Our Name's The Game

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South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society

OUR NEXT MEETING

Sunday, November 4, 2018　　　　**A Matter of Interpretation: Using Data from Pennsylvania's Colonial Tax Records**

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.

James C. Landis, a veteran of family history research will discuss the use of Pennsylvania's Real and Personal Property Tax Returns from the colonial era. Focus of the presentation will deal with analysis of information contained within tax records. Topics relevant to the proper interpretation of data extracted from these early records include the definition of archaic legal terms, and the classification of taxpayers, and the types of taxable property. This hour long class features analysis of case studies and detailed explanations of the numerous problems and pitfalls of genealogical research in these unique and intriguing records.

Mr. Landis is a native of the Marietta-Mount Joy area and is a genealogist and historian with over 40 years of experience in researching family history. Jim is a long-time researcher and volunteer at both the Lancaster County Historical Society and the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society and for more than twenty years has served on the Genealogy Committee which plans the annual Lancaster Family History Conference. Since 1992, he has taught sessions on a variety of genealogical topics for both organizations with Pennsylvania's colonial tax records being a special area of expertise. The focus of Jim's historical research in recent years has been the history of the Borough of Marietta which celebrated the 200th anniversary of its incorporation in 2012. He has authored a number of articles and books on the annals of the borough, given numerous lectures on local history, and documented the histories of nearly 300 historic homes in the area. His most recently completed genealogy project is a 300-page book featuring the WWI diary of his grandfather.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Sunday, January 6, 2019　　　　Tour of Christmas Putz at First Moravian Church

Sunday, February 3, 2019　　　　Tour of Goodrich House

Sunday, March 3, 2019　　　　Blunston Licenses

Sunday, April 7, 2019　　　　History of the Amish

Sunday, May 5, 2019　　　　Pennsylvania and the Religious Society of Friends: A Relationship with Far-Reaching Implications

Sunday, June 9, 2019　　　　The Young Center for Anabaptist and Piest Studies at Elizabethtown College and Brethren Research

From the President

Richard Konkel

Dear SCPGS members, this is the second article from me regarding using real estate records for genealogical research. This time I will discuss using Grantor and Grantee indexes, especially those from the office of the Recorder of Deeds in and for York County, Pennsylvania.

What is a Grantor and a Grantee?

The definitions provided in Black's Law Dictionary are as follows:

Grantor: The person by whom a grant is made. A transferor of property. The creator of a trust is usually designated as the grantor of the trust.

Grantee: One to whom a grant is made.

In common terms, the grantor is the seller of real estate, and the grantee is the buyer.

The York County Archives website at yorkcountyarchives.org under the heading "Records Available" has searchable databases of Grantor and Grantee Deed indexes for 1749-1912 and 1913-1943. Digital copies of these records can be obtained from the York County Archives or by visiting the York County Recorder of Deeds. The cost for all copies through the County of York is $0.50 per page.

The 1749-1912 index and over one hundred years of early York County Deeds are also available at familysearch.org under a search of the Family History Library Catalogue for York County, Pennsylvania: Land Records. 45 microfilm have been digitalized and are free to use and available to search at home. It covers deed books from Deed Book A through Deed Book 3Y for the years 1749 to 1859. These are from microfilm made by the LDS Family History Library in 1949.

One tricky issue for the novice researcher it that the indexes were made using the Russell Soundex system. This arranges surnames by key letters L-M-N-R-T and no key letter. They also contain certain terminology in Latin that may be challenging:

Et al. [et alii] is an abbreviation meaning "and others."

Et ux. [et uxor] an abbreviation for "and wife" usually found in Grantor records where the wife joins to release her dower claim on the land.

Et Vir. Literally "and man," referring to a deed where a wife is joined by her husband.

Although most entries are for deed transfers of real estate, the indexes also contain agreements made between adjoining land owners; agreements for the maintenance of (a) parent(s) or a relative; sale of slaves; sale of livestock; Pre-nuptial Agreements; and Releases of heirs to Administrators or Executors of an Estate.

It is very important to search these records for every ancestor. The rewards can be great. The next article will address how to read and abstract deeds.

Pennsylvania German Research

On Saturday, September 22, we held a conference on Pennsylvania German Research at the York County History Center. Our keynote speaker, June Lloyd, spoke of how Lewis Miller remembered and recorded the stories from his childhood as she shared many examples of his drawings. Lewis' drawings captured scenes from York … the buildings, the people and their occupations and superstitions as well. He showed a lot of humor in his drawings, and within the captions of Lewis Miller's drawings is information not available anywhere else.

Most participants chose to attend the four sessions on Pennsylvania German Research, while a few chose to attend the sessions on General Genealogy. On the next few pages is a brief summary of the sessions that I attended.

Participants at the conference shared a Pennsylvania German lunch of chicken pot pie, hog maw, green beans, baked corn, cucumber salad, and of course, an assortment of pies for dessert.

picture courtesy of the York County History Center

Conference Wrap-up

Pennsylvania German Church Records
                    [presented by James M. Beidler]

Pennsylvania German Church records are one of the most valuable record groups for researching German-speaking people. There were approximately 80,000 German-speaking immigrants in Pennsylvania during colonial times, making them the largest "minority group." German-speaking people from the Palatinate (Pfalz) began arriving in Pennsylvania in 1683. The high-point for German-speaking immigrants arriving at the port of Philadelphia were the 1740s and 1750s.

The epicenter for Pennsylvania Germans was Berks County. There were also large concentrations in the counties of York, Adams, Lancaster, Lehigh, Northampton, and the portion of Lebanon and Dauphin that was formed from Lancaster. There were smaller populations in Upper Bucks county, the northern tip of Montgomery county, and of course there were some who remained in Philadelphia.

The Pennsylvania German dialect evolved in the areas where the immigrants concentrated. It was

primarily a spoken language. Virtually all 1700s church records are written in German or "High German" (Hoch Deutsch), as were tombstones, wills and deeds.

Pennsylvania Germans were primarily Protestants. The Lutherans and Reforms established German-speaking churches and continued the tradition of recordkeeping. Moravians stressed literacy and education, and maintained meticulous records that included "day" books. There are not nearly as many records for the Amish and Mennonites who practiced a "believer's baptism" (a remembered event).

The most common types of Pennsylvania German church records are … baptisms, marriages, burials, confirmations, communicant lists, family registers and minutes and treasury reports.

Baptisms are de facto birth records. Virtually all baptisms have been translated, transcribed and published. These records typically provide the name of the child being baptized, the parents and the sponsors (and sometimes their relationship to the child), as well as the dates of birth and baptism. "Rufnahme" refers to the call name or middle name. Johann or Hans were typically a "prefix" name, while Johannes was a "call" name. For girls, Anna or Maria was the typical "prefix" name. Also watch for naming patterns, the first son was usually named for the paternal grandfather. If you encountered the name of the mother recorded as "and wife", collateral research on siblings may provide the mothers given name.

Marriage records typically only provide the names of the bride and groom and the date of the marriage. In the 1700s, sometimes the name of the father of the bride and/or groom is recorded, as is the residence. There are lots of gaps in these records. Newspapers can be used as a work around.

Burial records are not death records! They typically only provide the name of the deceased and the date of burial. It is interesting to note that sometimes the funeral text is engraved on the tombstone.

Confirmation records typically provide the name of the confirmand and sometimes their age and father's name. Lutheran confirmations tended to occur during the teenage years.

Communicant Lists are usually organized by family and include the names of those "communing." Some congregations listed all members and "crossed out" those who left the congregation or died.

Typically the pastor or the congregation or one of the congregations within a charge or parish had original custody of the records. Today the records may be found at the denomination's archives, in the Special Collections of a library or in a university archives … and occasionally in attics!

Church membership in the 18th and 19th centuries was much more fluid than today. Scarcity of visits by clergy led to records of families being found in more than one denomination. Learn the history of the congregation in the context of its charges/parishes and pastors. Some "union" churches initially kept only a single record book. Check congregational and pastoral registers for duplicate entries as one may have more information than the other. And, be skeptical of printed translation.

Conference Wrap-up *continued …*

Pennsylvania's Colonial Ships' Lists and Naturalization Records

[presented by Jonathan Stayer]

Passenger Lists and Oaths of Allegiance were the result of the colonial government of Pennsylvania attempting to control German immigrants. They were fearful of Pennsylvania becoming a German settlement rather than English. These are not naturalization records and do not include British citizens arriving from England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

There are three types of Ships' Lists …

"A" are the Captain's List

"B" are the Oath of Allegiance to the King

"C" are the Oath of Abjuration and Fidelity

The Captain's List was required to include the immigrant's name, occupation and origin; the immigrant's age was not required. However, most of the ship captain's did not follow the instruction which explains why some of these lists are incomplete or simply do not exist.

Strassburger and Hinke's *Pennsylvania German Pioneers* is considered the most accurate transcription of these three lists. Volume I contains the pre-revolutionary war lists and Volume II the post-revolutionary war lists. They also published a third volume that includes facsimiles of the actual lists. If you are curious about the oaths taken by the immigrants they are included in the introduction.

From 1727 to 1736 the lists of passengers were recorded in the minutes of the Provincial Council. For an every name index to these records, consult Mary Dunn's Index to *Pennsylvania's Colonial Records*.

Naturalization Records

Between 1683 and 1773, naturalizations were granted by an Act of Assembly, and recorded in the minutes of the Provincial Council. These naturalization were published in SCPGS Special Publication #24: *Abstracts of Pennsylvania Records of Naturalizations, 1695-1773*.

In 1740, Pennsylvania's colonial government was authorized by an Act of Parliament to naturalize non-British residents. There was a seven year residency requirement, after which an "alien" could receive "sacrament" and take an oath or make affirmation. There were special exemptions for Jews, Quakers and Moravians. These records are available in *Persons Naturalized in the Province of Pennsylvania, 1740-1773* published by Genealogical Publishing Co, Baltimore, Maryland, 1967.

In 1776, Pennsylvania adopted a radical constitution. Section 6 made all residents of the colony citizens. And, Section 42 provided for naturalization.

Loyalty Oaths

During the revolution, Pennsylvania's government passed the Act of June 13, 1777 requiring all white male inhabitants over the age of 18 years to take a "loyalty" oath. This oath essential said that they were not going to oppose the revolutionary government. The penalty for refusing to take this oath of allegiance was double taxation. This oath was opposed by the Historic Peace churches. These records are available in *Names of Persons Who Took the Oath of Allegiance to the State of Pennsylvania Between the Years 1777 and 1789* published by Genealogical Publishing Co, Baltimore, Maryland, 1965.

Crossing the Atlantic: Tracing your Pennsylvania German Ancestors Back to Germany [presented by Richard Konkel]

Know your history! Understand from where and when your ancestors may have emigrated and what was going on in the area where they lived. Eighteenth century emigration tends to be from the area of Southwest Germany now conprised of the modern German States of Baden-Würtemberg, Rheinland-Pfalz, Hessen, and Saarland, as well as Switzerland and the historic provinces of Alsace and Lorraine now in France. There are exceptions of some emigrants coming from other areas. Nineteenth century emigrants came from all German speaking lands across Europe. Germany was not a unified country until 1871 and even then there were a number of separate Kingdoms and Duchies which did not keep records in a uniform manner.

For 18th century emigration, *Pennsylvania German Pioneers* by Straussburger and Hinke remains the best source for emigrants entering Pennsylvania after 1727. The vast majority sailed from Rotterdam at the mouth of the Rhine. There are no records from the port of departure.

Nineteenth century emigration is found mostly through port of entry records kept by the United

Conference Wrap-up *continued ...*

States federal government at the point of entry after 1820. Many of these records as well as naturalizations and United States passport records can be found on ancestry.com. The primary ports of departure were Bremen, Hamburg, Rotterdam, and LeHavre, France. A few departure records exist for Hamburg, however, Bremen regularly destroyed them a few years after they were created.

Many of the publications on the origins of German emigrants, especially those of Annette K. Burgert and Werner Hacker are available in the library of the York County History Center.

Finding the Heimat (hometown) … If you are very lucky, you may find an exact surname match on ancestry.com or familysearch.com, and if the surname is unique you may be able to narrow the areas where the name is found. Present day records such as dastelefonbuch.de provide lists of modern Germans with their surnames. When searching by place name, you need to make sure you are searching in the correct place. Many German place names are commonly found in multiple places. Does the town have an Ortssippenbuch or Ortsfamilienbuch? There are a large number available for Baden and Würtemberg many of which can be purchased or found at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. Some have been filmed. There is also a searchable database of online Ortsfamilienbücher at www.online-ofb.de. Also don't forget to search for local histories.

Church records … Protestant records (evangelisch) were divided into Lutheran (lutherisch) and Reformed (reformiert), and Roman Catholic (katholisch). Primary records are birth/baptism (taufen), marriages (heiraten), and deaths (tote). The Family History Library [FHL] has now digitized most of their catalogue and the remaining ones in the collection should be digitized by 2020. Most church records can only be viewed at a Family History Center due to arrangements with the German archives. Practically all protestant and catholic records for Baden are filmed and in the FHL collection. For Alsace-Lorraine in France, the FHL catalogue will redirect you to scans of the original church records and civil records held by the Archive of the Department Bas-Rhin in Strasbourg, France. Ancestry.com has in recent years added large numbers of scanned and transcribed German church records from the LDS FHL collection. Some records are transcribed extremely accurately, some are terrible. On ancestry.com, many localities for these records are

not correctly identified … so it is important to check the original LDS film number at the beginning of each scan. Areas currently covered with scanned images include protestant records for Würtemberg, Rheinland-Pfalz (listed as Bayern or Bavaria as it was part of the Kingdom of Bavaria before 1918), most of the eastern provinces of the former Kingdom of Prussia (many of these areas are now in Poland, and some records are identified by the modern Polish name, and some by the former German name of the locality. There is no rhyme or reason to it!). Many church records from Baden are abstracted or transcribed including Roman Catholic records. A number of regions, including Bavaria, have not been filmed by the LDS. Bavarian records can only be accessed through church archives in Nürnberg for protestant records (available on archion.de), Bamberg and Würzburg and others for catholic records. In some area the old original records remain in the actual parishes. For these areas, it is best to obtain the services of a professional genealogist in Germany.

For most parts of Germany, civil registrations of births, marriages, and deaths did not start until 1874. In former eastern provinces some records have been lost, some are in Polish archives, many are now on ancestry.com. Civil registrations began in the early 1800s in areas under direct French rule of Napoleon (left bank of the Rhine). A wide variety of other tax, court and property records exist for different areas, mostly unfilmed and unscanned. To access these records, you must search in regional or town archives.

Census records are few and far between, and unlike research on people in the United States they are not a major source of information.

There is now a large collection of 19th and 20th century detailed topographical maps of the former German Empire on ancestry.com.

Conference Wrap-up *continued ...*

Evidence and Documentation
                    [presented by Jerry Smith]

Genealogical Proof Standard (GPS) is a tool for:

- a standard, consistent approach to genealogical "proofs"
- evidence assessment
- attaching difficult problems
- communicating with others about hard problems
- organizing and assessing your reasoning

The GPS process …

Reasonably exhaustive search … ensures that a broad range of possible sources is searched. What they are will vary depending on the question. The goal is to find every record for your ancestor. That one record you have may be the one that is refuted by over-whelming evidence in all those things you have not looked at.

Assess quality of each item of evidence …

Is the source original or derivative? Original sources are written, oral, visual information not derived from another record. Derivative sources are copied, transcribed, abstracts, summarized, duplicated or otherwise repeated from an existing source. Generally, original sources carry more weight than derivative sources. However, some types of derivatives <u>may</u> carry as much weight as the original.

Is the information primary or secondary? Primary sources are records made by someone with first-hand knowledge of the event <u>and</u> recorded in a timely manner. Everything else is a secondary source. Primary is given greater weight, but this does not, of itself, ensure accuracy. The identity and motives of the informant are critical.

Is the evidence direct or indirect? Direct evidence is sufficient to answer the question on its own. Indirect evidence supports the hypothesis, but additional evidence is needed to answer the question. Sometimes there is no direct evidence and the case must be built on an overwhelming amount of indirect evidence.

Weight the evidence … evaluation is not binary (right or wrong) … there is a continuum. The absence of evidence in a record set may support your hypothesis. Exceptions exist and these need to be explained in your written conclusion.

Resolve any and all conflicts … <u>all</u> conflicts need to be resolved. Resolution does not mean forced to be consistent. Think about who created each item and

why. Errors and omissions occur in all types of records. Think about motivation, laws and human foibles.

Write a soundly-reasoned conclusion … writing forces you to organize, ensures that opposing evidence is negated, and helps you see flaws in your argument.

Complete and proper citations for all evidence … any statement of fact that is not well known requires a citation. Citations record the specific location of the data as well as any evaluation of that data. The elements of a citation are …

- Title
- Publication data (publisher, place, edition, reprint)
- Volume, page
- Creator (especially records, such as court and church records)
- Microfilm number
- Repository (perhaps call number)
- Special Collection Name (may be a record group)

… and any other items you need to find or evaluate the information. Err on the side of too much rather than too little information.

The guiding principle for citations is to allow anyone to find the record, judge the reliability of the source, and to use a reasonable format.

Those Quick Conclusions

from Michael John Neill's Genealogy Tip of the Day
September 26, 2018

Avoid jumping to a conclusion based on one document or a statement made by another researcher. This is particularly helpful when things don't make sense or seem a little off. A correspondent told me that a relative was a bigamist, marrying his second wife after his first wife apparently was too old to have children. The document he sent me was admittedly somewhat confusing, but confusion doesn't mean that the ancestor in question was married more than once.

Further research indicated that the ancestor was not a bigamist at all, but instead had named his oldest son after himself. It was the oldest son who married the woman that my correspondent thought was the ancestor's "secret family."

Upcoming Events

Adams County Historical Society [ACHS]
"Discover Your Adams County!"

Saturday, November 3, 2018   10 AM-1:15 PM

The initial program will focus on "Colonial Conewago Chapel," and will take place at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (The Conewago Chapel), 30 Basilica Drive, Hanover (Edgegrove), PA 17331. This exclusive mid-day program of the Conewago Chapel, the Mother Church of Pennsylvania west of the Susquehanna, will feature a historical tour of the Basilica, catered lunch, a musical recital of period music within the Basilica, viewing of selected parish artifacts, and a guided walking tour of the historic cemetery. This program is being jointly produced by the Adams County Historical Society and the Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Registration ends October 30th …
    $30 - ACHS member rate
    $35 - Non-member rate
    $40 - Non-member rate + 1yr ACHS Membership

For more information, visit
    achs-pa.org/events/conewago-chapel-tour

New Oxford Area Historical Society
History of the Mason-Dixon Line

Thursday, November 15, 2018   7:30 PM

David Peters will present a program on the history of the Mason-Dixon Line. Meeting will be held at the United 33 Fire Hall at 21 N. Bolton Street, New Oxford.

For more information, visit noahs-pa.org/

East Berlin Historical Preservation Society
Thaddeus Stevens in Pennsylvania –

Wednesday, November 21, 2018   7:30 PM

Ross Hetrick will speaking about "Thaddeus Stevens in Pennsylvania." Meeting will be held at Red Men's Hall, 332 W. King Street, East Berlin.

For more information visit ebhpspa.org/

Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania [GSP]
2100 Byberry Road, Suite 111
Philadelphia, PA 19116

Note: Advance Registration is required for each event due to space limitations. For more information visit genpa.org/

Tuesday, November 13, 2018   12 Noon-2 PM

ROOTS: Bring Your Ancestor to Lunch
An opportunity to meet over lunch with other researchers and discuss a specific topic. Led by Carol Sheaffer. Bring your own Lunch, GSP will supply coffee/tea and dessert
Registration: GSP Members Free; Non-Members $5

Thursday, November 15, 2018   6 PM-8 PM

Lecture: Online Military Records
Led by: Nancy C. Nelson and Carol M. Sheaffer
Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania
Registration: GSP Members $15; Non-Members $20

Saturday, November 17, 2018   10 AM-11:30 AM

DNA SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP
DNA Discussion: Testing, Results, Use in Genealogical Research
Registration: GSP Members Free; Non-Members $5
REGISTER: EMAIL- info@genpa.org

Tuesday, November 27, 2018 12   Noon-2 PM

ROOTS FOCUS: Online Military Records
An opportunity to meet over lunch with other researchers and discuss a specific topic. Led by Carol Sheaffer. Bring your own Lunch, GSP will supply coffee/tea and dessert
Registration: GSP Members Free; Non-Members $5

Federation of Genealogical Societies [FGS]

August 21–24, Washington, DC

National Conference — FGS makes its first visit to the nation's capital with the National Archives, Library of Congress, DAR Library, and more a Metro ride away.

Racing against Time in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, to save 300 Years of Land Records

from Dick Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter, ·
August 29, 2018

The handwriting of William Penn, the founding father of Pennsylvania, has weathered the ravages of time for 334 years, most recently buried amid reams of paper inside the Bucks County storage facility in Doylestown Township. His handwriting and that of many others in the deeds of early Pennsylvania are deteriorating on frayed, yellowed, mold-stained pages, their ink faded and vanishing. Some tomes produced after the Civil War were printed on paper whose wood pulp was supplemented by cloth recycled from Union uniforms. Some of the records may soon be unreadable.

Kofile Technologies, a company that specializes in preserving historical documents, has entered into a contract with the county to treat and rebind 700 of the volumes, records from 1684 to the late 1800s that also include emancipation documents for slaves and other miscellaneous recordings.

You can read all about the preservation efforts in an article by Vinny Vella in the Philadelphia Inquirer's web site at http://bit.ly/2LEsyLk. The article also contains a picture of many, many books of old records stacked on pallets.

The Creation of Papers

from Michael John Neill's Genealogy Tip of the Day
September 9, 2018

When reviewing any record, document, or family story think about the pieces of information that item contains and the events it mentions. Does that information suggest another record or source that may contain more detail? Would the events mentioned in the family story have caused the creation of other records?

Many events in a person's life cause the creation of some sort of "paper record." Try and get beyond birth, marriage, and death. A good way to begin analyzing a family tradition or story is to break it into the pieces that may have generated some sort of record or evidence and the pieces that probably did not.

Then focus on locating those records.