



**South Central  
Pennsylvania**  
Genealogical Society

# Our Name's The Game

www.scpgs.org

Monthly Newsletter Vol. 39 No. 3 October 2013

## OUR NEXT MEETING

**Sunday, November 3, 2013 — Special Open House of the Keystone Mausoleum**

This month's meeting will be held at the Mount Rose Cemetery, 1502 Mount Rose Avenue, York, Pennsylvania. A brief business meeting will begin at 2:15 PM and the program will immediately follow at approximately 2:30 PM.

In 1903 the first large-scale cemetery development of the Mount Rose Cemetery began. Its roots trace to prior to the Civil War and the forming of the Green Hill Evangelical Association. In the 1930s the Keystone Chapel Mausoleum was built and contains 518 indoor crypts. The exterior of the building is granite while the interior, including the chapel area, is white marble accented by beautiful stained glass windows. Join John Piermatteo, Family Services Advisor with Mount Rose Cemetery and Lila Fourhman-Shaull, Director of Library & Archives of the York County Heritage Trust to learn the history of the cemetery and the Keystone Mausoleum.




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**UPCOMING MEETINGS** are tentatively scheduled as follows ...

**Sunday, January 5, 2014**

**Meet the Ancestors**

We will explore the ancestry of the President & CEO of the York County Heritage Trust Joan Mummert, York County Judge Joseph Adams, and York County District Attorney Tom Kearney.

**Sunday, February 2, 2014**

**Gerald Smith ... Bastards, Bridges & Bawdy Houses:  
Using Quarter Sessions Records in Genealogical Research**

Learn about where to find Quarter Sessions records, dealings of the court, and the genealogical information within. These courts had broad jurisdiction over oaths of office, licenses, illegitimate children, re-enslavement, crimes, punishments, roads, and administrative matters. The presentation discusses terminology, using the records in your research, and case studies drawn from Pennsylvania research.

**Sunday, March 2, 2014**

**Ron Hershner ... "Letters from Home"**

Mr. Hershner's most recent book offers a rare personal insight into the Civil War home front through twenty-three letters written *to* soldier Harvey Anderson from 1863 to 1865 ... the candy box and several of these unique letters are now on display in the library exhibit area of the York County Heritage Trust

**Sunday, April 6, 2014**

**Frank Grove ... Alphabet Soup of Revolutionary Lineage Societies**

**Sunday, May 4, 2014**

*to be announced*

**Saturday, June 7, 2014**

**conference ... watch for more details as they become available**

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**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 call Richard Konkel at 717-843-7043.

from SCPGS member, Rick Thoman ... I came across the following list of Bairs Meetinghouse Cemetery transcriptions in the Saturday, December 2, 1899 edition of the *Harrisburg Telegraph*. As this predates the 1930s survey by more than thirty years I thought it might be of interest to my fellow members of SCPGS.

**BURIAL RECORDS**

**From Mennonite Graveyard, Hanover Pa.**

[About two miles east of Hanover, in York county, Pa., is situated one of the first Dunkard-Mennonite graveyards west of the Susquehanna river. The location is on the estate of an original settler named Danner, progenitor of the York county family of that name. His estate was very large, comprising, it is said, over a thousand acres of land. The present meeting house is the second or third structure. Notwithstanding most of the descendants of the early settlers no longer cling to the faith of their fathers they nevertheless continue to inter their dead in the ancestral graveyard which has now grown into a well kept cemetery of several acres. In my researches I confined myself to the older class of interments and nearly all herewith given were in German inscription and exceedingly difficult to decipher. Several of the names herewith given are those of emigrants who founded well-known families. The oldest inscription decipherable dates back to 1759; but these were not the earliest burials. A great number of the first graves have simply limestone markers.]

Baer, Christian, b. 1733; d. 1799.  
 Baer, Elizabeth, wf. b. 1736; d. 1798.  
 Baer, Barbara, b. 1772; d. 1804.

Baer, Jacob, b. 1791; d. 1865.  
 Baer, Daniel, b. 1763; d. 1834.  
 Baer, Maria, wf. b. 1771; d. 1846.  
 Baer, Barbara, b. 1797; d. 1887.  
 Binder, Elizabeth Magdalena, wf. of Peter, b. 1715; d. 1760; had five sons and five daughters.  
 Bernhart, Ulrich, b. 1748; d. 1819.  
 Bernhart, Catharine, wf. b. 1756; d. 1838.  
 Brillhart, Magdalena, a born Danner, b. 1739; d. 1815.  
 Brillhart, Samuel, b. 1757; d. 1813.  
 Brezler, George, b. 1774; d. 1837.  
 Bowersox, John, b. 1770; d. 1858.  
 Bowersox, Anna Margaret, wf. b. 1775; d. 1865.  
 Bowersox, Susan, wf. of George, b. 1806; d. 1841.  
 Bechtel, Samuel, b. 1764; d. 1842.  
 Bechtel, Barbara, wf. b. 1767; d. 1848.  
 Danner—presumably the emigrant, stone crumbling.  
 Danner, Susan, b. 1734; d. 1828.  
 Danner, Henry, b. 1742; d. 1814.  
 Danner, Elizabeth, wf. b. 1744; d. 1828.  
 Danner, David, b. 1778; d. 1842.  
 Eichelberger, Adam, b. 1730; d. 1787.  
 Eichelberger, Magdalena, b. 1743; d. 1821.  
 Eichelberger, Susan, b. 1778; d. 1804.  
 Eichelberger, John Adam, b. 1721; d. 1818.  
 Eichelberger, Samuel, b. 1769; d. 1828.  
 Harnish, Jacob, b. 1794; d. 1876.  
 Hofe, Daniel, b. 1750; d. 1819.  
 Hoff, David, b. 1768; d. 1832.  
 Hershey, Christian, b. 1731; d. 1825.  
 Mummert, William, b. 1756; d. 1822.  
 Meyer, Martin, b. 1756; d. 1840.  
 Meyer, Ann Maria, wf. b. 1764; d. 1832.  
 Meyer, John, b. 1796; d. 1876.  
 Meyer, Susan, wf. b. 1799; d. 1890.  
 Rudesill, Andreas, b. 1756; d. 1778.  
 Thron, George, b. 1709; d. 1778.  
 Thron, Johann, b. 1736; d. 1789.  
 Thron, Magdalena, wf. b. 1739; d. 1811.  
 Thron, Samuel, b. 1766; d. 1816.  
 Thron, Maria, wf. b. 1768; d. 1861.  
 Thron, John, b. 1791; d. 1859.  
 Thomman, Abraham, b. 1767; d. 1832.  
 Thomman, Elizabeth, wf. born Hinkel, b. 1783; d. 1850.  
 Thomman, Maria Elizabeth, dau. of John Jacob, b. 1772; d. 1856.  
 "Barbara E. Wildsn, wife of Andrew Rudisill, died July 28, 1859, aged 111 years, 9 months and 22 days. She sweetly sleeps."  
 A. STAPLETON.

Carlisle, Pa.

*Thank you, Rick ... another great example of never knowing what you may find when you open a book or simply read a newspaper.*

#### Reminders:

Find-A-Grave ([www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com)) is an online resource for locating burial information. This site currently lists 179 graves at Bair Codorus Mennonite Cemetery. A word of caution this site is populated by volunteers.

The York County Heritage Trust has a card file for the 1930s WPA (Work Projects Administration) cemetery tombstone abstraction project. This is a great resource for identifying burial sites when a marker is currently either unreadable, damaged or missing.

## Using Land Records for Genealogical Research

At our October meeting, Richard Konkel presenting a program on how to use land records to further your genealogical research. He provided a handout that defined many terms commonly found in land records, and I've included some of them here.

The presentation began with a description of how land was obtained from the Penn Proprietors or the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. First an Application was made. This is simply a request for issuing a warrant and may include information about the date the land was settled. Next a Warrant was ordered for a Commonwealth surveyor to initiate a survey. A warrant designates where the land is located by county and township, the person to whom the warrant was granted, the number of acres the warrant encompassed, and the date the warrant was issued. Then a Survey was completed by an official surveyor for the Penns or the Commonwealth; often it was a County Deputy Surveyor. Surveys usually noted the location by county and township, courses and distances of the boundary lines, the warrantee, the number of acres with allowances for roads and errors, natural features such as springs, streams, hills, etc., and the date of the warrant and survey, and sometimes the date of settlement. And finally a Patent, the official granting of clear and perfect title to the land by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, was issued at the owner's initiative.

Rev. Neal Otto Hively published a series of books and maps summarizing the official Pennsylvania colonial records for all 35 townships in York County, from 1736 through the end of full land acquisition process (for some tracts as late as 1874). He has also summarized the 20 townships in Adams County. You can visit <http://www.paland.us/> for more information on his work.

Warrant registers can be found on the Pennsylvania State Archives website at [www.pastatearchives.com](http://www.pastatearchives.com)

When reading a deed it is important to understand the language ...

Indenture: a deed distinguished by having the edge of the paper on which it is written indented or cut at the top in a particular manner

Grantor: the transferor of property; the seller

Grantee: one to whom a grant is made; the buyer

Consideration : the cause, motive, price, or impelling influence which induces a contracting party to enter into a contract

Hereditaments: things capable of being inherited

Heirs and assigns: ordinary words of limitation and not of purchase

Fee Simple Absolute: an estate in which the owner is entitled to the entire property, with unconditional power of disposition during one's life, and descending to one's heirs and legal representatives upon one's death intestate

Tenements: in its common acceptance, is only applied to houses and other buildings, but in its original, proper, and legal sense signifies everything that may be holden, provided it be of a permanent nature

Metes and Bounds: a way of describing land by listing the compass directions and distances of the boundaries

Perch: a measure of land containing five yards and a half or sixteen feet and a half in length; otherwise called a "rod" or "pole"

Acre: a quantity of land containing 160 square rods or perches; 4,840 square yards or 43,560 square feet of land in whatever shape

Dower and Curtesy: the provision which the law makes for a widow out of lands or tenements of her husband, for her support and the nurture of her children.

The "It Being" clause reveals the chain of title for the particular parcel of land arranged consecutively, from the government or original source of title down to the present owner. A deed may indicate where the buyer came from.

It is important to check the names of the adjoining property owners as these could be relatives or in-laws. The same is true of witnesses as they may be friends, relatives or neighbors of the grantor.

Always check all land indexes for *after* recorded deeds. Until recently there were no deeds for transfers of land that passed by inheritance; so remember to check probate records. Using tax records and working the chain of title from the beginning using Neal Hively's maps and the property location may help fill in any gaps resulting from an unrecorded deed. It is also beneficial to check advertisements of public sales in newspapers as they often contain a detailed description of the property, including building and land usage.

Richard also discussed "other" records recorded at the Recorded of Deeds; for example: sale of slaves or livestock, prenuptial agreements, releases on estates, powers of attorney, etc.

### **Timeline of U.S. Public Land Acts**

From *About.com: Genealogy*, written by Kimberly Powell

Beginning with the Congressional Act of 16 September 1776 and the Land Ordinance of 1785, a wide variety of Congressional acts governed the distribution of federal land in the thirty public land states. Various acts opened up new territories, established the practice of offering land as compensation for military service, and extended preemption rights to squatters. These acts each resulted in the first transfer of land from the federal government to individuals. The following timeline of U.S. Public Land Acts is not exhaustive, and does not include acts that temporarily extended the provisions of earlier acts, or were passed for the benefit of individuals.

16 September 1776: This Congressional Act established guidelines for granting lands of 100 to 500 acres, termed "bounty land," for those who enlisted in the Continental Army to fight in the American Revolution.

*That Congress make provision for granting lands, in the following proportions: to the officers and soldiers who shall so engage in the service, and continue therein to the close of the war, or until discharged by Congress, and to the representatives of such officers and soldiers as shall be slain by the enemy: To a colonel, 500 acres; to a lieutenant colonel, 450; to a major, 400; to a captain, 300; to a lieutenant, 200; to an ensign, 150; each non-commissioned officer and soldier, 100...*

20 May 1785: Congress enacted the first law to manage the Public Lands that resulted from the thirteen newly independent states agreeing to relinquish their western land claims and allow the land to become the joint property of all citizens of the new nation. The 1785 Ordinance for the public lands northwest of the Ohio provided for their survey and sale in tracts of no less than 640 acres. This began the cash-entry system for federal lands.

10 May 1800: The Land Act of 1800, also known as the Harrison Land Act for its author William Henry Harrison, reduced the minimum purchasable unit of land to 320 acres, and also introduced the option of credit sales to encourage land sales. Land purchased under the Harrison Land Act of 1820 could be paid for in four designated payments over a period of four years. The government ultimately ended up expelling thousands of individuals who could not make the repayment of their loans within the set time, and some of this land ended up being resold by the federal government several times before defaults were rescinded by the Land Act of 1820.

3 March 1801: Passage of the 1801 Act was the first of many laws passed by Congress giving preemption or preference rights to settlers in the Northwest Territory who had purchased lands from John Cleves Symmes, a judge of the

Territory whose own claims to the lands had been nullified.

3 March 1807: Congress passed a law granting preemption rights to certain settlers in Michigan Territory, where a number of grants had been made under both prior French and British rule. The Intrusion Act of 1807 attempted to discourage squatters, or "settlements being made on lands ceded to the United States, until authorized by law." The act also authorized the government to forcibly remove squatters from privately-owned land if the owners petitioned the government. Existing squatters on unoccupied land were allowed to claim as "tenants of will" up to 320 acres if they registered with the local land office by the end of 1807. They also agreed to give "quiet possession" or abandon the land when the government disposed of it to others.

5 February 1813: The Illinois Preemption Act of 5 February 1813 granted preemption rights to all actual settlers in Illinois. This was the first law enacted by Congress which conveyed blanket preemption rights to all squatters in a specified region and not simply to certain categories of claimants, taking the unusual step of going against the recommendation of the House Committee on Public Lands, which strongly opposed granting blanket preemption rights on the grounds that doing so would encourage future squatting.<sup>1</sup>

24 April 1820: The Land Act of 1820, also referred to as the 1820 Sale Act, reduced the price of federal land (at the time this applied to land in the Northwest Territory and Missouri Territory) to \$1.25 acre, with a minimum purchase of 80 acres and a down payment of only \$100. Further, the act gave squatters the right to preempt these conditions and purchase the land even more cheaply if they had made improvements to the land such as the building of homes, fences, or mills. This act eliminated the practice of credit sales, or the purchase of public land in the United States on credit.

*continued on next page ...*

4 September 1841: Following several early preemption acts, a permanent preemption law went into effect with the passage of the Preemption Act of 1841. This legislation permitted an individual to settle and cultivate up to 160 acres of land and to then purchase that land within a specified time after either survey or settlement at \$1.25 per acre. This act was repealed in 1891.

27 September 1850: The Donation Land Claim Act of 1850, also called the Donation Land Act, provided free land to all white or mixed-blood Native American settlers who arrived in Oregon Territory (the present-day states of Oregon, Idaho, Washington, and part of Wyoming) before December 1, 1855, based on four years of residence and cultivation of the land. The law, which granted 320 acres to unmarried male citizens eighteen or older, and 640 acres to married couples, split equally between them, was one of the first that allowed married women in the United States to hold land under their own name.

3 March 1855: The Bounty Land Act of 1855 entitled U.S. military veterans or their survivors to receive a warrant or certificate which could then be redeemed in person at any federal land office for 160 acres of federally owned land. This act extended the benefits. The warrant could also be sold or transferred to another individual who could then obtain the land under the same conditions. This act extended the conditions of several smaller bounty land acts passed between 1847 and 1854 to cover more soldiers and sailors, and provide additional acreage.

*That each of the surviving commissioned and non-commissioned officers, musicians, and privates, whether of regulars, volunteers, rangers, or militia, who were regularly mustered into the service of the United States, and every officer, commissioned and non-commissioned seaman, ordinary seaman, flotilla-man, marine, clerk, and landsman in the navy, in any of the wars in which this country has been engaged since seventeen hundred and ninety, and each of the survivors of the militia, or volunteers, or State troops of any State or Territory, called into military service, and regularly mustered therein, and whose services have been paid by the United States, shall be entitled to receive a certificate or warrant from the Department of the Interior for one hundred and sixty acres of land...*

20 May 1862: Probably the best recognized of all land acts in the United States, the Homestead Act was signed into law by President Abraham

Lincoln on 20 May 1862. Taking effect on 1 January 1863, the Homestead Act made it possible for any adult male U.S. citizen, or intended citizen, who had never taken up arms against the United States, to gain title to 160 acres of undeveloped land by living on it five years and paying eighteen dollars in fees. Female heads of household were also eligible. African-Americans later become eligible when the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment granted them citizenship in 1868. Specific requirements for ownership included building a home, making improvements, and farming the land before they could own it outright. Alternatively, the homesteader could purchase the land for \$1.25 per acre after having lived on the land for at least six months.

### Sources:

1. U.S. Congress, *American State Papers: Documents, Legislative and Executive of the Congress of the United States in Relation to Public Lands*, 5 vols., Walter Lowrie, ed. (Washington, D.C.: Duff Green, 1834), 2:605; digital images, "American State Papers," Library of Congress, *A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation: U.S. Congressional Documents and Debates, 1774–1875* (<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lwsp.html>; accessed 14 February 2013).

Public lands consisting of all land outside the original thirteen colonies and the five states later formed from them (and later West Virginia and Hawaii), first came under government control following the Revolutionary War with the enactment of the Northwest Ordinance of 1785 and 1787. As the United States grew, additional land was added to the public domain through the taking of Indian land, by treaty, and by purchase from other governments.

One of the biggest differences between land in the public land states and state land states is that public land was surveyed prior to being made available for purchase or homesteading, using the rectangular-survey system, otherwise known as the township-range system. When a survey was done on new public land, two lines were run at right angles to each other through the territory ... a base line running east and west and a meridian line running north and south.

Townships measure approximately 36 square miles. Townships were then further broken down into 36 sections of 640 acres each.

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**DATED MATERIAL—DO NOT DELAY**

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### **Join the National Map Corps**

*Dick Eastman (eogn.com), September 15, 2013*

Want to help others find locations within the United States? Citizen volunteers are making significant additions to the U.S. Geological Survey's ability to provide accurate information to the public. Using crowd sourcing techniques, the USGS project known as The National Map Corps (TNMC) encourages citizen volunteers to collect manmade structure data in an effort to provide accurate and authoritative spatial map data for the National Geospatial Program's web-based The National Map.

The USGS National Map web page provides free access to all sorts of historical topographic map information. These maps often have place names lost to time, old cemeteries, and old buildings. Volunteers can now contribute data for all fifty states. You do not need to live in available states to participate.

Structures that should be mapped include CEMETERIES, schools, hospitals, post offices, police stations and other important public places. The data currently being collected by volunteers become part of TNM Structures dataset which is made available to users *free of charge*.

I would suggest that genealogists would like to contribute cemetery locations to this public database. Your contribution will help future genealogists find the cemeteries you list.

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) National Geospatial Program (NGP) sponsored various forms of volunteer map data collection projects over the past two decades. Citizen cartographers revised many maps during this period, but the program was suspended in 2008. Thanks to the increase in low-cost technology, especially GPS receivers and widespread use of the Internet, the USGS has now revitalized its volunteer program. The USGS has launched a pilot project to once again encourage crowdsourcing (citizen participation).

For more information about the project and how to participate, go to The National Map Corps web site at <https://my.usgs.gov/confluence/display/nationalmapcorps/Home>.