



OUR NAME'S THE GAME

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SOUTH CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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WWW.SCPGS.ORG

Please enjoy your May-June Newsletter!

Next Program Meeting

2:30 p.m., June 12, 2022, **Henry James Young Award Program**

It is very hard to believe that our last Henry James Young Award ceremony was held 4 years ago in 2018 when Robert H. Shaub and Lila Fourhman-Shaull were the last awardees, but it seems to be true. The intervention of the coronavirus meant a rare 3-year gap in this traditional event. Last year's acknowledgement was a review of the history of the remarkable Henry James Young and a listing and profiles of all the past honored recipients since the creation of the award in 1993. This year the show will go on; the Henry James Young Award program will be held in the meeting hall at the York County History Center, 250 East Market Street, York. A brief business meeting to elect officers for the upcoming years will begin at 2:30 PM and the program will immediately follow. This year we will honor Rebecca Anstine and the late Cynthia Hartman for their many years of contributions to local history and genealogy. A time for socializing and light refreshments will follow the presentation of the award. If you can't attend in person, please join us via the York County History Center's Facebook where the event will be live-streamed.

As is the custom, there will be no meeting in July. The first meeting of the society's "new" year is planned for Sunday, August 28<sup>th</sup>. The particulars of that meeting and the ones' thereafter will be announced in the July/August issue of our newsletter.

**A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER** – Margaret Burg

As you have seen in the previous newsletter, there has been a membership fee increase.

We sincerely regret that it became necessary to do so when the costs of paper and labor increased for printing the bi-monthly newsletters and the two special publications each fiscal year which our members receive as a benefit of membership. We want to be able to maintain and are working to improve upon services to members in the future.

We are offering a two-year membership special price which results in a bit of savings for you. We welcome suggestions and comments from our members. Thank you for your loyal support!

**WHAT'S NEW AT THE MARYLAND STATE ARCHIVES**

Death certificates are now being loaded to the website. Because it is a multi-step process, the archives suggests that until the user becomes accustomed to using the site, the directions should be printed out to help guide the user. The Death records are available for the counties and Baltimore City. Counties are arranged by years, then alphabetically. Certificates are arranged alphabetically – so one must scroll down till the certificate appears. The usual death information is included, although burial place information is not included. Check under the tab “What’s New Online” for other pages that have been added. Please know that administration account indexes are now available. <https://msa.maryland.gov>

**REVIEWS OF PRIOR MEETINGS, by Becky Anstine**

April 3, 2022, SCPGS Presentation by Tom Gibson

**THE CHALLENGES OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS IN YORK**

The April 6<sup>th</sup> meeting was called to order by Town Crier, “Tom Gibson” at the York Colonial Courthouse. The Continental Congress was presided over by the Honorable Judge, Richard Konkel. Attending the meeting were Abigail and John Adams and members of SCPGS. Telling why the Congress moved from Philadelphia to York; Tom then discussed the actions of the Congress in York. The Congress was not thrilled by the accommodations they found in York. John and Abigail read from their letters -Abigail would relay events that were occurring outside of York and John would describe his frustrations with the German hostility shown by the citizens of York. For the short time that the Congress was in York, several things occurred – the Articles of Confederation, a Thanksgiving Proclamation, and the Conway Cabal affair. The recording is available through the York History You Tube Channel under SCPGS tab.

May 1, 2022, SCPGS Presentation by Tyler Stump

**RESEARCHING INSTITUTIONALIZED FAMILY MEMBERS  
AT THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE ARCHIVES**

Tyler started with a brief history of institutions in Pennsylvania. At one time, there were over 50 mental and other facilities for institutionalized people in the state. In a 150 - year period, over 100, 000 people were in those facilities. Prior to 1850, there were no facilities run by the state. Individuals with mental or other problems were sent to local county Almshouses. The York County Prison Almshouse opened around 1830. Dorothea Dix visited the Almshouse in 1844 and stated that it was one of the better run facilities in the state – “the people were kept comfortable.” In 1850, the Harrisburg State Hospital was opened. State hospitals were for people with mental illnesses. State centers were for other disabilities.

The State Archives is the official repository for historical records created by the PA Department of Human Services. The records are available for genealogists, historians, and others interested in not only the institutions themselves but also the lives of the individuals who were in those facilities. There are some limitations, and these are more fully explained on the website. Researchers need to contact the Archives to confirm that they will have access to the records before visiting the Archives.

The PA State Archives has a complete listing of the records in the website's Online Catalog: [www.phmc.pa.gov/Archives/Research-Online](http://www.phmc.pa.gov/Archives/Research-Online). Records can include administrative reports, newsletters, correspondence, photographs, admission and discharge ledgers, master patient card indexes, case files and grave and burial records.

To determine if a family member was in an institution: census records, newspaper articles, obituaries, death certificates should be used to determine when and where the family member might have been. A patient could have resided in several institutions depending upon their needs and condition.

Tyler had several examples of letters found in files from family members of patients inquiring about the patient. Some of the institutions had their own burial grounds – and there might be maps showing where individuals were buried and when in some of those institutions.

State institutions are often overlooked as a resource when searching for family members – but a wealth of information can be found in the records and files at the PA State Archives. If a family member was institutionalized – this can add to the history of various family members.

This presentation is available on the York History Center YouTube site.

***The Influence of Language on Our Ancestors***  
***by Richard K. Konkel, Esquire, SCPGS President***

Most of the members of this genealogical society are native born Caucasian United States citizens whose first and probably only language during their lifetime has been American English. That being said, many of us have ancestors who not many generations back spoke a different language as their primary language, many even while living in the United States. Language is often linked with ancestry, race, religion, and nationality, but these assumed connections are not always what they seem to be. Language often is connected to ethnicity, but often it has come to be spoken by a population through conquest, colonialism, or emigration.

Wars have been started over claimed language/ethnicity issues. World War II being a case in point. In September 1938, Germany under Hitler met in Munich with the United Kingdom, France, and Italy at the Munich Conference and entered into an agreement for Germany to annex the so called Sudetenland area of Czechoslovakia because several million ethnic German speakers lived in that area on the borders of Germany and Austria. Hitler claimed that this would be his last territorial claim for additional land in Europe. British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain announced upon his return to London that the 1938 Munich Agreement with Hitler meant "Peace in our time." Many joked that instead of peace in our time, it was really a piece of Czechoslovakia, a piece of Poland, a piece of France, and a piece of Denmark, etc. They proved to be more correct, and in less than a year Germany and the Soviet Union invaded and divided Poland starting World War II. We are currently experiencing Vladimir Putin's Russia

fighting a war against Ukraine to “protect” Russian speakers who live there. This is taken right out of Hitler’s Fascist dictator playbook for claiming any territory where German speakers were to be found.

For many years now in the United States there has been widespread discussions and often concern or even distain expressed for the influx and increase of Spanish speakers in the country.

Most of these individuals come from Mexico, and Central and South America. These areas were formerly held for hundreds of years as part of Spain’s vast colonial empire. Many of the Spanish speakers entering the United States are of mostly indigenous ancestry with few or no ancestors from Spain. Indeed, some still speak an indigenous language as their first language rather than Spanish. While these populations may appear to not be assimilating into the English-speaking population, they actually are doing so more quickly than some groups in the past.

Pennsylvania was the most non-English of all the thirteen original English colonies. There were Swedes and Dutch living along the Delaware for more than four decades before William Penn acquired the colony. Penn encouraged the first sizable settlements of Welsh Quakers and also Germans in Germantown in the 1680s. This was followed by large numbers of Scots-Irish, Irish and some Scottish settlers. Germans continued to come into Pennsylvania in large numbers after 1700. The number of Germans entering the colony were so great that in 1727 the provincial authorities required all foreign-born males above 16 years of age arriving in Pennsylvania to swear an oath to the British Crown. This requirement created the passenger arrival lists for Philadelphia that are edited and published by Strassburger & Hinke as *Pennsylvania German Pioneers*. These records are a cornerstone of Pennsylvania German emigration and genealogical research.

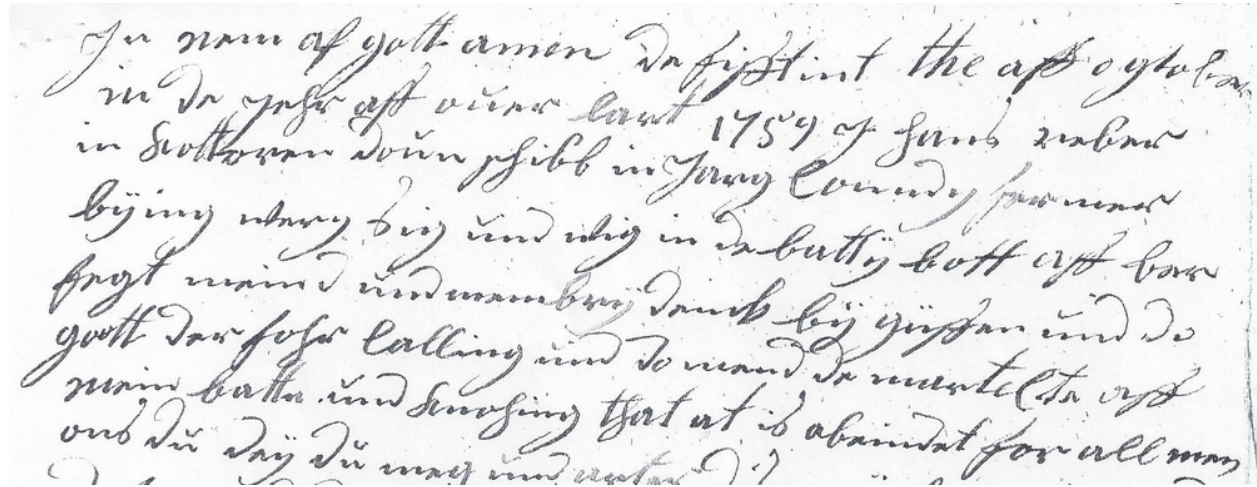
Benjamin Franklin did not consider the Germans to be purely white, but rather of a “swarthy complexion.” Franklin made many more shockingly racist statements about the Pennsylvania Germans which would fit right in with modern “great replacement theory” ideas espoused by the current right wing of American politics.

Many eastern Pennsylvania counties became majority German or had a sizable German minority by the mid-eighteenth century. This enabled the Pennsylvania Germans to live in their own ethnic communities and continue using the German language for many generations. This included conducting schools, worship services, and business transactions in the German language.

SCPGS Special Publication 40 entitled *Unrecorded Wills of York County, PA, 1749-1798* was published in October 1989. It includes abstracts of 151 probated but unrecorded wills from York County, Pennsylvania. Many of these wills were written in the German language, and because the early county clerks were English speakers, they were unable to read or transcribe the original documents into the will books. It was not until Jacob Barnitz, who could speak German, became Register of Wills that wills in the German language were recorded in the will books.

One unrecorded will in Special Publication 40 is that of John Reber or Codorus Township. This will was written October 15, 1759, and probated February 26, 1760. The original will appears to be written in German script, and there is a contemporary “translation” of the will done in 1760. Having not carefully looked at the will for years, I assumed that it was written in German. During the last year I examined the will a bit more closely and started to laugh out loud. It is not written in German at all, but rather written by a German in what they think is English! Below I have reproduced some of the opening lines of the

will and transcribed and “translated” the same. To understand the transcribed lines, it is best to read it out loud using German pronunciation of the words as much of it is rather phonetic.



Transcription:

*In nam of gott Amen de fiftint the off october in de Jahr off ouer lart 1759 I Hans Reber in Kattores daunschibb in Jarg County fermer bying wery sig und wig in de buttj bott off berfegt meind und membrj dank by güffen und de gott derfohr calling und to mend de muertelte off mein botte und knofing that it is abeindet for all men...*

Translation into Standard English:

In name of God Amen the fifteenth day of October in the year of our Lord 1759 I Hans Reber in Codorus Township [Kattores daunschibb] in York County [Jarg County] farmer being very sick and weak in the body but of perfect mind and memory thank be given unto God therefore calling unto mind the mortality of my body and knowing that is appointed for all men ...

A few observations of this “English”: in the first line “the”=day probably being pronounced as “tae.” There are a few actual German words, namely gott=God and Jahr=year. Hans Reber was born in Switzerland but had moved to and lived in a French Huguenot community in Germany called Ludweiler-Warndt in the Saarland prior to emigration in 1749. His wife Maria Magdalena or Marie Madeleine Desgranges was from a French speaking Huguenot family. It is a very good question as to what language this family would have spoken at home. More details of this family can be found in my article *Emigrants from Ludwieler-Warndt in the Grafschaft (County) of Nassau-Saarbrucken to York County, Pennsylvania in 1749*, published in this newsletter in 2006.

One final story about the persistence of the German language in York County was told to me by the late Henry James Young over thirty years ago while visiting him at the Sarah Todd Home in Carlisle. Dr. Young explained that around 1940 while researching in the York County office of the Register of Wills, he was astounded to observe a very distant relative of his, a descendant of Georg Philipp Ziegler who emigrated in 1727, requesting that the Register conduct the probate of a will in *Deitsch* [Pennsylvania German], and that the Register readily agreed and proceeded to do just that. He was amazed that someone whose family was here for over 200 years still felt more comfortable conducting their official business in German. That was told to me about 50 years after it had happened. Following two world

wars with Germany, the use of German among the general population in York County is practically nonexistent today.

From [Lancaster Medical Heritage Museum's](#) April 2022, "Lunch and Learn Series"

### They Died of What?

#### Exploring the Paperwork, You Leave Behind When You Die and How It's Used in Genealogy

"Clayton Tongate, a professional Genealogist of 25 years and Owner and Lead Researcher of CMS Research and Genealogy, gave a presentation specifically to help beginning genealogists learn more about using the clues that death records provide to enhance your family tree."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=afeBd7tPawg>

In 2018, while engaged in genealogical research on my grandfather, John W. Ritz, who had been a private in World War 1, I stumbled across an extraordinary organization which broadened my insights into my grandpa's war years in ways I could not have anticipated. (Erica Runkles)

### Honoring Their Forefathers' Memory:

#### Descendants and Friends of the 314<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, A.E.F.



Insignia of the  
314<sup>th</sup> Regiment

Four years ago, the 100-year commemoration of the end of World War 1 was observed in Europe and the United States. The enormous contributions and sacrifices necessary to bring the horrors of that war to a close on November 11, 1918, was in large part due to the presence and courageous actions of the 1.2 million American Expeditionary Forces who arrived late in the war to help British, French, Canadian and Australian armies; they played an essential role in achieving victory over German and Austro-Hungarian forces. For another group of people, the commemoration of their ancestral "Doughboys" has stayed an annual event. This year marks the 104<sup>th</sup> year since soldiers of the 314<sup>th</sup> infantry regiment of the

79<sup>th</sup> Division of the A.E.F., returning from France to the U. S., in 1919, aboard the Princess Matokia, decided to start an organization which would honor the 362 men in their regiment who lost their lives during the war and represent the entire 4,350 soldiers which comprised the 314<sup>th</sup>. "The Veterans of the 314<sup>th</sup> Infantry, A. E. F." originally held annual reunions, so "that their lives might be made fuller with the closer and finer friendships."

The tradition was picked up and continued by the soldiers' descendants and friends. It is the "Descendants and Friends of the 314<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, A.E.F." who have seamlessly carried on this annual tradition into the future, "dedicated to honoring and preserving the story of their fathers, grandfathers, and family members in the First World War." They also host a stellar and comprehensive website which displays historical information and visuals on the 314<sup>th</sup>. Memberships and newsletters are also offered.

On Sunday, at 2 p.m., May 29, 2022, in the Washington Memorial Chapel at Valley Forge, the "Descendants and Friends of the 314<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 79<sup>th</sup> Division, A.E.F." will hold their 104<sup>th</sup> Annual Memorial Service, for members and any other interested parties. The speaker for the event will be Dr. Ian Isherwood who is an Associate Professor of War and Memory Studies and Director of the First-Year Seminar.

### History of the 314th Infantry Regiment A.E.F.

from the website, [www.314th.org](http://www.314th.org)

*"Fought over a period of forty-seven days, from September 26 to November 11, 1918, the Meuse-Argonne sucked in 1.2 million American soldiers, leaving 26,277 of them dead and 95,786 wounded.*

*No single battle in American military history, before or since, even approaches the Meuse-Argonne in size and cost, and it was without question the country's most critical military contribution to the Allied cause in the First World War."*

"Organized as part of the 79th Division A.E.F., the men of the 314th were trained at Camp Meade, Maryland. Arriving at the camp in September 1917, the unit completed training and sailed to France aboard the USS Leviathan in July 1918. Upon arrival at Brest, France, they continued training until September when they took part in the Meuse Argonne Offensive. Capturing the town of Malancourt on September 26, 1918, they assisted the 313th Infantry the following day in the capture of the town of Montfaucon. It should be noted that Montfaucon was a heavily defended area and observation post of the German army.

The 79th Division was relieved on September 30th and transferred to the Troyon sector. Here they did a variety of tasks, including holding the front. Alternating duty with the 313th, 315th, and 316th Infantry in the trenches. In this period of so-called rest, they were harassed with mustard gas, shelling and enemy raids but did not yield the line.

At the end of October, the 79th Division was again relieved and moved in place to participate in the third phase of the Meuse Argonne Offensive. On November 1, 1918, the 314th drove forward and captured the towns of Crepion, Waville, and Moirey by November 9th. The following day the unit captured Buisson Chaumont, Hill 328. On November 11th the 314th advanced against Cote de Romagne and stopped firing at 11am., time of the armistice. At wars end that day, the 314th had made the greatest drive of the offensive into German lines, east of the Meuse River.

The regiment continued training, passed a review by General Pershing, and shipped home on May 15, 1919, aboard the Princess Matokia. Arriving at Hoboken, New Jersey on May 26, they were discharged at Camp Dix, New Jersey end of May 1919."

#### **For further reading, consider:**

Lengel, Edward G. *To Conquer Hell: The Meuse-Argonne, 1918*, New York: Henry Holt, 2008.

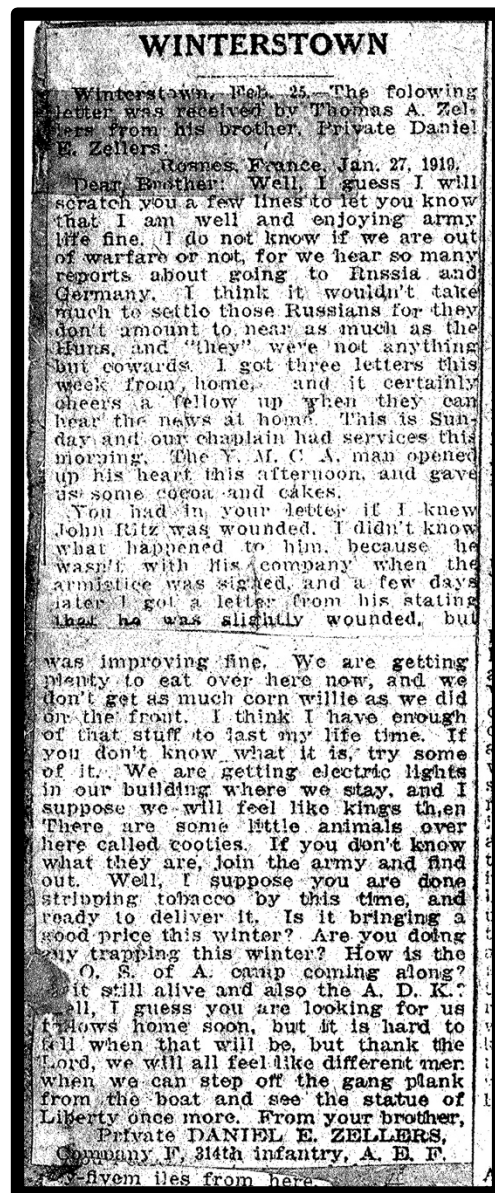
Fax, Gene. *With Their Bare Hands, General Pershing, the 79<sup>th</sup> Division, and the Battle for Montfaucon*, Oxford: Osprey Publishing, 2018.

Walker, William. *Betrayal at Little Gibraltar, a German Fortress, a Treacherous American General, and the Battle to End World War 1*, New York: Scribner, 2016.

SCPGS publication # 75 November 2013, *An Index for The Scrapbook of World War I Letters from Soldiers and Others*, and *CD1, World War 1 Scrapbook* compiled by Mildred Glass.

Listing of some 314<sup>th</sup> soldiers from Lancaster (L) and York (Y) counties  
Are any of these men in your family background?

Samuel K. Aulhouse, Co. K (L)  
Ralph S. Berger, Co. I (L)  
John E. Baugh, Co. D (Y)  
Charles L. Caler, Co. K (Y) Wounded  
James E. Dillon, Co. I (Y) Wounded  
David Eckman, Co. D (L)  
Harry K. Eckman, Co. L (L)  
Joseph W. Gibbs, Co. G (Y)  
Charles H. Hoffman, Co. K (Y)  
George C. Hutchins, Co. K (Y)  
Howard E. Kissinger, Co. H (L)  
Isaac J. Martin, SP (L)  
Harry D. Miller, Co. G (Y)  
Edward Mylin, Co. E (L)  
Joseph A. Murphy Co. E (Y) Gassed  
Raymond Ness, Co. G (Y)  
James A. Norris, Co. G (Y)  
Howard B. Olewiler Co. H, (Y) Died of Pneumonia  
John W. Ritz, Co. H (Y) Wounded  
John E. Schroll, Co. H (Y)  
Tilman S. Schmuck, Co. G (Y)  
George H. Sechrist, Co. H (Y) Died of Pneumonia  
John H. Seitz, Co. G (Y)  
Sterling W. Seitz Co. A (Y) KIA  
Sterling Smeltzer, Co. K (Y) Died from Wounds  
Clayton N. Smith, MG (Y)  
Floyd L. Smith, Co. M (Y) Wounded  
James P. Smith, HQ (Y)  
Isaac J. Stabley, Co. I (Y) Wounded  
Ellsworth Sweitzer, Co. K (Y)  
Franklin W. Taylor, HQ (Y)  
Roland B. Thompson, Co. E (Y) Wounded  
Charles Owen Trout, MG (Y)  
Walter A. Troutman, MG (L)  
Chester E. Waltmyer, Co. B (Y) Wounded  
Charles A. Warner, HQ (Y)  
Conrad E. Warner, Co. E (Y)  
John Warner, HQ (Y)  
Daniel Zellers, Co. F (Y)



Letter from Private Daniel Zeller,  
Co. F, 314<sup>th</sup> Regiment, to his  
brother Tom. His letter mentions  
friend, Pvt. John W Ritz, Co. H.  
From the scrapbook of Mildred  
Glass.





## South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & RENEWAL FORM (effective January 22, 2022)

NEW MEMBERSHIP - Please complete the form below. You will receive a New Member packet in two to three weeks. We operate on a fiscal year from July 1 to June 30 of the following year. If you are applying for membership during January, February, or March your membership will not expire until June 30th of the following year.

How I learned about SCPGS \_\_\_\_\_

RENEWAL - Renewals for the July to June fiscal year are due by July 1. Any member who does not pay their dues by September 1<sup>st</sup> will automatically be dropped from the mailing list. Please note that there will be an additional fee assessed to cover the postage for back copies of our newsletter and any special publications. Please return this form with your renewal and note any address corrections.

Make check payable to SCPGS (in U.S. funds only) and mail to:  
South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society, PO Box 1824, York, PA 17405-1824

Or pay via PayPal to: SCPAGenSociety@gmail.com

PLEASE WRITE LEGIBLY

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Please send my newsletter by USPS mail \_\_\_\_\_ Please send my newsletter by E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

REGULAR MEMBERSHIP: 1 year \$35; 2 years \$60

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP: 1 year \$40; 2 years \$70 (two adults sharing a household & dependent children)

Second Adult and Children's names \_\_\_\_\_

LIFE MEMBERSHIP: \$500 (individual *only*)

FAMILY LIFE MEMBERSHIP \$750 (two adults sharing a household *only*)

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DATED MATERIAL – DO NOT DELAY