



**South Central
Pennsylvania**
Genealogical Society

Our Name's The Game

www.scpgs.org

Monthly Newsletter Vol. 38 No. 4 November/December 2012

OUR NEXT MEETING

Sunday, January 6, 2013 — Civil War: On the Light Side

This month's meeting will be held at the Meeting Hall at York County Heritage Trust Library & Archives, 250 East Market Street, York, Pennsylvania. A brief business meeting will begin at 2:15 PM and the program will immediately follow at approximately 2:30 PM.

The program will include a short session on little known facts and curiosities about the Civil War, as well as a "show and tell" session. Members and guests are encouraged to bring pension papers, photos, memorabilia, stories about ancestors who served, etc.

Note: We will make copies of the pensions and documents brought in to that meeting for anyone who would like to make a donation to the Heritage Trust Library.

Sunday, February 3, 2013 — *to be announced*

Sunday, March 3, 2013 — *to be announced*

Sunday, April 7, 2013 — *to be announced*

Sunday May 5, 2013 — *to be announced*

Sunday, June 2, 2013 — Henry James Young Award

Nominations Sought ... The SCPGS Board of Directors plans to present one or more Henry James Young Awards at its June meeting. The purpose of the award is to honor significant accomplishments in the field of local genealogy and history. Nominations may be made by any SCPGS member. The nominees may be living or deceased. To have a nominee considered for the award the nomination must be received by March 1, 2013. Send nomination letters to the SCPGS with the designation Henry James Young Award Nomination on the envelope or submit via email to scpgswebsite@wildblue.net. The letter should enumerate the contributions and accomplishments of the nominee and be signed by the person(s) making the nomination.

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Notice regarding 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 Richard Konkel at 717-843-7043.

NEW York County Heritage Trust Exhibit

written by Lila Fourhman-Shaull

April 2011 marked the beginning of the sesquicentennial of the American Civil War. Perhaps the single most seminal event in American history, the Civil War continues to hold an unshakable presence with the nation's public sparking an intense curiosity in understanding personal, family and cultural heritage. Pennsylvania saw over 360,000 of its citizen's serve in the war, second most behind only New York in the North. More than 8,600 African American soldiers hailed from the state, making it the first in that category. More than a hundred of which were from York County alone. Geography made Pennsylvania a vital Confederate target, eventually resulting in the Battle of Gettysburg in July of 1863. Historians often cite the largest land battle fought in North America, as one of the major turning points of the war.

The York County Heritage Trust will open a new exhibit, *The Fiery Trial: York County's Civil War Experience* on June 28, 2013. This exhibit will address the American Civil War on a national level, focused around the region's specific experience, while at the same time utilizing a local perspective through the accounts, records, documents, and experiences of individuals and local entities.

York County and the South Central region was the farthest north the formal footprint of the war touched. Marked by a poignant Confederate invasion days before the pivotal battle of Gettysburg, the region was shaken by the occupation with York City being the largest

northern city occupied during the conflict. Gleaned from the files of the York County Heritage Trust Library & Archives will be stories of struggles and sacrifices of York Countians during this time. In York the U.S. Army established one of the largest and most successful Army hospitals on Penn Commons treating over 14,000 wounded.

Farmers lost valuable foodstuffs and livestock to an undersupplied enemy force. Communities hastily raised militia units in vain to try to stop or at least delay the advancing Confederate troops. The bridge crossing the Susquehanna River at Wrightsville was burned and Hanover witnessed the loss of xxx lives during the cavalry action.

The Civil War in South Central Pennsylvania is a compelling and important story that helps explain the national scope and experience of the American Civil War on intensely localized and personal levels. The Library & Archives of the York County Heritage Trust has a plethora of resources pertaining to this event including manuscript files, original images, discharge documents, regimental rosters and decorative service certificates donated over the years. Researchers and authors Scott Mingus and Dennis Brandt have painstakingly created two unique databases available not only in the library but on the YCHT website. Mingus's damage claims reflect the losses as filed in civilian reports and Brandt's comprehensive database includes over 10,000 York and surrounding counties Civil War soldiers.

SOCIAL SECURITY DEATH MASTER FILE

If you are having difficulty finding an individual in the Social Security Death Index (SSDI) this website might help ... <http://ssdmf.info/>

Simply navigate to the date of birth (select year, then month, then day) and you be taken to a master list of all individuals in the SSDI that

were born on that day. Then you can scroll down (or type "ctrl + f" to find/search for the name) of the individual that you are looking for.

This site may be useful if a person used various spellings of their name. There is also an option to search by surname.

CAMP SECURITY: A Revolutionary War Prison Camp in York County **Why Its Preservation is Important To Us**

written by Becky Anstine

Our November meeting was held at the Good News Free Will Baptist Church and our speaker was Jonathan Stayer, supervisor of reference services at the Pennsylvania State Archives. The church is located on a part of the Camp Security site. As a boy, Jonathan delivered newspapers to homes that were located in the area – not realizing the historical significance of the area. For the past thirty years, he has been studying and researching the history of Camp Security and is actively involved in the efforts to preserve the camp site. Jonathan spoke about the history of the camp, using a slide presentation to show documents, artifacts and maps of the area.

Through the years, papers relating to the camp have been found in New England and the British archives. Local DAR and SAR members have used documents showing that their ancestors received payments for being part of the militia guard to become members of the societies. Carol Tanzola, president of the *Friends of Camp Security* also talked about the various legal battles to protect the site from development. Afterwards, the group went outside for a “tour” of the site.

Camp Security is a little known part of the role that York County played in the Revolutionary War. It is the only undeveloped Revolutionary War prison encampment site in the United States. In 1781, it was decided that British prisoners of war should be moved from the south to a more northern location. General Washington suggested York because of its

location, resources, and nearness to the camp in Lancaster. He felt that moving prisoners this far would lessen the possibility of escapes then if the prisoners were moved towards the New York area.

Prisoners and their families from two campaigns were to be housed at the York location. The first group was referred to as “Convention Troops” and had been captured at Saratoga. The second group was from the Yorktown surrender. The camp housed private and noncommissioned officers. Officers were housed in York or Lancaster. There was a village called “Camp Indulgence” located near the Camp Security stockade. Supplies were short and there were many deaths from sickness. It is believed that there were one or perhaps two burial grounds on the site.

The first prisoners arrived in January 1782. A stockade was built and huts were constructed. Prisoners were allowed to work outside of the camp (within in 10 miles) but they had to stay on the west side of the Susquehanna River. Only officers were allowed to cross the river. Inside the camp, prisoners manufactured pins, buttons, and lace which they were allowed to sell in the community. The camp was guarded by local militia and men from the county, Moses Hazen’s Continental Army regiment. From information gathered from various documents; it is believed that between 1500-1700 individuals were housed at the camp.



By the spring of 1783 the prisoners were released and marched to New York. By August the camp was closed. Local farmers removed the wood from the stockade and huts and the site was eventually farmed and forgotten.

The histories of York County by Gibson and Prowell do not have much to say about Camp Security – by then there were no reminders of its historical significance.

Over the years, various efforts have been made to preserve the site. An archaeological dig in 1979 found buttons, pins and other artifacts. In 2005, the *National Trust for Historical Preservation* added Camp Security to its list of eleven Endangered Historic Places. Since 1999, there has been a battle fought in and out of the courts because a local developer wanted to build a housing development on the site. Currently, the *Friends of Camp Security* are fundraising to be able to purchase the acreage that would ensure the preservation of the site.

There are several websites which give a more detailed explanation of the history and preservation battle.

www.campsecurity.com is hosted by the *Friends of Camp Security*, and provides a detailed history of the site.

Fold3 – allows free access to the Pennsylvania archives. This included the requests by various militia members entitled to pay for serving as guards at the camp.

If you Google “camp security” – these are some of the results that give a far better history and reasons why Camp Security should be preserved. There are also newspaper articles covering the legal battle for the preservation of the site that can be found in **newsbank.com**

Camp Security: A Revolutionary War POW Camp In Pennsylvania ...

www.conservationfund.org/historic_places/camp-security-pennsylvania

Camp Security Is More Than Local History - It's National History ...

www.preservingyork.com/2012/05/15/camp-security

York County's POW Camp Security sparks wide interest – from historians to ghosts.

www.yorkblog.com/yorktownsquare/2012/11/02/york-countys-pow-camp

A Personal Perspective - Camp Security ... written by Blake Stough.

www.campsecurity.com/personalstory.html

Camp Security has been a forgotten and neglected part of York County's history and its contribution to the American Revolution. There should be a site for families, researchers, and genealogists to visit to help make that connection to their past.

Newspapers.com *continued from page 5 ...*

In addition to the historical view this newspaper collection provides, it also peers into the pop culture of American history. Learn about Lita Grey's marriage to Charlie Chaplin on November 24, 1924 in the *Ohio Zanesville Times Signal*. Skim vintage advertisements, such as those by Sears, offering customers the opportunity to trade in old tires for a credit toward new ones in a 1952 advertisement in the *Arizona Sun Times*. Read your favorite comic

strip from years ago, like Peanuts, Hi and Lois and even a 1947 Lil' Abner comic strip where Daisy Mae laments not being a comic strip character.

Newspapers.com provides an affordable glimpse into the past with a yearly subscription rate of \$79.95 for subscribers and \$39.95 for Ancestry.com or Fold3.com members. Newspapers.com also offers a 7-day free trial that can be activated at www.newspapers.com.

Ancestry.com Launches New Web Site Newspapers.com

Posted by Dick Eastman on November 29, 2012

This should be interesting! Ancestry.com has a major new offering: *Online Newspaper Web Site Offers a High-Quality Collection of Digitized and Completely Searchable U.S. Newspapers Dating Back Centuries*

(PROVO, Utah) – November 29, 2012 – Ancestry.com Inc. (Nasdaq: ACOM), the world's largest online family history resource, today announced the launch of Newspapers.com, a powerful and affordable new web site designed to offer a historically rich collection of more than 800 U.S. newspapers dating from the late 1700s into the early 2000s. Comprising more than 25 million pages, Newspapers.com offers a trove of historical and present-day newspapers ranging from the New York Times to treasured small town and local newspapers throughout the United States. Interested users will find centuries of amazing news articles and photos now captured online when browsing hundreds of years of breaking news headlines, searching for information about an ancestor or reading how the media addressed moments in history like the day Charles A. Lindbergh flew over the Atlantic, the opening of Disneyland or news from the fronts during World War I and World War II.

“We're extremely excited about the launch of Newspapers.com because it offers historical value for people of all ages and areas of interest,” said Brian Hansen, General Manager of Newspapers.com. “Searching newspapers is like searching the *Facebook* footprint of the past. Not only can you find information on births, marriages and deaths, but you can also get a glimpse into what life was like during a specific era. We hope our users have fun making their own discoveries in this great newspaper collection that will continue to grow over time.”

The search capabilities on Newspapers.com are specifically designed for newspapers enabling users to easily search by keywords, location, time period and newspaper name. From the 1784 *Newport Mercury* newspaper to a 2009 edition of *The Gettysburg Times*, users may find old advertisements or job listings, laugh at comics, retrieve family history clues or learn about famous events through the eyes and words of the time period.

The user experience is also enhanced by an image viewer that serves up crisp, high-quality images of the newspapers. Once discovered, newspaper images can easily be clipped, saved and shared via social outlets such as *Facebook*, *Twitter*, *Pinterest* and *Google+*. Within this growing newspaper collection are a myriad photos and stories that provide unique perspective on history. Examples include:

- **Abraham Lincoln** – Abraham Lincoln's death is noted as “Our Great Loss” in the April 16, 1865 edition of the *New York Times*
- **Interesting People** – The first baby picture of John Jacob Astor VI, whose father perished on the Titanic, is posted among other photos including one of Andrew Carnegie in the 1914 *New York Times* section labeled “Interesting People Seen Through the Camera's Eye”
- **Price Changes** – See how costs have changed over time, for example the *New York Times* cost one cent back in 1852, a paper that today costs \$2.50 for its weekday edition
- **Marilyn Monroe** – A *Parade* article featuring an exclusive interview with Marilyn Monroe in 1952 talked about how the famous actress saw herself
- **Man on the Moon** – In 1969, the first U.S. astronaut on the moon as highlighted in the *Iowa Estherville Daily News*
- **St. Valentine's Day Massacre** – The day after the 1929 St. Valentine's Day massacre in Chicago, articles all across America followed the story including *The Daily Independent*

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All orders must be placed and paid for by **Monday, DECEMBER 31, 2012 11:59:00 PM CST** to receive the sale prices. Visit www.familytreedna.com for more information.