



**South Central
Pennsylvania**
Genealogical Society

Our Name's The Game

www.scpgs.org

Newsletter Vol. 44 No. 6 May/June 2018

UPCOMING MEETINGS

There will be no SCPGS meeting in July. The first meeting of the 2018-2019 society year is planned for Sunday, August 26th. This meeting will be announced in the July/August issue of this newsletter.

From the President

Jonathan Stayer

Friends, this will be my last column as your society's president. The by-laws require that I serve no more than two terms, so this summer I will be transitioning to Vice President and Richard Konkel will replace me as the top executive. I would like to thank the membership and the board for the trust that you placed in me and for giving me four enjoyable years of service. Your volunteer board has been fantastic, and they made my job easy! After more than three decades of receiving encouragement, support and family history information from members and friends of the Society, I had an opportunity to give a little back to the Society. Thank you!

As Vice President, I will have the responsibility of arranging programs for our monthly meetings. I already have confirmed some presentations for the coming program year. In August, we will learn about the latest updates to FamilySearch.org. Genealogist James Landis of Lancaster County will share his informative and valuable talk about tax records at our November meeting.

The first two meetings of 2019 will occur away from our usual home at the York County History Center with visits to the Putz at the First Moravian Church in York and to the Goodridge House, an Underground Railroad site. In March, Aaron McWilliams from the Pennsylvania State Archives will discuss the Blunston Licenses, which document some of the earliest settlers west of the Susquehanna River. I am busy working on other interesting programs that will expand our knowledge and help us to climb our family trees. Feel free to send me any program ideas that you might have.

Don't forget to sign up for our genealogy conference, Researching Pennsylvania Germans, to be held on Saturday, September 22, 2018. We have an outstanding group of speakers who will inform us about valuable research resources. Keynote speaker and former York County History Center librarian June Lloyd will offer an insightful look into folk artist Lewis Miller's depictions of Pennsylvania Germans in York County. You will NOT want to miss this conference!

Have an enjoyable and profitable summer!

REMINDER to Renew Your Membership

Our membership year ends on June 30, if you haven't already ... please pay your dues soon (the renewal form was in the March/April newsletter). If we do not receive your annual dues by September 1, you will no longer receive the newsletter or the Special Publications, or enjoy the other benefits of membership.

12 Ways To Become a Better Genealogist

Olive Tree Genealogy; 9 May 2018

We all want to be good at our jobs, right? Whether it's our paid career, or raising children, washing dishes, mowing the lawn, or yes — researching our ancestors. We should want to put forth the best effort possible, and strive constantly to improve. Here are ways we can all use to become a better genealogist.

- 1) Copy all documents carefully, word for word, exactly as written. Do not correct spelling or make guesses. Accuracy is one of the most important characteristics of a good genealogy researcher.
- 2) Analyze new material carefully — think about what the document tells you. What clues are found in the document? Where should you look next?
- 3) Be methodical. Don't jump around. Focus on one ancestor at a time. Note everything you find.
- 4) Don't make assumptions. For example not everyone knew when they were born or how old they were in any given year, so those census records might not agree but don't assume you've got the wrong ancestor. It's okay to theorize but note that you are working on a theory, not a fact backed up with sources.
- 5) Gather all documents and records on one ancestor, and study them carefully for clues. Note your sources carefully.
- 6) Don't grab online trees and add to your own without verifying every single "fact". Use online trees for clues, but remember you do not know how good or how bad a genealogist the person who did them.
- 7) Put together a chronological timeline for each ancestor. This will help you see what you are missing and what else you need.
- 8) Review old research. You will be amazed at what you may have missed the first time around.
- 9) Write a report on what you have found for an ancestor. This will help you place your ancestor in history and add detail to the bare facts.
- 10) Remember that your ancestors were people just like you. They loved, they hated, they cried, they laughed, they had good days, they had bad days. Think about this when you are trying to figure out how your great-great grandfather met and married your great-great grandmother. Apply your own life experiences to each ancestor you find.
- 11) Research the area where your ancestor lived and find out what records were made during his/her lifetime, what has survived, and where they are held.
- 12) Cite your sources! If you aren't up to citing them in the current approved scholarly way, at the very least write them down in a way that will allow others to find what you used. Yes, some of us still like to verify for ourselves.

Thinking of the Pitfalls

Rootdig.com; 1 June 2018

When determining a way to solve your genealogical problem, ask yourself when that problem-solving process might not work. That does not mean that the process should not be used, but using a process without thinking about the drawbacks can create additional problems.

If using personal or property taxes to find potential relatives of your ancestor, remember that those without property may not appear on the tax rolls.

If using land deeds, remember that those who choose not to own their own home or do not need land for their chosen occupation may not appear in those records.

If relying on wills to "locate potential parents," remember that those without property rarely leave wills and sometimes those with property find other ways to handle their estate.

Every record has potential drawbacks and every approach has limitations. Being aware of the "negative" aspects of a record type or an approach allows the researcher to utilize that approach more effectively and better troubleshoot when that record or approach does not work.

A positive approach to your research is to think negative.

Navigating Pennsylvania's Revolutionary War Records

At our April meeting, Aaron McWilliams talked about the Revolutionary War records available at the Pennsylvania State Archives.

The Militia System (background)

The first-ever Militia Law in Pennsylvania that instituted mandatory enrollment was passed in March 1777, and all white males between the ages of 18 and 53 were automatically enrolled in the militia. A County Lieutenant and a Sub-Lieutenant were put in charge of all military activity within their county. The draft was instituted upon a class roll; that is, each county was to establish eight Battalion districts; these districts could encompass a handful of townships within the county, especially if there were several smaller townships with lower populations. A Battalion consisted of eight Companies of 80 to 100 men. Everyone who met the draft criteria was given a class number between one and eight. Depending on the need, one or more classes could be called up at any given time to serve. The County Lieutenants kept full rosters of men on what are known as Permanent Billet Rolls. These rosters are identified primarily by the commanding officer's name. Most Battalion muster rolls in the Pennsylvania Archives dating to after 1777 are precisely these Permanent Billets.

When a class was called up, all members of that class throughout the county were called up to serve. For example, if the 1st Class was called, whether you fell under the 1st Battalion or the 8th Battalion, you were required to turn out. New rolls were taken by officers; these are known as Active Duty rolls. Many of these Active Duty rolls for 1777 did not survive.

By the ordinance of the Militia Law, the Class number became the Active Duty Battalion number. Additionally, when a class was called up, the men were assigned a different company number on the Active Duty rolls — the company number they were given corresponded to the battalion they were from on the Permanent Billet — than the company numbers on the inactive duty Permanent Billets. Anyone called up had to serve not more than two months at a time; anyone who deserted was subject to a hefty fine of two-months' pay.

Most of the service rendered by members of the Pennsylvania Militia fell into one of three categories. They were either used to supplement the operations of the Continental Line, serve duty on the frontier, or provide guards for supply depots.

The Records

Class Rolls ... a roster of men eligible to serve. "M" indicates mustered out or "met obligation". They either served, provided a substitute or paid a fine.

Muster Rolls ... an "active duty" roster of men. Most of the muster rolls that have survived were made up just before the men were discharged from duty. These rolls name the substitute if one was named, however, not many exist.

Fine and Assessment Lists

Non Performance ... men who did not appear for active service. Large fines (aka "substitute fines"; generally a day's labor.

Non Attendance ... men who did not appear for training. Small fines; most common.

Appeal Records

Under the provisions of the Militia Act, each individual summoned had the right to file an appeal asking that their service be delayed and some successfully avoided service by repeatedly filing appeals. These records provide the reason why someone would not serve. Some were sick. Most argued that crop season (helping with the harvest) was why they would not turn out.

Militia Loan Certificates

These certificates were issued as IOUs for service or goods. They are indexed online. The actual certificates generally do not provide any more information than what is found in the card file. They were usually issued in batches to a "company" (so search for the officer's name) and can prove actual active duty service. There are additional cards that are not available online such as payroll. And, distribution vouchers that are a hodgepodge of slips of paper ... however, they may contain signatures.

The presentation concluded with how to "connect the dots" and reconstruct a Revolutionary War service record.

- 1) Militia Records
- 2) Supreme Executive Council Minutes and Correspondence
- 3) Miscellaneous Militia Records ... such as County Lieutenant accounts, receipts, ledgers and warrants
- 4) Secondary Sources

Historic Prospect Hill Cemetery

On a dreary and rainy Sunday afternoon in early May we toured the historic Prospect Hill Cemetery in a covered tram. Our tour guide Jack Sommer described the cemetery as “a walk through the history of York.” It is our area’s largest and most historic cemetery, composed of 175 acres in North York and Manchester Townships.

The town of York’s Reformed Church chartered the creation of Prospect Hill Cemetery in 1849. The cemetery’s founders chose to create a rural cemetery, outside of the city, designed with curving pathways and naturally shaped burial sections. Trees and other plants added a scenic and tranquil characteristic. It is a place of beauty and remembrance, and home to some of the finest cemetery sculptures in the nation.

The first burial took place in 1851. Numerous reinterments from older local cemeteries followed the opening of Prospect Hill Cemetery, including that of the remains of Philip Livingston, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, who died while attending the Continental Congress, in York in 1778.

Many of York’s well-known early industrialists, politicians, and professional people are buried in Prospect Hill Cemetery.

- * York’s First Mayor, Daniel K. Noell
- * Balthasar Spangler who laid off the first lots in what became the city of York
- * Abteil Edgar Wolfgang ... co-owner of D. E. Wolfgang, a York candy manufacturer is memorialized with a granite ball said to resemble a chocolate ball the first candy produced (his brother Dephi is also buried here)
- * Dr. George E. Holtzapple ... the first doctor to use oxygen to treat pneumonia patients
- * D. F. Stauffer ... of biscuit fame
- * Henry Schaad ... a police officer killed during the 1968 race riots
- * Clarence Green ... founder of Green’s Dairy
- * Simon Walter Stauffer ... US Congressman representing Pennsylvania’s 19th district
- * Theodore R. Helb ... owner of Helb’s Brewery at the corner of King and Queen Streets
- * Peter Wiest and his sons Edward , George and Harry... one of the leading dry goods merchants in York; Wiest Department Store
- * and many more

Prospect Hill Cemetery is also the final resting place for patriots from every war in which our country has participated.

Soldiers’ Circle is one of the early sections of the cemetery. Most of those who are buried in this part of the cemetery died while being hospitalized in the Civil War Hospital established in York in 1862. This circular lot is marked by a grand monument honoring the soldiers who died in the York area. The statue stands on a granite base surrounded by four artillery cannons. The names of the known dead are inscribed in two circular curbs that surround the monument; one ring for Pennsylvania soldiers and the other for all others. More than a thousand Civil War veterans are buried throughout other sections of the cemetery. Most notable is William Buell Franklin, a Union General who served as the corps commander of the Army of the Potomac.

Mary “Mammy” Ruggles was a civilian who almost daily offered baked goods and motherly comfort to the sick and wounded men in the army hospital in York during the Civil War on what is now Penn Park. During the Confederate invasion of York, she hid the hospital’s American flag under her petticoats and safely made it home where the invaders never found it. The Daughters of Union Veterans in York is named in her honor.

There are also three Confederate Soldiers buried here. They were probably originally buried near Penn Park.

A monument was erected in the early 20th century in honor of the Laurel Fire Company. According to some historians, the Laurel Fire Company was the first established fire department in York county.

Section 5 (Star of David) of the Prospect Hill cemetery is the Reformed Jewish cemetery.

Prospect Hill is home to the region’s first community mausoleum; built by the Pennsylvania Mausoleum Company. The first entombment occurred in 1915. In addition, there are 26 private mausoleums.

This cemetery also features a highly visible flag display along North George Street honoring those who lost their lives in the war on terrorism. And on the opposite side of the cemetery are the Court of Valor, a 13 foot tall granite memorial to those who were awarded medals of valor, and the Safekeeper’s Shrine, a memorial to honor the selfless service and sacrifice of York County First Responders.

The story of Prospect Hill is the story of York. With more than sixty acres still to be developed, the future for this important community treasure promises to be as important as its distinguished past.

2018 Conference Schedule

8:30 — 9:00 Registration ... coffee, tea, juice and doughnuts will be available

9:00 – 9:50 Key Note Address by June Burk Lloyd
“The Pennsylvania German World of Lewis Miller”

10:00 — 11:00 Session 1

PA GERMAN: Pennsylvania German Church Records

An in-depth lecture talking about one of the richest ethnic record groups – the baptisms, marriages, burials, and confirmations recorded by the pastors of the Germans who came to America in Colonial times.

The presenter is German Life's Family Research / Familie Forschung columnist James M. Beidler. Mr. Beidler is the author of two successful commercially published German genealogy books (*The Family Tree German Genealogy Guide* and *Trace Your German Roots Online*). His newest book is *The Family Tree Historical Newspapers Guide*. Beidler writes “Roots & Branches,” a weekly newspaper column and blog (at www.roots-branches.com). He is also editor of *Der Kurier*, the quarterly journal of the Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society.

RESEARCH: The Ins and Outs of Researching Your Family Tree

This session is a basic introduction to finding and gathering genealogical information by using websites, available sources and facilities, and forms.

The presenter, Rebecca Anstine is a graduate of the University of Maryland with a master's of Library Science. Becky is an SCPGS board member and a volunteer at the York County History Center. She has published articles in our newsletter and in the York County History Center journal, and she has given presentations at our meetings, at the York County History Center, and at Penn State York's OLLI program.

11:15 — 12:15 Session 2

PA GERMAN: Colonial Ships' Lists and Naturalization Records

For the colonial and Revolutionary periods, the Pennsylvania State Archives holds lists of Germanic immigrants arriving in the port of Philadelphia, records of naturalizations authorized by the General Assembly and the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, and records of oaths taken by those swearing loyalty to the new Revolutionary government. This session will describe the available sources and discuss their accessibility to researchers in various formats.

The presenter, Jonathan Stayer is supervisor of the Reference Section at the Pennsylvania State Archives in Harrisburg, where he has been employed as a reference archivist since 1985. He is the president of the South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society, and he serves on the board of the Friends of Camp Security. He has been engaged in personal genealogical research for almost forty years, tracing most of his ancestral lines to eighteenth-century Germanic immigrants to Pennsylvania.

RESEARCH: Beginner's Guide to Ancestry.com

Learn how to effectively navigate and use Ancestry.com. This presentation explores the major record groupings in Ancestry; using database descriptions; finding the records you need; search strategies (including “wild cards”), hidden gems, and other tricks and techniques. Ancestry hosts digital images of more than 1000 National Archives microfilms series (much more than census!); learn how to find and use these resources. Discussion also includes the classic census, immigration, and military record groups, as well as tactics for dealing with index errors and other common problems.

The presenter, Gerald “Jerry” Smith is a Certified Genealogist who specializes in Pennsylvania research. He serves as on the faculty of the Institute for Historic and Genealogical Research, Salt Lake Institute for Genealogy, and has presented at national and local venues including the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and the David Library of the American Revolution. He researches regularly at the National Archives, the Pennsylvania State Archives, county societies and courthouses, and various denominational archives. He is the author of a number of books and journal articles.

12:15 — 1:30 Pennsylvania Dutch Buffet Lunch ... and time to browse the vendor and lineage society tables

1:30 — 2:30 Session 3

PA GERMAN: Crossing the Atlantic: Tracing Your Pennsylvania German Ancestor Back to Germany

This session will examine various sources and strategies for finding the Heimat (hometown) of your German ancestors. The presentation will further explore how to proceed once you have located your ancestors' place of origin. Available church, civil and emigration records will be discussed, some of which are completely online through LDS or European sources, while others are only available in German church or state archives or on site in the town or village.

The presenter, Richard K. Konkel, Esquire is a York native and Attorney at the CGA Law Firm in York. He is a graduate of Dickinson College where he studied history and German, and Widener University School of Law. Richard has also been a cellist in the York Symphony Orchestra for over 25 years. He has been engaged in genealogical research for over 35 years. With an ancestry that is largely German, his paternal grandparents and father having emigrated from Germany in 1956, and his mother being predominately of Pennsylvania German ancestry, Richard has from the beginning of his research had to do extensive research using German records, and has developed some expertise in this area.

RESEARCH: Resources of the York County History center Library

This session will highlight the wealth of historical resources found within the History Center when researching Pennsylvania German ancestors. Examples include not only church records, tombstone abstractions, and county histories, but also lesser-known resources such as business records, city directories, church histories and diaries. Periodicals such as *Pennsylvania Folklife* will also be reviewed. The library also has published material from adjacent counties in Pennsylvania and northern Maryland that complement the mission of preserving York County history and trace the mobility of our ancestors.

The presenter, Lila Fourhman-Shaull is the Director of Library & Archives at the York County History Center. She is a long-time member and board member of the SCPGS.

2:45 — 3:45 Session 4

PA GERMAN: Pennsylvania German Research Collections

This presentation will describe research sources about Pennsylvania German culture, folklife and history that the author has encountered in doing research for the past twenty years. The presentation will focus on the most important collections, both archival and digital, including those of Franklin and Marshall College, Ursinus College, and Millersville University among others. There will be a brief discussion of collections of material culture, but most of the emphasis will be on archival records pertaining to culture, history and folklife. The content and significance of these collections will be explained.

The presenter, William W. Donner received his PhD in anthropology from the University of Pennsylvania. He is a professor of anthropology at Kutztown University. He has been involved with the Pennsylvania German Cultural Heritage Center, The Kutztown Folk Festival, and other Pennsylvania German organizations for over twenty years. He has published about Pennsylvania Germans in numerous journals including, *Pennsylvania History*, *Pennsylvania Magazine of Biography and History*, *Yearbook of German-American Studies and Sociological Inquiry*. He has recently published a book, *Serious Nonsense: Groundhog Lodges, Versammlinge, and Pennsylvania German Heritage* (Penn State Press).

RESEARCH: Evidence and Documentation for the Beginning Genealogist

Evaluating evidence and citing your sources can seem overwhelming... and often results in shortcuts that come back to haunt later. This session explores the essentials of the Genealogical Proof Standard, the method that professional genealogists use to evaluate evidence, analyze evidence, and reach conclusions in the face of imperfect or conflicting evidence. Yet having your evidence is of little benefit if you cannot recall where it came from or return to those records for further research. Practical tips for citations and records that will enhance your research and facilitate preserving your work. The presenter is Jerry Smith.

3:50 — 4:15 Roundtable Discussion with Speakers and Wrap-Up

We’ve received a few responses to our recent membership survey regarding publishing queries in our newsletter. Our policy is to publish all queries received from members ... there just haven’t been any for quite some time. With this article, I am encouraging you, our members, to submit a query ... you never know who might see it and respond with an answer or a clue. Queries can be submitted via email (scpgswebsite@wildblue.net) or via snail mail (SCPGS, PO Box 1824, York, PA 17405-1824). Following are the National Genealogical Society’s guidelines for writing a query.

Good queries are: Clear—Specific—Simple—Concise

How to Start: Each query should ask a specific question or questions about one particular individual. Clearly state your question right at the start. For example: “Seek bpl/d/m of Allen Smith...” Sometimes you might want to ask a question about a number of people; for example, a husband and wife. If this can be done simply, without causing confusion, it is acceptable. However, if there is no obvious connection between these individuals or if the query becomes too complicated, then submit a separate query for each individual.

Subject Lines: Subject lines in e-mail queries and on message boards should be short and to the point. Surnames, place names, and dates are all that is necessary. Do not include unnecessary text. More complete details can be provided in the body of the message.

Sentence Beginnings: Avoid beginning sentences with pronouns; this can cause confusion especially when a number of individuals have been mentioned and it is unclear which one you’re referencing. By using actual names to begin sentences, you can avoid ambiguities.

What Not to Include: Any information that is not directly related to your query should not be included. It is often tempting to include some of the interesting facts you have discovered about your subjects and to explain your relationship to them, but remember — your goal is to write a query that can be read quickly and easily, and to get a result. You can best achieve this by keeping it clear, specific, simple, and concise.

Researching Pennsylvania Germans

REGISTRATION FORM

— Registration Deadline is September 10th —

Cost (includes PA Dutch buffet lunch)
\$40 — YCHC & SCPGS members
\$50 — Non-members

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ___ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Please mail completed form and check payable to SCPGS to:

SCPGS
PO Box 1824
York, PA 17405-1824

for planning purposes only, please indicate your area of interest ...

_____ Pennsylvania Germans

_____ Genealogy Research

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

DATED MATERIAL—DO NOT DELAY

It's Time to Register for our 2018 Conference...

South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society and the York County History Center are sponsoring a genealogy conference, Researching Pennsylvania Germans, on Saturday, September 22, 2018.

The keynote speaker is June Lloyd, Librarian Emerita at the York County History Center. June pursued her degrees in History and American Studies because of her deep local roots and love of area history, which she shares through her York Sunday News column and Universal York blog. Her writings include books on York County area Fraktur, folk artist Lewis Miller and York County in the American Revolution. Her address *The Pennsylvania German World of Lewis Miller* takes you into the nineteenth-century world of our forebears. A Pennsylvania German himself, born in York only 24 years after his parents emigrated from the Rhineland, folk artist Lewis Miller delighted in recording the everyday life of his friends and neighbors. The great majority of the people around him were also Pennsylvania German, so Miller was very familiar with the way they lived, thought and talked. He knew their politics, religion and superstitions, their schools and music and their food and drink. His astute observations and illustrations bring that world alive.

There will be workshops on Pennsylvania German Research and General Genealogy. The full schedule is available on pages 5 and 6 of this newsletter and on our website (scpgs.org).

The cost, including a Pennsylvania Dutch buffet lunch, is \$40 for members of SCPGS and the York County History Center or \$50 for non-members.

The registration deadline is September 10th.



picture courtesy of the York County History Center