



OUR NAME'S THE GAME

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SOUTH CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Our webpage has been further updated! Lynn Nelson, our webmaster, has added an online archive of 2011-2019 newsletters for you to download. Bible publication # 83 surnames have been added to the online index of earlier Bible surnames. Surnames from special publication “They Went West” are also now indexed on the website.

Nominations are being accepted for the Henry J. Young Award for 2021. The award was moved from June 2020 to June 2021.

We are still looking for volunteers – is there anyone who would like to take the position of Director of Publicity and Director of Publications? If interested, please contact us for a description of the responsibilities involved with each position.

MEETING DATES:

Attention! Our January 3, 2021 meeting has been cancelled! The York County History Center has closed its building at least until January 5, 2021 because of the rapid escalation of new positive coronavirus cases throughout the York County and Pennsylvania. Because of the nature of this meeting’s sharing of artifacts, the Board of Directors decided it would not be an easy meeting to conduct over the Zoom format.

Due to restrictions related to COVID-19, pre-reservation seating/tickets are needed for our future programs. Attendance is currently limited to 20 people. Reservations can be made by clicking on <https://www.yorkhistorycenter.org>, then selecting “Events” and then select “Admission Tickets”. SCPGS Meeting Events are free to the public.

If you are unable to attend in person, this program will also be live-streamed through Facebook. The event is publicly accessible and no Facebook account is needed. (Over 100 people viewed our program in August).

We remind our visitors of the following: All visitors, staff, and volunteers are to wear masks, and contact-less temperature checks will be administered upon arrival. The building will be cleaned and sanitized in high traffic areas, with deep cleaning after the meeting. If you are feeling ill, please do not come to the meeting.

Recap of November 1, 2020 – Jean Kilheffer Hess, Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society

Title: Oral History and Genealogy

Description: Oral histories are rich resources that can build family histories beyond names and dates to create a fuller picture of a family's traditions, common personality traits, values, and many other things. This interactive presentation will discuss where to look for existing oral histories and the basics of how to conduct oral history interviews.

Bio: Jean Kilheffer Hess is executive director of Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society. As owner of StoryShare, LLC, an oral history interviewing and life story business, Jean has been conducting oral history interviews and assisting clients in sharing family histories for more than a decade. Jean received a Bachelor's degree from Messiah College and a Master's degree from Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary. She lives with her husband, Gale, near Mount Joy.

The following is a summation of Jean's excellent and interesting presentation:

Why should you do an oral history?

Things to consider when planning or conducting an oral history interview:

- 1) Plan for about a two-hour session with 10 to 15 good questions. The questions should be open ended, so that the responses allow for reflection and the opportunity to talk and expand on the answer. A question that can be answered with either "yes" or "no" will not invited further discussion or follow up questions. Questions should not be "stacked" (more than one subject). It makes it difficult to answer and can overwhelm or interrupt the flow if it is difficult to decide which part of the question to respond to first.
- 2) Do some basic research ahead of time so that you are making the best use of your time by asking questions that you could easily find the answers to (names, dates, etc.)
- 3) Find a comfortable environment with a quiet space with just the two of you. Make it a space where there will not be outside distractions, noises, or other people who might attempt to monitor or intervene in the interview. Ask the question and then, be quiet, allowing for pauses so that responses can be expanded before moving on to the next question. Maintain eye contact and be attentive. Do not interrupt but write down follow-up questions. Remember that this is not a social conversation – you want your interviewee to ramble.

- 4) It is necessary to get the consent of the interviewee in writing so that the interview was voluntary and that they are giving you permission to record, transcribe, and release the interview. Have fun with the interview and thank them for sharing. Let them know that they can see a transcription of the interview in case there are corrections that need to be made.
- 5) If you have no living relatives that you could interview, consider recording your own oral history. What memories or stories do you want to leave for your descendants? Oral histories can be a way to discover unknown family stories, traits, traditions, expressions, etc. By listening to an oral history, some non-genealogists might become interested in their family history. One must be aware that some stories may uncover family information that will need to be handled tactfully or discreetly.
- 6) For more information on oral histories, there are several websites which can be researched. Several colleges, such as the University of Kentucky, Baylor University, and Columbia University hold oral histories on a variety of subjects. Other repositories to check are the Library of Congress, Story Corps, and Veterans organizations.

Some websites are listed below:

Oral History Association www.oralhistory.org

https://www.genealogy.com/articles/research/70_tipsoral.html

<https://djh.org/videooral-histories/50-questions-for-an-oral-history-interv>

<https://www.library.ucla.edu/destination/center-oral-history-research/resources/conducting-oral-histories-family-members>

PLEASE NOTE: Given the current status of the York County History Center's building availability with the coronavirus, please note that there may be an aspect of tentativeness to some of our programming. Please check our website and Facebook page for the updated information.

February 7, 2021 – The duties and records of the county coroner – Pam Gay,
York County Coroner

March 7, 2021 – **What Does the Future Hold for Our Past?**

The Pennsylvania State Archives moves into the future: new online resources & a new building – David Carmicheal, State Archivist of Pennsylvania
A new State Archives building is under construction and, with it, the promise of state-of-the-art storage and access to historical materials. Hear about how the Archives is planning for future, what you can expect to find when the new building opens—and what you *won't* find there, and learn about new initiatives that will make historical records even more accessible in the future.

David Carmicheal is the State Archivist of Pennsylvania. Before coming to Pennsylvania in 2014 he directed the Georgia Archives from 2000 to 2012, during which time he oversaw the design and construction of the award-winning Georgia Archives building and helped lead national efforts in emergency management, particularly for the protection of essential government records. Before becoming State Archivist of Georgia, he was director of records and archives for Westchester County, New York, for more than sixteen years. He received his master's degree in History and Archives from Western Michigan University. He is a Distinguished Fellow of the Society of American Archivists, and one of his books, *Organizing Archival Records*, has provided practical guidance to small, volunteer-led archives for over 25 years and is now in its fourth edition. He and his wife Yvonne live in Camp Hill.

April 11, 2021 – Mother Cumberland: Researching with Cumberland County Records – Cara Curtis, Cumberland County Historical Society

May 2, 2021 – Tour of Muddy Creek Forks – Maryland & Pennsylvania Railroad Preservation Society

June 13, 2021 – Henry James Young Award program

DECEASED MEMBER – James E. Reinhold

York Daily Record (PA) - Wednesday, August 12, 2020

James E. Reinhold York - James E. Reinhold, 89, entered into rest on Tuesday, August 11, 2020, at the Lebanon VA Hospital. He was the husband of Carol A. (Elliott) Reinhold. James was born on January 17, 1931 in York, the son of the late James E. Reinhold, Sr. and Beatrice (Myers) Reinhold. He served in the US Navy, enlisting on January 19, 1948. He was a Seaman Apprentice, then Fireman 3rd Class aboard the USS Franklin D Roosevelt stationed in Norfolk, VA. His ship docked in Cuba, South America, Haiti, Gibraltar, Spain, Malta, South Africa, Tripoli, Italy, South Pole and Turkey. He played and sang with the Co. 31 Sweethearts in 1950. He was recalled to service due to the Korean War. He served aboard the USS Essex as a DC-3, stationed in California and docked at Bremerton, Washington, Japan, the Philippines, Hawaii, North Pole and saw Pompeii City. He received the China Service Award, 2 stars and the Good Conduct Medal. He helped form the York Skin Divers and with several members made various dives to bring drowned persons to the surface and also to recover stolen merchandise that had been dumped into the water. He worked at Molybdenum Corporation before entering in the service of the Merchant Marine delivering grains etc. to Yugoslavia and other ports in the area. He worked at various jobs such as gas station attendant, maintenance at the YMCA, Columbia Gas and meter reader for the York Water Company before working for the City of York as a plant operator from which he retired in 1993 after suffering two heart attacks. He attended Good News Free Will Baptist Church. He was member of Hellam VFW Post 7045, American Legion Shiloh Post, Girard AA, USS F.D. Roosevelt Reunion Assn, Mason Riverside Lodge, Korean War Vets Assn, Tall Cedars of Lebanon, White Rose Shrine, Moose Lodge, Square Club of York, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite Harrisburg Consistory and Fraternal of Police No. 73 and IOOB

and Lancaster Navy Club Ship 166. James is survived by his wife Carol, children William F. Reinhold of Chamois MO, Mary Jane Mitchem of Dover, PA, Christine Raver of Trevese, PA, and Beth Reinhold of Dover, PA, 13 grandchildren, 17 great grandchildren, a sister Nancy Markle of York New Salem, and a brother Jeffrey Reinhold of Windsor. He was preceded in death by a son, Keith J. Reinhold and siblings Kenneth Reinhold, Ellen Barnhart, Ronald Reinhold, William Reinhold and Frederick Reinhold. Viewings will be 7-9 p.m. Friday, August 14th, 2020 at the John W. Keffer Funeral Home and Crematory, Inc., 902 Mt Rose Ave. York and 9-10 Saturday Aug. 15th, 2020 at the funeral home with a service to follow at 10 a.m. with Chris Fritz and Chaplain Robert White officiating. Burial will follow at Mt. Rose Cemetery with full military honors by the York County Veteran Honor Guard. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the Korean War Veterans York Chapter, 2757 Sheridan Rd. York Pa 17406.

IN THE REVIEW MIRROR - a glance back to our October meeting:

October 4th Meeting – “Genealogical Adventures during the COVID 19 Pandemic”

Different members of our society talked about the projects they’ve worked over the past several months.

Jonathan Stayer has been working on the 1862 military enrollment sheets involving the first-round drafts of eligible men between the ages of 18-45 living in York County. Information recorded included age, occupation, residence, nearest schoolhouse or mill. Notations were made regarding their physical condition, including who refused to provide to answer. Jon compared the listings to the 1860 and discovered that many of the day laborers listed on the draft list were not listed on the census.

Richard Konkell decided to review some of his early research from years ago and found new information and updated information that hadn’t been available 20 years ago. Through a contact in Russia, he discovered that family members who had gone to Poland in 1803, had moved to outside of St. Petersburg, Russia by 1809 and by 1813 had moved to the Ukraine. This solved a mystery for Richard as to why he could find his ancestors on an 1811 revision list (census). He found a variety of articles on newspapers.com that gave him information that he had not known about them. He also found a detailed death record from 1702 about a member of the Geltz family (he had an article in an earlier newspaper about his research on this family.)

Rebecca Anstine shared a power point that she had developed. She works part-time for a community college. When the college had closed in March – it was thought it would only be for a couple weeks. Almost 3 months later, in June, she was allowed on campus and decided to take pictures for a “Frozen in Time” power point. It showed that March newspapers, calendars, schedules, displays, event advertisements were still up. It was an eerie experience to walk through the empty halls have everything in place and dated for March!

Erica Runkles had read the book, *The Great Influenza* by John Barry and the effects of the 1918 influenza pandemic. She compared this to stories that she had heard or read about various family members and the effect it had on her family. She also noticed that effects of the influenza were still present in the 1920. This led Erica to create an online google workbook that people can access to find out what's going on with the positive coronavirus cases in Lancaster county now.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1jvIOW7IV3Wa7AbeS2mGNrvffgtRrhy_CaB9OMDcrG00/edit?usp=drive_web&ouid=117954638930507508025

She updates her ledger book of data everyday using the Pennsylvania Department of Health's COVID-19 dashboard tools for every PA county and zip code area and then transfers certain information to the online workbook she shares with a local journalist and college professor. The ledger book will be for her descendants to reflect on life during this 2020 pandemic.

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Cases.aspx>

Jerry Smith told about his research on "McDonald Benson" – a father and son who both changed their names on opposite sides of the ocean. For many years, this had been a brick wall for him, until he discovered that son had been naturalized by enlisted in WW I and his deployment records provided that name of a Next of Kin, which lead to immigration records where he discovered the reversal of the first and last name.

Ideas for Researching from Home:

Although some venues like the York County History Center are starting to open up again for in-person, you might still feel more comfortable researching from the safety of your own home. The following are some ideas you may have not already explored.

- Free Pennsylvania records researching with Ancestry.com via the Pennsylvania State Archives. "The Pennsylvania State Archives has a partnership with Ancestry.com to digitize family history records in the State Archives and make them available online. The list of records available is located in the bottom left corner of the Ancestry.com Pennsylvania web page." Visit the below link from the State Archive's site and follow the directions. You must a Pennsylvania resident to take advantage of this opportunity. <https://www.phmc.pa.gov/Archives/Research-Online/Pages/Ancestry-PA.aspx>
- Although the York County Archives currently is allowing individuals to visit by appointment, they are encouraging people to use the archives' extensive online indexes to order documents and have them sent digitally to the customer's email. The process is speedy. Copies are \$0.50 /image and payment can be processed through a link which the York County Archives will email with an invoice to you. There is a \$1.00 fee. If questions, contact 717-840-7722 or archives@yorkcountypa.gov. For research: <https://www.yorkcountyarchives.org>

- The Pennsylvania State Archives is entirely closed to the outside public. However, genealogy inquiries can be made through the postal mail by submitting a printed out of a pdf. found on the state archives website (www.pastatearchives.com) [Mail Reference Order Form](#) (PDF). Archivists are going into their facility on a limited basis and can process your requests. See Mail Reference Order Form for details.

It Happened to Me:

This is your chance as a member to contribute to the newsletter...

Is there a story or find that you would like to share?

Is there something that you would like to know about York County that could be explored in the newsletter?

Do you have a query about any ancestor that has you stumped?

Please let us know by sending a note to SCPGS, P. O. Box 1824, York, PA 17405-1824 or an email to SCPAGenSociety@gmail.com. You can also send a message on our Facebook page

The board of SCPGS would like to take this opportunity to thank our members for their patience as we have been working through the loss of several of our board members. This has been a difficult and different year for all of us. We've all had to make adjustments and changes to our lives. 2020 has not been a year that any of us could have foreseen.

As the holiday season approaches and a new year nears – we would like to wish you a joyous celebration as you celebrate the holidays that are near and dear to you. We will not be able to celebrate or follow traditions as we have in the past with family and friends. We will have to be creative in how we celebrate and even what we celebrate. Many will feel the absence of family and friends and the inability to mourn their loss as we have in the past. As we look forward to a new year – let us make resolutions – to leave memories of this past year for future generations, to be positive and hopeful about the coming year, to live our lives to the best of our ability, to stay close and in touch with our loved ones and to stay healthy!

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DATED MATERIAL