



**South Central
Pennsylvania**
Genealogical Society

Our Name's The Game

www.scpgs.org

Monthly Newsletter Vol. 41 No. 3 November/December 2015

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Sunday, January 3, 2016

Roundtable: Use of DNA in Genealogical Research

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.

This roundtable discussion will be led by Richard Konkel, and will include a discussion of the three tests (Y-DNA, mitochondrial, and autosomal) and the various companies offering the service as well as what sorts of findings can be found through the use of DNA testing.

Sunday, February 7, 2016

African American Genealogy

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.

Rodney Barnett, organist and music director at the Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist in York will discuss his research into his own African American genealogy including his paternal families in Botetourt County, Virginia and his maternal families in Alabama, including the difficulties and tactics of tracing families into slavery and the use of DNA testing.

OUR UPCOMING MEETINGS are scheduled as follows ...

Sunday, March 20, 2016

Fundamentals of Irish Genealogical Research

Irish researchers lead by Fintan Mullan of the Ulster Historical Foundation will present this program.

Sunday, April 3, 2016

Pre-1790 Oaths of Allegiance and Naturalizations in Pennsylvania

This program will be presented by Jonathan Stayer.

Sunday, May 1, 2016

Visit to Hellam Preserve Historical Site including 1758 log house

Sunday, June 5, 2016

Henry James Young Awards

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 visit our website scpgs.org or call Richard Konkel at 717-843-7043.

From Our President: Jonathan Stayer

At our October meeting, your Genealogical Society celebrated its fortieth anniversary. I was asked to talk about the future of our organization. I would like to summarize those thoughts for you.

As I look to the future, I want to build on what is working for us and embark on some new endeavors. We have a forty-year history of interesting meetings that feature a variety of topics. Over the years, we have visited local sites of historical and genealogical interest.

Throughout the history of our society, we transcribed and published many local items of great value to genealogists such as colonial naturalization records, notary docket, Bible records and the 1798 glass tax. Currently, we are working on York County Civil War draft lists.

Another strength of our society has been our partnership with the York County Heritage Trust. We support the Trust library with volunteers and funds to purchase books and supplies. I plan to continue all of these efforts and expand them where possible.

Building on these strengths, I want to see the South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society become known as the leader in York County genealogical pursuits. We should be the first place to which new genealogists turn to learn about methodology and sources. Our genealogy conference for 2016 reflects this focus, providing many opportunities for beginners to understand basic research techniques and acquaint them with a variety of military records.

Like you, I desire to see our membership grow and to have greater member participation in all aspects of our organization — attending meetings, transcribing records, writing articles, attending conferences, volunteering at the York County Heritage Trust and so on. With greater involvement, we could expand our website and develop more of a presence on social media.

Furthermore, I would like to establish partnerships with the Susquehanna Trail Genealogy Club (STGC) and the York County Archives. The STGC has a long history of working with computer applications for genealogy, and we can learn much from them. The Archives holds many of the original records that we use in our research and deserves our support for the preservation and accessibility of those materials.

To aid in accomplishing these goals, I am working to expand our biannual genealogy conference.

While keeping a local focus, it can have regional appeal, providing a place for beginners to learn basic skills, for more experienced researchers to expand their knowledge and unlock obscure sources, and for genealogical and historical organizations in York and Adams Counties to come together for the benefit and promotion of the genealogical community in our area.

Join me in making the next forty years of our Society even more successful than the past have been!

A New Special Publication

Special Publication #79 was recently mailed to SCPGS members in good standing. This publication is an abstract of baptisms, marriages, deaths and new members from the newsletters of the Kreutz Creek Reformed Church.

National Genealogical Society

(www.ngsgenealogy.org)

Long before there was Plymouth Rock, the Boston Tea Party, and the Declaration of Independence, the story of America began on the beaches of Florida. From the Spanish discovery of Florida in 1513, the exploration by the French and Spanish and the colonization of Florida's interior, to its later involvement in military conflicts, science, technology, and entertainment, follow the first footprints of the American saga in the sands of Florida.

The NGS 2016 Family History Conference will find genealogists from around the country gathering in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, May 4-7, 2016 for a four-day conference with more than 150 lectures on a wide range of topics. Topics like federal records, the law and genealogy, methodology, analysis and problem solving, military and land records, DNA, BCG skill building, and the use of technology. Among the local topics planned are Florida and Caribbean research.

Registration for the conference and all related events opens on December 1, 2015.



Our 40th Anniversary Celebration

Frank Grove began our anniversary celebration by speaking about the founding of South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society. He read a letter that he received from the first president of the society, Ruthetta "Bunny" Jacobs. In her letter she wrote ... "What started me to look up my family and husband's line was that Bill, my husband, was adopted ... After a lot of research I found Bill's biological mother and father. So, to find out more I went to one of John Heisey's classes at York College. Pat Gross went with me and we really got hooked. After attending two of John Heisey's seminars ... at the end of his talk for the night, he said is anybody ready to start a society? I put my hand up and we picked a night for the first meeting of a society at my home. Seventy-five people attended that meeting, including the president of the Historical Society. After some discussion of a name for the society and first president; the president of the Historical Society nominated me as president pro tem for a year. Then the second year, I was nominated as president by the society. ... We had a very lively group and workers. John Heisey played a huge part in forming our society, and others as well. I had one of the finest boards a society could ask for. First year we published our first book with our family lines in. It was a great money maker. While I was president we were incorporated, participated in the street fair, rode in the parade dressed in colonial gowns on the back of a convertible. ... We also had a lot of trips to genealogical societies, historical societies, cemeteries, libraries in Harrisburg, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Lancaster and the DAR library in Washington DC. There are so many people to thank for keeping the society going. All the volunteers who spend hundreds of hours at the York Historical Society and library, and the York Court House copying old records and later publishing them and giving them to our members, free. Keep up the good work."

June Lloyd then spoke about the partnership between South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society (SCPGS) and the library of the York County Heritage Trust. She mentioned that from the very beginning the partnership between the society and the library at the York Historical Society (now York County Heritage Trust) has been very successful. When the library's budget was tight, SCPGS fills in the needs by providing books, archival material, and even a microfilm reader/printer. And perhaps the

most important contribution is that of the volunteers who assist the library patrons. SCPGS contributes copies of research performed for members and non-members to the library for inclusion in the family files. And, the society and the library worked together to sponsor conferences and Bible documentation events.

Margaret Burg presented a Henry James Young award to Richard Konkel. And, Jonathan Stayer concluded the meeting by speaking about his vision for the future of SCPGS.

Throughout this newsletter you will find articles related to the history of the South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society.

SCPGS's Henry J. Young Award Recipients

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|------|---|
| 1991 | Henry James Young |
| 1993 | Alice E. Starner
Landon C. Reisinger |
| 1995 | Ralph, Edith and Alice B. Cannon
Schuyler C. Brossman; |
| 1997 | Dr. Charles H. Glatfelter
Samuel J. Saylor |
| 1999 | John W. Heisey
Arthur Weaner. |
| 2001 | Annette K. Burger
Albert L. Rose |
| 2003 | David P. Hively
Rev. Dr. Neal Otto Hively |
| 2005 | Gloria L. Aughenbaugh
Betty E. Brown |
| 2007 | Ruthetta "Bunny" Jacobs
Patricia A. Gross |
| 2009 | Rev. Frederick S. Weiser
Alfreda Patton Davidson |
| 2011 | June Burke Lloyd
Barbara Ann (Wolf) Rudy
Leonard A. Heilman |
| 2013 | Donna and Gerald Shermeyer,
Glenn P. Zech |
| 2015 | Richard K. Konkel |

Henry James Young Award Recipient

Margaret Burg presented a Henry James Young Award at our 40th anniversary celebration in October to our vice-president Richard Konkel ...

South Central normally gives a Henry J. Young award every other year in the odd numbered years to a person in recognition of their contributions to promotion of genealogy, local history, the York County Heritage Trust and the Society. Earlier this year when the time came for a nominee to be chosen, the President reported that he hadn't received any nominations. The Board cancelled plans for an award ceremony that would have been held in June of this year. I've had a nominee in mind for some time, so I proposed to the Board that we surprise that person at the Society's 40th anniversary celebration. The Board supported the idea, luckily that person missed the Board meeting and the surprise was safe.

I'm fairly confident in saying the person who will be given the award today is the youngest person to receive it. There have been twenty-three people who have received the award since it was established in 1991.

Richard Konkel is the 24th recipient. Welcome to Richard's family and friends ... thank you for coming. I hope we surprised him.

Our honoree today started his quest into genealogy during his teenage years doing research with his grandmother, Olga Eveler, and continues researching several lines of his family. He has always embraced new happenings in the world of genealogy. He promotes DNA testing at each opportunity to anyone he talks with. He is very thorough with his research and documentation of the facts. He has his very large family tree on Ancestry, and is quick to contact someone who has the wrong information on their family tree and also to make corrections on Ancestry to records that have been abstracted incorrectly.

He travels often to archives, county offices, historical societies and genealogy societies to do research and obtain copies of the actual documents. Several of those places have increased their coffers significantly by the time he leaves with copies of documents. But even with the huge number of people in his tree, unlike most of us, he does not use a commercial genealogy program to organize his tree, yet it is very well organized and he has a personal acquaintance with every one of those people. A little known fact is that Richard has his own storage closet at the Family History Center at



the local Mormon Church to hold all the microfilm reels he has ordered for his European research.

Richard is South Central's own Wikipedia when it comes to history and knowledge of English and European history. But his facts are accurate. Richard is also an expert in translating old documents, whether in German, Latin or French and probably some other languages he hasn't told me about yet.

In York County, Richard doesn't meet too many people that he is not related to. For some he may have to go all the way back to Charlemagne to make the connection, but he usually finds it. He is very familiar with area surnames and can set budding genealogists on the right track to their ancestors almost every time.

Richard has served as president of South Central eleven times since joining the Society, the first time in 1995-96 and the latest in 2013-14, and he has served as vice-president ten times, which is the office he currently holds. As vice president he has the responsibility to organize the programs for each year. Several times he has presented the program himself, sharing his knowledge about many subjects. He's had to fill in a few times when a speaker was unable to make it. He has also made himself available to speak at genealogy conferences both for the Society and other organizations for several years. He truly gets the word out about genealogy.

Richard is currently an attorney at CGA Law Firm, and he has served on the Board of Directors of the York County Heritage Trust for several years. In addition to his church duties, he also gives cello lesson, and plays cello with the York Symphony Orchestra.

It is with great pleasure that on behalf of the South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society, I present the Henry James Young award to Richard Konkel.

Excerpts from SCPGS: A Brief History

from *Our Name's the Game*, Vol 26 No 4

Contributed by Jean E. Robinson

The society began as the result of a genealogy class taught twenty five years ago by the late John W. Heisey. Twenty-five years later the SCPGS can celebrate the ingenuity and commitment of the members of that class to family research.

The group that became the SCPGS first met at the York City home of Ruthetta "Bunny" Jacobs in the summer of 1975 with the first recorded board minutes dated October 1, 1975.

The first officers were:

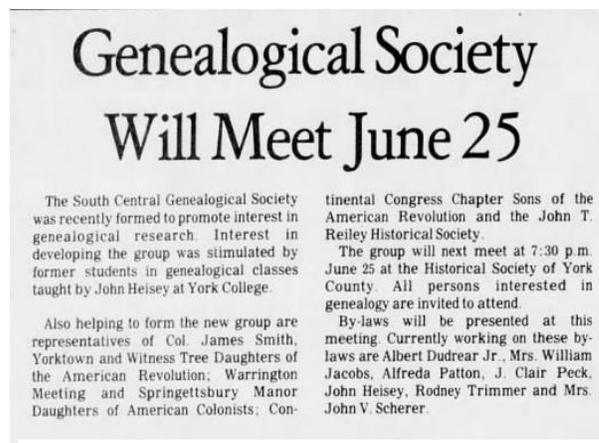
- Mrs. William E. Jacobs, president
- Mr. Albert Dudrear, Jr., vice-president
- Miss Janet L. Thomas, corresponding secretary
- Mrs. John V. Scherer, recording secretary
- Mrs. Frank R. Diem, treasurer
- Mrs. J. Clair Peck, director-at-large
- Mr. Rodney Trimmer, director-at-large

The first newsletter, dated September 29, 1975, reports a nominating committee, an election of officers, and an announcement of an "advanced" genealogy class to be taught by Mr. Heisey. Alfreda Patton (now Alfreda Davidson) was the society's first newsletter editor. *Our Name's the Game* first appeared on the top of the newsletter in December 1975. The first queries were in the issue of February 1976. After a year Alfreda turned the position over to Len Heilman. Several people have held the position since then.

Charter membership grew to approximately 267 by the time the charter period was closed in June 1976. Fifty of the original members are members today and many are still active in the organization.

Meetings were held in various locations the first year. A permanent meeting place was then found at the Historical Society building (now part of the York County Heritage Trust).

The society's books and papers were initially housed in a small room in the York College library. As the society developed a closer relationship with the Historical Society, the reference materials and files were made part of the Historical Society's library for all researchers to use. Because of the relationship with the Historical Society, a position on the SCPGS board was created for the Historical Society's librarian.



York Daily Record, June 19, 1975

Originally, research request letters to the society were answered without charge on a weekly schedule by a research committee made up of member volunteers. In March 1979 a \$5 donation was requested to each search for non-members. Gloria Aughenbaugh headed this committee until 1984 when Betty Brown and Sam Saylor assumed the responsibility. They continue to serve in the position.

The society's first large project was the publication in consecutive years of two volumes of member ancestral charts. "The Bicentennial Edition 1776-1976" and "Articles of Confederation Edition 1777-1977" were published in 1976 and 1977, respectively. The society's other more extensive series, Special Publications, now number 58. The series was begun by Len Heilman and Pat Gross, who coordinated and did much of the work associated their production until Len's death. The first of these, published in October 1977, was the "Notorial Docket of George Caruthers," a York County notary. Since that initial one, much primary source material has been published in these booklets.

One of the best decisions the officers of the SCPGS made was to remain separate from the Historical Society of York County, but to work very cooperatively with that society. For almost 25 years the SCPGS has contributed books and other research materials to the Historical Society library. The SCPGS gave a significant financial contribution when the Historical Society, including its library, was renovated some years ago. The SCPGS has also placed in the library a microfilm reader/printer and an overhead projector. The SCPGS membership has been the source for many of the Historical Society's library volunteers. In return the Historical Society has allowed the SCPGS to hold its monthly meetings within the Historical Society building without charge.

... continued from page 5

Anyone who does research at the York County Historical Society is familiar with the name Henry J. Young. About ten years ago the SCPGS honored Dr. Young for his work by initiating an award in his name to be given to individuals who have contributed considerable time and talent to local genealogy. The first award was given on October 6, 1991, with Dr. Young himself receiving the award.

Pat Gross deserves special mention for the extraordinary service she has given to the SCPGS since its beginning. For 25 years she has served as membership registrar and maintained the surname interest file. Two or three times a week she picks up the incoming SCPGS mail at its box in the York City post office. She has prepared the newsletter and Special Publications for mailing and delivers them to the post office. This is only a sampling of Pat's contributions to the SCPGS.

Writing a brief history of the SCPGS is "risky" business. Many individuals make an organization successful. Working together they achieve the goals envisioned by the society's founders. While this report highlights the work of a few members, the SCPGS could not have succeeded without the participation of many more individuals who have served in various capacities, as well as those who have held only membership in the society.

The SCPGS began producing newsletters and Special Publications on a mimeograph machine. Now both publications are word processed on computers. We are now in the computer age, and that age will change how individuals and organizations who are interested in family history function. How the SCPGS can best meet the challenges of this new age will have to be decided.

SCPGS: The Last 15 Years

While we have seen a drop in our membership during the last fifteen years, SCPGS has continued to offer educational and entertaining programs throughout each year, including on-site meetings at local churches and other historical sites. We have also continued to support the library at the York County Heritage Trust through donations of books and archival materials.

We now have a website, scpgs.org, to promote our meetings and Special Publications. And, we offer our newsletter in a PDF format via email. More often than not research requests are received and responded to via email.

We published another twenty Special Publications and *The Parish Telephone*, a one hundred page soft-bound book.

The ongoing success of SCPGS is solely dependent upon the involvement and support of its members.

SCPGS's Past Presidents

1975-77	Ruthetta "Bunny" Jacobs
1977-79	Rosealeen T. Hulshart
1979-81	David P. Hivley
1981-82	Rosealeen T. Hulshart
1982-84	David P. Hively
1984-86	Patricia A. Gross
1986-87	David P. Hively
1987-88	Elizabeth T. Keller
1988-90	Alfreda Patton (Davidson)
1990-92	Albert Rose
1992-93	Harry A. Diehl
1993-95	Samuel J. Saylor
1995-97	Richard K. Konkel
1997-99	Margaret L. Burg
1999-02	Richard K. Konkel
2002-04	Jean E. Robinson
2004-07	Richard K. Konkel
2007-08	Robert R. Reisinger
2008-10	Richard K. Konkel
2010-12	Franklin Grove
2012-14	Richard K. Konkel
2014-16	Jonathan Stayer

Genealogists To Meet

How to start a genealogy society and how to get into the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) will be discussed by Alfreda Patton at a meeting of the South Central Genealogical Society on Nov. 23 at 2 p.m. at The Historical Society of York County

Miss Patton, who has been working on her own genealogy for two years, is also genealogical records chairman for the Witness Tree Chapter of the DAR. Miss Patton is a faculty member at York County Area Vocational-Technical School.

Historic Kreutz Creek Church

On Sunday, November 1st we met at the Kreutz Creek Presbyterian church in Hellam Township just east of Hallam. Richard Konkel shared the following history from *Pastors and People, Volume I, Pastors and Congregations* (pp. 469-470) written by Charles H. Glatfelter in 1980 ...

These congregations in Hellam township came into being in the middle 1740s, if not earlier. A writer in the German Reformed *Messenger* for September 19, 1855 gave his version of how Kreutz creek and the valley in which he grew to manhood got their name. About six miles east of York, he explained, the stream flowing eastward through the valley is intersected by one flowing from the north and another flowing from the south, with the three streams forming a cross. A warrant dated November 27, 1738 authorized the survey of two hundred acres "on the Lower Cross Creek." (Lancaster Warrant T-50,BLR)

Most of the first Germans who crossed the Susquehanna river in the early 1730s took up land in the Kreutz Creek valley. As their numbers increased, the frontier was extended westward into the Codorus valley, in which Yorktown was laid out in 1741. No evidence has yet come to light which indicates clearly where in Kreutz Creek and Codorus the first religious services were held, but it is quite possible that, for some years in the 1730s and early 1740s, there was one Lutheran and one Reformed congregation for the people in these two settlements. If this was the case, it is equally possible that the division into two Lutheran and two Reformed congregations, located in Codorus and Kreutz Creek, did not occur until about the time Yorktown was founded late in 1741. The names of two of the earliest Lutheran trustees at Kreutz Creek — Henry Smith and George Amend — appear as parents and sponsors in the Yorktown register. When Jacob Lischy visited Kreutz Creek as a Moravian itinerant in 1745, he preached in a schoolhouse, but by the time a Moravian synod convened there in October 1746, a church had been built. It was replaced by a stone church in 1797.

On October 27, 1746 Martin Schultz, Jacob Welshoffer, Henry Smith, and George Amend secured a warrant for fifty acres in Hellam township, "in Trust for the use of the reformed Lutheran Dutch Congregation in the said Township." Although the entry in the land office daybook stated that the warrant was "for the Use of the Lutheran Congregation, "it is evident that the intent of the warrantees was to secure it for both congregations.

(Lancaster Warrant S-495 and Day Book No. 5, 1745-1749, p. 92, BLR) Since it was determined later that the church land was within Springettsbury Manor, a deed had to be secured from the Penn heirs. This was not done until June 2, 1825, when John and William Penn sold a tract of 44 acres 133 perches for "the only proper use and behoof of the Congregations of Kreutz Creek Church forever." (York County Deed 3-H, p. 465; see the act of March 28, 1799)

While he was still pastor in Lancaster, William Otterbein began a Reformed register on February 23, 1757. It contains no baptismal entries for the years 1770-1790. Lucas Raus began a Lutheran register in 1764. He entered seven baptisms performed during the preceding eight years. The name of the Reformed congregation first appears in the minutes of the coetus in 1752, but that of the Lutherans does not appear in the minutes of ministerium or synod until 1793.

Some Lutheran members of this church built in the nearby town of Hellam in 1894; some Reformed did likewise in 1901. The last service either congregation held in the old church occurred in 1909. On September 28, 1912 the premises were sold at public sale to a group calling itself the Kreutz Creek Union church. (York County Deed 18-P, p. 155) Several years later this group affiliated with the Presbyterian church. Lutheran pastors included Samuel Schwerdtfeger (1755-1758), Lucas Raus (1758-1788, probably), and Jacob Goering (1789-1807). Reformed pastors included Jacob Lischy (1745-1757), Conrad Wirtz (1762-1763), William Otterbein (1765-1771), Daniel Wagner (1771-1786), George Troldenier (1786-1789), Philip Stock (1790-1792), and Daniel Wagner (1793-1802). This listing of Reformed pastors is based upon the assumption that after the departure of Jacob Lischy the congregation continued to be filial of Yorktown, at least until after 1793.

The Lutheran congregation is now St. James, 180 West Market Street, Hellam. The Reformed congregation is Trinity United Church of Christ, 200 East Market Street, Hellam.

Sources: Lutheran register, translation, LTS, Gettysburg; RCR 40, ERHS, Lancaster; and Walter E. Garrett, *History of the Kreutz Creek Charge of the Reformed Church* (Philadelphia, 1924), pp. 14-45.

A question and answer period followed after which we wandered through this historic church and visited the old cemetery. Our hosts not only answered our questions, they also shared stories, and had displays related to the church's history set-up in the nearby fellowship hall along with refreshments.

Kreutz Creek Church: A Brief History

from the April 2010 issue of the Kreutz Creek Valley Preservation Society newsletter

Historic Kreutz Creek Church began life as a humble ministry in a log cabin in the first settlement west of the Susquehanna River in the early 1700's. A warrant from John and William Penn was issued for 50 acres to Martin Schultz, Jacob Weltzhoffer, Henry Smith and George Ament, "In trust for the use of the German & Reformed Congregation."

The original Union Church was limestone, built in the late 1700's, then outgrown and torn down to make way for the present brick church built in 1860. In 1860 the *York County Star* and *Wrightsville Advertiser* reported that the materials to erect a new church were deposited at the site of the old church for building in the spring. It was also reported in May that the contractor was William Wiser. The price for construction was \$3,400. In October 1860 the *York Gazette* described the building as "a neat and commodious brick edifice surrounded by a handsome cupola in which hangs a fine toned cast steel bell – the same that was on exhibit at our county fair. The interior of the church is nearly finished and has a gallery on the three sides."

The historical survey of 1988 records the church's octagonal belfry with wind vane and front facade Greek Revival. The double leaved door with entablature is another Greek revival element. Brick pilasters accent the foundation corners and a delicate dentil molding adorns the eaves on north and south elevations. The interior also has much of its early charm and ambience. Some of the primary retained accents include the original stenciling above the dropped ceiling, the plank floors and the pews.

The thoughtful congregation is to be commended for their caretaking of this one of a kind treasure, which has been kept in such pristine condition and integrity. Since this church played and continues to play a pivotal role in Hellam's history, we must cherish and embrace it.

Personal Genealogy Consultations

The Historical Society of Pennsylvania
1300 Locust Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107
(hsp.org/calendar/personal-genealogy-consultations)

On the third Wednesday of every month at 1:00, 3:00, and 5:00 p.m., professional genealogists from the Greater Philadelphia Area Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG) will be available to help take your family history research to the next level. These one-on-one consultations are designed for beginner and experienced genealogists alike.

The Greater Philadelphia Area Chapter brings together a group of experienced researchers whose expertise spans the whole gamut of genealogy. Whether you are looking for a lost ancestor, filling out the limbs on your family tree, unsure of where to start or look next, personal consultations with APG professionals offer guidance and knowledge for genealogists at all stages of their research.

During the sixty minute consultation, you will have the opportunity to learn with award-winning genealogists of APG, exploring all stages of your current and planned family history research:

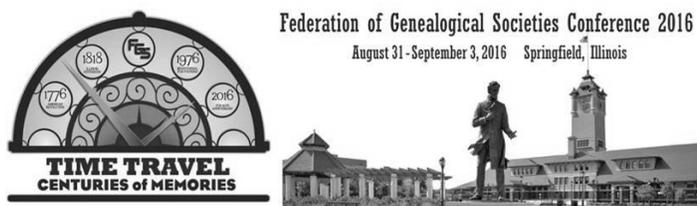
- Review the records and sources already explored to determine where to look next
- Develop a research plan
- Explore the collections of HSP and online genealogical databases
- Get advice on "breaking through" a brick wall research problem

Space is limited--reserve your consult today!

After completing the registration process, you'll be directed to a research questionnaire. Please complete and submit this questionnaire as soon as possible. The genealogist will use this to prepare for your consultation. If you're not directed to the research questionnaire, you may access it here. For further information, please contact Chris Damiani at cdamiani@hsp.org or 215-732-6200 x227.

A Conference for the Nation's Genealogists

(fgs.org / fgsconference.org)



FGS and local host the Illinois State Genealogical Society invite you to join genealogists and family historians from throughout the world for some innovative time traveling experiences in Springfield, Illinois! Learn from exceptional speakers, network with other researchers, stroll through a large exhibit hall filled to the brim with vendors, and take in the amazing sites and sounds of Illinois' capital city.

The Joy of Genealogy: When you unearth a family secret, be careful what you do with it

by Joy Neighbors

Joy Neighbors is the media manger for Genealogists.com and writes the weekly cemetery culture blog, A Grave Interest www.agraveinterest.blogspot.com

If you've ever explored genealogy, you've probably uncovered a family secret or two. Some sociologists warn that if you dig too deep, you may get more than you bargained for. Family secrets can run the gamut from the relatively tame taboos by today's standards of illegitimate children, interracial and interfaith marriages to bigamy, mental illness into the darker depths of incest, suicide or murder. We all begin our genealogy journey wanting to discover who our people were, especially in relation to who we are, but when we discover a family secret, we need to be prepared and decide how to handle the information.

It's important to remember that every family has a story – some of it good, some not. And there are skeletons in every family's closet so think about what you will do when you open Pandora's box. What to do will depend on several factors, the most important: who will the information affect now? Most genealogists abide by the standard rule: do not publish anything about a living person. If someone is still alive that the secret involves directly, or who will be devastated by knowing it, then keep the status quo, for now. That does not mean that you are altering your family story or rewriting history; it simply means that you have decided to respect someone's right to privacy. But, that also does not mean hiding it forever. Family secrets and skeletons in the closet are not the same as information you are not aware. Secrets are kept hidden on purpose as an attempt to withhold information about an event or person because the family feels shame or fears reprisals based on what others will think. But this is what genealogy is all about, researching and discovering facts about your ancestors; the good and the bad and that includes the decisions they made, the circumstances they endured.

Remember that if we continue to keep those family secrets, key components of family history will never get fully revealed; nor will they ever stand a chance of being explained. That could leave us with a large gap in truly understanding whom our ancestors were, and the real information that could help us make sense of them could end up lost forever. As George Bernard Shaw said, "If you cannot get rid of the family skeleton, you may as well make it dance."

Calendar of Local Events

Thursday, January 7

Estate Records at the Maryland State Archives: What's in Those Files?

Anne Arundel Genealogical Society
Severna Park United Methodist Church
731 Benfield Road, Severna Park, MD [7 PM]

This presentation by Carol Petranak will explore Maryland's estate and probate records held by the Maryland State Archives. These record collections, which are rich in genealogical information, are often overlooked by researchers. Ms. Petranak will review a sampling of various document collections that can be found in estate files and examine the different types of genealogical information that can be extracted by researchers.

Sunday, January 31

An Encore presentation of Rumor or Fact: A Town under Loch Raven Reservoir?

Historical Society Baltimore County
9811 Van Buren Lane, Cockeysville, MD [2-4 PM]

Ever drive over the Warren Road Bridge crossing the Loch Raven Reservoir and wonder if the large water expanse has always been there? Ms. Sally Riley, HSBC researcher and Librarian will present facts and pictures about Loch Raven Reservoir and Warren, MD. Admission: \$5.00 for non-members, HSBC members free.

Saturday, February 13

The Mill: My Life in Paper

York County Heritage Trust
250 East Market Street York, PA [10:30 AM]

Based on his recently published memoir, *The Mill: My Life in Paper*, John C. Schmidt will highlight the history and evolution of the Schmidt and Ault Paper Company. Drawing from personal diaries, journals, historical documents, and genealogical records, Schmidt will highlight the company's rise as well as the development of the King's Mill property. Books will be available for purchase in the Trust bookshop.

Sunday, February 28

The Specifics and Peculiarities of Genealogy Research in Harford County, Maryland

Baltimore County Genealogical Society
The Parkville Senior Center, Room 308 (3rd Floor)
8601 Harford Road, Parkville, MD [3-4 PM]

Program will be presented by Jon Livezey. Guests are always welcome at all of our meetings.

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Save the Date

Saturday, September 24, 2016

South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society and York County Heritage Trust are jointly sponsoring a genealogy conference on Saturday, September 24, 2016 at the York County Heritage Trust, 250 East Market Street, York ... Mustering Up Your Family History.

The keynote speaker will be Ron Hershner, author of "Letters From Home: The Civil War Correspondence of a York County Family".

The conference will feature two tracts of programs ...

Genealogical Research — Beginning Genealogical Research, Online Genealogical Research, Resources of the York County Heritage Trust Library, and Using DNA in Genealogical Research

Military Records — Revolutionary War Research, Civil War Research, Researching World War I and World War II veterans, and Genealogical Process for Using Army Collections

Watch for more information.

Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society (MAGS)

(magsgen.com)

Spring Conference
at Holiday Inn, Laurel, Maryland *

*The Holiday Inn is changing its name to the Doubletree Hotel.

Friday, April 8 — 1 to 4 PM (workshop)

Saturday, April 9 ... 8:30 AM to 4 PM
... as usual lunch will be served

Fall Conference
at Wyndham Garden Hotel, York, Pennsylvania

Friday, October 21 ... 1 to 4 PM (workshop)

Saturday, October 22 ... 8:30 AM to 4 PM
... as usual lunch will be served.

We are still working with speakers and titles for their presentations for both of these events. The Fall 2015 Workshop sold out very quickly. Please register as soon as specific information is available.