



**South Central
Pennsylvania**
Genealogical Society

Our Name's The Game

www.scpgs.org

Monthly Newsletter Vol. 39 No. 4 November/December 2013

OUR NEXT MEETING

Sunday, January 5, 2014 — Meet the Ancestors

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.

We will explore the ancestry of the President & CEO of the York County Heritage Trust Joan Mummert, York County Judge Joseph Adams, and York County District Attorney Tom Kearney.

UPCOMING MEETINGS are tentatively scheduled as follows ...

Sunday, February 2, 2014

**Gerald Smith ... Bastards, Bridges & Bawdy Houses:
Using Quarter Sessions Records in Genealogical Research**

Learn about where to find Quarter Sessions records, dealings of the court, and the genealogical information within. These courts had broad jurisdiction over oaths of office, licenses, illegitimate children, re-enslavement, crimes, punishments, roads, and administrative matters. The presentation discusses terminology, using the records in your research, and case studies drawn from Pennsylvania research.

Sunday, March 2, 2014

Ron Hershner ... "Letters from Home"

Mr. Hershner's most recent book offers a rare personal insight into the Civil War home front through twenty-three letters written *to* soldier Harvey Anderson from 1863 to 1865 ... the candy box and several of these unique letters are now on display in the library exhibit area of the York County Heritage Trust

Sunday, April 6, 2014

Frank Grove ... Alphabet Soup of Revolutionary Lineage Societies

Frank has been helping people with their application paper work for the Children, Daughters, and Sons of the American Revolution since about 1990. In 2006, he became the "official" genealogist/registrar for the Continental Congress Chapter, S.A.R. We will look at many of the current requirements of the national organizations, review the "must" areas that need to be very complete, and provide hints to help with unknown dates. We will also discuss the importance of record copies from the organizations and the "cut off" date after which older applications will not be accepted without it being updated.

Sunday, May 4, 2014

to be announced

Saturday, June 7, 2014

conference ... watch for more details as they become available

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.

Ancestry.com Plants More than 150 Trees at Gettysburg Address 150th Anniversary

Dick Eastman (eogn.com), November 26, 2013



The following announcement was written by the Living Legacy Project (Gettysburg, PA - November 26, 2013):

In commemoration of the Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War, the Journey Through Hallowed Ground Partnership has launched a legacy project of national significance. The Living Legacy Project is a simple yet eloquent plan to plant one tree for each of the 620,000 soldiers who died, as a living memorial for their individual and combined sacrifices.

On November 19, the 150th anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, the Journey Through Hallowed Ground Partnership dedicated 248 trees to the Living Legacy Project, including 167 newly planted trees and 81 existing trees were incorporated into the project. In President Abraham Lincoln's 272-word speech, one of the most enduring speeches ever given in America, he enjoined future generations to "take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion -- that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain."

The ceremony included remarks by National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis, Gettysburg National Military Park Superintendent Bob Kirby, Acting Secretary of Pennsylvania's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Ellen Ferretti, Ancestry.com Senior Director Brock Bierman, and Cate Magennis Wyatt, Founder and President of the Journey Through Hallowed Ground Partnership.

In addition, the Journey Through Hallowed Ground Partnership (JTHG) announced a new collaboration with Ancestry.com that will allow for more individuals to become engaged with the effort. Ancestry.com & Fold3 will link the Living Legacy Tree Project to Fold 3 Memorial Pages and provide access to its websites so that participating JTHG classrooms can research soldiers' stories. Fold3 offers one of the web's premier collection of original military records, gathering the best U.S. military records, photos and stories to help customers discover and share the stories of those who served.

Students from Massachusetts to Virginia, who have been researching the stories of the fallen soldiers, were also on hand to dedicate trees. The trees were dedicated to those soldiers and some of the students had the opportunity to share those individual stories.

The 167 new trees were planted to restore the apple orchard that was located on the Bliss Farm at the time of the Battle of Gettysburg. The Bliss Farm, which is located just off the Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Scenic Byway, was abandoned by the family immediately prior to the battle. Located between Seminary and Cemetery Ridge, it was in the middle of Lee's and Meade's armies. On July 2 -3, it was exchanged many times between Union and Confederate troops due to its strategic position and offerings. Around 11:15 a.m. on the morning of July 3, 1863, the house, bank barn and other outbuildings were burnt to the ground.

Funding for the trees that were planted came from WITF and The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources TreeVitalize program, a broad-based public-private partnership to increase public awareness of the importance of community trees, and to reverse the loss of tree cover in the state's communities. In addition, GIS software industry leader ESRI is collaborating with the Living Legacy Project to provide database software and technical assistance to bring the soldiers stories to life.

The Living Legacy Project will stretch along the Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Scenic Byway, a 180-mile swath of land that runs from Gettysburg, PA to Thomas Jefferson's Monticello in Charlottesville, VA. It was upon the battlefields within this region that many of the soldiers who fought, died during the American Civil War, one of our country's most defining moments.

Upon completion, the Living Legacy Project will be the first 180-mile landscaped allée in the world and the only allée dedicated to honoring the most defining moment in American history. The project will create a unified color palette that reminds visitors that they are, indeed, on hallowed ground. A signature palette of seasonal trees and plantings, including redbuds, red oaks, red maple, and red cedar have been selected to represent the courage and valor of the individuals being honored with this project. The native selection is appropriate to the diverse landscapes along this historic corridor, and remains sensitive to the local ecology, scenic views, and development patterns.

The Journey Through Hallowed Ground Partnership is actively engaged in raising the necessary funds to complete this \$65 million initiative. Individuals, businesses, schools, and community groups from

around the world can contribute to this project. The JTHG Partnership is seeking \$100 contributions to support and plant each tree. Donors may select a soldier to honor, as the trees will be geo-tagged to allow Smart Phone users to learn the story of the soldier, providing a strong educational component to engage interest in the region's historical heritage and literally bring the tree to life. Over 350 organizational partners of the Journey Through Hallowed Ground Partnership are already engaged with the Living Legacy Project. "Fifty years from

now, during the bicentennial of the Civil War, the Living Legacy Project will be considered the finest example of homage in our country," said JTHG President Cate Magennis Wyatt. "Now is the time to create and implement a living legacy for those who gave 'the last full measure,' many of whom have never been honored."

For more information on the Living Legacy Project, visit <http://www.hallowedground.org>

In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that we report the recent passing of our membership secretary, Patricia Gross. Following is her obituary as published in the York Daily Record and York Dispatch on Thursday, November 21, 2013 ...



Patricia A. Amspacher Gross, 72, passed at the York Hospital on Thursday, November 14, 2013. She was married to her loving husband, Richard D. Gross. Patricia was born in York, to her parents, the late Millard Eli and Dorothy Beck Amspacher. She also has another mother,

Annabelle Krebs Amspacher. Patricia was a self-employed beautician. She was one of the Charter Members of the [South] Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society and held the position of Membership Secretary since its beginning. She was a member of Salem United Church of Christ in Dover, and a lifetime member of V.F.W. Post 8951 Ladies Auxiliary and the Viking Athletic Association. Patricia is survived by a daughter, Angela M. Frey and her husband, Ray of Shiloh; a son, Duane R. Gross of York; a brother, LeRoy Amspacher of Dover; a granddaughter, Jessica N. Frey Emenheiser; and a grandson, Cory R. Frey. She was preceded in death by a sister, Grace Amspacher Anderson.

A viewing will be held on Friday, November 22, 2013, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at Gladfelter Funeral Home, Inc., 822 E. Market St., York. Memorial service by the Ladies Auxiliary of V.F.W. Post 8951 will begin at noon. Interment will be private. Patricia's family would appreciate donations in her memory to help cover final expenses be sent to Gladfelter Funeral Home, Inc, 822 E. Market St., York, PA 17403.

A Little-Known Government Genealogy Service

Dick Eastman (eogn.com), November 24, 2013

A little-known program of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) provides genealogy information that may be difficult or impossible to obtain elsewhere. The records include naturalization files, visa applications, and citizenship tests, and may reveal family secrets and mysteries. In addition to relatives, historians or researchers can also request files. Under the USCIS Genealogy Program, which started in 2008, requests are usually completed within 90 days. The government will run a search of the name, as long as the person is deceased. If there are records available, the government charges additional fees for the files. The fee for a record copy from microfilm identified as (M) is \$20 per request. The fee for a copy of a hard copy file identified as (HC) is \$35 per request. More information about the fees associated with each file series may be found at

<http://www.uscis.gov/history-and-genealogy/genealogy/historical-records-series-available-genealogy-program>

The documents typically include immigration information, often (but not always) including exact hometowns in their ancestors' native countries. The files often have information on brothers, sisters, aunts and uncles. Many times it is useful to obtain the records of your uncles, aunts, and cousins who also immigrated from "the old country." If the immigrant applied for American citizenship, the details are also included in these files. For anyone of Japanese, German, or Italian origin who lived in the United States during World War II, the documents often include FBI reports about the person's activities, including friends, family, and political activities. For more information about the program, check out <http://www.uscis.gov/genealogy>

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Final Donations Secure Camp Security Preservation

York Daily Record, December 6, 2013

The land where a Revolutionary War prison camp once stood has been preserved after a more-than-decade-long effort. Larger anonymous donations as well as small contributions from across the country helped to raise the final piece of funding - a total of \$320,000 in the end - needed to buy a 47-acre parcel off of Locust Grove Road in Springettsbury Township.

The deed was transferred on Friday from The Conservation Fund to Springettsbury Township, the new owner, said Ann Simonelli, a spokeswoman with the fund. The latest piece cost about \$1 million and was purchased by the fund from developer Tim Pasch. In total, 162 acres now have been preserved, Simonelli said. That does not include a nearby small township park.

The mission has been to preserve, to interpret and to commemorate the British prisoner of war camp, Carol Tanzola, president of the Friends of Camp Security said. Now that the land has been preserved, the partners will work together on the next step. The Friends also will be working to commemorate the site - not only the British prisoners of war but also the militia guards, Tanzola said. Leslie A. Jones, chairman of fundraising for the Friends of Camp Security, said a thorough archeological survey and interpretation of the site is vital. A limited archeological dig in 1979 revealed thousands of artifacts, including pottery shards, buttons and gold coins, on the property.

You can read the full article at

http://www.inyork.com/ci_24671060/springettsbury-takes-ownership-camp-security-property?IADID=Search-www.inyork.com-www.inyork.com

