



**OUR NAME'S THE GAME
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SOUTH CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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Upcoming Programming

2:30 p.m., June 11, 2023: **Unearthing Camp Security**

Presented by John Crawmer

Camp Security is America's last surviving Revolutionary War prison camp. The exact location of the encampment's stockade was a mystery until 2022 when archaeological investigation located a trench containing holes for the enclosure's posts. The presentation will cover the importance of Camp Security, the techniques used by archaeologists to find the site, and recent research. (This program will be held at the York County History Center and will be virtually available via the History Center's Facebook page.)

John Crawmer is an archaeologist who has conducted research in Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Maryland, and Israel. He is the Lead Archaeologist of the Camp Security Archaeology Project in York, PA.

From the President...

You want a copy of your own original Pennsylvania birth certificate? Good luck!

For family historians, vital records such as birth and death certificates provide the foundation on which we document our ancestors and construct our lineages. Good genealogists seek to view the originals and to obtain copies of them. For a number of years, I have been attempting to get a copy of my own original birth certificate—known as a “report of live birth”—from the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) without success.

When I was born in the 1960s, the DOH sent my parents a “Notification of Birth Registration.” Although this document never was considered to be an actual birth certificate, I was able to secure my Pennsylvania driver's license using it as verification of my birth.

In 2010, when I needed an “original” birth certificate for a legal matter, I ordered one from the DOH. I received a computer-generated “Certification of Birth” showing only my full name, county of birth, sex, date of birth, birth certificate file number, and the date of original filing. A small statement at the

bottom of this document claims that it is a “true copy of the record which is on file in the Pennsylvania Department of Health.” This, of course, is not a copy, but rather, an abstract of the original record.

Hoping to travel outside the United States in 2019, I began the process to secure a passport, for which a birth certificate showing my parents’ names was required. I again applied to the DOH for a copy of my birth certificate. This time, I asked that a copy of the “original record” be provided to me. Despite this specific request, I was not sent a copy but another computer-generated “Certification of Birth” also claiming to be a “true copy of the record. . .” This document supplied the same data as the one that I received in 2010 except now my parents’ full names appeared, including my mother’s maiden name. I was puzzled as to how a “true copy” could include my parents’ names at one time, but not another.

Being familiar with the Pennsylvania birth certificates available on Ancestry.com, I knew that my original birth record must contain more information. Earlier this year, I decided to make another attempt to obtain a copy of the original. I tried to telephone the DOH’s Division of Vital Records at the number provided on its website, but I could never get through to that office. During one attempt, I was on hold for over 5 minutes before I heard a recording that informed me that my wait time would be about an hour. I didn’t have the time or the patience to wait that long.

I then sent a query through the DOH’s website and eventually received a response telling me that I could not get a copy of my own original birth certificate because it is restricted by the “**Vital Statistics Law of 1953**” and that it “is not classified as a public document until 105 years after the individual’s birth.” Section 801, “Records” Disclosure in General,” of this 1953 legislation states only that:

vital statistics records . . . shall not be open to public inspection except as authorized by the provisions of this act and the regulations of the Advisory Health Board. Neither the department [DOH] nor local registrars shall issue copies of or disclose any vital statistics record or part thereof . . . except in compliance with the provisions of this act and the regulations of the Advisory Health Board.

Although the Vital Statistics Law notes a few exceptions to this provision, nothing elsewhere in the act prevents a citizen from obtaining a copy of their own birth certificate. Nevertheless, according to the DOH interpretation of this law and related amendments, I must live to be 106 years old before I may request a copy of my original birth record!

In my e-mail communications with the DOH, I pointed out the absurdity of this situation, and I received a surprising response. I was informed that that department issues three types of birth certificates: 1) “**Standard** – acceptable for domestic purposes,” 2) “**Expanded** – acceptable for international purposes and genealogy,” and 3) “**Comprehensive** – includes all information available by law.” The DOH further defined the latter two certificates as follows:

*Additional information contained on an **expanded** issuance could include (if recorded): city/township/borough of birth, parent ages at the time of the birth and parent places of birth.*

*Additional information contained on a **comprehensive** issuance could include (if recorded): hospital name, parent addresses and occupations at the time of the birth, attendant’s name (usually a medical professional present at time of birth) and the state registrar’s name at the time of the birth.*

I also was told that standard and expanded certificates could be ordered by mail, in-person, and online. **A comprehensive certificate is “only available by mail using a standard Application for Birth Certificate form and selecting ‘Other’ in the ‘Intended Use’ section of the application. You would then write in ‘comprehensive’.”** Of course, genealogists would prefer to have the “comprehensive certificate.”

When I queried the DOH as to why this valuable information did not appear on its website, it replied:

To the best of my knowledge, that information is not available on our website. No[t] every circumstance can be addressed without interaction. Types of issuances are in response to the question in our application processes “Intended Use” or “Reason” the Certification of Birth is being ordered.

Huh? If the DOH website doesn't even mention a comprehensive birth certificate, how is a person supposed to know to ask for one?

Armed with this new knowledge, I submitted an order for yet another copy of my birth certificate. Again I received a computer-generated “true copy of the record” entitled “Certification of Birth” as before, but this document provides much more data: my full name, date of birth, time of birth, sex, county and municipality of birth, name of the hospital, mother's full maiden name, father's full name, ages of both of my parents, mother's county of birth, father's city of birth, parents' place of residence at the time of my birth, parents' occupations, registrar's name, state file number, and date of filing of the original record. Although this form has a space for “Attendant,” it reads “NOT LEGIBLE.” Well maybe it's not legible to the employees of the DOH, but I bet that I could determine the name if I saw the original record.

So now I have three documents all claiming to be “true” copies of my original birth certificate, each of which is somewhat different. Which one is the “true copy”? The DOH purports that all of them are. In my last communication with that department, I was directed to get a court order if I wish to obtain an actual copy of the original. I am in the process of petitioning Orphans Court for such an order. Also, I have contacted my state representative, who is sponsoring legislation to allow Pennsylvania citizens to get copies of their own original birth records. Until that passes, **make certain to order a “comprehensive certificate” any time you request a Pennsylvania birth certificate!**

Have fun and enjoy your summer!

Jonathan R. Stayer,
President

April 2, 2023: **Jonathan R. Stayer's “Researching Pennsylvania's Civil War Draft Records”**
Reviewed by Becky Anstine

Jonathan's presentation was based on his experiences researching the records while looking for information on his family. The Stayers were conscientious objectors during the Civil War and Jonathan was interested in finding out more about the draft, the records were that were kept, and where this information could be found. He found that the records can be complex, confusing, and contradictory.

Three books were recommended for general background and explanation of the draft system: *We Need Men: The Union Draft in the Civil War* by James W Geary; *One Million Men: The Civil War Draft in the*

North by Eugene C. Murdock; and *Mennonites, Amish and the American Civil War* by James O. Lehman and Steven M. Nolt. For state and local history, he suggested: “*Conscription in Pennsylvania During the Civil War*” by William A. Itter, and “*A Northern Community Goes to War: Recruiting, the Draft, and Social Response in York County, Pennsylvania, 1861-1865*” by Mark A. Snell.

There were two Civil War Drafts. The first was a Militia Draft in 1862, conducted between August 1862-October 1862 for men between the ages between 18-45 years of age. There were exemptions for certain occupations (public employees), physical or mental disabilities, unnaturalized residents, and conscientious objectors.

The second draft, a Federal Draft, occurred between 1863-1865. An amendment passed in February 1864 eliminated age classes, limited commutation, and required documentation from conscientious objectors. An amendment in July 1864, limited commutation only to conscientious objectors. There were two draft classes – class 1 for men between 20-35 and single men between 36-45. Class 2 was for married men between 36-45 and were less likely to be drafted. There were exemptions for family hardship, physically or mentally unfit, providing a substitute or paying a commutation of \$300. Consisting of a Provost Marshal, a surgeon, and a local citizen, the Board of Enrollment in each draft district administered this draft.

When looking for individuals in draft records, it is necessary to have the full name of the ancestor, age, and place of residence (county and municipality). The 1860 census is helpful for locating the residency. County enrollment books for York can be found at the York County Archives and through the 8-volume publication *1862 Draft Enrollment Books* by SCPGS. The LancasterHistory.org has the Enrollment of Citizens. The 1862 enrollment books for Franklin County can be found at the National Archives, and digital copies are available on its website. The Pennsylvania State Archives Record Group 19, Records of the Department of Military and Veterans’ Affairs have a number of records available. The Substitute Depositions of 1862 can be found on “PA photos and documents” section of Pennsylvania’s Power Library (powerlibrary.org/psa - then select “Military and Veterans Affairs”). Draft enrollment lists are also on ancestry.com. The National Archives at Philadelphia holds the federal draft records for Pennsylvania, including those of the Commonwealth’s draft districts and its Western and Eastern administrative divisions. These records can contain descriptive records, medical records, correspondence, and Enrollment minutes. Newspapers would also publish lists of drafted men during the Civil War. Other sources to check include historic collections held at college libraries and historical societies, church records and other published histories.

Jonathan’s presentation can be seen at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hTm3wvGnj1w>

May 7, 2023: **Jean Robinson and June Lloyd’s Tour of Saint Luke’s Union Church Cemetery**

The Sunday cemetery tour was presented on an overcast afternoon against the quiet, pastoral countryside on Furnace Hill Road close to the River Hills. Both June Lloyd and Jean Robinson, Saint’s Luke Church members, led a sizable group of onlookers throughout the cemetery, detailing primarily those individuals who had served in the military from the Revolutionary War to the Vietnam War.

The following passage is from a handout comprised of the research of June Lloyd, Lila Fourhman-Shaull and Jean Robinson, which was provided for last year’s Saint Luke Church’s 250th celebration and tour.

St. Luke's (Stehli's) church was organized in 1772 as a Union church of Lutheran and Reformed congregations, with records going back to 1773. The first log church and the first part of the cemetery were located on one acre, 126 perches surveyed off of a tract Jacob Stehli had called "Icy Hill." It is now the far western portion of the cemetery. The log church was replaced by a brick building on the same site in 1866. In 1889, the Reformed congregation dissolved, and the Lutherans replaced the brick church with the present frame building on the eastern side of the cemetery, which had grown over the years.

Although quite early, this first purchase of the land, about 1 ¼ acres from Stehli (also Stahley, Staley), wasn't recorded with York County Recorder of Deeds until 1821. Then the congregations purchased land as needed over the years. Subsequent purchases included 2 acres from Jacob Tome in 1892; about 2 ½ acres from Frederick and Mary Uffleman in 1889; approximately 2 7/8 acres from John and Ida Shenberger in 1903, 2 acres from Edwin and Edna Hurst and Gerald and Rhoda Nissley in 1980 and 3 acres from Barley family members in 2000, the newest part laying to the east of the church.

The stones in the older part of the cemetery are in German. The earliest legible date of death on a grave stone is that of Nicolaus Troutwein, who died December 17, 1799. There were undoubtedly earlier burials, but many early stones are no longer legible, and some are marked only with initials. Some graves were probably not permanently marked, and some markers have disappeared over the years. Some even disappeared and came back – in 1962 four very old stones that had been stolen in 1946 showed up at the cemetery. Extensive landscaping and leveling was done in the 1920s. At that the Cemetery Association became a separate corporation. More leveling was done in 1946 and St. Luke had Silbaugh Memorials do restoration work in the cemetery in 1989.

There are around 130 known United States Military Veterans buried at St. Luke. They include three or four from the Revolutionary War, four from the War of 1812, one from the Spanish American War, 32 from the Civil War, 13 from World War 1, 56 from World War II, five from the Korean War, four from the Vietnam War and 10 who served during peacetime.

The Historical Society of York County included St. Luke in their York and Adams County cemetery census in the summer of 1932. At that time there were about 800 readable gravestones. For the current database, Richard Craley started updating the inscriptions in 2010 and has been keeping the records up to date.

A Lovely Land Record Document

The Cemetery Tour at Saint Luke's Church began in the church lobby with a look at church artifacts. One particularly fascinating document was a 1794 Bill of Sale for Chanceford Township properties purchased by brothers John McNary (1734-1802) and David McNary (1750-1816.) John McNary was an elder at Guinston Church and is buried in the Downie Cemetery in Chanceford Township. Their Scottish-born father, James McNary, Sr. (1711-1796), and younger sons, James McNary II (1741-1815), Captain Thomas McNary (1744-1820), and David McNary who were born and lived in York County until the late 1700s, migrated west to settle in Washington County, Pennsylvania. Gratitude goes to Jean Robinson who found this treasure at an auction.

See next page: photos of Bill of Sale , as well as relevant information from Neal Otto Hively's Volume 8 of Original Pennsylvania Land Records; page 48, Survey C-51.

Reflections on the Coronation of H.M. King Charles III
by Richard K. Konkel, Esquire

On Saturday May 6, 2023, the world witnessed the anointing and crowning of King Charles III and his consort, Queen Camilla at Westminster Abbey in London. This was the first Coronation in nearly 70 years since that of her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on June 2, 1953. The Coronation of Elizabeth II was a huge event worldwide, being the first such ceremony to be televised. I can remember my late father Norbert Konkel (1944-2014) talking about listening to the Coronation of Elizabeth II with his mother over the radio in their modest home in post-war Hannover, Germany. It was considered a really big deal and made a big impression on him as a small child. My uncle Bob Eveler remembers seeing it on television at my grandparents' farm in East Hopewell Township, York County. The Evelers had purchased their first television around 1950.

Charles III is the first monarch to bear the regnal name of Charles since the death of King Charles II in 1685. The first two monarchs named Charles were father and son and members of the Stuart dynasty. King Charles I was born in 1600 and reigned from 1625 until his execution at the hands of parliament on January 30, 1649. King Charles I granted the Charter for the Proprietary Colony of Maryland to Cecil Calvert, 2nd Baron Baltimore in 1632. The Colony was named Maryland in honor of Charles I's French Catholic Queen Henrietta Maria. Charles I became embroiled in the English Civil War with a Calvinist Puritan Parliament which resulted in the defeat and regicide of the King. From 1649 to 1660 England was not a monarchy, but rather a Commonwealth ruled by Parliament and a Lord Protector, Oliver Cromwell with strict Puritan severity. Following the death of Cromwell, the monarchy was restored under King Charles II, son of King Charles I and Queen Henrietta Maria. Most of the current English regalia (crowns, scepters, orb, swords etc.) date from the Coronation of King Charles II. Cromwell and the Puritans had destroyed or sold all of the ancient English regalia during the Commonwealth. King Charles II was the monarch who granted the Charter for the Proprietary Colony of Pennsylvania to William Penn. The King also named the Colony.

King Charles III does not directly descend from the first two King Charles. He descends from Charles I's sister Princess Elizabeth Stuart who married Frederick V, Elector of the Palatinate. By the Act of Succession of 1702, the royal line passed to the Protestant Electress Sophia of Hanover, whose son Georg Ludwig became King George I in 1714. The sons of King Charles III and the late Princess Diana are descendants of Charles I, Charles II, and his brother James II through illegitimate children of Charles II and James II who are ancestors of Princess Diana.

The Coronation ceremony is very ancient in its origins. The United Kingdom is the last European nation to practice this ceremony. What we witnessed at the Coronation of Charles III now in 2023 would be recognizable to persons who lived over 1000 years ago. It is particularly close to the Coronations of the Kings of France and the Holy Roman Emperors. The Coronations of the Kings of France largely took place at the Cathedral in Reims, with the last one being Charles X in 1825. The Coronations of Holy Roman Emperors began with that of Charlemagne on Christmas Day A.D. 800. Many took place in Rome with the Pope officiating, but later ones were in Aachen and lastly at Frankfurt am Main in Germany. The last Imperial Coronation being that of the Habsburg Emperor Franz II in 1792, the Empire being abolished in 1806 by the Emperor under threat from Napoleon.

All English Coronations have taken place at Westminster Abbey since two in 1066, namely the last Saxon King Harold II and that of William I, also known as William the Conqueror, who as Duke of Normandy invaded and conquered Anglo Saxon England from Normandy in France. The ceremony is within the context of a service of Holy Communion, presided over by the Archbishop of Canterbury, primate of England. Added to the usual parts of the mass are an acclamation, a Coronation oath which ends with the words "so help me God" which George Washington added to the oath of office for the President of the United States. The service continues with the anointing of the head, breast, and hands of the sovereign. This is the most sacred part of the ceremony and has been accompanied at all 10 coronations since 1727 by the strains of George Frederick Handel's anthem *Zadok the Priest*, recalling the anointing of King Solomon of Biblical fame.

Following the anointing the sovereign is enthroned on the Coronation Chair from the reign of Edward I containing the Stone of Scone, also called the Stone of Destiny and thought to be the Patriarch Jacob's pillow at Bethel where he witnesses the angels ascending and descending from Heaven. This ancient stone was used for the coronations of ancient Scottish Kings. The stone was taken from Scotland by Edward I but was returned to Scotland in 1996 and only returned to Westminster for a coronation.



On the Coronation Chair the sovereign is invested with garments of cloth of gold, and the regalia made for the Coronation of Charles II in 1661, namely the sword, spurs, bracelets, ring, orb, scepter with a cross, and rod of equity. The Archbishop then crowns the sovereign with St. Edward's Crown. The sovereign is acclaimed, and the consort then anointed and crowned. They then partake of sacrament of Holy Communion and the sovereign leaves the Abbey wearing the Imperial State Crown and returns to the palace. The witnessing of these ancient ceremonies is very interesting to behold.

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 1st 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.

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