



OUR NAME'S THE GAME

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SOUTH CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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Reminder: There are NO December meetings

Upcoming 2023 Program Meetings:

2:30 p.m., January 8, 2023: **Show and Tell and Ask!** Please see our president's invitation below.

2:30 p.m., February 5, 2023: **African American Genealogy - Strategies, Tips and Resources**

Presented by Rodney Barnett

This program will focus on the unique challenges that African American researchers face in their genealogical research. Many techniques are the same for all researchers, but there are many more obstacles presented to the African American researcher because of their unique and often painful place in American history. There are some topics that are difficult to talk about but must be addressed in order to successfully research this area of genealogy. Whether you are a beginner or a more advanced researcher, there will be something for everyone. This presentation will also go into some more in-depth topics including DNA analysis and software tools that are also available.

Rodney Barnett has been researching his family for over 20 years. Born in Washington DC, he was raised in the Prince George's county, Maryland. Most of his research revolves around slavery in Virginia and Alabama. His travels include many trips to courthouses, cemeteries, family land, conferences, libraries, and other research facilities. Rodney has given many presentations of the subject of African American genealogy.

From our President . . .

Your society on the move!

As stated in our by-laws, the SCPGS has a five-fold purpose, including “to encourage and promote an interest in genealogy” and “to hold meetings for the education and enlightenment of its members and anyone interested in genealogy.” This program year, which began on July 1, 2022, and continues until June 30, 2023, features several endeavors that fulfill that purpose.

On Sunday, October 16, 2022, the SCPGS had an information and sales table at the annual Oyster Festival held by the York County History Center at its Agricultural and Industrial Museum in the

city of York. Returning to an in-person event after a two-year hiatus owing to the COVID pandemic, this year's festival broke all previous records with over 1700 people in attendance and over \$25,000.00 in profit for the History Center. A number of people visited the SCPGS table where our enthusiastic and knowledgeable board members answered genealogical questions, distributed membership brochures, and sold our publications. We handed out almost all of the brochures that we took with us. Maybe we will garner some new members! We certainly increased the awareness of our organization in the community (the first point of our purpose).

Our first meeting of 2023 on January 8 will provide an opportunity for "education and enlightenment" with a program of sharing research findings and seeking assistance with research roadblocks. Come ready to talk about your latest genealogical discoveries or about some new, exciting source of information upon which you stumbled. Bring your research questions and problems to see if anyone in the group can offer helpful suggestions. Possibly you have an old family photograph or treasured heirloom that has an unusual story associated with it. Share that story with us! We hope that you will join us for an interesting and entertaining afternoon!

The SCPGS will offer another educational opportunity on Saturday, February 25, 2023. Partnering with the York County History Center, we will host a half-day genealogy seminar for beginners. The program will consist of three sessions: 1) beginning genealogical research, 2) eight things I wish I had known when I started doing genealogy, 3) an introduction to using DNA in genealogical research. Board members Becky Anstine, Lynn Nelson, and Richard Konkel are our highly qualified speakers. The event will be held at the History Center's museum and library/archives building, and attendees may use the resources of the library following the seminar. Anyone who has ever thought about researching and compiling their family history but needed a little help getting started will benefit from this valuable seminar. Details will be forthcoming on our website, our Facebook page, and on the History Center's website. Please urge your family and friends to attend!

Finally, I would like to wish all of you a wonderful and enjoyable holiday season. Take time to reflect on past, present, and future family members and to appreciate those treasured family holiday traditions. Remember, genealogy is more than just names and dates, it is also personalities, communities, and events. Happy holidays!

Jonathan R. Stayer

President

Some 18th and 19th Century Naming Practices among York County's Pennsylvania Germans

By Richard K. Konkel, Esquire

During the eighteenth century and well into the nineteenth century the Pennsylvania Germans of York County, Pennsylvania followed naming practices that very closely mirrored the naming practices of their recent ancestors from Germany. It is important to understand some of these practices in doing genealogical research in York County.

Use of baptismal names Johann and Maria for nearly all children. It was a centuries old practice even before the Protestant Reformation for every boy to be baptized with his second given name or *Rufname*

which he was known by throughout his life, but at baptism it was preceded by the name Johann. Girls were named likewise with almost always the first name Maria followed by the *Rufname* by which they were known. For example, children born Johann Adam, Johann Georg, and Johann Sebastian would be known in life as Adam, Georg, and Sebastian. Girls baptized as Maria Catharina, Maria Margaretha, and Maria Magdalena would be known as Catharina, Margaretha, and Magdalena. The origins for this practice appears to be that all boys are given the name of St. John the Baptist (Johann) at baptism, and all girls the name of the blessed Virgin Mary (Maria). Most names during the early time period are taken from the Bible or related religious texts. Some examples (a mere sampling) of some typical male and female names:

Johann or **Johannes** nickname **Hans**. This name usually appears as Johannes if the child is actually named John and has no other *Rufname*. The child could be named after St. John the Baptist, or St. John the Evangelist, or another St. John.

Jacob. As well as being the Old Testament patriarch, this is the German form of the name James.

Philipp Jacob. This name combination is usually not preceded by Johann. It originates from the joint feast day of the Apostles St. Philip and St. James the Less on May 1st. This is also the feast day of St. Walpurga, a female Saint popular in Germany and a name for girls.

Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. These traditional names of the Maggi or three Kings of the nativity story were very popular in Germany from the time of the middle ages when their relics were moved to Cologne Cathedral from Milan. The nickname for Balthasar is Baltzer.

Georg. German form of George, named for the legendary St. George popular for slaying the dragon. The feast day of St. George is April 23rd.

Martin. A popular name after St. Martin of Tours (circa 316-397) an early Bishop in what is now France. His feast day is November 11th, a traditional day to pay rents and begin the Christmas holiday season.

Sebastian. Nickname **Bastian** or rarely **Stian**. An early Christian martyr known for being flayed alive.

Christoph or **Christophel**. Nickname **Stophel/Stoffel**.

Valentin nickname **Velte/Felty**. **Nicolaus** nickname **Claus**. **Henrich/Heinrich**.

Kilian, Wendelin, Colomann etc. Names of local German Saints, some Irish missionaries.

Anna Maria. A woman with this name would usually be known as Maria or Mary. Named after St. Anne, the mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Virgin Mary herself.

Magdalena. The German form of the name Magdalene. Named for St. Mary of Magdala or the Magdalene. Follower of Christ and witness of the resurrection.

Elisabeth. Nickname **Lisa**. Named after St. Elizabeth, mother of St. John the Baptist and kinswoman of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Catharina, Barbara, Margaretha, Agatha, Agnes. Popular female names after the traditional Virgin Martyr Saints of the persecutions of Christians during the Roman Empire. An unusual nickname for Barbara found in York County is the 19th century is Pevy.

The interchangeable names Margaret and Rebecca. This practice occurred mostly in nineteenth century and there is no good explanation for why this was done. Most often you see women named Margaret or Margaretha who are then for reasons unknown later called Rebecca. I was first alerted to this by the late Henry James Young. In his many years as a researcher and genealogist in York County he had run across this many times. I have an ancestor who was born Margaretha Fissel in 1804 in Tyrone Township, Adams County, and died and was buried in 1866 in North Codorus Township, York County as Rebecca Lau. In most baptisms of her children at Zeigler's Church she is Margaret, but is listed as Rebecca in the 1850 and 1860 censuses. Henry Young believed this interchangeability was due to the nicknames Peggy and Becky sounding much alike, especially with a thick Pennsylvania Dutch accent!! You later find a number of women named Margaret Rebecca.

Use of the mother's maiden name as a middle initial. This practice may have started in Lancaster County among Mennonite families. It is found in some families in York County as well, mainly in the 19th century.

A convention that was sometimes used, especially in earlier days in Germany, but less so as time went on is the idea that the first son was named after the father's father, the second son named after the mother's father, and the third son named after the father. Likewise, the first daughter was named after the mother's mother, the second daughter after the father's mother, and the third daughter after the mother.

Review of November 6, 2022, program: **Revisiting Online Research of German Ancestors**

Presenter, Richard K. Konkel, Esquire

(Editor's note: As a result of Richard Konkel's decades-long research of his German heritage, his knowledge of the German language and old church scripts, and his many visits to Germany and the research opportunities and scholarly contacts they afforded, he was able to serve up a delightful smorgasbord of online resources for those of us eager to expand the earliest rings on our family trees. If you were unable to stream or attend his onsite presentation, please consider accessing the following link: <https://youtu.be/BAnvjegyWX8>. Richard's program handout follows as well.

Revisiting Online Research of German Ancestors
Presented by Richard K. Konkel, Esquire

This presentation examines the vast number of original German genealogical records that are currently available online for the amateur or more advanced researcher. The primary websites examined are familysearch.org, ancestry.com, archion.de, and matricula-online.eu, as well as websites of regional archives in France and Switzerland. Many of these websites have greatly expanded their records in recent years, and some are actively currently adding new records.

1. <https://www.familysearch.org/en/> - This resource is from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) and is free but requires that you register and sign in to use it. Some records are available for home use especially LDS generated indexes of original records, some of which are organized into data bases. Other records are only available at Family History Centers or affiliated libraries such as the York County History Center. Some areas of Germany are well covered and others not at all. Some microfilm holdings have not been digitalized and are only available on microfilm in Salt Lake City, Utah.

2. <https://ancestry.com/> – Well known as a huge genealogical website. You need a World Explorer or All Access plan to access the German records. Church records as well as some civil birth, marriages, and deaths are available but not for every region. Place names are often misleading or incorrect. Many are translated and transcribed, but with varying degrees of accuracy. You also need to really search for some of the records.
3. <https://www.archion.de/> – German website costs approximately €178.00 per year for full access. Established as a website for German Protestant church records digitalized online in partnership with various Protestant (evangelische) church archives. Two Roman Catholic Dioceses have added their records to this website as well. Started about 10 years ago. New records are added every day. There are approximately 150,000 church record books on the site. These are copies of original records. There are no transcribed or translated records.
4. <https://www.icar-us.eu/en/cooperation/online-portals/matricula/> – This is a free website with Roman Catholic church records primarily from Germany, Austria, Lichtenstein, Luxembourg, and Slovenia. It is constantly adding records as well, but not quite as fast as archion.de. As with achion.de, this is a resource that has records for some areas that can be found nowhere else online.
5. <https://archives.bas-rhin.fr/> – Excellent archive website from Strasbourg, France for the Alsace region. Complete church records to 1792 and civil records from that date. Website is now back online.
6. <https://www.staatsarchiv.sta.be.ch/en/start.html> – State archives for Canton Bern, Switzerland. A large number of church records available online for free.
7. <https://sh.ch/CMS/Webseite/Kanton-Schaffhausen/Behrde/Regierung/Staatskanzlei/Staatsarchiv-9664482-DE.html> - Online church records for Canton Schaffhausen, Switzerland.
8. <https://suche.staatsarchiv.djiktzh.ch/suchinfo.aspx> – Online church records for Canton Zürich, Switzerland.
9. <https://wiki.genealogy.net/Hauptseite> – Large free German website with information on finding genealogical records for a given locality. Also has Online Ortsfamilienbücher.
10. <https://www.badische-ortsfamilienbuecher.de/> – list of Ortsfamilienbücher for Baden.

Adventures with the Englebrecht Family, ancestry.com, & [archion.de](https://www.archion.de/)

by Erica Runkles

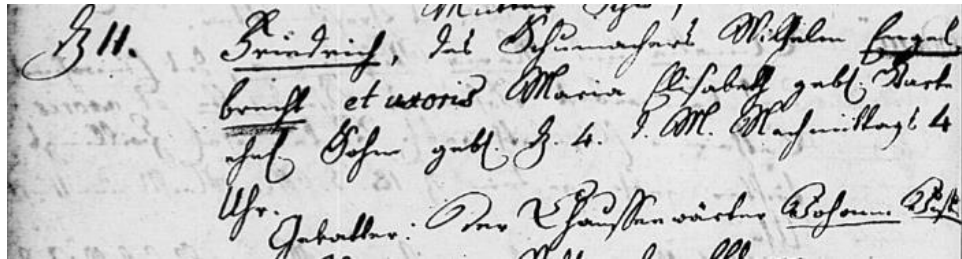
My mother regretted not speaking to my grandfather about the shoe box of photos left in his Red Lion attic. A universal lament, right? Then she squirreled away, in her own nooks and crannies, that same box which was only unearthed after her death. Among the late-1800s studio photos, I was blessed to find that she had recognized and inscribed names to a few old images. One photo, which she marked “Simon Englebreath, Amanda’s uncle,” represented an entirely new family name to me. Knowing that Simon’s niece was my great grandmother Amanda Blymire gave him a ready spot in my small York County ancestry.com tree. Simon lived in Winterstown where he had a cigar factory. His sister, Caroline Engelbrecht, was Amanda’s mother.



My ancestry tree yielded two resources. One was the ability to connect with other tree owners. I messaged with a young woman with an Englebrecht tree. She welcomed my photo of Simon, telling me that her grandfather was Simon's grandson.

Her grandfather, my newly found third cousin, happened to still reside in York and had spent his earlier retirement years diligently pursuing his family history. From his Aunt Lula, he had inherited some family land holdings, journals, as well as several German baptismal records for Simon's parents, and my 3rd great-grandparents Frederick Engelbrecht and Anna Catharina Stobener. The baptismal records, which had been later professionally translated in Germany, were necessary documents for immigrant entry to the United States in 1841. [Ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com) had the passenger manifest records for the Ship "America" which departed the port of Bremen in late spring and landed in Baltimore on 12 July 1841. Traveling with the shoemaker Friedrich Engelbrecht were his wife, Anna Catharina, their two young daughters, Wilhelmina and Dorothea, and his brother August, also a shoemaker, all from Eberschütz, Hofgeismar, Hesse, Germany. These records gave their ages and towns of origin.

Below is a screen shot of Frederick's baptismal record found at <http://archion.de/> as well as the translated versions of his and his wife Anna Catharina Stobener record.



Extract.

"From the Baptismal Book of the Evangelical-Reformed Pastorate of Deisel, Kurhessen.

*In the congregation of Deisel, Karlshofen (?) District, in the year one thousand eight hundred fifteen, on the fifth of June, in the afternoon, **Friedrich Engelbrecht**, son of the shoemaker **Wilhelm Engelbrecht** and his wife **Maria Elisabetha Sterke**. Godparent, Johann Justus Wilck and cousin of the parents. For the truth of the extract serves the signature and church seal, Deisel, the 18th of February 1839. The Pastor*

Extract

*"From the Church Book of the Eberschutz congregation, Baptized in the year One thousand eight hundred nine 1809 June the 4 that, **Anna Catharina**, of the shoemaker **Johann Heinrich Stobener**, and his wife **Anna Margareta**, nee **Fischer**, legitimate daughter, born the 29th of May (?) (illegible word) in the morning around 8 o'clock.*

Godparents: Anna Catharina, nee Hoff, the linen weaver Johannes Wegge's wife.

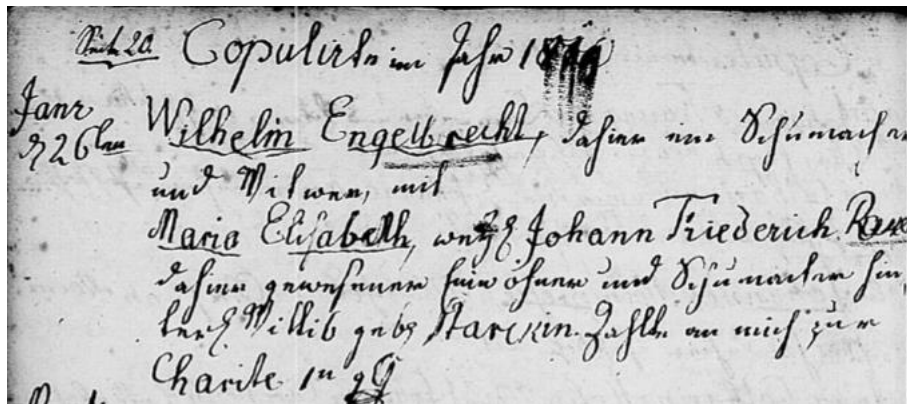
Extracted Eberschütz, the 27th of June 1832. For the truth of the extract for the Lord."

While <http://ancestry.com/> has many American church records, I found searching the site's German church records difficult to search; Engelbrecht names were too common in Germany and my background information too lean to narrow the searches. I became aware of <http://archion.de/> via a Facebook member of Hessen, Germany Genealogy group. But between the "messy" old script, so many Engelbrechts, limited search results, a dearth of dates, I felt a bit at sea. However, at the beginning of this year, I chanced onto two intriguing Engelbrecht tree hints on <http://ancestry.com/>. Two tree owners each showed a different child born to a Wilhelm Engelbrecht and Maria Elisabetha Sterke of Deisel. After writing to tree owners, I learned of a Caroline Engelbrecht and a Johann Philip Engelbrecht.

Caroline's descendant was a woman, Karin, who lives in Germany and had her genealogical history professionally done. Johann Philip's descendant lives in Nevada and had relatives in the Netherlands to work on his ancestry tree. They had found birth and death dates for Wilhelm Engelbrecht's.

With this new information, I was ready to venture back onto <http://archion.de/>. The website is offered in German and English which can be found in the upper right corner. I clicked EN, then put in my username and password and headed "To The Shop" to purchase a month's worth of access as well as 50 downloads for 19.19 euros (\$21.53) using PayPal. (US credit cards also work.) I then selected "Browse," and started choosing a series of locations for my ancestors church records: 1st column - Kurhessen-Waldeck: Landeskirchliches Archiv Kassel, 2nd column - Hofgeismar, and 3rd column Deisen. Finally the 4th column was for das Kirchenbuch (church book) for 1796-1831 which I learned from my previous trial and error housed the array of church records and dates I needed. To enter this church book, I selected "Im Viewer Anzeigen," (Show in Viewer.) The next challenge was the Kurrentschrift or die alte deutsche Schrift, the style of writing used in church records throughout the 1800s until the mid-1950s. Since Kurrentschrift was no longer taught in schools after the 1950s, many native German speakers, including my new-found German relative, Karin, also have great difficulty reading old church records. One book I found helpful is, "The Magic of German Church Records, Finding the Key to Your Ancestor's Past," by Katherine Schober. Archion.de also provides some German exercises and alphabet samples. Needless to say, deciphering the script is a challenge. First, I tried to find the "Engelbrecht" name by perusing pages or looking through the alphabetical indexes at the end of the certain sections where names are more legible and page numbers are listed for records (Seite 2.) There are sections for births (Geburt), baptisms (Taufe) confirmation (Konfirmation), marriages (Copulierte) and deaths (Verstorben.)

The screenshot below is from the archion.de website of the marriage records of my 4th great-grandparents' marriage. This was transcribed and translated for me by Richard Konkle, providing a good opportunity to compare and study the script and text.



Transcription of the marriage record

Seite 20. Copulierte im Jahr 1810
 Janr
 d. 26ten Wilhelm Engelbrecht, dahier ein Schumacher
 und Witwer, mit
 Maria Elisabeth, weylß Johann Friederich Rauer [?]
 dahier gewesener Einwohner und Schmacher hin[?]
 ler[?] Wittib gebr Starckin. Zahlt an mich zur
 Charite [?] 1n 9f

Translation of the marriage record

Page 20 Marriages in the year 1810
 January
 the 26th Wilhelm Engelbrecht of this place a shoemaker
 and widower, with
 Maria Elisabeth, the deceased Joann Friederich Rau[?]
 of this place inhabitant and shoemaker surviving
 widow born (nee) Starckin Paid to me [the Pastor]
 Charite [?] 1n 9f [old German money: f for pfennig [?]]

I was also able to find Wilhelm's previous marriage and death records of his first wife and children. Between my searches and Karin's, we were able to find birth and baptismal records for five children of Wilhelm Engelbrecht and Maria Elisabeth Starck: **Caroline Engelbrecht**, born 20 Sept 1810 and who is the ancestor of Karin Moeller; **Johann Philip Engelbrecht**, born 22 Nov 1812, and who married a Dutch woman and moved to the Netherlands; **Friedrich Engelbrecht**, born 5 June 1815 and who sailed to Baltimore with wife and daughters and lived in Winterstown; **Marie Louise Engelbrecht**, born 21 July 1817 and who from the cross in this entry, died in 1837; and **August Engelbrecht/Englebright**, born 4 April 1821 and who moved to Iowa and married his 1st cousin Sabina Wire, whose mother was Anna Catharine Stobener's sister! There were many other findings, including: Wilhelm Engelbrecht's birth and death records, his wife Maria Elisabeth Starck's family records and the Eberschütz Kirchenbuch records for my 3rd great-grandmother Anna Catharina Stobener's side of the family.

One of the most joyful parts of finding all of these records has been being able to pass them on to Simon's grandson and my third cousin, Don Englebret, now in his nineties and living in another state. He replies: *"These old records are something else! It is amazing what genealogy resources are available via the internet. Thank you for sending them. I will add them to the "Englebret Archives."*



Photo on right from Karin Moeller: "This is my grandmother in the top row on the left with her siblings and her parents Marie Amalie Hofeditz and Philipp Ludwig Meimbresse. Marie Amalie is the great-grandchild of Wilhelm Engelbrecht and Marie Elisabeth Stark. They are standing in front of their house with the address Triftstraße 62. Wilhelm Engelbrecht and his children lived in this house as well."

Review of October 2, 2022, program: **Indian Languages Influence in the Susquehanna Region**

by Becky Anstine See also Chip Kauffman at <https://youtu.be/C12S7AqG-ss>

Charles "Chip" Kauffman's timely talk ties in with the October/November celebration of Native American Month. There has always been interest in American Indian settlements and tribes that inhabited the Susquehanna Valley area. As early as 1608, Capt. James Smith met the Susquehannocks when mapping the Chesapeake Bay area at the mouth of the river. On Sunday, October 23, 2002, the *York Sunday News*, published an article about the 1000-year-old petroglyphs that can be found in rocks in the middle of the river. Over 1000 petroglyphs have been found in the stretch of water between Safe Harbor Dam and the Mason Dixon line. Among the petroglyphs found is a figure of a walking man with two circles pointed South. On October 26th, Millersville University and Native Americans gathered to acknowledge that the land the college is built on once was ancestral land of the Conestogas, Susquehannocks, and Shawnee. The Shenks Ferry people had a settlement next to the campus.

The presentation began with tracing the migration patterns of American Indians which led to the settling of the Susquehanna Valley. With very few settlements remains and artifacts found in the area and few original or historical records to provide information, archeologists use genetics and

linguistics to follow settlements. The Susquehanna River is over 440 miles long, stretching from the Chesapeake Bay to New York State. Using linguistic methods and local names, connections have been made linking local words to the various tribes that were in this area. Several tribes settled in the area and through the area – Iroquois, Shawnee, Lenni Lape, Nanticoke, and Powhatten, Delaware and Conoy, and Wicomico.

[As early as 1715, the Susquehanna Indians began signing peace treaties with Pennsylvania. Traders were west of the Susquehanna by 1729. In 1749, the Six Nations, Shawnee, Delaware, and Nanticoke negotiate a treaty involving trading, land cession, and the removal of white squatters. Although numerous treaties were negotiated, relations between the Indians and the settlers began to deteriorate after the French and Indian war. As settlers moved west in the state, tribes were losing their hunting grounds and settlements. Things came to a head in 1764, when Scotch Irish settlers in what is now Dauphin County, claimed that the Conestoga Indians living in the area, were stealing their animals and raiding their homes. Encouraged by a local minister, Rev. John Elder, the “Paxtang boys” attacked the village located near Millersville, burning the homes and killing the residents. The remaining tribe members were placed in protective custody in a jail in Lancaster City, but the “boys” attacked and killed the remaining families. Some stories passed down through generations claim that there were some survivors who fled to the Welsh Mountains in Lancaster County, intermarrying with runaway slaves and indentured servants who hid in that area. Those were the last known Indians to be living in the Susquehanna Valley.] *

Missionaries, traders, and interpreters traveled between the various tribes and learned to communicate with them by using similar words and pronunciation between the various tribes. Teenagers, living among the Indians, learned the languages the best. Johannes Campanes, a Swedish Lutheran Missionary in the 1640s, learned the Delaware languages and his writings are a primary source for information on the Susquehannock Indians. Dictionaries were put together by various individuals, such as George Also and William Sack. Languages have been grouped into four categories. First is living languages that are still spoken and being taught - such as Cherokee and Mohawk. Second are moribund or dying languages that are still being spoken but not being taught – such as Oneida and Seneca. Third are the languages that are considered dead; they are no longer spoken, but some words survive in other languages. Fourth are the extinct languages which are not spoken, such as the Susquehannock language

The Indian names for many places around the Susquehanna Valley are the legacy left by these early settlers. Dialects spoken in the area included: Iroquois, Susquehannock, Seneca, Conestoga, and two dialects of Cherokee in the upper part of Lancaster and York counties. The southern ends of the two counties included Aloquonquin, Nanticoke, and Powhatan. The legacy of the various tribes lives on in York and Lancaster County through the names of creeks, townships, towns, and villages. Among the familiar words are Octoraro, Pequea, Cocalico, Susquehanna, and Conoy to name a few.

Chip’s presentation can be seen on the York History Center’s You Tube under the SCPGS presentation for October 1, 2022 – another interesting and informative presentation.

*This paragraph was not part of Chip’s presentation but was added to give some background history.

SOUTH CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
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