



Our Name's The Game

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Monthly Newsletter Vol. 43 No. 2 September/October 2017

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Sunday, November 5, 2017

“Don’t Forget the Ladies” – A Genealogist’s Guide to Women and the Law

This month’s meeting will be held at the Historical Society Museum, 250 East Market Street, York. A brief business meeting will begin at 2:15 PM and the program will immediately follow at approximately 2:30 PM.

In early America, women were all too often the people who just weren’t there: not in the records, not in the censuses, not on juries, not in the voting booth. The common law relegated women to “protected” – second-class – status and understanding how they were treated under the law provides clues to finding their identities today. Our speaker Judy Russell is a genealogist with a law degree. Her goal as *The Legal Genealogist* is “to help folks understand the often arcane and even impenetrable legal concepts and terminology that are so very important to those of us studying family history. Without understanding the context in which events took place and records were created, we miss so much of both the significance and the flavor of what happened.”

Sunday, January 7, 2018

Share Your Findings

This month’s meeting will be held at the Historical Society Museum, 250 East Market Street, York. A brief business meeting will begin at 2:15 PM and the program will immediately follow at approximately 2:30 PM.

Members share genealogical stories and artifacts.

Sunday, February 4, 2018

Reflections on the African-American Experience in York

Sunday, March 4, 2018

The Scotch Irish: Their Origins in the British Isles and Their Impact in South Central Pennsylvania

Sunday, April 8, 2018

Navigating Pennsylvania’s Revolutionary War Militia Records

Sunday, May 6, 2018

Tour of Prospect Hill Cemetery

Sunday, June 3, 2018

Henry James Young Awards

SAVE the DATE —

Saturday, September 22, 2018

Genealogical Conference: Researching Pennsylvania Germans

From the President

Jonathan Stayer

Verifying the Civil War service of a Pennsylvania ancestor:

Recently, I assisted two researchers who were attempting to verify the Civil War service of their ancestors in Pennsylvania regiments. Both genealogists had family stories that suggested such service, but documentary proof in original records was weak or almost entirely lacking. In both cases, I was able to demonstrate that the information allegedly supporting the family's claim pointed to another man and not the person's ancestor.

So how can you confirm the military service of your Pennsylvania ancestor during the American Civil War? First, you must identify your male progenitors alive in the middle of the nineteenth century. While some women did serve disguised as men, the membership of Pennsylvania's regiments was almost exclusively male.

Next, were any of your male ancestors of the right age for military service? Most Civil War soldiers were between 18 and 30 years of age. At various times, the age for the draft ranged from 18 years old to 45 years old. Some younger and older men did serve, but rarely did a man in his forties or fifties enlist. The war encompassed the years 1861 through 1865, so a man would have been born between about 1830 and 1845 to be of the probable age.

Once you determine that you have an eligible ancestor, online resources abound to document his service or refute a family story. The Civil War veterans' card file on the website of the Pennsylvania State Archives (digitalarchives.state.pa.us) provides alphabetical access to service records abstracted from muster rolls held by the State Archives. After discovering the regiment and company with which your soldier was associated, you can check the Register of Civil War Volunteers

<http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/bah/dam/rg/di/r19-65RegisterPaVolunteers/r19-65MainInterface.htm>

also on the State Archives website to glean basic information about his service such as mustering dates, places of enlistment and discharge, age, etc. These records are arranged by regiment number and then by company letter. On Ancestry.com you can find digital copies of the original muster-out rolls for Pennsylvania's volunteer regiments, which might provide slightly different data than those presented in the previous sources.

Also on Ancestry.com is an index to Civil War pensions at the National Archives. You must go to the National Archives to see the actual pension or order a copy by mail, but sometimes the pension index itself will yield valuable clues like the name of a spouse or service in multiple units.

If you are having trouble determining in which regiment your ancestor served or differentiating between two men of the same name but who had different places of residence, check the 1890 census Special Schedule of Union Veterans and Their Widows. While the general population schedule of the 1890 Pennsylvania census was destroyed in the Census Bureau fire, the Special Schedule survived. Ancestry.com offers easy access to this source under the title "1890 Veterans Schedules." This special schedule reported the names of Union veterans and their widows along with their places of residence, units of service, dates of service, and notes about wounds, etc. Therefore, if you know where your ancestor was living in 1890, the veterans schedule is another way to verify his service — if he didn't lie to the census taker!

Entire books have been written on the subject of researching Civil War ancestors, so I can't include everything that you may want to check, in this column. I do, however, want to mention one of my favorite websites for researching Pennsylvania Civil War soldiers: pacivilwar.com. This site provides links to many of the places on the internet where one might find pertinent information on this topic, including abstracts, transcripts and copies of original records. It also points to many regimental histories if you want to learn more about the unit in which your soldier served.

If you have never investigated the possible Civil War connection of your ancestors, I hope that I have given you some places to start. If you are an experienced hand in this area, why don't you share your favorite websites, sources and stories with us?

We need to haunt the house of history and listen anew to the ancestors wisdom.

- Maya Angelou

York County's 1798 Glass tax

Our first meeting of the year was presented by Cindy Hartman on the 1798 US Direct Tax (aka Glass Tax).

On July 9, 1798 the United States Congress passed legislation that would ultimately create the first federal property tax to be levied on US citizens ... "An Act to provide for the valuation of lands and dwelling houses and the enumeration of slaves within the United States." The US Congress passed a second Act on July 14, 1798 to impose and collect a direct tax and set the amount to be raised at \$2 million for the purpose of raising a war chest for a threatened conflict with France. A portion of the \$2 million total was assigned to each of the country's sixteen states based on population, with slaves being counted as 3/5 of a person. Pennsylvania's portion was \$237,177.72. A set formula for assessing the value of property was provided and the valuations were to be based on property owned on October 1, 1798.

Many of these records have been lost because the law allowed responsibility for the tax to be transferred to other governmental departments, with no directive to forward records to Washington. An 1801 statute directed the surveyors to send their records to the top treasury official in their state. An 1803 statute recommended that the tax records be sent to Washington; but this directive was never issued and if it had been, they would likely have been destroyed in the treasury building fire of 1833. Because of this, the supervisor's official papers may exist among the records of almost any branch of government. Pennsylvania has the best collection of surviving records!

York County is included in the first and second assessment districts in the Sixth Division of Pennsylvania. The first assessment district included all of the current York County townships except Warrington and Monaghan, and also included Berwick Township in current Adams County. Most of these lists are dated August 20, 1799 and the assessment collection lists are dated July 8, 1800. The second assessment district included all of the current Adams County townships except Berwick, and also included the York County townships of Monaghan and Warrington. Most of these lists are dated June 20, 1799.

Each township could choose the schedules that they would use. Following are the schedules available by township ...

TOWNSHIP	SCHEDULES									
	1	2	3	4	A	B	D	E	F	
Berwick	X	X				X	X		X	
Chanceford	X	X							X	
Codorus	X	X				X			X	
Cumberland		X			X	X	X	X		
Dover	X	X				X			X	
Fawn	X					X	X		X	
Franklin		X				X	X		X	
Germany	X	X				X		X	X	
Hamiltonban		X				X	X		X	
Hanover Borough	X	X			X			X		
Heidleberg	X					X			X	
Hellam	X	X							X	
Hopewell	X	X	X	X	X				X	
Huntington		X				X		X	X	
Manallen	X	X				X	X	X	X	
Manchester	X	X				X	X		X	
Manheim	X	X					X		X	
Monaghan	X				X	X		X	X	
Mount Joy	X	X				X	X	X	X	
Mount Pleasant	X	X				X	X	X	X	
Newberry	X	X			X				X	
Paradise	X	X			X				X	
Reading	X	X				X		X	X	
Shrewsbury	X	X			X				X	
Straban		X				X		X	X	
Tyrone	X	X				X		X	X	
Warrington	X	X			X	X		X		
Windsor	X	X			X	X		X	X	
York Borough	X								X	
York	X	X					X		X	

There were three type of schedules ...

- Dwelling Houses valued at more than \$100
- All Other Real Property (simply called "land") which included dwelling houses valued at \$100 or less
- Slaves

The Dwelling House schedules (List 1 and List A) list each dwelling house valued at more than \$100 and any outbuildings such as a kitchen, wash house, etc. For each dwelling house (and most of the out buildings) you will find the name of the owner and occupant, dimension, number of stories, type of construction, and number windows and lights. Most often the number of lights reported was the total number, however, in some townships the assessor reported the number of lights per window. List D was a "general list" of these same dwelling houses that included the tax rate and assessed value but not a description of the buildings.

The Real Property or Land schedules (List 2 and List B) list all lands, lots and buildings except those described under List 1 or A. Each entry includes the name of the owner and occupant, number of acres of land, names of the adjoining land owners, dimensions of barns and commercial buildings such as shops, mills, and distilleries, and dwelling houses valued at \$100 or less. List E was a “general list” of the real property (land) that included the number of acres exempted from tax, tax rate and assessed value but not a description of any of the buildings.

The Slave schedule (List F) lists the slave owner, total number of slaves owned, number of slaves exempted from being taxed and those subject to tax. Unfortunately this schedule does not include the names or ages of individual slaves. There were 204 slaves reported in York County. It is interesting to note that the highest number of slaves (33) is found in Hamiltonban Township (in the southwest corner of current Adams County).

In addition, there are also various “collecting lists” which summarize the data on the above mentioned schedules by township and assessment district.

Sometimes you will find interesting notes and commentary on the lists, such as ... descriptions of the land and/or buildings, heirs, property sales, and change in slave ownership. For example, in Manheim Township, there is note indicating that Abraham Diehl’s house burned down about the last of April 1799 days after the assessor was there.

Next we took a peek inside 1798 York County ...

Within the pages of the York County Glass Tax you will find reference to Freystown, located within York Township adjoining York Borough, an area about a mile in length and ½ mile wide. According to Gibson’s History of York, the first house in Freystown was known as “The Fort”. It was a 2-story stone building, 36 feet square, with an arched cellar under the whole building. The lot of ground was surrounded with large sycamore trees, and the property was at one time owned by Rev. Dr. Cathcart. The Glass Tax shows that Rev. Robert Cathcart had a 40x30 two-story stone house in Freystown with nine windows and 135 lights (fifteen per window). A note next to the description of the house indicates that it was in “much need of repair”. Other residents of Freystown were: Conrad Dietrich, John Kuntz and Gotlieb Zeigle.

Within the pages of the Manchester Township Glass Tax are thirty-three land owners in Bottstown. About fifty lots were laid out from a portion of Hermanus

Bott’s 297 acre tract of land. His intention was to establish a town to compete with York. Bottstown was in existence for 130 years before it was annexed to the borough of York. Following are the lot owners as shown in the Glass Tax ...

BOTTSTOWN RESIDENTS		
Widow Bott	Henry Fahs	Wm. Reisinger
Widow Brunner	Abraham Graffius	Henry Sherbann
Benjamin Breneman	Philip Hoffman	Peter Shultz
Baron de Bellon	John Haller	Widow Shultz
John Bush	Rev. Jones	Ludwig Stone
Gabriel Derr	Widow Kann	Casper Saur
Mathias Detter	Martin Kapp	Leonard Saur
John Earnst	Widow Krantz	Widow Smith
Henry Epply	Peter Lind	Sebastian Weigle
Widow Ebert	Jacob Miller	Andrew Wehr
John Fahs	Casper Pensel	John Wehr

The Shrewsbury Township pages of the Glass Tax include twenty-nine 64 perch lots in New Shrewsbury. Baltzer Faust began to develop this village by laying out lots, measuring 66 feet by 264 feet, on both sides of Joppa Road in 1797. Following are the lot owners as shown in the Glass Tax ...

Lot #	Owner	Lot #	Owner
8	Ludwig Frasher	28	Henry Kline Sr
10	Thomas Jameson	29	John Frey
12	George Amspacher Sr	30	John McIntire
14	Henry Kline Jr	33	Christian Stabler
15	George Kramer	35	John Ream
17	Frederick Kramer	37	John Ream
18	Jacob Erhart/Ehrhart	38	Felix Hildebrand
19	John Hildebrand Jr	39	John Burger
20	Peter Free	43	Michael Free
21	Jacob Bayley		
22	Frederick Frasher	—	Dennis Devinney
23	Peter Ruhl	—	Catharine Klinefelder
24	Christian Miller	—	Peter Klinefelder
25	Jacob Bayley	—	Mathias Miller
26	John Kunkle	—	John McIntire

Other interesting information from York County’s Glass Tax ...

There are 28 properties in Heidelberg Township that are adjoining McSherrys Town ... Conowago Township, Adams County includes McSherrystown and was formed from Heidelberg Township in 1801.

Godfrey Lenhart Esq. owned two lots in Mount Pleasant (aka Strinestown). John, George and Peter Strein owned approximately 117 acres of land adjoining Mount Pleasant.

Robert Coleman owned a “forge of stone” and at least two “cabbins in the Pigeon Hills” in Paradise Township.

There was 1,556 acres of land in Dover Township and 1,439 acres in Monaghan Township identified as mountain land.

There are 393 shops, 221 mills, 241 still houses and 19 distilleries listed in just the current York County townships. The most common mills are grist and saw mills, however, there are also merchant, fulling, oil, hemp, paper, borring, powder, and one apple mill. The following shows the commercial buildings by township ...

TOWNSHIP	MILLS	BARK HOUSE	TAN HOUSE	SHOPS	STILL HOUSE	DISTILLERY
Chanceford	11	—	—	25	4	12
Codorus	11	—	1	17	32	
Dover	12	—	—	5	17	
Fawn	5	—	—	24	1	3
Heidleberg	5	—	—	33	11	
Hanover Borough	2	—	1	50	1	
Hellam	10	—	1	4	15	1
Hopewell	5	1	—	18	2	3
Manchester	25	1	—	53	39	
Manheim	17	—	—	—	29	
Monaghan	16	—	—	17	5	
Newberry	16	—	1	11	14	
Paradise	12	—	—	—	5	
Shrewsbury	16	3	3	29	17	
Warrington	23	1	1	37	10	
Windsor	22	—	—	10	24	
York Borough	1	1	1	52	6	
York	12	—	—	8	9	
TOTAL	221	7	9	393	241	19

In Newberry Township the assessor listed “stones” and “burrs” among the property of mill owners to be valued.

The program concluded by comparing pictures of several historic properties and some of the ancestral homes of the speaker to the information found in the 1798 Glass Tax.

York County’s Glass Tax can be found on microfilm at the library and archives of the York County History Center and at the National Archives (record group 58). Images of most of the York County lists can be found on *ancestry.com*, however, they are only indexed by the owner’s name. And, as you are hopefully aware, SCPGS has published four volumes of these records each with a complete surname index. We are working on the final three volumes to complete the townships that are currently part of York County, and then will continue this series with the townships in current day Adams County.

As you can see a treasure-trove of information lies within the data of this extra-ordinary picture of eighteenth century society.

Henry James Young Award

Nominations are currently being sought for the Henry James Young award(s) to be presented at our June 2018 meeting.

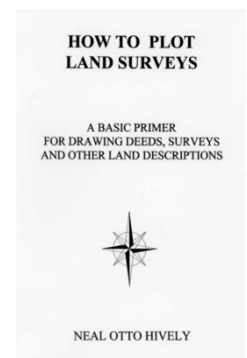
The Henry James Young Award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to the preservation of history and genealogy. Nominees, living or deceased, will be considered and membership in the South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society is not required. Nominations should be in the form of a letter that describes the nominee’s contribution or accomplishments, and must be signed by the nominator.

Nominations for the award may be submitted to the South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society Board of Directors at any time or sent to the Society’s email *scpgswebsite@wildblue.net*. To be considered for the awards to be presented in June, nominations must be received by January 31, 2018.

Hively Book Now Available at York County History Center

Genealogists and property researchers have benefitted from the research and publications by Rev. Dr. Neal Otto Hively. A recently retired Lutheran pastor, he donated his life’s work to the York County History Center. His donation included maps and accompanying books featuring his research on the original York County land records. The History Center also received the copyright for all of his Pennsylvania Original Land Record series books for York County. Limited quantities of some of these volumes are still available with a reprinting of others in the near future.

His book *How to Plot Land Surveys A Basic Primer For Drawing Deeds, Surveys and Other Land Descriptions* compliments his Pennsylvania Original Land Record Series. This book is about land records, deeds, conveyances, surveys, and other related documents and contains not only a thorough glossary of land survey and legal terms, but also step by step explanations and instructions for basic survey plotting. It has been reprinted and is now available at the York County History Center Book Store for \$12.50 (66 pgs). Call 717-848-1787



Can't Find Your Ancestor? Genealogy Experts Suggest These 6 Tips

written by Diane Haddad for *Family Tree Magazine*

After awhile doing genealogy and working with experts through *Family Tree Magazine*, I've learned a few things. One of them is that if there's an afterlife, our ancestors are in it snickering at our puny efforts to uncover their secrets. Another one is that some classic pro genealogy tips apply to just about any genealogy research problem.

When you have that realization that "I've hit a brick wall" or "I don't know what to do next," and you can practically hear your snickering ancestors, try these timeless expert strategies.

1. Define the problem.

Write down the problem or question. For example, "My DNA test shows I'm related to a guy who has a Kolbeck ancestor in Idaho who was born in the same German town as my Kolbecks. But I don't know how his Kolbecks are related to my Kolbeck third-great-grandmother, or the Kolbeck who married my great-great-grandfather's sister." Yes, this is a real-life problem from my research.

2. Review what you know.

Go back over all your research related to the problem you've defined. Make sure each record really is for the person you thought, and that your interpretation of what the record says makes sense. This will confirm your findings and refresh your memory. You might find clues you've forgotten about or didn't understand when you first discovered the record.

3. Create a timeline.

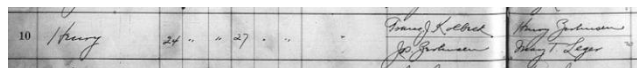
As you review your research, create a timeline for the person or family. Each record documents a person in a place and time; your timeline should list the date and the person's location for each record you've found. This is another way to spot mistakes (how can a child be born here when his parents are over there?) and long stretches when your relative is unaccounted for.

4. Research the whole family.

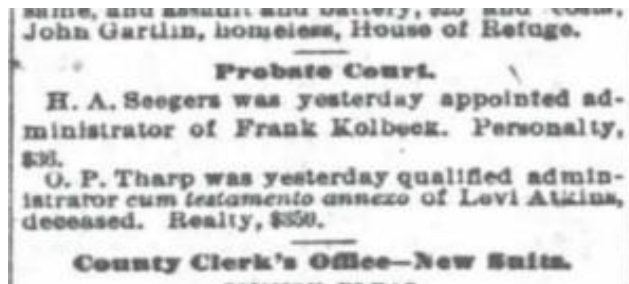
You might hear this called "cluster genealogy" or the "FAN club" approach. (The "FAN Club" is genealogy author Elizabeth Shown Mills' term for your ancestor's friends, associates and neighbors.) Look for records of your ancestor's siblings, cousins, friends, neighbors, coworkers and others. Our ancestors traveled with, settled near, witnessed records of, married and worked with people they knew. Cluster genealogy records might reveal hidden connections.

Here are a couple of cluster research leads in my research:

In 1876, the above-mentioned great-great-grandfather's sister, Theresa Seger, was the baptismal sponsor for the son of Joseph Kolbeck and Josephine Zerhusen. Researching the Zerhusens, I learned that Joseph and Josephine were part of a group of Germans from the Cincinnati area who founded the town of Windthorst, Kansas.



An 1882 newspaper announcement names the same great-great-grandfather as the administrator for the estate of a Frank Kolbeck. Death records show Frank died of smallpox at age 27. Could he be a cousin?



5. Create a plan.

Instead of searching aimlessly, create a research plan for how you'll approach this problem. Figure out what you need to know and what records might provide that information. In my Case of the Confusing Kolbecks, I need to find each Kolbeck in the town's church baptismal records and look for his parents' names.

Make a list of the records you need and where they're located (online, at a library, etc.). Check off each record one by one as you consult it.

6. Ask for help.

Whether it's a person in your genealogical society or a professional, another researcher might notice clues you didn't and offer new suggestions. You also can search on *Facebook* for genealogy groups and local societies. For example, I belong to a genealogy group for the area where my Kolbecks came from, so I can ask there for people who've researched the same family.

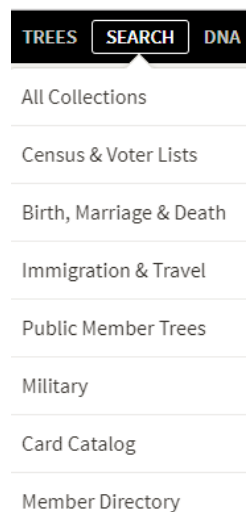
https://www.familytreemagazine.com/articles/news-blogs/genealogy_insider/genealogy-expert-brick-wall-tips/

Using Ancestry.com Effectively

On Sunday, October 1st our speaker Jerry Smith provided tips and tricks for effectively using Ancestry.com. Following are a few take-a-ways from our meeting ...

Make use of the “Search” Categories

Using the search box on the HOME page will conduct a broad search of all Ancestry.com records. You can focus your search by selecting a specific category of records from the SEARCH page.



ALL COLLECTIONS

From this menu selection you can focus your search using the EXPLORE BY LOCATION map and/or list of locations to see a listing of available data collections.

CARD CATALOG

Ancestry likes to change the name of record sets, so using keywords will probably yield better results.

HINT — Entering “NARA” in the title field of the Card Catalog search form will result in a single record ... NARA Collections on Ancestry.com. Clicking on this link will bring up a search box for the database of NARA collections published on Ancestry.com. It allows you to easily search the database by typing in a NARA microfilm series number (ex. A1154 or M158), or by typing in all or part of a NARA collection title or Ancestry.com database title. All the way at the bottom of this page is a link to the entire list of NARA collections on Ancestry.com ... more than 1,700 sets of records.

PUBLIC MEMBER TREES

This is user-supplied information that may be sourced or unsourced data and should be used with caution.

Always Read the Database Description

Are the records in this database from an original source, user compiled, derived from unsourced submitted data, or a combination of sources? Jerry used NARA microfilm M829 “US Revolutionary War Bounty Land Warrants Used in the U.S. Military District of Ohio and Relating Papers (Acts of 1788,

1803, and 1806) 1788-1806” as an example. The Ancestry title for these records is “U.S. War Bounty Land Warrants, 1789-1858”. Following is the Ancestry description of this database ...

Source Information

Ancestry.com. *U.S. War Bounty Land Warrants, 1789-1858* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2007.

Original data:

U.S. Revolutionary War Bounty Land Warrants Used in the U.S. Military District of Ohio and Relating Papers (Acts of 1788, 1803, and 1806), 1788-1806; Microfilm Publication M829, 16 rolls; ARC ID: 635444. Records of the Bureau of Land Management, Record Group 49; National Archives at Washington, D.C.

War of 1812 Military Bounty Land Warrants, 1815-1858; Microfilm Publication M848, 14 rolls; ARC ID: 4923870. Records of the Bureau of Land Management, Record Group 49; National Archives at Washington, D.C.

Notice that Ancestry has combined the Revolutionary War Land Bounty records (M829) with the War of 1812 Military Bounty Land Warrants (M848).

Pay close attention because in some cases Ancestry has combined original records and user-submitted records into one database!

Power of Wild Cards

A “?” can be used to replace a single arbitrary character. For example, Gla?fel?er would find spellings of the Glatfelter/Gladfelter surname with any combination of “d” and “t”. Of course, you could also get some unintended results since the fourth and eighth letter could be any letter in the alphabet.

An even more powerful wild card is an “*”. This single character can be used to replace from zero to six arbitrary characters, however, you must provide at least the first three letters for the search.

How was the Index Created

Indexes on Ancestry come from several sources ... off-shore lowest cost, other human entry where validation varies, scans of published indexes, and/or compiled OCR. Each has its own issues and impacts upon your search result. If your search fails to find a record that you believe exists ... be creative in how you enter the search criteria.

Don’t fall into the trap of thinking that Ancestry has it all!

Genealogy is like a scavenger hunt and a jigsaw puzzle all rolled into one!

**OUR NAME'S THE GAME
SCPGS INC.
P.O. BOX 1824
YORK, PA 17405-1824**

DATED MATERIAL—DO NOT DELAY

Rosie the Riveter

Bucks County Genealogical Society (BCGS) has embarked on a new project to honor the ladies who served their country during World War II. They are asking members and friends to participate in this project by submitting the names, service description, dates if known, and a photograph of their mothers, aunts, grandmothers, and their friends and neighbors who participated in the war effort by serving in the military, working in a defense industry, or otherwise making a contribution to support the war effort.

The photos and other information will be combined into a presentation that will be posted on the Bucks County Genealogical Society website, along with a searchable index of the submitted names. The individuals you submit do not have to be related to you, and do not have to be from Bucks County.

You can submit your information in either of two ways:

- Go to the online Rosie the Riveter submission page at www.bucksgen.org and fill out the information on your female ancestor; or
- Print out a paper submission form, fill it out and either email it to Connie Ace at research@bucksgen.org or Joann Cosgrove at projects@bucksgen.org, or mail it to Connie Ace at the address at the bottom of the form.

