



**South Central
Pennsylvania**
Genealogical Society

Our Name's The Game

www.scpgs.org

Monthly Newsletter Vol. 38 No. 2 September 2012

OUR NEXT MEETING

Sunday, October 7, 2012 — The 1801 Mapping of the Wild and Raging Susquehanna

This month's meeting will be held at the Meeting Hall at York County Heritage Trust Library & Archives, 250 East Market Street, York, Pennsylvania. A brief business meeting will begin at 2:15 PM and the program will immediately follow at approximately 2:30 PM.

Benjamin Henry Latrobe is best known as one of the fathers of American architecture, but his work surveying the Lower Susquehanna in 1801 has more impact on area residents today. Latrobe described the Turkey Hill rapids or falls as "most formidable". Latrobe described his trials and tribulations of this daunting job of mapping the steep banks and rocky spillways of the Susquehanna before the building of the dams that now form Lake Clarke, Lake Aldred and the Conowingo Pond.

Our speaker, June Lloyd will share a PowerPoint presentation that includes slides of the early maps and watercolors Latrobe painted of this area of the river.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Sunday, November 4, 2012 — Camp Security: A Revolutionary War Prison Camp in York County

We will be on-site at Camp Security with the program presented next door at the Good News Free Will Baptist Church on Locust Grove Road.

York County is home to the only undeveloped Revolutionary War prison encampment site in the United States, known then and now as "Camp Security". Established at the end of July 1781 on land presently located in Springettsbury Township, this prison camp housed as many as 1500-2000 British privates and noncommissioned officers, and their families, captured at the pivotal battles of Saratoga and Yorktown. During its existence, the facility consisted of at least one stockade and a less restrictive village site called "Camp Indulgence" by its residents. It was guarded by York County militia as well as a company of men from Col. Moses Hazen's Continental Army regiment, "Congress's Own" or the "Canadian Regiment." Following the preliminary peace treaty between the fledgling United States and Great Britain in the spring of 1783, the prisoners were released and marched to New York during the second week of May 1783. In the past year, more than 150 acres of this historic land were purchased for permanent preservation through a consortium of historical and conservation organizations with the assistance of state and local government.

Jonathan Stayer, supervisor of reference services at the Pennsylvania State Archives, will discuss the fascinating history of Camp Security — the selection of the site, its construction, the prisoners and the guards, prison conditions and escapes. Mr. Stayer has been studying the encampment for more than thirty years, and he will show slides of documents and artifacts associated with the site. He also will describe the latest exciting findings in British archives as well as the ongoing efforts to preserve the area.

OUR NEW "FOR PURCHASE ONLY" PUBLICATION

It has come to our attention that there is some confusion regarding our recently announced "For Purchase Only" Publication. As we reported in our April 2012 newsletter, as a member in good standing, you will continue to receive regular special publications each year at no charge. Your membership will also afford you the opportunity to purchase new "for purchase only" publications at a reduced rate. "For Purchase Only" Publications are those that require extra preparation time ... time to compile the information so that it is easier for the reader to use and understand. You may remember that several years ago we published *The Parish Telephone* in a similar manner.

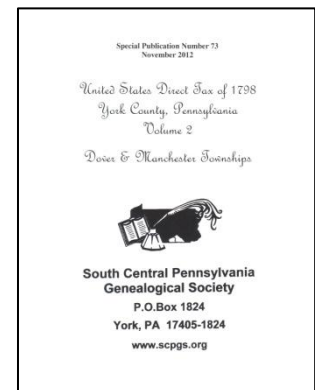
Our new "for purchase only" publication is our second volume of the United States Direct Tax of 1798 for York County, Pennsylvania (aka Glass Tax because it lists the number of windows and window panes, called lights in the homes for which the home owner was taxed) and will include Dover and Manchester Townships. The publication is 71 pages in length, includes a surname index, and will sell for \$20 plus a \$5 fee to cover postage and sales tax.

We are offering a reduced price to members if your order and payment are received by November 1st. During this "pre-sale" the member price is only \$12.50 (sales tax and postage included).

To reserve your copy please make your check payable to SCPGS and mail to

South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society
Attention: Margaret Burg
PO Box 1824
York, PA 17405-1824

We anticipate that pre-sale orders will arrive in your mailbox shortly after Thanksgiving. This publication would make a great Christmas gift for the genealogist on your gift-giving list.



PENNSYLVANIA STATE ARCHIVES

A bill was recently passed in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania which allows public access to death records held by the State which are more than fifty years old and to birth records which are more than 105 years old.

There is now an online index to these records on the website of the Division of Vital Records as well as in the Archives research room.

Currently the online indexes include ...

1906 Births

1906-1961 Deaths

http://www.portal.health.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/public_records/20686

BUCKS COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

The Bucks County Genealogical Society (BCGS) is a newly forming group of genealogists interested in sharing our passion for researching family history and making a difference in the genealogical community. If you are a genealogist living in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, or researching your ancestry in Bucks County, or would like to learn how to start creating your family tree, please join us!

BCGS has its own Yahoo Group, where members may share ideas, resources, files, photos, and get to know each other. And, members enjoy discounts on GenealogyBank and Fold3 subscriptions!

<http://www.buckscountygenealogicalsociety.org>

DNA — Part II

written by Cynthia Hartman

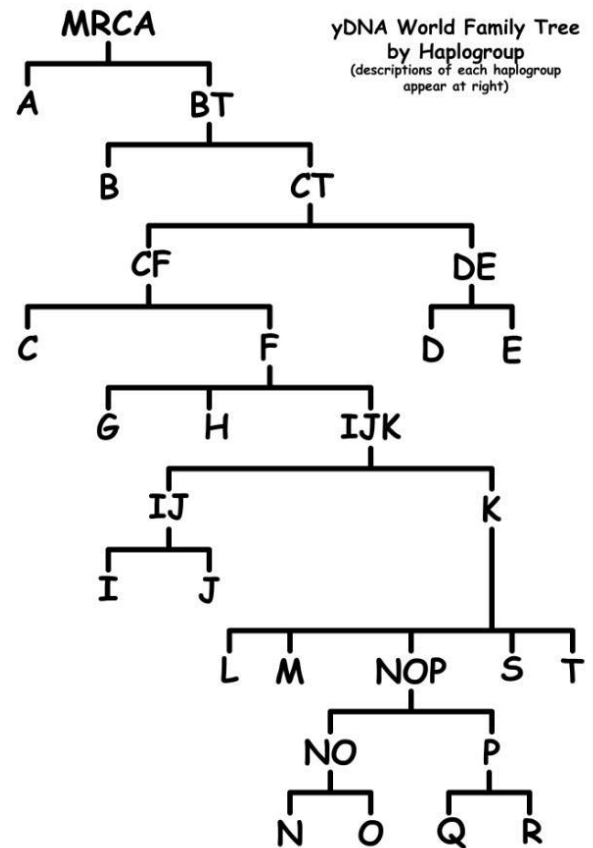
Our first meeting of the 2012-2013 year was *DNA is Family Fare: How DNA Expands Our Understanding of Family History* presented by scientist Darvin Martin of Lancaster County.

We began with a review of *Why is DNA useful for family history?* Our genetic code holds the story of our heritage that has been passed down through the generations. Comparing DNA between individuals can tell you whether or not the individuals are closely related, the approximate distance to a common paternal or maternal ancestor, and whether people with a specific surname are related through that surname.

What DNA can reveal? By comparing DNA between individuals we can trace where they lived and how they migrated from place to place. So where did we come from, and how did we get here? ... DNA evidence indicates that all modern humans share a common ancestor who lived in sub-Saharan Africa and began migrating, starting about 65,000 years ago, to populate first southern Asia, China, Java, and later Europe. Each of us living today has DNA that contains the story of our ancient ancestors' journeys.

Haplogroups can be used to trace the path of man's migration around the world since his origination in Africa. As man migrated, he adapted to his surroundings. These adaptations can be seen in the lightened skin color (in colder climates we wear more clothing so less skin is exposed to natural sunlight), stockier build as observed in peoples in the Arctic regions to maintain body-heat, and better oxygen absorption capability as seen in inhabitants of mountainous, oxygen-poor regions.

Vitamin D is produced by your skin in response to exposure to ultraviolet radiation from natural sunlight. People with dark skin pigmentation may need 20 - 30 times as much exposure to sunlight as fair-skinned people to generate the same amount of vitamin D.



Haplogroups allow genealogists to gain some insight into their very 'deep' ancestry – i.e. information about their direct paternal or maternal ancestors who lived thousands of years ago. Based on DNA testing the people of East Africa have the most diversity in their DNA thus leading to the conclusion that all humans originated from here.

Haplogroup F is the "out-of-Africa" group, from which 90% of all non-Africans descend. It was preceded out of Africa by Haplogroup C, which moved along the coast to India and Australia.

It has been well-known for a very long time that early civilization flourished in Mesopotamia. Most likely in the fertile Tigris valley is where Haplogroup K formed and migrated northwest into the Caucasus Mountains. It is from here Haplogroup Q formed and headed to Lake Baikal and on through Siberia to America as archaeological evidence supports the view that the ancestors of American Indians lived near Lake Baikal.

Haplogroup R can also be traced back to the Caucasus Mountains. Its subclade R1b, Europe's most common Y-DNA haplogroup, appears to have moved through Turkey into Europe, while subclade R1a probably moved along the west shore of the Caspian, heading north toward Russia. The R1a branch has high concentration in Ukraine and Poland suggesting that this migratory path went between the Black Sea and Caspian Sea. Europe's most diverse population is in Switzerland where Haplogroups E, G, I, J, L and R are found.

Through DNA testing we are unveiling the story of the greatest journey ever told: how our ancestors migrated from their African homeland to populate the earth tens of thousands of years ago.

Spencer Wells is a leading population geneticist and director of the *Genographic Project* from National Geographic. Since its launch in 2005, the *Genographic Project* has worked with indigenous communities and the general public, using advanced DNA analysis to help answer fundamental questions about where humans originated and how we came to populate the Earth. By studying humankind's family tree Wells hopes to close the gaps in our knowledge of human migration.

The Journey of Man: A Genetic Odyssey, is an award-winning book and documentary written and presented by Wells. The film chronicled his globe-circling, DNA-gathering expeditions in 2001-02 and laid the groundwork for the Genographic Project.

MISSING 18th CENTURY PAPERS of the U.S. WAR DEPARTMENT

Posted by Dick Eastman on September 3, 2012

Quoting from the *WarDepartmentPapers.org* web site:

On the night of November 8, 1800, fire devastated the War Office, consuming the papers, records, and books stored there. Two weeks later, Secretary of War Samuel Dexter lamented in a letter that "All the papers in my office [have] been destroyed." For the past two centuries, the official records of the War Department effectively began with Dexter's letter. Papers of the War Department 1784-1800, an innovative digital editorial project, will change that by making some 55,000 documents of the early War Department many long thought irretrievable but now reconstructed through a painstaking, multi-year research effort available online to scholars, students, and the general public.

These Papers record far more than the era's military history. Between 1784 and 1800, the War Department was responsible for Indian affairs, veteran affairs, naval affairs (until 1798), as well as militia and army matters. During the 1790s, the Secretary of War spent seven of every ten dollars of the federal budget (debt service excepted). The War Office did

business with commercial firms and merchants all across the nation; it was the nation's largest single consumer of fabric, clothing, shoes, food, medicine, building materials, and weapons of all kinds. "Follow the money," it is said, if you want to learn what really happened, and in the early days of the Republic that money trail usually led to the War Office. For example, the War Department operated the nation's only federal social welfare program, providing veterans' benefits (including payments to widows and orphans) to more than 4,000 persons. It also provided internal security, governance, and diplomacy on the vast frontier, and it was the instrument that shaped relations with Native Americans. In many respects, the papers lost in the War Office fire of 1800 constituted the "national archives" of their time.

Papers of the War Department 1784-1800 will present this collection of more than 55,000 documents in a free, online format with extensive and searchable metadata linked to digitized images of each document, thereby insuring free access for a wide range of users. Scholars will find new evidence on many

... continued on page 5

The following is from the National Genealogical Society ...

John T. Humphrey, cg (1948-2012)

The genealogical community and the National Genealogical Society have lost a dear friend and scholar with the death of John Thomas Humphrey on 12 August 2012. John's work in our field is some of the most important and essential for early Pennsylvania and German genealogy. His forty years of work with Pennsylvania records is represented in his fifteen volume Pennsylvania Births Series, two family histories, and numerous articles. He received critical acclaim for his *Understanding and Using Baptismal Records*. John's deep knowledge of German genealogy and records included his ability to read and write in old German script and extended to repositories in Germany. He was a frequent teacher and lecturer, sharing his expertise in workshops, institutes, and conferences for genealogical learning as well as serving on many society boards. He extended the reach of his teaching in these specialties by authoring practical guides so that others might share his success in furthering their family history. His most recent publication is *Finding Your German Ancestors: A Practical Guide for Genealogists*.

John's contributions and dedication to the National Genealogical Society since the 1990s knew no bounds. John shared key insights about the importance of original documents in NGS's video *Finding Your Family at the National Archive*. Over the years, John served as a director of the NGS Learning Center and also as the NGS Education Director managing online and home study courses. He led research tours to Germany and Salt Lake City. John actively volunteered and contributed to many of NGS's national conferences as a lecturer, a consultant at the NGS booth, an exhibits chair, and supporter of many of the details for producing a high quality educational conference. John even rolled up his sleeves and made fine custom shelving for the former historic home of NGS, Glebe House. He was a man of grace and many unexpected talents.

Several years ago NGS produced a short video, *Paths To Your Past*, in which John told how "NGS had literally transformed my life." He explained how he began family history research as a child but only joined NGS and attended his first conference in 1990, at the age of 42. He gave NGS much credit for his success and for helping him see new ways to solve research problems. But we at the National Genealogical Society, his many colleagues over the years, feel John has helped light the way for us and all genealogists. His painstaking and detailed scholarship in both his writings and his lectures lives on as his legacy to help guide the way for generations to come.

continued from page 4 ...

subjects in the history of the Early Republic, from the handling of Indian affairs, pensions and procurement to the nature of the first American citizens' relationship with their new Federal government. The Papers of the War Department 1784-1800 offer a window into a time when there was no law beyond the Constitution and when the administration first worked out its understanding and interpretation of that new document. For more than two hundred years these important papers have been lost to scholars, and their absence is one of the key reasons why so little serious military history has been written about this period.

Our online and open access model of publication will bring these fascinating primary sources to non-scholarly audiences as well. Military history enjoys a wide audience, and those amateurs, enthusiasts, interested citizens, and, of course, active and retired members of the military will also seek out this remarkable collection.

Our overall ambition, in sum, is to use the best technology of the early twenty-first century to recover and make widely available this vital record of American history that was seemingly lost at the dawn of the nineteenth century.

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DATED MATERIAL—DO NOT DELAY

Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society Fall Conference

Solving Research Problems with an Interesting Twist

When: Saturday, October 13th from 8:30 AM to 4 PM

Where: Best Western Westminster Hotel & Conference Center, 451 WMC Dr, Westminster, Maryland

The Fall meeting will go on as scheduled. MAGS board member Dr. Kenneth Heger volunteered to fill John Humphrey's slot on the agenda and to assist Susannah Brooks with the Question and Answer session as well. The speakers are Susannah E. Brooks, Ann Morrison and Dr. Kenneth Heger.

Additional details can be found at <http://www.magsgen.com>

Paul Milner on Researching your English, Irish and Scottish Ancestors

A genealogy conference sponsored by the Tarentum Genealogical Society and Armstrong County Historical Museum and Genealogical Society

When: Saturday, October 6th from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM

Where: Clarion Hotel, 300 Tarentum Bridge Road, New Kensington, Pennsylvania.

Topics include: Irish Emigrants to North America: Before, During and after the Famine; Irish Maps and Tools for Finding the Right Place; Finding Your English Ancestors: The Big Four; and Finding Your Scottish Ancestors; The Big Five

Email Barbara Diller at badiller@verizon.net for more information