



**South Central
Pennsylvania**
Genealogical Society

Our Name's The Game

www.scpgs.org

Monthly Newsletter Vol. 37 No. 4 November/December 2011

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday, January 8th — “**History of York County Transportation from Indian Trails to Super Highways**”. *on location at the Agricultural & Industrial Museum*

Thomas Gibson will present a program about indian trails, river transportation, railroads, and paved roads at the Agricultural & Industrial Museum at 217 West Princess Street, York. A brief business meeting will start at 2:15 PM and the program at 2:30 PM. This presentation is family friendly so please bring your children and grandchildren.

Thomas Knowlton Gibson is the Telecommunications Manager of York College of Pennsylvania, and faculty advisor of WVYC Campus radio for 40 years. He is a member of the Continental Congress Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, York County Heritage Trust and serves on its education committee, President of Pennsylvania Industrial Heritage Society, and Executive VP of Intercollegiate Broadcasting Society.

Sunday, February 5th DNA of Mennonite Families *presented by Darvin L. Martin*

Sunday, March 4th LDS FamilySearch Website *presented by Jack and Sylvia Sonneborn*

Sunday, April 1st Tax Records *presented by James Landis*

Sunday, May 6th Family Bible Documentation Day

Saturday, June 2nd Seminar: *Exploring the Past and Touching the Future*

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Notice – Winter meetings and inclement weather. To avoid placing speakers and members in potentially dangerous situations, SCPGS will cancel meetings if roads are snow covered or icy, or if there is the possibility roads will become snow covered or icy before those attending a meeting would be able to reach home. Cancellations are made on the conservative side. To learn the status of a winter meeting that could be cancelled because of the weather, please call Frank Grove at 717-244-6248 or Richard Konkel at 717-843-7043.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Franklin R. Grove, Jr.

South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society had a busy year, and it is soon coming to an end. We have had very good programs at our meetings. Our Family Bible Documentation Day, in the spring, allowed the society and York County Heritage Trust to make copies of many records to share with visitors who may just be looking for the family information that has been preserved in those Bibles. Your board members have kept busy all year helping to collect and process materials for special publications, answer inquiries from members and non-members, and update our website.

As we embark into the new calendar year, the society anticipates many meaningful programs for the membership. Our society functions with all volunteers. If you are approached to serve on our board, please consider the invitation. If you would like to volunteer to serve, please make your willingness known to any current board member.

Plans are being made to host another Family Bible Documentation Day, in the spring of 2012 and we expect much more information than was collected in 2011. Please remember to keep your calendar open and plan to attend the good programs coming your way in 2012.



SAVE THE DATES

Family Bible Documentation Day

Sunday, May 6th

Join the York County Heritage Trust and the South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society at our second annual Family Bible Documentation Day. Bring your family bible to the Historical Society Meeting Hall at 250 East Market Street on Sunday, May 6, 2012 from 1 PM to 4 PM. We will copy, free of charge, your family information to place in the family files in the YCHT Library & Archives. Family bibles are sometimes the only source for vital statistic information, such as births and marriages. Our volunteers will record the family information, condition, ownership and publication information of the bible.

Please note that as a non-profit organization we cannot give monetary appraisals to items; therefore, we cannot appraise your family bible.

Exploring the Past and Touching the Future

Saturday, June 2nd

The York County Heritage Trust and South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society will co-sponsor a Genealogy Conference titled *Exploring the Past and Touching the Future* on Saturday, June 2, 2012 from 9 AM to 4 PM at the Heritage Trust. This genealogy conference will be of interest to all levels of researchers, beginning, intermediate and advanced. There will be a wide variety of presentations, including exploring internet research, the use of court, land, church and military records for research. The full schedule of programs to be presented will be announced at a future date. Lunch will be included in the registration fee.



Message from the Treasurer

Margaret Burg

As many companies and organizations are doing in these trying economic times, SCPGS is exploring ways to cut costs. The membership for the last fiscal year was 325, and that was down 10% from the previous year. Membership for the first quarter of the current fiscal year (July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2112) is down 16%.

The current membership fee of \$20 and the family membership fee of \$25 are used to pay the costs of printing and mailing nine newsletters which are sent out to each member during the year. The Society attempts to produce two special publications within a fiscal year. Only the partial cost to print and mail one special publication to each member is covered with what is left of the membership fee after the newsletters. For fiscal year 2011-2012, we have mailed the first publication at a cost of \$900 and the second one is almost complete and we anticipate mailing it in March 2012.

The other expenses of the Society, which include purchasing books and archival supplies for the Library of the York County Heritage Trust, speaker fees for meetings, internet fees, post office box rental and bulk mailing permit, and equipment maintenance are paid from sales of Society publications, donations and research requests, all of which only amounted to 13% of the income of the Society in the last fiscal year, thus the need for the Society to explore cost cutting measures for the next fiscal year (July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013).

The Board of Directors discussed the issues and the officers would like your suggestions and feedback on the following ideas:

1. To lower the cost of printing and mailing newsletters, would you prefer to receive the newsletter via email?
2. To lower the cost of printing and mailing special publications, would you prefer to receive future special publications via email or CD rather than a paper copy?
3. The membership fee was last increased in 1999 and the Board is considering raising the membership fee for an individual to \$25 and for a family to \$30. Would an increase in annual membership dues impact your decision to renew your membership?

We value each of our members and your continued support through your membership in our society. If you have any additional suggestions regarding cost cutting measures please include them with your response. We look forward to hearing from you.

Please send your comments and/or suggestions to scpgswebsite@earthlink.net. Please include the word "Membership" in the subject line, or mail comments to the attention of the President, Franklin R. Grove, Jr., SCPGS, PO Box 1824, York, PA 17405.



DECEASED MEMBER

Glenn P. Zech, 90, passed away on October, 3, 2011. He shared over 65 years of marriage with Violet A Barrick. Glenn was born in Codorus Township, on 17 Sep 1921, the son of the late Harry Zech and Katie May Bollinger. He is survived by a son, Glenn E. and his wife Marlene, 3 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. .He was laid to rest at the Jefferson Cemetery, York County, Pennsylvania.

GENEALOGICAL NOTES

Iceland's Genealogy Database, "The Book Of Icelanders," Tracks Everyone's Ancestry

posted by Dick Eastman on October 26, 2011

The television commercial for a local mobile phone company in the small island nation of Iceland wouldn't work in other countries. It portrays a curly-haired couple who just woke up next to each other after what appears to be a one-night stand. (That isn't the scandalous part in Iceland's famously liberal society.) The two are pictured lingering in bed, on their smart phones, checking out a genealogical website called Islendingabok. Their smiles freeze when they find out they are related. Closely.

Icelanders can relate on levels unimaginable in larger countries. The commercial works in Iceland because, in this isolated island country of 300,000 people, these situations actually happen. Regularly. Most Icelanders have heard a story of somebody, who knew somebody, who found out a bit late in the game that the subject of their romance is actually an estranged cousin.

I wish our genealogy databases were as good as Iceland's! Then again, maybe not. I suspect having access to highly accurate genealogy databases of every man, woman, and child in a country might take the fun out of researching.



Skewing — A Technique for Signature Identification

posted by Dick Eastman on October 27, 2011

How do you read a signature that is heavily slanted with the letters seemingly run together? Genealogists have that problem when trying to identify signatures but numismatists (coin and money collectors) also have the same problem when trying to identify signatures on banknotes and checks.



The answer? ... Open a digital image of the signature in a photo editing program and then skew it (slant it) until the signature appears to be more vertical. A great example can be found in The E-Sylum, an electronic publication of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society, at

http://www.coinbooks.org/esylum_v14n43a06.html



More Old Virginia Records Returned

posted by Dick Eastman on December 5, 2011

A 220-year-old court-order book, taken by a New York captain during the Civil War, has been returned to Stafford for a brief visit. It will be preserved for posterity by the Library of Virginia.

The newly discovered pre-Revolutionary records is being displayed in Stafford County so the public, historians and local officials could glimpse this rare treasure. The court ledger book was among the items that vanished from the county courthouse 148 years ago, when the Union army -- 140,000 soldiers strong -- occupied eastern Stafford. So did the bulk of the county's other court records, creating a huge headache for landowners, lawyers and historians that lingers to this day.

The leather-bound ledger, its entries written with quill pen, was found recently by a manager at the Jersey City, New Jersey, Free Public Library as he gathered materials to mark the 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War.

Holocaust Victims Database Aims to Restore Lost Identities

posted by Dick Eastman on November 26, 2011

More than 2,100 volunteers around the world who have signed on to the World Memory Project, a joint effort by the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and Ancestry.com, to create the world's largest online searchable database of records related to victims of the Holocaust. It's a massive undertaking: The museum has more than 170 million documents about victims of Nazi persecution, including Nazi concentration camp records and transport lists, records created by Jewish communities and U.S. government documents about people displaced by the war who later emigrated to the United States. The project, which began in May, recruits volunteers to put names and other key words from the documents into an online database, which is then searchable by anyone in the world. The first data sets became searchable this month.



Historical Recordings Online

posted by Dick Eastman on September 4, 2011

"Imagine your computer as a new Gramophone purchased for family and friends to enjoy in your home parlor." That's the statement on the Library of Congress' new National Jukebox web site.

The web site contains more than 10,000 recordings created between 1901 and 1925 on Victor 78 rpm records. The selections include band music, opera arias, dance music, monologues, and musical theater. Included on the site are some pre-selected playlists to get you started – check out the "Gems from the Jukebox" which includes a comedy dialog with orchestra called "Chimmie and Maggie at the Hippodrome" from 1905, and "Flirting Whistler", a charming one-step performed by Conway's Band in 1915.

New recordings are added to the Jukebox every month. Later this year, the Library of Congress will begin digitizing recordings from additional record labels, including Columbia and Okeh, along with selected master recordings from the Library of Congress Universal Music Group Collection. You can listen to any of the recordings on your computer. Historical recordings from the Library of Congress are available free of charge at <http://www.loc.gov/jukebox/>



Who is a Cherokee?

posted by Dick Eastman on October 12, 2011

More than 170 years ago, the proud Cherokee people in the South were brutally driven into exile in Oklahoma along what became known as the Trail of Tears. Now, an unlikely group of descendants is battling the tribe for its rights. They are the so-called black Cherokees, some of whose ancestors were held as slaves by members of the tribe. Before the Civil War, some Cherokees owned slaves. After the war, tribal leaders signed a treaty granting blacks, known as "Freedmen," the rights of native Cherokees. However, not all black Cherokees are descended from slaves owned by tribal members. Some are simply descended from blacks who married or had children with Cherokees and still refer to themselves as Freedmen. Some of today's tribal members say Freedmen were never really Cherokee, and that allowing their descendants to stay in the tribe unfairly grants them benefits and weakens tribal sovereignty. In the early 1980s, Cherokee officials restricted citizenship to those listed on the Dawes Rolls as "Cherokee by blood." For those who successfully claim status as Cherokees have access to many services, such as a multimillion-dollar health center in Oklahoma.

Are You Missing Most of the Available Genealogy Information?

posted by Dick Eastman on October 20, 2011

This morning I received a message from a newsletter reader that disturbed me a bit. He wrote, "I have been doing genealogy research for 10-15 years but only through the Internet." He then went on to describe some of the frustrations he has encountered trying to find information.

I read the entire message, but my eyes kept jumping back to the words in his first sentence: "... but only through the Internet." Doesn't he realize that 98% of the information of interest to genealogists is not yet available on the Internet?

To be sure, many of the biggest and most valuable resources are now available online, including national census records, the Social Security Death Index, military pension applications, draft cards, many passenger lists, land patent databases, and more.

The national databases were the "low hanging fruit" a few years ago as the providers of online information rushed to place large genealogy databases online. These huge collections benefited a lot of genealogists; these databases were the first to become indexed, digitized, and placed online. We all should be thankful that these databases are available today and are in common use.

As the national databases became available to all, the online providers moved on to digitize regional and statewide information. State censuses, birth records, marriage records, death records, naturalization records (which originally were recorded in many local and state courts), county histories, and much, much more are still being placed online.

Of course, this is great news for genealogists who cannot easily travel to the locations where the original records are kept. For many of us, this is even better than having information on microfilm. Most of us don't have microfilm readers at home, but we do have computers.

Yet, I am guessing that 98% of the information of interest to genealogists has not yet been digitized. Why would anyone want to look for genealogy information "... only through the Internet?"

State censuses, birth records, marriage records, death records, naturalization records, county histories, and more are all "work in progress" projects. That is, they are not yet complete. In fact, I doubt if all of them will be available online for at least another two decades! If you only look online, you are missing a lot.

In many cases, church parish records, local tax lists, school records, most land records (other than Federal land grants), and many more records are not yet available online and probably won't be available for years. If you are limiting yourself to "... only through the Internet," you are missing 98% of the available information.

If you have the luxury of living near the places where your ancestors lived, I'd suggest you jump in an automobile and drive to the repositories where those records are kept. There is nothing that matches the feeling of holding original records in your hands. Make photocopies or scan them or take pictures of them or do whatever is possible to collect images of the original records.

If you do not enjoy the luxury of short distances, use microfilm. Luckily, that is easy to do although you will have to leave your home. Many (but not all) of these records have been microfilmed, and those films may be viewed at various libraries, archives, or at a local Family History Center near you. There are more than 4,000 of those local centers, so you probably can find one within a short distance of your home. The Family History Centers are free to use although you do have to pay a modest fee for postage when you rent a microfilm by mail.

See http://www.familysearch.org/eng/library/FHC/frameset_fhc.asp for details.

NEW ACQUISITIONS AT YCHT LIBRARY

Among the recently received and/or recently catalogued materials at the York County Heritage Trust Library and Archives are:

Denotes Books Purchased and Donated by the South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society.

- Denver: At the Dawn of the Twenty-First Century: An Updated History of Denver, Pennsylvania.* Willis L. Shirk, 2000
- Washington County, Maryland: Our Past, Our People: A Historical Portrait. Volume I.* Herald-Mail Company, 2004.
- Genealogy of Selected Northumberland County Pennsylvania Pioneer Families.* Joseph A. Meiser, 1990.
- Reiff, Rieff, Rife & Welschans Families.* Beekman. Jane Kyhl, 2003
- Rudy Archives: Ancestors, Descendants & Missing Links.* Rudy Family News.
- Genealogy of the Barber Family.* Edwin Atlee Barber. William F. Fell & Co., 1890.
- * *Harford County, Maryland: Marriage References & Family Relationships, 1774-1824.* Henry C. Peden, Colonial Roots, 2011.
- * *Early Landowners of Maryland: Volume 8: Talbot County.* Robert W. Hall, Colonial Roots, 2011.
- * *Talbot County, Maryland: Marriage References, 1662-1800.* Henry C. Peden, Colonial Roots, 2010.
- * *Montgomery County Land Record Miscellany: Libers A-E, F, F-7 & G, 1777-1797.* Patricia Andersen, GenLaw Resources, 2010.
- * *Marriages & Deaths from Baltimore Newspapers, 1817-1824.* Henry C. Peden, Colonial Roots, 2011.
- * *St. Patrick's Catholic Church Baltimore, Maryland: Baptisms 1825-1871.* Edward P. Arthur, Colonial Roots, 2011.
- * *Frederick County, Maryland Land Records: Liber P Abstracts 1772-1773 & Libers S-T-U.* Patricia Andersen, GenLaw Resources, 2011.
- * *Berks County, Pennsylvania Church Records of 18th Century. Volume 5.* F. Edward Wright, Colonial Roots, 2011.
- * *Northampton County, Pennsylvania: Marriage References & Family Relationships, 1752-1800.* Noreen Koehler, Colonial Roots, 2011.
- Familie Allwein: Volume I: An Early History.* Duane F. Alwin, Xlibris, 2009.
- Genealogical Periodical Annual Index 1979.* Catherine Mayhew, Heritage Books, 1982.
- Descendants of Felix Glatfelter.* Michael Lau, 2011
- Haverford High School Alumni Directory 1995.* Harris Publishing Co., 1995.
- Melvin C. Krebs 1893-1962: In War & Peace.* Charles H. Glatfelter, Bream's Printing, 2011.
- Our Ansley Family.* Harold Ansley Davidson, 1933.
- Diary of Priscilla Kirk Townsend: in Fourteen Small Books, 1848-1861.* Dana Dunbar Howe, Richmond Printing Series, 2011.
- History of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 1836-2011: 175th Anniversary.* 2011.
- Lehman, Layman Genealogy Handbook: 2011 Supplement.* Earl R. Layman, 2011.
- Thomas & Elinor Parry Descendants.* Suzanne Lamborn, 2011.
- Brenneman-Kelly Story.* Carolyn Sue Brenneman, 2011.
- Descendants of Adam von Glattfelder.* Michael Lau, 2011.
- Descendants of Henry Glatfelter.* Michael Lau, 2011.
- Our Strickler Heritage.* Morgan G. Brenner, 2011.
- Spring Grove Cemeteries. Volume III.* 2009.

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DATED MATERIAL—DO NOT DELAY

QUERIES

Trying to still locate information about Edmond Cleveland Bortner, born 5 December 1884, married 20 November 1904 to Lizzie Couchenour - - his death date and burial place is sought. Looking to find the parents of Barbara (Bortner) Fisher, born 1768 and died 1854. Would like to make contact with someone working on the Lutz family, late 1800's to early 1900's. Seeking to copy pictures of Adam Herman Metzler, wife Mary (Tyson) and their children.

Franklin R. Grove, Jr. 2998 Cape Horn Road, Red Lion, PA 17356;
email FRGJR@juno.com or telephone (717) 244-6248

I am seeking parents of William McKinley 1755ca Ireland-15 Jan 1861 in Hancock County, Ohio. Revolutionary War Marker by grave. Request proof of service.

Jenne Renkin, 421 N Cherry St, Lancaster, PA 17602-4913

THINGS TO DO

March 31, 2012 — Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society presents: *New Insights, New Records*, at the Holiday Inn West, Laurel, Maryland
Visit www.magsgen.com for more information.

REMINDER

Special Publication #71 — Civil War Pension Affidavits and Index to Ledgers of Dr. Benjamin F. Porter, 1864-1888 was mailed in September. If you have not received your copy, please contact us at scpgswebsite@earthlink.net