



**South Central
Pennsylvania**
Genealogical Society

Our Name's The Game

www.scpgs.org

Monthly Newsletter Vol. 41 No. 2 September/October 2015

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Sunday, November 1, 2015

Kreutz Creek Presbyterian Church

This month's meeting will be held at the Kreutz Creek Presbyterian Church, 85 Old Church Lane, York. This historic church is at the site of one of the oldest congregations in York County. The current brick structure was built in 1860 as a Lutheran and Reformed Union Church. A brief business meeting will begin at 2:15 PM and the program will immediately follow at approximately 2:30 PM.

Directions from York

Travel east on Route 30 to Hellam exit; at end of ramp turn right onto Kreutz Creek Road. Proceed to the signal light turn and right on Route 462. Take first right onto Old Church Lane. Travel .2 miles to church on left. (two blocks behind the Tourist Inn on Lincoln Highway)

OUR UPCOMING MEETINGS are scheduled as follows ...

There will be no meeting in December

Sunday, January 3, 2016

Roundtable: Use of DNA in Genealogical Research

This roundtable discussion will be led by Richard Konkel, and will include a discussion of the three tests (Y-DNA, mitochondrial, and autosomal) and the various companies offering the service as well as what sorts of findings can be found through the use of DNA testing.

Sunday, February 7, 2016

African American Genealogy

Rodney Barnett, organist and music director at the Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist in York will discuss his research into his own African American genealogy including his paternal families in Botetourt County, Virginia and his maternal families in Alabama, including the difficulties and tactics of tracing families into slavery and the use of DNA testing.

Sunday, March 20, 2016

Fundamentals of Irish Genealogical Research

Irish researchers lead by Fintan Mullan of the Ulster Historical Foundation will present this program.

Sunday, April 3, 2016

Pre-1790 Oaths of Allegiance and Naturalizations in Pennsylvania

This program will be presented by Jonathan Stayer.

Sunday, May 1, 2016

Visit to Hellam Preserve Historical Site including 1758 log house

Sunday, June 5, 2016

Henry James Young Awards

... for excellence in genealogy and local history

From the President: Jonathan Stayer

As an archivist at the Pennsylvania State Archives, I daily encounter documents from south central Pennsylvania that are not indexed and would never be found unless someone stumbled upon them. Recently, I discovered an 1873 petition from alleged residents of Codorus Township, York County sent to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in Harrisburg through York County Representative George W. Heiges. Filed with the House on January 27, 1873, this document is found in *Folder 6, Box 35, 97th Session 1873, House File (series #7.11); House of Representatives; Record Group 7, Records of the General Assembly; Pennsylvania State Archives, Harrisburg*. Provided below is a transcription of the petition and its signatories. Spelling and punctuation have been retained as they appear in the original. Although it purports to come from Codorus Township, a quick comparison with the 1870 census indicates that individuals from surrounding municipalities signed it as well.

To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly met. The petition of the undersigned citizens of Codorus Township, York County, Pennsylvania, respectfully represents that by the Act of Incorporation of said Township, the election of two Constables was provided for, and that subsequently the said Codorus Township was divided into two townships, to wit; Codorus township & North Codorus Twp. That the electors of said Codorus twp. have annually, ever since said division, as before elected two constables; that one constable is sufficient for said Codorus twp. an additional one entailing a useless expense upon the tax payers of said township and county. Whereupon your petitioners pray your Honorable Bodies to pass a law providing for the election annually, of but one Constable for said Codorus township and repealing all other laws inconsistent therewith, & they will ever pray, etc.

Chas. Mitzel	Peter Rohrbach
John Mummert	Henry Ribold
George W. Steffey	Adam Frasher
David F Miller	Henry Hilderbrand
John S Bortner	Georg S Bortner [in German script]
John B Rohrbach	Jacob S Bortner
Charles Deveney	John Fishel
George Devenney	A Boose
John R Bailey	J B. Neuman
Conrad F Kroh	Lewis Krebs
Lewis S. Bortner	John M Rohrbach
Adam G Peiffer	John Copenheaver
Peter Smith	John Krebs
Samiel [sic] Bortner	Levi G Bortner
Henry Bailey	David Miller
Ames G Fair	Edward G Fair
Henry S Bortner	Levi B Rohrbaugh
Abdel Goodfellow	Cornelius Jones
J Albert Shue	L. J Meckley
Levi P. [T.?] Bortner	Charles H. Shearer
Amos Bortner	Frederick Frasher
Adam B Krebs	Georg Garner [in German script]
Levi K Bortner	John B. Krebs
Lewis [Louis?] B. Bahn	Jacob Garbrick
George E. Wertz	William Nafe
Rudolph Lau	Adam Thoman
John N [?] Krebs	Amos Thoman
David Krebs	Nathaniel Stine
Jesse Krebs	
John Garman	
Lewis G Bortner	
John L Fishel	
Levi S Gerbrick	

Genealogy Myths

Becky Anstine

At last! – No snow and no scheduling conflicts allowed Gerry Smith to start our new year with his presentation on genealogical myths. Myths arise for a variety of reasons – we accept others' work without verifying sources or analyzing the evidence; we have ideas about how our ancestors behaved and thought. There are three trends to the myths:

- 1) Fact of Acclamation – if it is said enough times by enough people – it becomes accepted;
- 2) Fact by Amalgamation – the fact appears often, it becomes merged into trees and social networking helps to spread, and
- 3) Crowd-source genealogy – can be found in self-published genealogies, county histories, abstracts, lineage societies, census records and collaborative trees.

Family researchers have accepted a variety of myths as fact without investigating or verifying the origins of the myth. Those myths include: “found it in print or on the internet - so it must be true”, “it came from the LDS website so it must be right”, “a published abstract is enough”, “an expert said it so I don't need to look further”, “I got the tombstone – it's right”, “I don't need to actually go to the cemetery, library, etc.”, “everything I need is on the internet”, “he/she is the only one with that name – it must be the one”, “land records don't record relationships – only land”, “visit a law library?? (there may have been private acts, statutes, case law, etc. that involved your family members)”, “family tradition says it's so”, “this is our Coat of Arms”, “no one in my family would ever have done THAT!”, “I've found everything on my family – I have enough”.

Gerry says one needs to learn technology – don't trust it! You need to check the source(s) used for the databases, know the coverage and characteristics of the material you are using – courthouse computerized deed indexes may not include personal property on non-real estate items; abstracts can be missing pages from the original copies or may not have included all of the information or material that was in the original copy; learn to use wildcards, go back to the original paper index, know the provider's motive for publishing the index – if for profit, shortcuts may affect the quality of the information provided, know when OCR has been used and what it's limits are (landscape orientation, unexpected fonts, smudges, artwork, etc.).

Coats of Arms can be a touchy subject. “If your male line immigrant from England was entitled to use a coat of arms, then you have the right under English Law to use this same Coat of Arms. If he had no right – then neither do you!” American immigrants of royal descent are well-researched – consult Gary Boyd Roberts' work. The New England Historic & Genealogical Society Committee on Heraldry has published a series of Rolls of Arms of United States Families entitled to a “Coat of Arms”.

Gerry talked about some famous scams: “The Moses Springer publications”, “Anneke Jans descendants and New York real estate”, and “Buchanan lands coming off 99 year leases”.

He discussed the ways to avoid myths.

- First, go through the database descriptions and publication sources
- trace the data back to the original source material
- analyze your evidence and follow the leads presented – avoid preconceptions
- investigate the records yourself – your local archivist, research or librarian may know of useful resources
- familiarize yourself with the record before you dive in to researching
- use qualifiers in your research: possibly probably, maybe, computer computation, etc.;
- use the Genealogical Proof Standard when necessary
- become the best expert for your family, place and time
- THINK!

Three web sites that can help:

Myths and Scams ... cyndislist.com/myths.htm

Early PA Laws and Private Acts ... palrb.us/

Early federal law & Private Acts ...

memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lawhome.html

from: *Rubincam, Milton, FASG. Pitfalls in Genealogical Research. Reprint. Salt Lake City Utah: Ancestry.com*

Thank you Gerry for your information presentation and for getting SCPGS' 40th year off to interesting start.

Family Bible Records of Peter William Warner and Ann Margaret Bercaw

Alan Warner, Davidson County, North Carolina

We recently received an email from Alan Warner of Davidson County, NC. He wrote "I own the family bible of Peter William Warner (1837-1863) and Ann Margaret Bercaw (1837-1916). This family lived in Adams County, PA. Peter William Warner was buried in the cemetery at St John's United Church of Christ, at 2243 Hunterstown Hampton Road near New Oxford, PA. Ann Margaret, his wife, is also buried in this same cemetery, though her name after her second marriage was Ann Margaret Bercaw Warner Brown (Mrs Annie M Brown on her death certificate). I looked at the website of South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society and saw that they publish transcripts of family bibles from people of that area. I have attached a transcript of the records, which I transcribed, from the family bible. By this note, South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society has my permission to publish this transcript."

The book cover is decoratively embossed and/or blind stamped brown leather with paper backing. There is a combination of cloth, paper, and twine in the spines bindings. The book measures approximately 7" x 4 1/4" x 1 3/4". There is no printing on the exterior of the cover.

On the first blank page there are numbers in pencil "2+50". Then just below, in a shaky hand in pencil "Nannie Brown". Then just below, in a different hand in pencil, "Ann Margaret erased" (the erasure leaves faint marks that may be Warner). Then, "book the 4 day erased 1861" (? date could be 1867). It is probable that at least two additional entries have been erased, since there are scuffs on the paper.

In addition to the description of the Holy Bible and its version, the Bible is dated in two ways. "New York: "American Bible Society Instituted in the year MDCCCXI". Then "1860" is printed beneath.

Near the center of the bible there are four pages for the family to enter their records. At the top of each of the four pages the words "Family Records" are written by the publisher/printer. These words are included, along with the hand written notes. Entries are written either in pen and ink or in pencil. These four pages are loose from the bindings so the original order of the pages is not known.

This transcript includes entries exactly as they were written in the family bible. No attempt has been made to correct any type of error. Notes within the transcript, not part of the transcribed text, are in parenthesis.

[Assumed page 1: all in pen and ink]

Family Record — Berths

Martha E Warner was born in the year of our Lord wone thousand eight hundred fifty nine December second 1859

Jane Hasting Warner was born the 21 day of April one thousand eight hundred sixty one 1861

John Henry Warner was born the 12 day of April won thousand eight hundred sixth three 1863

[Assumed page 2 all in pen and ink]

Family Record — Deaths

Peter W Warner Died June the 13 aged (erased, marked out) 1863. 25 8 months and 20 days

John H Warner died August 27 aged 1 year 5 months and 15 days

[Assumed page 3]

Family Record — Marriage

Mr Peter W Warner and Miss Anna M Bercaw was Married the 4 day of November 1858 (in pen and ink)

Peter William Warner was born in the year 183(stained) August 16 (in pencil)

Ann Margaret Warner was born the 13 of September 1837 (in pencil)

[Assumed page 4]

Family Record

William D Brown was born April 11 1872 (in pencil)

James F Brown was born November the 30 1872 (in pencil)

Margaret L Dora Brown born in the year of our Lord April 1 1878 (in pen & ink)

Nancy May Brown was born the 27 day of may 1880 (in pencil)

Calendar of Local Events

Friday, November 6

Lunch with the Librarians: Dating, Identifying and Caring for Family Photographs

York County Heritage Trust, 250 East Market Street,
York, PA [12:30 PM - 1:30 PM]

Have you found a box of old, unidentified family photographs and are wondering how you can determine when the photos were taken, who's in them, and how to make sure they last for generations to come? We'll provide helpful tips for dating, identifying and taking care of your treasured family photographs. FREE and open to the public. Pre-registration required by Wednesday, November 4th (contact aeveler@yorkheritage.org)

Friday, November 6

Jacob L. Devers: A General's Life

York County Heritage Trust, 250 East Market Street,
York, PA [7 PM - 8 PM]

Based on his recently published book *Jacob L. Devers: A General's Life*, Dr. James Scott Wheeler will discuss the political tension and division between Devers and leading U.S. Army Commanders during World War II. A book signing to follow the presentation. This is a *free* event, however, registration is required.

Saturday, November 7

General Jacob L. Devers Symposium

York County Heritage Trust, 250 East Market Street,
York, PA [9 AM - Noon]

Renowned military historians and experts discuss General Devers' life, rise through the United States Army and influential leadership during World War II (including political tension and division with General Dwight D. Eisenhower). Military Historian, Harold W. Nelson, will moderate a panel featuring prominent World War II experts Scott Wheeler, Conrad Crane, David Colley, and Richard Robinson, highlighting Devers' life and significant military accomplishments. Topics will include Devers' public reputation, the political background that prevented Devers' Sixth Army group from being the first to cross the Rhine in 1944, Devers' generalship and leadership skills, and his ties to York County. There a fee for this event ... YCHT members - \$10, General Public - \$15.

A temporary exhibit featuring materials from the Devers Collection will be on display, commemorating General Devers' life.

Friday, November 6

Searching Indexes at the Lancaster County Archives

Lancaster County Archives [9 AM - 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. *Free and available to everyone ...* to reserve your seat call 717-299-8318.

Saturday, November 7

221B Baker Street for Genealogists: Conflicting Sources and Evidence Workshop

LancasterHistory.org Campus of History
230 North President Avenue, Lancaster, PA
[10 AM - Noon]

Every genealogist has experienced conflicting evidence, even within the same record! Genealogist Kevin Shue will teach you how to think through and resolve the conflict through this interactive workshop. Join other genealogists as a "conflict-cracking team" by resolving practice samples. Members \$15; Non-Members \$20



*"Preserve your
memories, keep them
well, what you forget
you can never retell."*

— Louisa May Alcott



Monday, November 16*Indexed and Non-indexed Carroll County Records on FamilySearch*

Carroll County Genealogical Society
Dixon Room, Westminster Library,
50 East Main Street, Westminster [7:30 PM]

FamilySearch.org is the world's largest free family history website. It hosts millions of digitized records as well as a research wiki, a robust family tree, free online classes, and social media connections. This presentation by Carol Kostakos Petranek will provide a brief overview of the website with detailed information about records from Carroll County - online (indexed, non-indexed) and on microfilm. Carol Kostakos Petranek serves as a Co-Director of the Washington, D.C. Family History Center and as a Citizen Archivist at the National Archives. She is the Volunteer Coordinator for a FamilySearch/Maryland Archives digitization project of Probate and Estate Records.

Sunday, November 22*Enoch Pratt Library*

Baltimore County Genealogical Society
The Parkville Senior Center, Room 308 (3rd Floor)
8601 Harford Road, Parkville [3 PM]

Malissa Ruffner will give an overview of the holdings of the Enoch Pratt State Library Resource Center that are most important to genealogists, highlight offerings that be accessed from home, and provide useful tips for making a trip to the historical Central Branch. Malissa has been seriously researching her own family since attending Bob Barnes' four introductory sessions at the Maryland Historical Society in 2009. She was certified by the Board for Certification of Genealogists® in September of 2014 and serves as Vice-President of the Maryland Genealogical Society.

Friday, December 4*Lunch with the Librarians: Unlocking a Building, How to Begin Property Research*

York County Heritage Trust, 250 East Market Street,
York, PA [12:30 PM - 1:30 PM]

Many home- and business-owners want to learn about the history of their property. We'll discuss strategies for beginning your research, as well as the resources available at the Trust's Library & Archives for unlocking your property's past. FREE and open to the public. Pre-registration required by Wednesday, December 2nd (contact aeveler@yorkheritage.org)

Thursday, December 3*Thirsty for History ... LancasterHistory. Org Night at the Fulton: Elf*

Fulton Theatre, Lancaster, PA [6:30 PM]

Buddy, a young orphan, mistakenly crawls into Santa's bag of gifts and is transported to the North Pole. The would-be elf is raised unaware that he is actually a humane, until his enormous size and poor toy-making abilities can no longer be ignored. Hoping to discover his true identity, Buddy embarks on a journey to New York City to find his birth father, move Dad off the naughty list, and help New York remember the true meaning of Christmas.



How can we connect the history of Lancaster to Elf? Find out by joining LancasterHistory.org for Thirsty for History Thursday at the Fulton Theatre! Before curtain call on the 2nd Thursday of each major Fulton production, LancasterHistory.org makes the connection between each play and local history. We've connected it all -- from *Hairspray* and the Civil Rights movements and local bands; to *The Phantom of the Opera* and ghost stories about the Fulton Theatre.

To enjoy a fantastic performance and an entertaining historical social hour, purchase your tickets by calling the Fulton Theatre at 717-397-7425. If you are a member of LancasterHistory.org, mention your membership to receive a 10% discount. A wine and cheese reception begins at 6:30pm, followed by a presentation by Dr. Tom Ryan at 7 PM. The Elf performance will begin at 7:30 PM.

Saturday, December 5*Finding a European Village of Origin*

Maryland Genealogical Society [mdgensoc.org]
Michael's 1600 Restaurant
1600 Frederick Road, Catonsville [Noon - 3 PM]

Our Holiday Luncheon features Jim Beidler, who will present a case study on Johannes Dinius, a 1765 immigrant to Pennsylvania, highlighting how scraps of evidence can lead to the discovery of an ancestor's European hometown. Jim is a Pennsylvania native, who specializes in German genealogy as well as research on his home state. He's currently writing *Trace Your German Roots Online for Family Tree Books*. Cost \$40 for MGS members; \$50 for non-members. Pre-registration deadline is November 24.

All About Wills

from *Pennsylvania Family Roots*

Sharman Meck Carroll [Col #802, June 24, 2015]

A will is a statement by an individual concerning what is to happen to that individual's property (real estate and personal) after his or her death. Wills can be very useful genealogically. As you search through the probate records of your ancestors, you may find interesting details that will make their families come alive. The legacies can range from a simple "I leave everything to my beloved wife," to a complete list of the contents of the household and a list of who should inherit each item. Many wills often describe in complete detail the relationships among family members, and it is not at all unusual to find one that identifies four generations of a family covering a span of perhaps 100 years. Wills of immigrant ancestors often yield clues to their origins overseas. Among the information the genealogist could find in a will or other probate court record are: name of wife, children, grandchildren, brother/sister, or niece/nephew; the married name of daughters; place of burial; burial arrangements; residence at time of writing of will; location of real estate; occupation; death date and witnesses to will. The witnesses were often relatives.

If an ancestor died intestate without leaving a will, you may find other documents relating to the distribution of his estate if he owned land or personal property. Whether or not there is a will, there may also be letters of administration, records of litigation, and notices to creditors, inventories and newspaper information. If a copy of the distribution of the estate has survived, you may learn certain heirs who were living at the time the will was submitted for probate are listed as "now deceased," that a daughter who was unmarried has married, or even that the widow has remarried.

I have been researching my Revolutionary War ancestor with many rewards especially with his will (had two) he named all his children including the deceased daughters and sons, living grandchildren and executors, mentioned his wife, his plantation was left to his oldest son (where my line begins), his inventory was huge, also his distribution: he had land, timber and distribution Bonds listed money, how much and for how long, his probate started in 1717 and ended 38 years later. The list had that he owned reading glasses and what type of clothing he wore. He must have been well educated, had many books, weaver tools, a debt book on all of his land investments; also a Bible which would unlock many unanswered questions.

Data, Data, Everywhere and Not a Thought to Think

from *Rootdig.com*

[October 3, 2015]

I gave the speech over fifteen years ago, when the amount of online information was not what it was today. It was clear then we were headed to a day when access to data would be significantly less restricted by geography and other physical constraints. The title, or the final remark at the end of the speech, I can't remember which, was "data, data, everywhere and not a thought to think."

The essential point of the speech is just as true today as it was then: access to data does not make us better researchers. Use of technology, in and of itself, does not make us better researchers either. There are some who are convinced that it does. Research and analysis is more than larger amounts of data and faster computers. More information coupled with technology does not guarantee higher quality research. A fancier calculator will not, by itself, bring every student to the same level of skill and understanding.

More data and better tools can make good researchers better and allow them to operate faster when they are less bound by physical limitations and time constraints. These tools can also make sloppy researchers sloppier and better equipped to spread their slop around.

Sometimes the more information to which we have access, the more difficult it is to research—at least in some cases—as there is more chaff to separate out from the wheat. There are times where much of the supposedly new information is not really new at all, but instead is a rehashing of information or compilations and conclusions from other sources. And there are times where sorting through the research of others is an exercise in trying to understand their madness, a slippery slope that some of us would rather not travel down.

There is the mindset in some circles that research is "better" if it is conducted using the most recent software available and if it is published using all the bells whistles that modern technology has to offer. That's not true at all. Good research can be done and conclusions written without using the more recent software and genealogical database management there is. In some circles there is the mindset that it's not good if you aren't using the most up-to-date everything.

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That's not true and that's not a bandwagon on which I choose to jump.

It's not just about the data. It is also about the analysis and the interpretation. And most of the time that analysis and interpretation requires the researcher to be aware of a variety of underlying historical, cultural, legal, and other factors impacting the records and families at which they are looking.

That doesn't change whether they are looking at a digital image, a microfilm image, or the actual record.

And analysis typed up on a manual typewriter can be just as accurate as analysis typed up on the most recent computer. Although why you'd choose to still use a manual typewriter is another matter entirely.

Are You Wearing a Doggie Cone?

from *genealogytipoftheday.com*
[October 4, 2015]

Are there things about your research and your family that you can't see because of your "cone"?



Sometimes it's helpful to ask if we are using our peripheral vision, looking at all the angles, and remaining aware of any assumptions we may have about the people being researched. It will be very clear to the dog when her cone comes off. Can we say the same about ours?

Sometimes our "built-in" cones hinder our research more than anything else. Make certain you don't have blinders of your own.

Genealogy Tip of the Day

from *Pennsylvania Family Roots*
Sharman Meck Carroll [Col #785,
Feb. 25, 2015]

Things to Remember When Photocopying:

- (1) Copy the title page of the book
- (2) Record the call number of the book and the facility where it was found
- (3) Highlight the pertinent information on the copied pages
- (4) Check to be sure that the information doesn't continue to the next page
- (5) Staple all of the copies together
- (6) Copy any pages that contain explanations of abbreviations contained in the book
- (7) Check your research log to make sure you have recorded the search results.