



**South Central
Pennsylvania**
Genealogical Society

Our Name's The Game

www.scpgs.com

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Upcoming Meetings

Sunday, January 5, 2020 Share Your Findings

This month's meeting will be held at the Historical Society Museum, 250 East Market Street, York. A brief business meeting will begin at 2:15 PM and the program will immediately follow at approximately 2:30 PM. Tell us about an unusual or "hidden" resource that you have used in your genealogical research. This is an audience participation meeting.

Sunday, February 2, 2020 - Lebanon Cemetery, North York, PA

Volunteers who are working on the restoration of one of York's largest African American cemeteries will discuss the issues of the cemetery ownership, finding lost graves, and creating a way for people to find relatives buried in the cemetery, in addition to telling some of the stories of individuals buried in the cemetery.



Sunday, March 8, 2020 Irish Research

Join Fintan Mullan and Gillian Hunt from the Ulster Historical Foundation during their annual North American lecture tour to learn how to get the most out of Irish resources and records, gain strategies for breaking down brick walls, and grasp important historical context that may help fill in gaps in your research. Whether you are just beginning your Irish research or have been at it for years, you won't want to miss these workshops!

This meeting will be held at the Historical Society Museum, 250 East Market Street, York. The program is scheduled to begin at 1 PM and last until 5 PM.

This lecture is free to SCPGS members and members of the York County History Center, however, there will be a \$40 charge for non-members.



One had volunteered to become our

“webmistress”; taking over the vacancy of that position, due to the death of Cindy Hartman.

We’re still looking for someone to be Director of Publications and Newsletter Publisher.

Nominations are being accepted for the Henry J Young Award. You can email Jonathan Stayer at slrzt@aol.com – if you have someone you would like to nominate. The Henry James Young Award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to the preservation of history and genealogy. To be eligible for the Henry James Young Award, the person should have contributed directly to the preservation of history and genealogy, a living, or deceased person will be considered and need not be a member of the South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society.

An Interesting Eighteenth-Century Petition

Submitted by Jonathan R. Stayer, York, PA

(Spelling, punctuation and capitalization retained from the original)

To The Honourable the Judges of the Supreme Court now Sitting at York Town in the County of York in the State of Pennsylvania -----

The Petition of Baltzer Knertzer Most Humbly and respectfully Sheweth -----

That Your Petitioner at the Commencement of the War Was appointed a Committee Man for Newberry Township, and Continued as Such untill he was Appointed an Overseer for the Wives of Poor Men Who went into Actual Service of their Country, Numbers of which he did supply with grain for a Considerable Time out of His own Pocket, that Numbers of Creditable Neighbours can Testify the Above Facts, that your Honours Would please to suspend sentence against your Petitioner, untill He Could have his Conduct and Character during the late War properly Stated to your Honours by Neighbors of Undoubted Character and Who from the beginning are well known in this County to be Strongly Attached to the Interests of this Country, and your Petitioner as in duty bound Will be gratefull.

[signed] Balsar Knertzer

I first wish to make a disclaimer that this article is not an advertisement for ancestry.com. That being said, several of their products and services made possible the discovery of family history information which I would have said was impossible to discover only a few years before.

It has been long known in my family that the wife of my great great great grandfather Henry Washington Shue (1825-1900) was Magdalena Geltz (1830-1905). My great grandfather John Oscar Shaul (1901-1996) knew his grandmother was a Geltz, however the family did not know much of anything about her family. Early on in my genealogical research, while still in high school, I discovered an entry for the Gottlieb Geltz family in the 1850 census for Windsor Township, York County, Pennsylvania which appeared to be the correct family:

Gottlieb Geltz	49	Farmer born in Germany
Louisa Geltz	49	born in Germany
Lanah Geltz	19	born in Pennsylvania
Lyda Geltz	17	born in Pennsylvania
Mary Geltz	15	born in Pennsylvania
Caroline Geltz	13	born in Pennsylvania
John Geltz	8	born in Pennsylvania
Isaac Geltz	5	born in Pennsylvania

The Lanah Geltz listed is the ancestor Magdalena Geltz wife of Henry W. Shue. Further research done in the 1980s revealed the last will and testament of Gottlieb Geltz of Windsor Township dated 23 October 1868 which named his children with first wife as: Lanah married to Henry Shue, Lydia married to Frederick Herman, Christian married to Benjamin Shue, Mary Ann married to H [Abram] Haines, Carolina married to Andrew Ompsbaugh, John and Isaac Geltz. It further named his present wife Leah and minor children from her: Amanda Jane, Elizabeth, William Henry, and Jacob Geltz. The will was probated on 4 January 1869 and recorded in York County Will Book H-23. Page 414.

The 1850 census and the reference in Gottlieb Geltz' will to "children of my first wife" seem to establish that Louisa born about 1801 in Germany and was the mother of these children. There is however no tombstones or record of death for Louisa. She died sometime before the 1860 census when Gottlieb appears with his single children. The only other record for Louisa was the baptism of a son William Geltz born 2 March 1829 and baptized 6 April 1829 at Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, York, York County, Pennsylvania. This child appears to have died sometime before 1850 and is not named in Gottlieb's will but this baptism is the only other American record for Louisa. Other children were probably baptized at the Union Church in Freysville, Windsor Township for which the records are missing.

I thought perhaps parents listed in Pennsylvania death certificates would reveal the maiden name of the elusive Louisa. Most of the children died before 1906 when Pennsylvania death

certificates begin, and the death certificate for her daughter Mary A. Haines who died in Columbia, Lancaster County on 17 May 1914 lists her parents as Isaac Geltz born in Germany and her mother as “Not Known” born in Germany. None of this was helpful at all.

Around 2003 I did in depth research on finding the origins of Gottlieb Geltz. I had found his naturalization record from 26 August 1850 in the York County Court of Common Pleas, wherein he indicated that he was a subject of the King of Württemberg, as well as the record of him arriving at the Port of Baltimore as a single man on 30 September 1827. His wife Louisa was not with him.

My search for the family turned to looking in Württemberg for the Geltz/Göltz/Gölz family. A possible brother of Gottlieb was Mathias Geltz (15 May 1804-14 July 1882), who died in North Hopewell Township, York County, Pennsylvania. His tombstone at St. Paul’s Lebanon Lutheran Church Cemetery in North Hopewell Township, York County, Pennsylvania gave his full birthdate. A search of the IGI (international genealogical index) at the York Family History Center revealed a Matthäus Gölz born in Winterbach, Oberamt Schorndorf, and Württemberg on the exact same date. After ordering the microfilms of the church records for Winterbach from the LDS Family History Center in Salt Lake City I confirmed that Matthäus and Gottlieb Gölz are indeed brothers, sons of Johann Georg Göltz (1755-1806) a *Schreiner* (cabinet maker) and a soldier in the Württemberg army for 32 years and his second wife Rebecca Neuffer (1763-1845). The baptism of Gottlieb Gölz indicated that he was born 18 October 1800 in Winterbach and baptized at the evangelische Kirche in Winterbach on 19 October 1800. There is a further notation on the entry: *nach Nordamerika ausgewandert* (immigrated to North America).

Diligent searching was done to find Louisa. No marriage was located in Winterbach, which is not really unusual. In the early 1800s many of the German territories strictly regulated marriage to only those that the government deemed had enough wealth to establish a household and family. Of course this did not prevent people from doing what comes naturally and many illegitimate births were the result of these policies. The baptism for Lousia Heinricka Palmer born 12 December 1800 in the nearby village of Hebsack and baptized 14 December 1800, daughter of Johann David Palmer (1765-after 1834) *Weber* (weaver) and wife Elisabetha Eckert (1765-1828) of Hebsack was found. Like Gottlieb Geltz’ baptism there was a notation in the record of *nach Nordamerika* (to North America). This appeared to be promising, however the middle name of Heinricka was unknown to me. I was further prevented from pursuing this further by a notation in the parish *Familienbuch* (Family Book) indicating the Johann David Palmer family immigrated to North America in 1834. This was a number of years too late for Louisa to emigrate, as she had children born in York County in 1829, 1830, 1831 and 1833. The information on Louisa Heinricka Palmer was filed away until further information and research could be done.

For nearly 15 years I found nothing further to establish who Louisa may have been and had resigned myself to believing that I never would find anything to prove a maiden name or family

for Louisa. There simply was not enough information to prove anything. Several years ago ancestry.com created an online database of Württemberg baptisms, marriages and deaths. These records are from the microfilm of the evangelische Kirche in Württemberg and are quite comprehensive and fully indexed. I decided to do a search for anyone named Lousia/Luise or any spelling born in Württemberg around the year 1801 (she was age 49 in the 1850 census). To my great surprise, the only match that was even close was Louisa Heinricha Palmer of Hebsack. This caused me to looking into the family further. I found the immigration record on ancestry.com for her father Johann David Palmer, age 69 a weaver from Württemberg who arrived in New York on the Ship *Galliot Maria and Adrianna* from Rotterdam on 14 June 1834 along with his daughter Johanna Dorothea Palmer and her two illegitimate grandchildren: Louisa Henrietta Palmer age 6 and Philipp Jacob Palmer age 3. Louisa Heinricha Palmer born 1800 did NOT emigrate in 1834 with her family. Now I believed I had circumstantial evidence to support Louisa Heinricha Palmer being the wife of Gottlieb Geltz. I was not 100% sure, but figured this was as close as I was ever going to get. To that end, I tentatively entered information about Louisa Heinricha Palmer as the wife of Gottlieb Geltz. That's when things got interesting!

I was very early in getting tested for the ancestry.com autosomal DNA testing. I then followed up by having both of my parents as well as my aunt and uncles and my maternal grandmother who is now 96 years old getting tested as well. Autosomal DNA testing reveals information about all of your ancestors who have contributed to your DNA, not just the male line like Y-DNA or the female line like mitochondrial DNA. Autosomal DNA has been very useful in finding distant relatives, but in the case of Louisa Heinricha Palmer it confirmed that I had the right ancestor. Within days of adding her to my tree, a notice of a new DNA match to my grandmother appeared. It was with a man in San Francisco named Robert Dorsett who had his 86 year old mother do ancestry.com DNA testing. His mother was the great great granddaughter of Immanuel Gotthilf Palmer (1795-1861), the brother of Louisa Heinricha Palmer. Immanuel Gotthilf's daughter had immigrated to California at an early date. Ancestry.com has since introduced ThruLines which has revealed many more matches with myself and other relatives to three siblings of Louisa Heinricha Palmer. Most interestingly I have discovered just in writing this article that her sister Johanna Dorothea Palmer (1802-1885) who emigrated with her father and children in 1834 actually settled in York County, Pennsylvania where she married a Charles Trumpfheller and had a number of children including Leah Trumpfheller (1840-1893) (the surname appears in records spelled many ways including Trumbeller etc.). Leah became the second wife of Gottlieb Geltz! She was the niece of his first wife Louisa Heinricha. The unusual middle name Heinricha is the German form of Henrietta which is a middle name carried down among a line of female descendants of Louisa's daughter Magdalena Shue.

As a result of being able to prove Louisa's origins through records and DNA I have found much interesting information on her ancestors. The Palmers before her father were *Weingartners*

(vineyard owners and wine makers) for generations. The village of Hebsack is surrounded by vineyards and continues to produce German white wines. Louisa Heinrichka's mother was the younger daughter of a surgeon Christian Ferdinand Eckert (1710-1776) born in Silesia who had a very interesting life story.

October 6, 2019 SCPGS Meeting – Stephen H. Smith, Speaker

“Never Built.....The Town of Pleasant Garden and other Curiosities”

Steve has done a comprehensive book on the Barshinger family (hopefully he'll do one on the Smith families of York County, also). After completing the book, he was asked if he had done research on an old farm that was owned by the family that lies within the Native Lands County Park and Pleasant Gardens – so he started to look into this farm. While researching, he discovered that two different deeds where the property line ran directly through the house and that one deed matched the shape of a property that he had seen before. He remembered that he had heard questions about the location of a town of “Pleasant Garden” and had gotten a map which showed the layout of the town. It wasn't until the end of his research that he discovered that the layout of the town connected with the deeds that he was researching.

It started with a Maryland Land warrant granted to Thomas Cresap in 1728, called “Pleasant Gardens”, along the Susquehanna River. In 1736, John Meyer purchased “Pleasant Garden, only to discover that his land did not reach the Susquehanna River. Meyer added to his land, by purchasing the 33 acres between his land and the river by 1760. Jacob Dritt acquired the property from the estate of John Meyer. A stone house built by Meyer is known today as the Dritt house (or Zimmerman Center). With slides, Steve showed the connection of “Pleasant Garden” with two other Maryland warrants: “Conhodah” and “Bond's Manor”. The three properties adjoined over the years, parts of the properties were joined together, sold off, and boundaries were changed. By 1868, Henry Barshinger had bought 84 acres of what is now called “Native Lands County Park”.

Using maps and deed, Steve was able to plot where the original town was to be laid out. He discovered that some of the streets named on the plot still exist today. Pleasant Garden was never built in York County, partially because plans to build a bridge in 1793 that would have connected Lancaster Co. and York Co. fell through and also because Dritt couldn't get enough people interested in his town. On his third attempt to build a town, Dritt was successful in building a town on the Susquehanna River, which is known today as Washington Boro.

But Steve was successful in solving a Barshinger property mystery and in locating the exact starting point on the Susquehanna River of where the town of Pleasant Garden would have been built.

For Sale:

Gibson's History of York County 1886 \$100.00

Gibson's History of York County 1907 50.00

Pastors and People Vol. I by Charles H. Glatfelter \$40.00

Many others . . . glwak2018@gmail.com