



**South Central
Pennsylvania**
Genealogical Society

Our Name's The Game

www.scpgs.org

Monthly Newsletter Vol. 37 No. 3 — October 2011

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday November 6th — “18th and 19th century York County Court and County Records of Genealogical Significance” *on location Colonial Courthouse*

Richard K Konkel will present a program entitled "18th and 19th century York County court and county records of genealogical significance". The presentation will examine records from the Courts of Common Pleas and the Courts of Quarter Sessions kept by the Prothonotary and the Clerk of Courts as well as records generated by the Register of Wills and Clerk of the Orphans' Court, the Recorder of Deeds, the County Commissioners and the Deputy Surveyors' Office. The meeting will take place at the York County Colonial Court House at 157 West Market Street, an exact replica of the original York County Court House where these records were originally generated and maintained.

Richard K. Konkel, Esq. is a native of York, Pennsylvania and has been doing genealogical research since he was 14 years old. His father and paternal grandfather are natives of West Prussia, and his paternal grandmother was a German from Russia whose ancestors migrated from the area around Heidelberg to Ukraine in 1809. Mr. Konkel's maternal lines are predominately 18th century Pennsylvania German emigrants, with a few later German emigrants and a sprinkling of ancestors from the British Isles, French Huguenots, and early settlers of New Sweden. His research interests over the past twenty years have been concentrated on German research, primarily using church records through his local Family History Center. He has identified and researched the German origins of many of his ancestral families. Richard is a graduate of Dickinson College in Carlisle, PA and Widener University School of Law in Harrisburg, PA. He is an attorney with the CGA Law Firm in York.

No meeting in December

Looking Ahead to 2012 ...

January 8, 2012	York County Transportation presented by Tom Gibson at the Agricultural & Industrial Museum on Princess Street
February 5, 2012	DNA of Mennonite families presented by Darvin L. Martin
March 4, 2012	LDS FamilySearch Website presented by Jack and Sylvia Sonneborn
April 1, 2012	Tax Records presented by James Landis
May 6, 2012	Bible Documentation Day (1 PM to 4 PM) ... <i>watch for more details</i>
June 2012	Seminar ... <i>topic and date to be announced</i>

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Franklin R. Grove, Jr.

We sure have had a variety of weather experiences this summer; HOT, rain, earthquakes, tropical storms with heavy rain and flooding, resulting in much damage to home and businesses. Fall began September 23rd, should we have been surprised by more rain and humidity! The weather certainly encouraged some people to work inside on their family trees. Many people even took vacation time to travel to find some hidden family members and were delighted with all the materials obtained to take home to study.

In September, we had a great time visiting the archival room at the York College of Pennsylvania's library, so much to see and even touch. As with any project, much work continues to be done with the College's collection.

On Sunday, October 2nd, St. Paul's Lutheran Church in York had a special service to celebrate the church's 175th anniversary. The South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society was invited to help celebrate St. Paul's Anniversary and we held our October meeting at the Church.

Even members who are not able to attend the local meetings due to living in other areas too far away to travel for the meetings; are encouraged to suggest areas of interest in the south central Pennsylvania area that may possibly be used for future programs. You may gain some new insight to help with your research and possibly find some family still living in the area. With your help, we can explore, learn and help each other to gain information that will allow us to shake more limbs on our family trees!

**THINGS TO DO**

October 29, 2011 — Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society presents: A Fall Potpourri, at the Plaza Hotel, Hagerstown, Maryland

Visit www.magsgen.com for more information.

November 5, 2011 — Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania in conjunction with Ancestry.com presents: Pennsylvania Family History Day, at the Wyndham Garden Hotel in Exton (Chester Co), Pennsylvania. In addition to Loretto "Lou" Szucs and Juliana Smith from Ancestry, featured presenters will include DearMYRTLE, Liza Alzo, Curt Witcher, Michael Hait, John Humphrey, Shamele Jordon, and others. Come early Friday night to our attendee reception! Meet fellow genealogists, explore the vendor area, and learn from the experts. Friday night reception, Saturday breakfast, and lunch are included in the price of this special event, which is \$75 GSP members, \$95 GSP non-members

Visit www.genpa.org for more information or to register.

May 9-12, 2012 — National Genealogical Society 2012 Family History Conference. The Ohio River – Gateway to the Western Frontier in Cincinnati, Ohio

Visit www.ngsgenealogy.org for more information.

Special Collections Room of York College of Pennsylvania

written by Becky Anstine

Most people would not think of going to a college to do family research – but our new year started with a visit to the Special Collections Room of York College. Karen Rice-Young, Archives and Special Collections Specialist, gave us a brief history of the collection and a tour of the room. The collection contains a variety of books, photographs, and objects relating to the development of the college through the years.



The York County Academy was founded in 1787 with the intent of training teachers. The original site was on North Beaver Street. The only remaining building is the Gymnasium, which was used as a USO canteen during World War II. There are still murals inside the building pertaining to this era. The Academy merged with the York Collegiate Institute in 1929. The Institute had been a private college preparatory school. The college moved into a new building, which was later destroyed by fire and rebuilt. In 1941, another merger took place and York Junior College was the result of that merger. Fifty-nine acres of land, outside of the city boundaries, were bought and the college is still on this site. In 1968, it became the York College of Pennsylvania.

The collection contains publications related to the college – publications, photographs, yearbooks. Alumni have donated items over the years, especially Dr. Ehrenfeld, who was instrumental in starting the archives in the 1970's. Some of the more interesting items include an early graduation cap and gown, Civil War swords, a civil war medical kit, a cupping kit (with directions), German Bibles and autograph books. The photographs contained in the collection are in the process of being digitized. The Library also contains several stained glass windows from the York County Academy, whose buildings were designed by the Dempwolf brothers.

If any of your family members were York College graduates, check with the college to see if there are any family heirlooms, photographs, etc. in the Special Collections Room or Archives. You might be surprised at what you find about an ancestor.



SPECIAL PUBLICATION

Publication #71 Civil War Pension Affidavits and Index to Ledgers of Dr. Benjamin F. Porter (1864 - 1888) was recently mailed to the current members of SCPGS.

Following the Civil War, Dr. Benjamin Franklin Porter treated over two dozen Civil War soldiers from the southern part of York County. As he examined the soldier, Porter recorded notes from this examination in a ledger. This Special Publication contains the affidavits recorded within the two volumes of Dr. Benjamin F. Porter ledgers that are currently part of the collection of the York County Heritage Trust. In addition to a copy of each affidavit, there is a transcription of each, and an index to the several hundred pages of *every day* entries in these two ledgers.

Additional copies are available for a cost of \$10.00 each.

Visit our website for a complete listing of available Special Publications ... www.scpgs.org

UPDATE: Pennsylvania 2011 Vital Records Bill SB-361

On September 27th, 2011 Vital Records Senate Bill-361 unanimously passed the Senate of Pennsylvania. The bill is now in the hands of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, and is currently being reviewed by the Health Committee. It is extremely important that members of the Health Committee hear from researchers of York County and Pennsylvania genealogy about the support we have for this bill. Pennsylvania has made it difficult for researchers to obtain these records for too long, and our voice can make a difference.

The bill is simple in that it makes death certificates over 50 years old and birth certificates over 105 years old in Pennsylvania open records. It also requires the records be transferred to the Pennsylvania State Archives once they become open records. Once they are open records then, and only then, is it possible for them to be made available online. Without this change in the law the records will remain very restricted forever. For the latest information concerning this legislation and a sample letter, please visit the People for Better Pennsylvania Historical Record Access website:

<http://users.rcn.com/timarg/PaHR-Access.htm>

Visits, phone calls, letters are the most effective, but even a one paragraph email sent to at least one state representative is better than nothing. Even for legislators who have already decided to vote in favor of this bill it helps them to know their vote has a lot of support and encourages them to request the bill be brought up for a vote. It is also important send messages of support for this bill to Gov. Corbett. Hearing from organizations, their constituents and others could prove decisive in getting this bill passed by the House.



Some Southeastern Pennsylvania vital records available online ...

Berks County Register of Wills ... county marriage records index 1885-present, birth and death records index 1893-1905, website includes an estate index, City of Reading birth, marriage and death record indexes 1875-1905
<http://rwills.co.berks.pa.us/geneology/>

Bucks County Register of Wills & Orphans Court ... county marriage records index 1885-present
<http://propublic.co.bucks.pa.us/>

Chester County Archives & Record Services ... extracted data from county birth and death records 1893-1905, marriage records 1885-1930, website includes many other indexes for the Chester County Archives
<http://dsf.chesco.org/archives/>

Delaware County Archives ... county marriage records index 1885-1929, birth and death records index 1893-1905, website includes many other indexes for the Delaware County Archives
<http://www.co.delaware.pa.us/depts/archives.html>

Lancaster County Register of Wills ... county marriage records index 1950-2010
<http://paperless.co.lancaster.pa.us/>

Montgomery County Register of Wills ... county marriage records index 1990's-present
<http://webapp.montcopa.org/>

Philadelphia ... death records 1803-1915
<https://familysearch.org/>

Philadelphia ... marriage records index 1885-1951
<https://familysearch.org/>

FAMILY HISTORY MONTH

“Stories that had been handed down for generations in families are being lost. As memories fade, the intriguing accounts of the struggles and the accomplishments of our ancestors become shrouded in mystery. If we don’t take steps to chronicle our own lives and preserve the histories of our families, they are in danger of being lost forever.” ~ Loretto Szucs

In 2001, October was officially named “Family History Month”. So why not take a few minutes or hours to honor your relatives. Family history doesn’t have to be about searching dusty records and looking for long-forgotten facts; it can be a fun way to discover more about the people who shaped your life and also a way to pay tribute to the family you have now.

- 1. Take a field trip ...** to the house you grew up in ... to the cemetery where your great-grandparents are buried ... to the farm where your grandparents lived. Visiting places that are important to your family can be a great way to remember the past. And each memory might launch another story that has been forgotten.
- 2. Interview a family member ...** and preserve those funny and remarkable family stories for future generations by interviewing the family elders.
- 3. Participate in a DNA project ...** you may even find a distant relative.
- 4. Take a family photo ...** Why not gather everyone together before the hustle and bustle of the holidays begins and get that perfect group shot?
- 5. Read ...** If we can set aside a mere half hour a day to read, then in just the month of October we can log 15.5 hours of reading time. We can learn a lot of new tricks in that much time!
- 6. Prepare an Old Family Recipe ...** You probably have a favorite family recipe that you loved when you were growing up. Why not prepare the recipe for your family and friends. Give them a wonderful memory of a delicious family recipe.
- 7. Take a genealogy class or attend a seminar.**
- 8. Review, Label, and Share Photos ...** photographs evoke memories of time, place, and experience. Why not get a group together, pass the pictures, share the stories, and, while you’re at it, label these treasures at long last?
- 9. Volunteer ...** Check with your local genealogical society to see if there are any projects you can help with. Or offer to help with a transcription project online. It’s a great way to make friends and connect with others who share your passion for genealogy.
- 10. Join a Society ...** by joining a society you are helping that organization’s efforts to preserve valuable records, to educate and keep the genealogical community informed.

One of the greatest joys of family history is being able to share information with your family.

What will you do to celebrate Family History Month?

GENEALOGICAL NOTES

US Department of the Interior Provides Information to Native Americans Tracing Their Ancestry

The U.S. Department of the Interior has a webpage dedicated to offering helpful tips and information on tracing Native American ancestry. The Trace Indian Ancestry page has seven subsections including Ancestry, Genealogical Research, Enrollment Process, Benefits & Services Provided to American Indians and Alaska Natives, Cherokee Indian Ancestry, Dawes Rolls and Contacting a Tribal Entity – The BIA Tribal Leaders Directory.

The Ancestry section describes how genealogical documentation is needed for tribal enrollment and that the Bureau of Indian Affairs does not conduct genealogy research for individuals. In Genealogical Research, Interior answers five basic questions frequently asked by those who want to start doing genealogical research into their past. Interior suggests making use of digital records, but doesn't suggest any particular private websites. "All the information they have collected is readily available for you to collect, if you know where to go and you're willing to do the work," the site states.

Posted by Dick Eastman on August 25, 2011 in Online Sites | Permalink



Protecting Your Genealogy Work from Natural Disaster

The following is a Plus Edition article written by and copyright by Dick Eastman.

The last few days were stressful for many genealogists. We sat and waited as Hurricane Irene headed for our homes. High winds, flooding, downed trees, and more were common. Luckily, my home escaped damage. However, not everyone was so lucky. The news media has reported numerous cases of homes and the contents of homes that were damaged or destroyed.

The hurricanes of recent years should teach all of us many lessons. One lesson concerns preparedness; waiting until a hurricane is bearing down on you is not the time to start planning! Of course, hurricanes are not the only disasters we face. Other parts of the nation face tornadoes, wildfires, flooding, and other threats. Some years ago I remember watching a television news story from California when a reporter interviewed a woman in front of her burning home during a wild fire that leveled the entire neighborhood. The woman was obviously crying and, when asked about her losses, she moaned that she had lost years of genealogy work in the flames.

Of course, anyone can suffer from a burst water pipe that ruins documents, photographs, fabrics, and many other precious items. You may be covered by homeowners insurance, but have you "insured" your many hours of genealogy searches? If a disaster does strike, will you be able to replace your genealogy records once you get your life back in order?

Editors Note: How much information and how many pictures will you lose if your hard drive crashes today? It is recommended that you always make at least two backups to two different types of media in two different locations at least once a month. Then test your back-ups by simply restoring one or two files to a temporary directory and making certain that you can use them. Make your backups today!

Where Will Your Research and Family Heirlooms Go After You Die?

From GenealogyBlog.com — September 24, 2011

Reading an article in The Atlanta Journal-Constitution (The article is actually a synopsis for another article appearing in the September/October issue of *Family Chronicle* magazine.) reminded me of a story shared by members of a genealogical society where I had spoken. They told me of a member who had recently passed. The woman had been an active member for fifteen years and an avid genealogist for thirty years. This woman had an entire room in her home dedicated to her research. Her work filled volumes. She had papers, books, and vital information stacked on bookshelves and in boxes floor to ceiling. All was well organized, but the total volume was overwhelming. When this woman passed, her children came in, took one look, and threw 30 years of research into the garbage.

This dedicated genealogist was a wonderful person by all accounts. However, she failed in two key. Unfortunately, many genealogists make the same mistakes she did. First, she failed to instill a lasting love for genealogy in a child, grandchild, cousin, or other family member. She never helped nurture a love in her descendents to match the love she had for her own ancestors. She may have tried to find a willing participant and simply not gotten the desired results. When family won't participate it makes the second failure all the more devastating. Her second mistake was the failure to leave a will or other clear instructions for the administration of her records and other vital information.

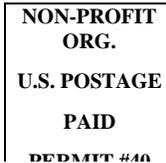
I realize some people don't like to think about their own mortality. However, how can anyone work as a genealogist and not give one's own demise some consideration? What good comes from our research if not left for others to find and use? These stories are a reminder to me to work with my own children. I must at least show them what I have found and let them know how important genealogy is to me. I must also organize my records, photos, and heirlooms; then, list them and make clear, in writing, my desire regarding these precious artifacts as an inheritance or donation after my own parting. Hopefully, each of you will give similar thought to your priceless collections, and make proper preparations.



Excerpts from Controversy: How to Read Unreadable Tombstones

In years past, genealogists have used a variety of materials to improve legibility of tombstones, from shaving cream to chalk and a variety of other materials. However, most of those methods reportedly damage the stone to some extent. Many of the materials are abrasive and also may leave chemicals behind that cause long-term damage. However, William Jerry Champion claims the use of flour creates no damage. Not everyone agrees. Some so-called "experts" will tell you that flour is harmful because it can penetrate into small pores of the stone, and, when wet, the flour will swell and can cause flaking of the stone. Some also claim that flour contains yeast, which encourages the growth of lichens and microorganisms that can then live and grow in the stone, causing expansion and cracking. Technically, flour does not contain yeast when first ground. However, yeast floats in the air most everywhere and may land on flour, where it may flourish. I do question the qualifications of all these so-called "experts." I therefore turned to the Association for Gravestone Studies' web site as this is the nationally-recognized expert organization. The Association's web site at <http://www.gravestonestudies.org/faq.htm> has a long list of things to never do, and it cautions, "Don't use shaving cream, chalk, graphite, dirt, or other concoctions in an attempt to read worn inscriptions." Flour is not mentioned although it might qualify as an "other concoction."

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SCPGS INC.
P.O. BOX 1824
YORK, PA 17405-1824**



DATED MATERIAL—DO NOT DELAY

QUERIES

James BLACK, born about 1770 in Adams Co, PA, and died November 6, 1842 in Peters Twp, Washington Co, PA. He was married to Elizabeth HORNER who was born 1774 in Cumberland Co, PA and died March 10, 1834. They are both buried in the Presbyterian Hill Church cemetery near Canonsburg, Washington Co, PA. Who were James BLACK's parents and siblings?? James Black owned a farm in Cumberland Co, but was not satisfied with the settlement of his father's estate and after selling his farm he mounted his horse and moved to the wilds of Washington County, known at that time as the "backwoods".

Lloyd M. Kelley — n7ynu@q.com

I am in need to have a copy of Bible records or other personal papers which lists personal information for Ludwig STEIN (born in Germany, lived in the Windsor Twp "Freysville Area", York Co, PA and was married to Maria Catherine WEIGLE from the Manchester, York Co., PA area.

Franklin R. Grove, Jr. 2998 Cape Horn Road, Red Lion, PA 17356;
email FRGJR@juno.com or telephone (717) 244-6248

I have 2 family Bibles; willing to give to the family to which they belong - the family of the late Elizabeth (Lamon) GROFT of York, PA.

Franklin R. Grove, Jr. 2998 Cape Horn Road, Red Lion, PA 17356;
email FRGJR@juno.com or telephone (717) 244-6248