



**South Central
Pennsylvania**
Genealogical Society

Our Name's The Game

www.scpgs.org

Monthly Newsletter Vol. 40 No. 2 September/October 2014

OUR NEXT MEETING

Sunday, November 2, 2014

Tour of the Freysville Lutheran church and cemetery

This month's meeting will be held at the Emanuel Lutheran church at 1605 Prospect Street, Red Lion, Pennsylvania beginning at 2:15 PM.

Directions from York ... Take Route 24 south through Longstown to the intersection of Cape Horn Road and Windsor Road. Turn left on Windsor Road and proceed to the signal light in Freysville. The Lutheran church is on your right ... turn right on Prospect Street to access the parking lot.

Three churches, Lutheran, United Church of Christ and United Methodist congregations, are clustered together in the village of Freysville. This same trio of Christian denominations is located in many York County towns. All three churches in Freysville are of German origin. Emanuel Lutheran church in Freysville was organized in 1771, this is one of the sixteen Lutheran congregations in York County which predate the American Revolution. On March 28, 1771 Conrad Frey deeded a tract of land to Lutheran and Reformed trustees for use in building a union church. The cornerstone for what was the second, or possibly third, church was laid October 5, 1851 and the completed structure was dedicated on July 18, 1852. The union arrangement was dissolved in 1909, at which time the Reformed purchased the old property when it was sold at public auction. The Lutherans laid the cornerstone for their own church, located across the road from the old site, on Jun 20, 1909. They dedicated their completed structure on May 29, 1910.

OUR UPCOMING MEETINGS are scheduled as follows ...

Sunday, January 4, 2015

Online German Research

... presented by James Beidler

Sunday, February 1, 2015

Meet the Ancestors II

... presented by Richard Konkel

Sunday, March 1, 2015

Genealogical Myths

... presented by Gerald Smith

Sunday, April 12, 2015

Lewis Miller Portraits

*... presented by Lila Fourhman-Shaull
and June Lloyd*

Sunday, May 3, 2015

Tour of the Dritt House

Sunday, June 7, 2015

Henry James Young Awards

... for excellence in genealogy and local history

Our newsletter is now offered via email if you so desire. To receive the newsletter via email, please submit your request along with your email address to ... scpgswebsite@wildblue.net

From the President

Jonathan Stayer

Why should I join a local genealogical society?

I am a member of numerous local, regional and national genealogical and historical organizations. Occasionally, I am asked why I join these societies when so much information and research assistance is available on the internet. Membership in local genealogical organizations has many benefits.

First, local genealogical societies promote the preservation of and access to local records and research materials that otherwise would be lost to obscurity. Our own SCPGS has published some works that have proven useful in my personal research—abstracts of notary and justice of the peace dockets, an index to colonial Pennsylvania naturalizations, transcripts of the 1798 “Glass Tax,” and so much more. Often, local organizations identify valuable local sources that a big genealogy website would never discover.

Secondly, local genealogical societies offer the opportunity to meet with other people in our area who share our interest in family history for education, encouragement and service. Over the years, various members and programs of the SCPGS offered suggestions for overcoming roadblocks in my research, alerted me to unusual sources of information, and provided me tidbits from their own research that helped me to advance my genealogical endeavors. Some meetings of the SCPGS took me to churches and other local points of interest that I never would have visited otherwise.

Thirdly, genealogical organizations enable individuals to band together to influence policies and practices regarding records preservation and access. Largely due to the efforts of genealogical groups, Pennsylvania’s older birth and death certificates became more accessible in 2012. The SCPGS and other genealogical societies throughout Pennsylvania supported this endeavor.

Finally, by supporting a genealogical society, you are supporting the enterprise of genealogy and the larger genealogical community. Much of what we enjoy today as genealogists resulted from the work of genealogical organizations in the past. We need to insure that such efforts continue and that we provide an even richer experience for those who follow us.

If you are reading this and you are not a member of the South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society, I urge you to join us today!

New Book for Sale

Heirs and Orphans of Baltimore City and County, Maryland, 1825 – 1904 Abstracted from Annual Valuations., Carol L Porter and Patricia R Czerniewski. Baltimore County Genealogical Society, Inc., 2014, Indexed, 68 pages, 300+ records, 1,600+ names, Price: \$13.00.

This book contains never before published estate records for three hundred decedents in Baltimore City and County. Many of these individuals did not have wills or administrations accounts.

Annual valuations were required to protect the interest of minor heirs when real property was involved. Information abstracted here contains orphans and decedents names; locations and description of property; dimensions and condition of the buildings thereon; slaves; appraisers names; date property was viewed; value placed upon it and the date the report was filed.

SEARCH THIS BOOK! – Use the custom search box on the Baltimore County Genealogical Society web site to search the index pages of this book.

(<http://www.baltimoregenealogysociety.org/BCGShome/resources/bcgs-resources/>)

Deceased Members

Don Billet, of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, passed away on Tuesday, January 14, 2014 at the age of 84 years. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, JoAnn Billet and his brother, Edward Billet. Don was born May 26, 1929 in York, Pennsylvania, and was a veteran of the United States Navy, retiring as Commander in 1979.

SCPGS By Laws Revised

At our August 24th general membership meeting, the proposed changes to the by-laws of the South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society were approved.

A copy of the revised by-laws is available on our website ... scpgs.org

Genealogy 101

Our first meeting of the 2014-2015 year was a presentation by Richard Konkel on the basics of genealogical research. There were several first time visitors who attended this meeting looking for guidance on how to begin their family research project. Visitors are always welcome to attend our monthly meetings, and encouraged to join the Society.

Richard's presentation began with how to get started. Family research should always begin with the present and work backward through time. With this in mind ... you should start with yourself and what you know. Then interview close relatives and more distant relatives, and ask where they and their ancestors were born, lived, died and are buried. Ask about their religion, occupation, and people that they associated with whether relatives, friends or neighbors. Take many notes.

Go on a road trip!

Visit cemeteries and places where your ancestors lived. Take photos of the tombstones, homes and churches, etc. Again take many notes ... tombstone inscriptions, descriptions, directions, etc.

Organize the information that you gather as you go.

You may choose to use Family Group Sheets and Pedigree Charts or you may choose to use genealogy software or an online family tree site. However you decide to record your family history make sure that you organize your information and document the source(s) of the information so that you can retrace your steps if necessary.

Make copies of as many documents as possible and organize them into files based on family surnames or individuals. Copies of documents as opposed to extracts are important because while reviewing the document at a later date you may notice something that didn't mean anything when you first found the document.

As you gather information, you will also accumulate a list of questions that beg to be answered.

Start your research at the local historical society where your ancestors lived. For York County that would be the Library and Archives of the York County Heritage Trust (YCHT) at 250 East Market Street in York ... yorkheritage.org.

There are more than 8,500 genealogical surname files at the YCHT Library with the various spellings of a surname being grouped by a "control spelling". Within the family file you may find newspaper obituaries, correspondence, and other materials. In addition to the family files, there are also five sets of card files available by the surname "control spelling" ... vital statistics, will and orphans court abstracts, cemetery, tax, and cross-reference compiled from Orphans Court records. The cost to use the YCHT Library is \$8 per day or \$50 year, and the cost for photocopies is 25¢ per page. See pages 5 and 6 for an overview of the holdings of the York County Heritage Trust.

To locate county and local records you will need to visit the local county archives where your ancestors lived. For York County this would be the York County Archives at 150 Pleasant Acres Road in Springettsbury Township (yorkcountyarchives.org). At the county archives you will find estate records such as wills, inventories, administration accounts, vendue lists, Orphans' Court petitions, etc., deeds, court records both civil and criminal, marriage licenses, and tax records. The cost of photocopies at the York County Archives is 50¢ per page. It should be noted that York County deeds are also available at the office of the Recorder of Deeds at 28 East Market Street in York, and the cost is only 50¢ per page for a copy of from a digital image rather than a copy from microfilm as at the archives.

To locate state records such as land and military records, and birth and death certificates, you will need to visit the state archives where your ancestors lived. For Pennsylvania residents this would be the Pennsylvania State Archives at 350 North Street in Harrisburg ... pastatearchives.com.

For federal records you will need to visit the National Archives at 700 Pennsylvania Avenue NW in Washington DC ... archives.gov. Examples of federal records are census, military and pensions, federal court and federal land records.

More and more records are becoming available online at free sites such as familysearch.org and pay sites such as ancestry.com. Wherever your search leads you ... make sure that you document what you find so that if a question arises later you can review the document/record again.

From The Columbia Spy

Lancaster County, Pennsylvania; October 19, 1861, page 3
 contributed by David P. Hively

The pendulum swings back and forth. Today people complain that a large number of land owners will not allow hunting. Some do not want anyone even to walk on their land. When the contributor was young in the 1940s and 1950s there were few land owners in the Chanceford Township, York County area I lived in who objected to hunters or walkers on their farms. But obviously in 1861 a large number of people in the named townships felt this way. Was/Is it because of damage that could be done to crops? Was/Is it because of safety issues? Are law suits with regard to this situation more prevalent today than back in 1861?

NOTICE TO TRESPASSERS.

THE undersigned, residing in Lower Windsor, Hellam and Chanceford townships, York County, hereby warn all persons not to trespass either by hunting, fishing, or otherwise, on their premises, in said townships.

Daniel Keller,
 Joseph Dellinger,
 George Keis,
 Jacob Forry,
 Henry Flury,
 Jacob Freet,
 Henry Wilton,
 Samuel Keller, sr.,
 John Bentz,
 Michael Shenberger,
 H. & W Burg,
 Isaac Hinkle,
 George Young,
 Samuel Schinberger,
 Adam Paules,
 John Burg,
 John Keller,
 Henry Dietz,
 Peter Keller,
 Henry Winter,
 George W. Anstine,
 Michael Miller, Jr.,
 Henry Schrantz,
 John Wallick,
 John Detwiler,
 Benjamin Hengst,
 Samuel Winter,
 Thomas Himes,
 Jacob Keller,
 Samuel Burg,
 Samuel Leberknecht,
 Abraham Schrantz,
 John Aubel,
 David Shultz,
 Peter Aubel, Jr.,
 Jacob Reisinger,
 George Anstine,
 Baltzer Gaest,
 John Paules,
 Oct. 12, '61-'61*

George Myers,
 Jacob Leber,
 Henry Keller,
 Joseph Beard,
 Joseph Gilbert,
 John Paff,
 P. Keller, Jr.,
 E. Henson,
 Michael Neiman,
 James Keller,
 Isaac Bull,
 Peter Heim,
 Frederick Fahringer,
 Washington Ruby,
 Peter Alphin,
 Daniel Giberi,
 Peter Aubel,
 Samuel Slout,
 Peter Kline,
 John S. Dellinger,
 Daniel Frey,
 John E. Beard,
 Abraham Kline,
 George Gohn,
 Daniel Leber,
 Peter Gnuu,
 John Leber,
 Henry Schenberger,
 John Knisely,
 John Hellaman,
 Henry Paules,
 Conrad Leber,
 John Gohn,
 Jacob Kramling,
 Jacob Givens,
 Jacob Martijn,
 Michael Paules,
 Jacob Kauffman.

transcribed as ...

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Daniel Keller	George Myers
Joseph Dellinger	Jacob Leber
George Keis	Henry Keller
Jacob Forry	Joseph Beard
Henry Flury	Joseph Gilbert
Jacob Freet	John Paff
Henry Wilton	P. Keller. Jr
Samuel Keller, Sr	E. Benson
John Bentz	Michael Neiman
Michael Shenberger	James Keller
H & W Burg	Isaac Bull
Isaac Hinkle	Peter Heim
George Young	Frederick Fahringer
Samuel Schinberger	Washington Ruby
Adam Paules	Peter Alphin
John Burg	Daniel Gibert
John Keller	Peter Aubel
Henry Dietz	Samuel Slout
Peter Keller	Peter Kline
Henry Winter	John S. Dellinger
George W. Anstine	Daniel Frey
Michael Miller, Jr	John E. Beard
Henry Schrantz	Abraham Kline
John Wallick	George Gohn
John Detwiler	Daniel Leber
Benjamin Hengst	Peter Gnuu
Samuel Winter	John Leber
Thomas Himes	Henry Schenberger
Jacob Keller	John Knisely
Samuel Burg	John Hellaman
Samuel Leberknecht	Henry Paules
Abraham Schrantz	Conrad Leber
John Aubel	John Gohn
David Shultz	Jacob Kramling
Peter Aubel, Jr	Jacob Givens
Jacob Reisinger	Jacob Martin
George Anstine	Michael Paules
Baltzer Gaest	Jacob Kauffman
John Paules	

Library of the York County Heritage Trust

This is a brief overview of the collections of the library at the York County Heritage Trust.

Ancestry.com ... Library membership available to all in-house researchers

Church Registers ... transcribed and indexed; and included in vital statistics card collection

Card Collections

Vital Statistics ... births, baptisms, marriages, deaths, naturalizations, etc.

Will and Orphans Court Abstracts (pre-1850)

Cemetery ... gathered from a 1930's cemetery survey

Tax ... sampling of pre-1800 taxes

Cross-Reference ... compiled from Orphans Court records

Family Files ... includes correspondence, obituaries, Family Bible records and other materials

Genealogical Reports ... compilations by family from various primary sources

Land Warrants and Land Drafts ... York County's collection of land records through the Penn Proprietorship

Manuscript Files ... original documents, small compilations, newspaper articles on York County businesses, place and people

Microfilm

ADAMS COUNTY

Deed Volumes A — R

Deed Indexes from 1800 to 1937

Marriages 1852-1854; 1885-1950

Orphans Court Dockets 1800-1853

Wills 1800-1864

Taxes 1799-1842

YORK COUNTY

Births Volumes 1 — 5 (1893-1905)

Commissioners Minutes 1749-1831

Deaths Volumes 1 — 5 (1877-1890)

Deeds: Grantor and Grantee Indexes for Books A — 3Y (1749-1859)

Marriage License Volumes A — T (1895-1901)

Orphans Court Dockets Books A — 2C (1749-1861) index

Tax Records 1769-1849

Wills Books Volumes A — U (1749-1858) index

NEWSPAPERS ... are listed on page ___

Miscellaneous

County Histories ... almost all of Pennsylvania's 67 counties

Daughters' of the American Revolution lineage books

Dempwolf Architectural Collection

Denominational (church) Histories

York City and County Directories

Printed Genealogies

Maps ... including Neal Hively's Original PA Land Records for York and Adams Counties and the accompanying connected draft survey maps

Military and Regimental Histories

Hinshaw's Encyclopedia of American Quakers Genealogy (and index)

Pennsylvania German Pioneers by Strassburger and Hinkle

Magazines such as: National Genealogical Society Quarterly, Pennsylvania Genealogical Magazine, Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography, Pennsylvania Folklife, Pennsylvania History, etc

and much much more

Library of the York County Heritage Trust (continued)

NEWSPAPERS on MICROFILM

Age (York) Jan 1883 to Jul 1889	Shippensburg Messenger June 28, 1797
Cartridge Box (York Civil War Hospital) Mar 1864 to Jul 1865	Stewartstown News 1890 to 1933
Delta Weekly Herald Feb 1879 to Dec 1879	True Democrat Jun 1864 to Dec 1865; Jun 1866 to Dec 1872; Jun 1873 to May 1875
Delta Herald 1881 to 1894 miscellaneous issues	Volksberichter Ein Yorker Wochenblatt Jul 1799 to Jul 1801
Delta Times 1887 to 1893 miscellaneous issues	Weekly Record Jan 1992 to Mar 1993
Delta Herald and Times Dec 1907 to Dec 1946	Wrightsville Star 1870 to May 1873
Gazette (German) May 1796 to Mar 1834	York County Farmer Dec 1831 to Jan 1834
Glen Rock Item Jul 1874 to Jan 1943 (incomplete)	York County Star May 1757 to Jan 1862; May 1866 to 1870
Hanover Gazette 1810 to Feb 1859	York County Star and Wrightsville Advertiser Apr 1851 to Apr 1855
Hanover Guardian Sep 1818 to Jan 1827	York Daily Mar 1871 to Jun 1918
Hanover Intelligencer Apr 1824 to Apr 1826	York Democratic Press Jul 1839 to May 1901
Item Jul 1874 to Nov 1886	York Dispatch May 1876 to 2000
Pennsylvania Gazette Jan 1775 to May 1781	York Gazette / Gazette & Daily / York Daily Record Nov 30, 1815 to 2010
Pennsylvania Herald & York General Advertiser Jan 1879 to Dec 1793; Jan 1794 to Dec 1798 (n/c)	York Press Apr 1898 to Dec 1903
Pennsylvania Republican #139 July 1, 1863	York Recorder Jan 1800 to Mar 1830
People's Advocate Sep 1849 to Jul 1855	York Republican Mar 1830 to Sep 1832
Record Advertiser Sep 1974 to Dec 1983	

Russell Key Index

The York County Archives' collection of deeds and deed indexes are on microfilm. The deed indexes are based on the Russell Indexing System. To locate names in the index determine the first and second KEY-letters (L, M, N, R, and T) after the initial letter in the surname.

For example, for the surname LANDIS you would start with the book containing surnames beginning with an "L" and then go to the KEY-letter "N", and then search alphabetically by given name. A second example is for the surname HARTMAN you would start with the book containing surnames beginning with an "H" and then go to the KEY-letters "RT", and then search alphabetically by given name.

**First Families of Pennsylvania (FFP)**

... is a lineage society open to any Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania member who can prove descent from a resident of what is now Pennsylvania during the time periods listed below:

- Colony and Commonwealth: 1638–1790
- Keystone and Cornerstone: 1791–1865
- Pennsylvania Proud: 1866–1900

See <http://genpa.org/first-families/first-families-pennsylvania> for more information.

Calendar of Local Events

Monday, October 20

Using a Timeline to Break Down Your Brick Walls
 Carroll County Genealogical Society [7:30 PM]
 Dixon Room, Westminster Library, 50 East Main St,
 Westminster, MD [carr.org/ccgs/]
 What is a timeline? How can it be used to find those elusive ancestors? Add a new tool to your genealogy arsenal and use it to break down those brick walls. A timeline can be used on individuals and families to organize and analyze the information you already have, and it will help you pinpoint new directions in which to research. Speaker is E. Jane Thursby.

Wednesday, October 22

Advanced Genealogy
 LancasterHistory.org [6:30-8:30 PM]
 230 N President Avenue, Lancaster, PA
 [lancasterhistory.org/events/classes-lectures-workshops]
 This advanced course addresses the use of military records; the focus is on analyzing and solving genealogical problems. Includes citing sources and the genealogical proof standard. Prerequisite: Intermediate knowledge of genealogy. Presenter is Kevin Shue. [Members: \$15, Non-members: \$20]

Wednesday, November 5

221B Baker Street for Genealogists: Conflicting Sources and Evidence Workshop
 LancasterHistory.org [6:30-8:30 PM]
 230 N President Avenue, Lancaster, PA
 [lancasterhistory.org/events/classes-lectures-workshops]
 Every genealogist has experienced conflicting evidence, even within the same record! Learn through an interactive workshop how to think through and resolve the conflict. Presenter is Kevin Shue. [Members: \$15, Non-members: \$20]

Friday, November 7

Tracing Your Roots: Basic Genealogy Using the Trust's Collection
 York County Heritage Trust, 250 East Market St,
 York, PA [1 PM to 2 PM]
 If you're new to genealogy research and need some help on where to start, this program will explain the wealth of resources available in the Trust's Library & Archives. Experienced researchers are welcome too since there's always something new to discover. Pre-registration and lunch orders due by Wednesday, November 5th (contact aeveler@yorkheritage.org)

Saturday, November 8

"Articles of Confederation"
 York County Heritage Trust, 250 East Market St,
 York, PA [10:30 AM]
 November 15th marks the 237th anniversary of the adoption of the Article of Confederation by the Second Continental Congress while seated in York, Pennsylvania. Join York College of Pennsylvania Professor Dr. Paul Doutrich as he explores how the Articles of Confederation were created and Congress's inspiration from the Age of Enlightenment. Discover how democratic ideals from various state constitutions from the 1700s, helped for the document that served as the nation's first "law of the land" before the Constitution.

Monday, November 17

Online Books & Primary Documents
 Carroll County Genealogical Society [7:30 PM]
 Dixon Room, Westminster Library, 50 East Main St,
 Westminster, MD [carr.org/ccgs/]
 The explosion of digital copies of classic books and primary documents means convenient access to information. But how do you find items in hundreds of electronic libraries? Learn some of the tips for searching and downloading from both free and subscription sites. Speaker is Sandy Clunies.

Tuesday, November 18

Remembering Lincoln's Visit
 Hanover Junction Train Station [5-8 PM]
 On this date, 151 years ago ... Abraham Lincoln came through this historic train station on his way to deliver the Gettysburg Address. For decades, historians have debated if the photographs showing Lincoln were really the President on that famous trip. Come to the station to hear what facts there are concerning these photographs. Event is *free* to the public.

Thursday, November 20

History of the Patriotic Order Sons of America: Past, Present and Future
 Berks County Genealogical Society [6:30 PM]
 Library is located on the 4th floor of the GoggleWorks Center for the Arts building. Plenty of free parking is available in a secure lot behind the building, with entrances from North 2nd Street, North 3rd Street, and Walnut Street. Presenter is Scott Schultz.

Calendar of Local Events (continued)**Friday, November 21**

Searching Indexes at the Lancaster County Archives
 Lancaster County Archives [9 AM to Noon]
 150 N. Queen St., Suite 10, Lancaster, PA
 [web.co.lancaster.pa.us/127/Archives-Division]
 Courthouse genealogy research starts with finding the right index. Improper index search techniques can sink a search even before it begins. Your ancestor's story hinges upon the discovery of documents often obscured within indexes on the shelves of the archives. Digital technology has brought great advances in accessing records online at home with a couple of clicks. However, many historical records within county courthouses remain accessible only through the handwritten indexes originally kept by courthouse clerks. Courthouse indexes were not kept for genealogists to scour through over a hundred years later yet they may be the only link to an ancestor. Learn how to properly navigate through a variety of courthouse indexes using examples from personal research. Search those indexes again and perhaps uncover that hidden ancestor.

Sunday, November 23

Baltimore German Catholic Churches
 Baltimore County Genealogical Society [3 PM]
 Parkville Senior Center, Room 308 (3rd Floor), 8601 Harford Rd, Parkville, MD
 [baltimoregenealogysociety.org]
 Presenter is John Foertschbeck.

Friday, December 5

Beyond the Written Message: How to Date Old Postcards
 York County Heritage Trust, 250 East Market St, York, PA [1 PM to 2 PM]
 Whether you're a postcard collector or just trying to date family photographs that were printed as postcards (a common offering in late 19th and early 20th century photography studios), this roundtable discussion will offer tips on dating postcards, including examining the type of paper, printing technique and manufacturer. Pre-registration and lunch orders due by Wednesday, December 3rd (contact aeveler@yorkheritage.org)

Virtual Genealogy Fair

Join the National Archives for the 2014 Virtual Genealogy Fair on October 28, 29, & 30, starting daily at 10 a.m. Eastern time. This will be a live broadcast via the Internet so you can ask our genealogy experts questions at the end of their talks. See the link for information ...
<http://www.archives.gov/calendar/genealogy-fair/>

Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania

The Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania (GSP) is offering the following webinar ...

Saturday, November 15 [11 AM to 2:30 PM]

Self-Publishing Boot Camp

DIY Publishing for the Family Historian: Tips, Tricks and Tools

Presented by: Lisa A. Alzo, M.F.A.

Whether you're a family historian looking to share information with your family, an aspiring author, or a society looking for cost-effective way to produce materials, this session is just what you need to get started with self-publishing. Learn tips and tricks for preparing your book from idea to print, and the basics about which software and online writing tools can help with the process. Various self-publishing/print-on-demand platforms including: CreateSpace, Lulu, Smashwords, Kindle, and more, will also be briefly discussed.

Microsoft Word Secrets for Self-Publishing

Presented by: Thomas MacEntee

Preparing a written narrative extracted from your genealogy research may seem straightforward, even using generally accepted document software like Microsoft Word. But there are special considerations when it comes to self-publishing that narrative, in both print and e-book format. Learn the secrets to producing a formatted narrative that can easily be published on a variety of self-publishing platforms.

** Attendees will receive access to a special Self-Publishing for Genealogists Toolbox – tons of links covering platforms, methods and tips!

The webinars are FREE to GSP members and \$10 for non-members. For more information and to register visit genpa.org

Brick Walls from A to Z

The following article is from the Ancestry Daily News and is (c) MyFamily.Com. It is re-published here with the permission of the author. Information about the Ancestry Daily News is available at <http://www.ancestry.com>.

A is for Alphabetize

Have you created an alphabetical list of all the names in your database and all the locations your families lived? Typographical errors and spelling variants can easily be seen using this approach. Sometimes lists that are alphabetical (such as the occasional tax or census) can hide significant clues.

B is for Biography

Creating an ancestor's biography might help you determine where there are gaps in your research. Determining possible motivations for his actions (based upon reasonable expectations) may provide you with new areas to research.

C is for Chronology

Putting in chronological order all the events in your ancestor's life and all the documents on which his name appears is an excellent way to organize the information you have. This is a favorite analytical tool of several Ancestry Daily News columnists.

D is for Deeds

A land transaction will not provide extended generations of your ancestry, but it could help you connect a person to a location or show that two people with the same last name engaged in a transaction.

E is for Extended Family

If you are only researching your direct line there is a good chance you are overlooking records and information. Siblings, cousins, and in-laws of your ancestor may give enough clues to extend your direct family line into earlier generations.

F is for Finances

Did your ancestor's financial situation impact the records he left behind? Typically the less money your ancestor had the fewer records he created. Or did a financial crisis cause him to move quickly and leave little evidence of where he settled?

G is for Guardianships

A guardianship record might have been created whenever a minor owned property, usually through an inheritance. Even with a living parent, a guardian could be appointed, particularly if the surviving parent was a female during that time when women's legal rights were extremely limited (read nonexistent).

H is for Hearing

Think of how your ancestor heard the questions he was being asked by the records clerk. Think of how the census taker heard what your ancestor said. How we hear affects how we answer or how we record an answer.

I is for Incorrect

Is it possible that an "official" record contains incorrect information? While most records are reasonably correct, there is always the chance that a name, place, or date listed on a record is not quite exact. Ask yourself how it would change your research if one "fact" suddenly was not true?

J is for Job

What was your ancestor's likely occupation? Is there evidence of that occupation in census or probate records? Would that occupation have made it relatively easy for your ancestor to move from one place to another? Or did technology make your ancestor's job obsolete before he was ready for retirement?

K is for Kook

Was your ancestor just a little bit different from his neighbors? Did he live life outside cultural norms for his area. If he did, interpreting and understanding the records of his actions may be difficult. Not all of our ancestors were straight-laced and like their neighbors. That is what makes them interesting (and difficult to trace).

L is for Lines

Do you know where all the lines are on the map of your ancestor's neighborhood? Property lines, county lines, state lines, they all play a role in your family history research. These lines change over time as new territories are created, county lines are debated and finalized, and as your ancestor buys and sells property. Getting your ancestor's maps all "lined" up may help solve your problem.

M is for Money

Have you followed the money in an estate settlement to see how it is disbursed? Clues as to relationships may abound. These records of the accountings of how a deceased person's property is allocated to their heirs may help you to pinpoint the exact relationships involved.

N is for Neighbors

Have you looked at your ancestor's neighbors? Were they acquaintances from an earlier area of residence? Were they neighbors? Were they both? Which neighbors appeared on documents with your ancestor?

O is for Outhouse

Most of us don't use them anymore, but outhouses are mentioned to remind us of how much life has changed in the past one hundred years. Are you making an assumption about your ancestor's behavior based upon life in the twenty-first century? If so, that may be your brick wall right there.

P is for Patience

Many genealogical problems cannot be solved instantly, even with access to every database known to man. Some families are difficult to research and require exhaustive searches of all available records and a detailed analysis of those materials. That takes time. Some of us have been working on the same problem for years. It can be frustrating but fulfilling when the answer finally arrives.

Q is for Questions

Post queries on message boards and mailing lists. Ask questions of other genealogists at monthly meetings, seminars, conferences and workshops. The answer to your question might not contain the name of that elusive ancestor, but unasked questions can leave us floundering for a very long time.

R is for Read

Read about research methods and sources in your problem area. Learning about what materials are available and how other solved similar problems may help you get over your own hump.

S is for Sneaky

Was your ancestor sneaking away to avoid the law, a wife, or an extremely mad neighbor? If so, he may have intentionally left behind little tracks. There were times when our ancestor did not want to be found and consequently may have left behind few clues as to his origins.

T is for Think

Think about your conclusions. Do they make sense? Think about that document you located? What caused it to be created? Think about where your ancestor lived? Why was he there? Think outside the box; most of our brick wall ancestors thought

outside the box. That's what makes them brick walls in the first place.

U is for Unimportant

That detail you think is unimportant could be crucial. That word whose legal meaning you are not quite certain of could be the key to understanding the entire document. Make certain that what you have assumed is trivial is actually trivial.

V is for Verification

Have you verified all those assumptions you hold? Have you verified what the typed transcription of a record actually says? Verifying by viewing the original may reveal errors in the transcription or additional information.

W is for Watch

Keep on the watch for new databases and finding aids as they are being developed. Perhaps the solution to your brick wall just has not been created yet.

X is for X-Amine

With the letter "x" we pay homage to all those clerks and census takers who made the occasional spelling error (it should be "examine" instead of "x-amine.") and also make an important genealogical point. Examine closely all the material you have already located. Is there an unrecognized clue lurking in your files?

Y is for Yawning

Are you getting tired of one specific family or ancestor? Perhaps it is time to take a break and work on another family. Too much focus on one problem can cause you to lose your perspective. The other tired is when you are researching at four in the morning with little sleep. You are not at your most productive then either and likely are going in circles or making careless mistakes.

Z is for Zipping

Are you zipping through your research, trying to complete it as quickly as possible as if it were a timed test in school? Slow down, take your time and make certain you aren't being too hasty in your research and in your conclusions.

The "tricks" to breaking brick walls could go on and on. In general though, the family historian is well served if he or she "reads and thinks in an honest attempt to learn." That attitude will solve many problems, not all of them family history related.

York County Archives

contributed by Karen Day

Following are a few "interesting" documents from the York County Archives ...

Administration bond for William Miller, 1801. He is listed as a midshipman on the US Frigate Insurgent. The Insurgent was a French frigate captured by the American Navy. The Insurgent departed Baltimore July 22, 1800 for the West Indies and is presumed lost in a severe storm September 20, 1800.

THE Condition of this Obligation is such that if the above bounden
Joseph Miller
 Administrat^r of all and singular the goods, chattels and credits of *William Miller*
late a midshipman on board the U.S. Frigate Insurgent, deceased,
 do make or cause to be made, a true and perfect Inventory of all and singular the goods, chattels and
 credits of the said deceased, which have or shall come to the hands, possession or knowledge of *him*
 the said *Joseph Miller*

Administration account for William Nes. On July 23, 1832 "paid Chas. H. Sheaff sculpture for Tomb stones for graves." The same day a payment was listed to get stones from Columbia "including box and ferriage across river."

*July 23^d 1832. Paid Chas H Sheaff sculpture for Tomb stones
 for Graves to W^m Nes Sen W^m Nes Jun Graves " " } 64.00*

*July 23^d 1832. Paid expens^s carriage for Tomb stones from
 Columbia including Box & Ferriage across River & Sexton
 for setting up stones at Graves " " " } 10.00*

Administration account of John F. Schmidt, who died in San Francisco. It lists a credit "with the estimated value of a chest of tools recovered from the wreck of the ship Flying Dutchman March 1858." The ship wrecked in February of 1858 on the Brigantine Shoal off the coast of New Jersey. I can't find that there was any loss of life. So how did Schmidt die?

*With the Estimated value of a
 Chest of Tools recovered from the
 Wreck of the Ship Flying Dutchman
 March 1858. } 30 00*

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Civil War Soldiers' Graves Online Database

Dick Eastman (eogn.com), September 28, 2014

The Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) was the largest fraternal organization for Union veterans. It was a very active organization in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Only Union veterans were permitted to join the GAR. As the members aged and then died, the organization eventually disappeared. However, it was replaced by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, with membership restricted to descendants of Union Civil War veterans. The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War inherited most of the records of the national GAR organization, as well as many of the records of local chapters (called "encampments").



The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) now has created its Grave Registration Project to document the final resting places of BOTH Union and Confederate Civil War veterans. The records in this database were obtained from many sources, and it is believed that some veterans' records have not yet been found. The fully-searchable database is available online and is free for everyone. The SUVCW web site can be found at <http://www.suvcwdb.org/home/search.php?action=search>. The site is *free* and no registration is required.

While this database was created by and is maintained by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, the database lists Confederate as well as Union soldiers. There are fewer Confederates listed. The reasons are two-fold: (1) because the organization collected only Union veterans' information in its earlier years and (2) because record keeping was not as well organized among the Confederates. The SUVCW is keenly interested in adding more information about Confederate graves.

This is a great database for anyone researching Civil War ancestry. If you are not sure of the origins of your ancestor, there is a good chance that you can find his place of birth as well as place of enlistment in the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Grave Registration Project.