by surname ... not in original order)

SURVEY ... a drawing/draft of property boundaries

- Original papers vs. copied survey books (available online at: www.pastatearchives.com)
- Arranged by volume and page number; volume designation usually will be combination of a letter and a numeral (e.g. D-19)
- Indexed in Warrant Registers

RETURN OF SURVEY ... an Internal Land Office document referring to warrant and describing boundaries of tract

- Arranged by date of “return”, indexed in Warrant Registers
- Starting with 1870, check also Application for Patents

PATENT ... the official “deed” from state government to private owner

- Arranged by volume and page number (generally chronological); volume designation will always be a combination of a letter and a numeral (e.g. P-5)
- Indexed in Warrant Registers, Patent Indexes, Tract Name Indexes

Where will I find the State land records of Pennsylvania?

Record Group 17, Records of the Land office, at:

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

Most Land Records are available online at: www.pastatearchives.com

BASIC INDEXES

Warrant Registers (1733–present) ... arranged by county, then alphabetically by the first letter of the warrantee's surname, then chronologically by warrant date

Patent Indexes (1683 – present) ... arranged by time period, then alphabetically by the first letter of the patentee's surname, then roughly chronologically by patent date

Tract Name Indexes (1684 – 1809) ... arranged by time period, then alphabetically by tract name

PRE-1733 PERIOD

Original Purchases — bought directly from William Penn

Old Rights — Philadelphia, Chester and Bucks Counties

First Landowners of Pennsylvania: Colonial and State Warrant Registers in the PA Archives, Harrisburg, 1682-1940 [CD-ROM] (Alexandria, VA: www.AncestorTracks.com, 2005)

Proprietary Rights — Penn “family land”; tracts of land set aside for the Penn Family (e.g. Springetts Manor)

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

East Side Applications (1765-69) — east of Susquehanna River

Pennsylvania Land Applications, Volume 1: East Side Applications, 1765-1769 by Kenneth D. McCrea (Philadelphia, PA: Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania, 2002)

West Side Applications (1766-69) — west of Susquehanna River

New Purchase (1769) — southwest corner to northeast corner of state

Pennsylvania Land Applications, Volume 2: New Purchase Applications, 1769-1773 by Kenneth D. McCrea (Philadelphia, PA: Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania, 2003)

See also Dr. Kenneth McCrea's website for the above special land programs ... www.ancestorsland.com

Last Purchase (1785+) — northwestern Pennsylvania

- Last Purchase warrants
- Preemption applications (1785)
- Northumberland lottery (1785)
- Proof of settlement certificates (1792+)

AREAS CLAIMED BY OTHER STATES

Maryland — no records

Virginia claimants — southwestern Pennsylvania (settled circa 1779; Pennsylvania agreed to accept Virginia surveys)

Early Landowners of Pennsylvania: Land Tracts Transferred from Virginia to Pennsylvania Jurisdiction, 1779-1780 by Sharon Cook MacInnes (Apollo, PA: Closson Press, 2004)

Connecticut settlers — northeastern Pennsylvania (17 certified Luzerne Townships; Pennsylvania recognized Connecticut warrants and patents)

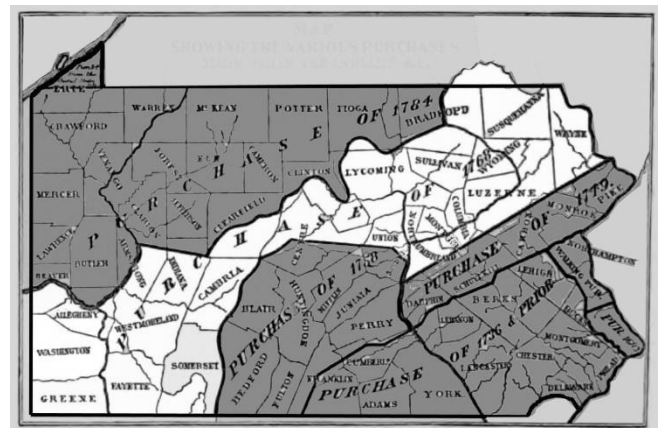
Connecticut's Pennsylvania "Colony": Susquehanna Company Proprietors, Settlers and Claimants, 3 volumes, by Dennis Bingham Munger (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2007)

MILITARY TRACTS

for Revolutionary War service — northwestern Pennsylvania

Donation Lands — direct grants to Pennsylvania Line veterans (only land given directly to veterans)

Depreciation Lands — lands auctioned for redemption of Depreciation Certificates; mostly speculators

**LAND OFFICE MAP COLLECTION**

Official warrant maps and some connected drafts available online at: www.pastatearchives.com

Note: there are no township maps for York and Adams Counties (except Warrington Township)

See also Neal Hively's website for York and Adams County warrant maps ... www.paland.com

To learn more about land records, consult:

Pennsylvania Land Records by Donna B. Munger (Wilmington, DE: Scholarly Resources, 1991) — partially available online at Google Books

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DATED MATERIAL—DO NOT DELAY

Recent Donation to the York County History Center Library & Archives

Rev. Dr. Neal Otto Hively, recently retired Lutheran pastor who served numerous churches in south central Pennsylvania, donated his life's work to the York County History Center. This donation included maps and accompanying books featuring his research on the original York County land records. The History Center also received his copyright for all of his PA Original Land Record Series books for York County.

Dr. Hively first “discovered” early York County land records while he was pastor at Bethlehem Steltz Church in southern York County. It began as a “strange twist of fate” that was “all Charlie’s fault” as it was noted in the SCPGS newsletter *Our Name’s the Game* in June of 2003. In 1986 he was pursuing his doctorate and one of his independent research advisors, the late Dr. Charles Glatfelter, strongly urged him to look into the founding family angle of these early land records. After many hours and miles of travel to the York County History Center, the Pennsylvania State Archives, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and the Hall of Records in Annapolis, Maryland, he created 16 books and 14 maps for York County. Dr. Hively researched 11,400 colonial surnames, and 4,545 tracts of land while creating the maps.

In 2003 the South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society presented the Henry J. Young award to Dr. Hively for his tremendous work pertaining to the original land warrantees for properties in York County.

Limited quantities of these books are available at the York County History Center Book Store. Call 717-848-1787

