



**South Central  
Pennsylvania**  
Genealogical Society

# Our Name's The Game

www.scpgs.org

**Monthly Newsletter Vol. 39 No. 2 September 2013**

## OUR NEXT MEETING

**Sunday, October 6, 2013 — Using Land Records for Genealogical Research**

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.

This presentation will examine various land records and the rich information they contain for genealogical research. Land records for York County, Pennsylvania that will be discussed include: warrants, surveys, and patents from the State Archives and the Deputy Surveyor's copies at the York County Heritage Trust; the Rev. Neal Otto Hively's publications of York County Original Pennsylvania Land Records; deeds, including releases, and other agreements and legal instruments recorded in deed books; sheriff's deeds; and tax records.

Our speaker, Richard K. Konkel, Esquire has been doing genealogical research since he was in high school. A native of York, he is currently President of the SCPGS and a board member and chair of the Library Committee for the York County Heritage Trust. His research interests include York County research, and extensive research in German records on his Pennsylvania German, Germans from Russia, and West Prussian ancestors. He is an attorney at the CGA Law firm in York, Pennsylvania where his practice is focused on Family Law, Estate Planning and Administration, and Real Estate.

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

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

... we will meet at Mount Rose Cemetery, 1502 Mount Rose Avenue, York from 2 PM to 4 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

**Sunday, January 5, 2014                      round table discussion ... Ancestors: Who Were They?**

**Sunday, February 2, 2014                      Gerald Smith ... Court of Quarter Sessions Records**

**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**

## **FOLLOW YOUR INSTINCTS**

*Written by Deborah Carder Mayes for The In-Depth Genealogist, July 25, 2013*

Sometimes, you just have to go with your gut feeling. Several people have agreed with me that gut feelings or instincts do have a place in our quest to learn our family history. But what is that role?

Let me clarify what I mean by gut feeling. Gut feeling is when that little light bulb in your head goes off when you find a record or some seemingly related records and something inside you says, "Keep this. I think its part of my family history." It is not a blind conclusion drawn a subconsciously nor just a clue.

I do not draw conclusions using my gut feelings or instincts subconsciously. Do not misunderstand where I'm saying that instinct plays a role. Instinct comes in when you find some records that seem to "go with" what you already have but the reason isn't apparent. Instinct kicks in when you are in the county of your ancestors and there is someone with one of your surnames buried in a cemetery there but you don't know whether it's one of your family members but you have the feeling that it is so you have to visit that cemetery to see what you find. Instinct is working when certain names keep appearing with yours or you find one of your family members on a census in another household and your gut says that these are relatives, not just friends, employers, or landlords.

Keeping these records and researching them more is where the instinct is used. Not in drawing your conclusion. You have no conclusion. You have some records that you think may contain your ancestor's relatives or have a connection to your ancestor. You do not have a conclusion.

You keep copies of these records or a list of the information from them and citations so you know where you can get them if they do play a role in your family history. You take the copies or the list with you when you go to research. If your gut instinct is right, then you will keep finding more and more records that support the ones that gave you the feeling in the first place. In time, you'll find some that not only support it, but contain direct evidence that pulls what you've collected altogether.

Now, you've got a nice, little pile of record copies for which, hopefully, you've written citations. Now, you can begin to work on drawing a conscientious, well thought-out conclusion.

Next, you need to test that conclusion against the Genealogical Proof Standard. Have you done a

reasonably exhaustive search? That is, have you found everything you need to come to a sound conclusion? It's not necessary to have every record there is for an ancestor but you need to have enough records from independent sources that all point in the direction of the same conclusion to answer particular question or resolve a certain problem.

Are your citations for these records complete and accurate? Could a stranger read your citations and find the records? Would they draw the same conclusion from them that you did? Did you correctly interpret the information in each record as it relates to the problem to be resolved? Does everything make sense and does the answer to the question become clear when you correlate the information from all of the records together? Did you write out and explain the process leading you to draw this conclusion and why you believe that it is right? Is your reasoning sound and did you write it out coherently so that it will make sense to whoever reads it?

If you can answer yes to the questions, then you have probably reached sound conclusion. You reached it consciously and put a great deal of thought into it. You didn't draw the conclusion subconsciously or from your gut instincts.

Those instincts may have played an important role by putting you on the right trail but you worked your way down that trail by researching that initial hunch. You followed up on that instinctive feeling but you didn't just make guesses. You did the research and used thought processes to formulate a reasonable, sound conclusion.

If you didn't, then all you have is an assumption or a theory. We all know that assumptions are can lead to errors. Never assume anything but follow up by researching if you get that old feeling that says this is something, this could be right. Following up with research will either prove your hunch was right or stop it cold when a certain piece of information turns up. Theories are good. Theories make you think and form a plan to prove them. That research plan will lead you to an answer that proves or disproves your theory.

Go with your gut. Use your instincts but make sure that they are incorporated into a sensible research plan from which you can use the findings to draw a creditable conclusion.

from Margaret Burg ... The following obituary was found in the World War I Letters from Soldiers Scrapbook while I was abstracting the names of servicemen who wrote letters home for a special publication of South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society. Although no year of the death is mentioned, I found this obituary very interesting because of the genealogical information included in it. It's a good example of never knowing what you may find in seemingly obscure places.

#### FATHER IN WAR OF 1812

Mrs. Eliza J. Clemens

Gatchelville, Feb. 5. – Mrs. Eliza J. Clemens, widow of James Clemens, said to be the oldest woman in York county, died yesterday shortly after midnight of infirmities of old age. She would have been 100 years old next May had she lived.

Mrs. Clemens father, John Grove was twice married, his first wife being Miss Sallie Godfrey, and his second, Miss Mary Shirey. Of a large family three are living. They are Mrs. Clemens, who resides with her son and daughter, James and Miss Rose Clemens, about one mile from Gatchelville; Mrs. Sarah Kridler, a full sister who is in her 84th year, and resides with her son, Milton Kridler, Columbia and Mrs. Susan McFatrige, a daughter of the second wife, who is in her 81<sup>st</sup> year, and resides with her daughter, Mrs. John Ort, 665 West King Street, York. For a number of years Mrs. Clemens' parents resided about one mile east of Stewartstown, on the farm now owned by John W. Groh.

Her father served in the war of 1812, having entered near the close. Her husband, James Clemens, was in

the Civil war, being a private in Company A, Purnell legion, Maryland volunteer cavalry. He fought in the battle of Gettysburg.

About three years ago she was stricken with paralysis and had since been unable to walk without assistance. There are four generations of her family living. Mrs. Clemens is the mother of nine children, of whom seven are living, Henry, Charles and Miss Agnes, residing in Fawn Township, near Gatchelville; James and Miss Rose Clemens, with whom she lives; Mrs. Lemar Matthews of New York, and Mrs. R. H. Maffet, of Winterstown. There are 14 grandchildren and [unable to read number] great grandchildren living.

The funeral will be held on Thursday, [unable to read time] p.m. Services will be held in the Prospect Methodist Episcopal church. Interment will be made in the church cemetery.

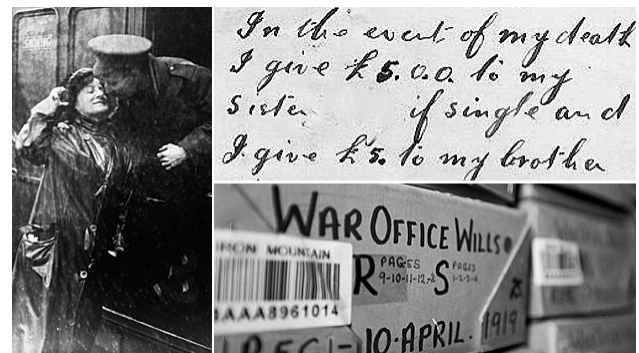
*Editor's note ... according to her death certificate, Eliza J. Clemens died February 3, 1918*

#### World War I Soldier Wills Online

Dick Eastman (eogn.com), August 29, 2013

The last wishes, thoughts and concerns of more than 230,000 soldiers who died on the front line during World War I are to be made available online. Final handwritten wills were kept by troops in their pocket service books and tucked into their uniforms. Now those original paper records that survived are preserved in 1,300 boxes inside a temperature-controlled warehouse run by data company Iron Mountain in Birmingham. The wills, which are owned by Her Majesty's Court and Tribunal Service (HMCTS), are being digitised in time for next year's centenary of WWI.

John Apthorpe, from Iron Mountain, says: "The archive is not only a valuable source of information for historians, it gives the general public, here and overseas, the chance to get closer to their lost ancestors."



"We've so far found the wills of Victoria Cross winners, former footballers and relatives of famous people and these are just a fraction of the stories we're yet to uncover."

You can read more about this project at

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-23861821>

**Hidden Heroes Project to Uncover Heroes****Hidden for 200 Years**

*Dick Eastman (eogn.com), September 9, 2013*

On the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Lake Erie, Tony Burroughs, founder and CEO of the Center for Black Genealogy, announces "Hidden Heroes: Identifying Blacks in the Battle Lake Erie." September 10, 2013 marks the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of one of the most famous battles in U.S. Naval history that took place during the War of 1812. Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry captured an entire British fleet for the first time in world history. Estimates were 10 to 25% of the approximate 600 men were Black, but because naval records didn't indicate race, historians have only been able to identify ten by name.

Hidden Heroes will coordinate researchers to determine which men in the battle were Black. Several genealogical societies have agreed to help research and the project is seeking additional societies and researchers. Hidden Heroes is similar to a project that identified African Americans in the Civil War Navy for the National Park Service's Civil War Soldiers and Sailors website ...

*nps.gov/civilwar/soldiers-and-sailors-database.htm*

Hidden Heroes will correct another lost chapter in American and African American History. When the project is completed the names of these heroes will be on the Internet for free public access. This will enable historians to correct history and enable descendants to learn of their ancestor's heroic deeds.

*from Cynthia Hartman ...* In addition to the usual birth, marriages and deaths recorded in the family Bible belonging to my Great-Great Grandparents, Joseph O. and Rachel Emma (King) Seitz, there are numerous newspaper clippings and the following list of "subscribers". They lived in the 7<sup>th</sup> district of Baltimore County, Maryland before moving to Hopewell Township (near Stewartstown), York County, Pennsylvania in the mid-1880's. Joseph was a farmer and peddled produce. As is evidenced by the list of "subscribers" found in the family Bible, he also sold Bibles. The three page list gives the names of fifty-one subscribers, their place of residence, style of binding and cost. Following is a transcription of the names and place of residence.

SUBSCRIBERS' NAMES	RESIDENCE
W. J. Garrett	Norrisville
Dr. J. L. Free	Stewartstown
Jac. Yost	Stewartstown
B. F. Hershner	Gorsuch
Mrs. Ellen Wilson	Stewartstown
Emanuel Hendrix	Gorsuch
Anthony Gibbs	New Park
Wm. Gibson	Norrisville
Elmer Hall	Norrisville
W. L. Downs	Stewartstown
E. B. Anderson	Stewartstown
Joseph Strawbridge	Norrisville
Wm. Hildt	Norrisville
Joseph Bosley	Norrisville
Geo. Orwig	Gorsuch
C. W. Morris	New Park
Wm. Channel	New Park
W. C. Conway	Stewartstown
S. T. Boyd	Stewartstown
W. C. Eisonsbett	—
S. W. Campbell	Norrisville
Dr. J. W. Harkins	Norrisville
J. W. Hendrix	Stewartstown
Mrs. Elizabeth E. Gutchell	Gatchelville
Rev. M. Bowers	Stewartstown
Benton G. Bell	Stewartstown

SUBSCRIBERS' NAMES	RESIDENCE
Charles Knight	Cockeysville
John E. Houston	Norrisville
R. B. Strawbridge	Fawn Grove
N. B. Webb	Fawn Grove
Jason Hitchcocks	Norrisville
Joshua Hitchcocks	Norrisville
Wm. Shirey	Fawn Grove
Joseph Anderson	Stewartstown
Mrs. John Baird	Norrisville
Eliza J. Cathcart	Norrisville
J. H. Loyd	Gatchelville
Jacob Grove of J.	Stewartstown
Charles Jones	New Park
Susan Hudson	Norrisville
John Marsteller	New Park
J. W. Taylor	New Park
Geo. Berks	Gatchelville
Wm. Hiriette	Gatchelville
Aquilla Burste	Stewartstown
Jas. H. Trout	Stewartstown
J. T. Amsbaugh	Cross Roads
John S. Keesey	Cross Roads
Joseph ???	Cross Roads
W. L. Thompson	Drace
Jos. Gustmyer	Stewartstown

**“THE FIERY TRIAL”**

On Sunday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, we kicked-off the 2013-2014 year by visiting the York County Heritage Trust's newest exhibit “The Fiery Trial: York County's Civil War Experience”. Lila Fourhman-Shaull, Director of Library & Archives of the York County Heritage Trust gave us a brief background on how the exhibit was created and then led a tour of the exhibit.

“The Fiery Trial” exhibit was timed to coincide with the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil War's Battle of Gettysburg, and showcase York County connections to this national event. The exhibit planning process began approximately a year and a half before the exhibit was scheduled to open. Trust staff as well as committee members began by developing an exhibit script. The exhibit script being the basic outline of themes, topics, stories, and supporting collection materials. As the script evolved the committee was expanded to ensure adequate knowledge and expertise in all areas. The final step was to build the exhibit including the label copy. The challenge was to create an exhibit that would tell the story to all age groups ... from the elementary school children on a field trip to senior citizen groups.

York County Heritage Trust in partnership with York College of Pennsylvania is hosting a lecture series, *Understanding the Civil War*, that highlights the Civil War's causes, events, and impacts. These events will be held at the Historical Society Museum at 10:30 AM, unless otherwise noted.

Saturday, September 28 ... “Slavery and the Constitution” presented by Dr. Philip Avillo, Emeritus Professor, York College of Pennsylvania

Thursday, October 24 ... “The Emancipation Proclamation: Myths and Realities” presented by Dr. James Oakes. This program will be at York College's DeMeester Recital Hall (in Wolf Hall) at 7 PM

Saturday, January 25 ... “Who Were the Abolitionists and What Did They Do?” presented by Dr. Corey Brooks, York College of Pennsylvania professor

Upcoming Programs ...

Saturday, March 29 ... Women in the Civil War

Saturday, April 26 ... Coming of the Civil War and Election of Abraham Lincoln

**LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO DO?**

There are a variety of programs this Fall at the York County Heritage Trust ...

**Lunch with the Librarians**

On the first Friday of each month, join the York County Heritage Trust librarians for an informal lunch hour from 1 – 2 PM. Order an optional deli lunch or bring your own. Due to popularity registration is required by the Wednesday prior to each event, contact: [aeveler@yorkheritage.org](mailto:aeveler@yorkheritage.org)

October 4 ... “Unlocking a Building: How to Begin Property Research”

November 1 ... “Genealogical Information from Military Records”

December 5 ... “Tracing Your Roots: Basic Genealogy Using YCHT Collections”

**Second Saturday**

The York County Heritage Trust offers a morning of entertainment and fun on the second Saturday of each month at 10:30 AM. Programs are *free* and open to the public unless noted otherwise.

October 12 ... “Western Front Association Symposium”. This Fall 2013 World War I History Symposium is a day long event and costs \$35 (\$15 for students). Registration deadline is October 7<sup>th</sup>, for more information visit ... [www.wfa-eastcoast.org](http://www.wfa-eastcoast.org)

November 9 ... “Salvaging Creativity” presented by Patrick Sells at the Agricultural & Industrial Museum

December 14 ... “Family Heirloom Weavers: Hollywood Fabrics” — learn more about Family Heirloom Weavers of Red Lion, one of the oldest textile mills in the United States, and historic textile production

**York Civil War Roundtable**

Meets at the Historical Society Museum on the third Wednesday of each month at 7 PM

October 16 ... “Major General William “Billy” Smith” presented by Scott Mingus and Ed Lefevre

November 20 ... “The Gettysburg Address: Facts and Myths” presented by James Hayney

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### **Finding Your Pennsylvania Civil War Ancestors**

The Pennsylvania State Archives will host its second installment of the successful workshop, *Finding Your Pennsylvania Civil War Ancestors*, on Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup>. The morning session, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m., will consist of presentations and discussion covering national and statewide resources and databases for research. The morning session is limited to 25 registrants. The afternoon session, from 12:45 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., provides an exclusive opportunity for ten registrants to utilize the resources of the Pennsylvania State Archives with personal research guidance by archives staff. These ten slots will be filled on a first-requested basis. An optional tour of the State Museum's newly refurbished Civil War gallery will be available for those not attending the afternoon session.

The event is free, however pre-registration is required due to limited space. To register, please email or call Josh Stahlman at [jostahlman@pa.gov](mailto:jostahlman@pa.gov), or 717-772-3257. Registration is due by October 1<sup>st</sup>. Coffee and light refreshments will be available in the morning. Lunch will not be provided, however, there are numerous restaurants in the immediate area.

The Pennsylvania State Archives holds Civil War regimental records only for Pennsylvania units, and does not maintain records of Federal service. For more information on the Civil War records available at the Pennsylvania State Archives, visit the archives webpage for Civil War Records.

### **Researching Online at the Maryland State Archives Website**

Monday, October 21 — 7:30 PM in the Dixon Room, Westminster Library, 50 East Main Street, Westminster

For those researching in Maryland, the Maryland State Archives is an essential repository, yet many researchers are unaware of the wealth of resources that the MSA has already digitized and brought online. This presentation will guide you through the official website and focus on the many indexes, transcriptions, and digitized records available there. Speaker Michael Hait is a certified genealogist who has been conducting research for clients since 2006. Carroll County Genealogical Society meetings are *free* and open to the public.