



OUR NAME'S THE GAME

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SOUTH CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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WWW.SCPGS.ORG

Upcoming Program Meetings:

2:30 p.m. October 2, 2022: Indian Languages Influence in the Susquehanna Region

Presenter: **Charles (Chip) Kauffman**

(Note: This presentation will be recorded and zoomed via YCHC Facebook page and available online.)

From the first inhabitants who migrated into the Susquehanna River area thousands of years ago to the period of European settlement in the 1600s to 1800s, many American Indian languages were spoken by diverse tribes who made the area their home or passed through on trade or exploratory ventures. Although most early languages are dead, their legacy lives on in the Susquehanna Valley through place names from Iroquoian and Algonquian languages once spoken in the area. This presentation will cover 17th century European contact with the region's early inhabitants and how those contacts shaped place names we take for granted in York and Lancaster Counties. Highlighting this will be origins and meanings of such names as Susquehanna, Codorus, Chickies, Turkey Hill, Conewago, Accomac, Tuckahoe, Conestoga.

Charles "Chip" Kauffman is an adjunct faculty member at York College of Pennsylvania where he teaches languages and language-related courses. Over many years at several colleges in the region, he has taught Italian, German, Russian and other languages. He is a retired certified U.S. Government linguist and author of various articles on languages and linguistics.

(Note: This presentation will be recorded and zoomed via YCHC Facebook page and available online.)

2:30 p.m. November 6, 2022: Revisiting Online Research of German Ancestors

Presenter: **Richard K. Konkell, Esquire**

This presentation will examine the vast number of original German genealogical records that are currently available online for the amateur or more advanced researcher. The primary websites examined will be archion.de, matricula-online.eu, familysearch.com, and ancestry.com, as well as websites of regional archives in France and Switzerland. Many of these websites have greatly expanded their records in recent years, and some are actively currently adding new records.

Richard K. Konkell is Vice President of the South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society.

From our President . . .

Why should I join the SCPGS?

As we strive to increase our membership, you might ask, “Why should I join the SCPGS?” With so much information and research assistance available on the internet, paying a membership fee to a local genealogical organization seems almost frivolous, or even unnecessary. Membership in a society such as the SCPGS has many benefits.

First, we promote the preservation of and access to local records and research materials that otherwise would be lost to obscurity. The SCPGS has published 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 of the 1862 York County draft enrollment lists, and so much more. Often, local organizations identify valuable local sources that a big genealogy website would never discover.

Secondly, we 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 have offered suggestions for overcoming roadblocks in my research, alerted me to unusual sources of information, and provided me with tidbits from their own research that helped me to advance my genealogical endeavors. Some time ago, a member gave me a copy of his ancestor’s Revolutionary War pension application because one of my ancestors submitted an affidavit to support the man’s claim, verifying that my fifth-great-grandfather was at the battle of Princeton even though I have found few other military records about him. Additionally, meetings of the SCPGS took me to churches and other local points of interest that I never would have visited otherwise.

Thirdly, genealogical organizations like the SCPGS 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. Digital copies are now available on Ancestry.com. We and other genealogical societies throughout Pennsylvania supported this endeavor.

Finally, by joining the SCPGS, 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 ensure 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!

Jonathan R. Stayer

President

Review of August 28, 2022, program: **Using Online Deeds in Family History Research**

by Becky Anstine

Our first program of the 2022-2023 was a presentation by Lynn Nelson on “Using Online Deeds in Family History Research.” Using deed books for family research is an often-overlooked source of information. Even if a family did not own property; there are many other business dealings which can be recorded in the books. Deeds can be used to identify parents and other family members, maiden names, prior or current residences. There are a variety of documents that can be found to add to a family history, such as: marital separations or prenuptial contacts, transfer of personal property, manumissions, power of attorney, etc.

Individuals can use the books to trace back the ownership of their property, establish boundaries or location, and sometimes find a description of buildings, fields, woods, etc. that are located on the property. A deed may not be recorded at the moment of the transactions, especially if they are passed down through inheritance. The actual recording of a deed may not occur for many years – sometimes when the property is sold to someone outside the family. Components of a deed were defined, and the steps involved in obtaining property were discussed.

York County Deeds can be found online through familysearch.org. The York County Archives has deed indexes online, but the actual deeds are only available at the archives or by ordering. Deeds can also be searched and read through IQS @ <https://www.searchiqs.com/PAYOR/Login.aspx>. Printouts of the deeds are available for a fee. Several other counties and states are available through IQS. Landex webstore covers deeds from 1948 to the present. The deeds are free to search and read, but there is a fee to print or download.

Lynn demonstrated how to use the IQS website for early York County deeds. Lancaster county deeds are available through the Lancaster County Recorder of Deeds (they use the IQS and have a guest registration).

Deed research can help flesh out your family’s history and give background to their lives.

16th Annual Bucks County Ancestry Fair

“comPENNdium: Pennsylvania Records and Research”

Hosted by Bucks County Genealogical Society, celebrating its 10th anniversary

Saturday, October 15, 2022, from 9AM to 4PM

Online via Zoom

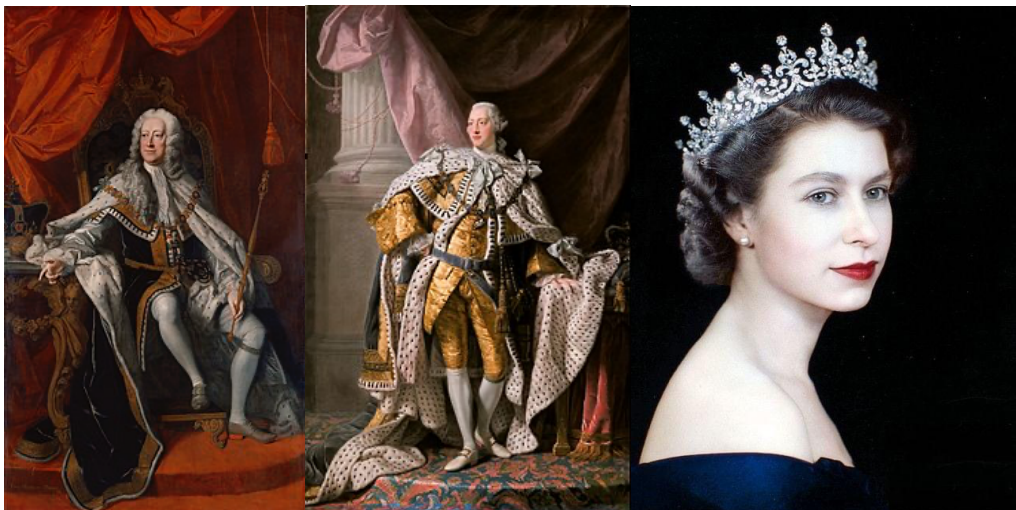
www.ancestryfair.org

In our 2022 Ancestry Fair "**comPENNdium: Pennsylvania Records & Research**", the Bucks County Genealogical Society will explore the vast Pennsylvania record sets that have accumulated since 1681 as many millions of people have made their homes here. Michael Lacopo will lead off with an overview of Pennsylvania history and genealogical research. Sidney Cruice will present two lectures — one on Pennsylvania Vital Records and another on Pennsylvania Database Treasures. Jerry Smith will cover Pennsylvania land records. Visit www.ancestryfair.org/ for complete information and registration.

Reflections on the Death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II
by Richard K. Konkel, Esquire

On September 8, 2022, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II passed away rather suddenly at Balmoral Castle in Royal Deeside, Aberdeenshire, Scotland at the age of 96 after a reign of over 70 years as Sovereign of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and of 14 other nations around the world including our neighbor to the North, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, among others. She was the next longest serving head of state in the world and the only surviving one to have served in World War II. The Queen's passing marks the end of an era. For many in the world, she has been a constant calming presence in a world of turbulent change. For many of us, our entire life has been during her reign, which some have described as a second Elizabethan Age. She was viewed as a rock of stability and a mother or grandmother of the nations by so many. Although the United States of America has not been subject to the British monarchy since our independence in 1776, many Americans have a great fascination with the Royal family and follow closely the lives of the late Monarch and her family.

I myself became very interested in the history and genealogies of the Royal houses of Europe in Middle School. This started when I was in sixth grade. I was astounded that Queen Elizabeth II was a descendant of William the Conqueror, Duke of Normandy, whose Norman Conquest of England in 1066 had such strong effects upon the English language, law, and history over the intervening nearly 1000 years. I made a careful study of the Norman, Plantagenet, Tudor, Stuart, Hanoverian, and Saxe-Coburg/Windsor dynasties.



King George II, King George III, and Queen Elizabeth II

It was very interesting that Her Majesty's funeral was the first one since that of King George II in 1760 to take place in Westminster Abbey. George II was also the last monarch to be buried in Westminster Abbey, largely because there was no more burial space in the Abbey. King George II who reigned from 1727 to 1760 was the second king of the German House of Hanover. He was king in 1741 when York, Pennsylvania was laid out and in 1749 when York County was founded. George Street in York where our current Judicial Center and my office are located is named after King George II. Other streets in York, such as King, Queen, Duke, and Princess [Prince's] street, are named after the members

of George II's Royal Family. This same King George II, with the aid of his Privy Council took steps to settle the disputed boundary between the proprietary colonies of Pennsylvania and Maryland that resulted in the survey of the Mason Dixon line. King George II was also the last British monarch to lead troops into battle in 1743 at the Battle of Dettingen during the War of the Austrian Succession and is said to have stood up at a performance of the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's Messiah which started the tradition of standing for performances of the work which continues to this day. King George II's grandson, King George III who reigned from 1760 to 1820 was the last king to reign over the American Colonies. He was the great great great great grandfather of Elizabeth II.

Queen Elizabeth II and all of her predecessors back to King William III and Queen Mary II in 1689 have been Constitutional Monarchs rather than absolute rulers. This position of the sovereign in the unwritten British constitution has led to the fostering of democracy in the British government. The United States of America in its founding documents is one of many nations to be an heir of the British democratic tradition.

Since 1714 the British Royal Family has been of mostly German ancestry. That being said, among their ancestors are the rulers of the Electorate of Hannover, the Electoral Palatinate, the Duchy and later Kingdom of Württemberg and numerous other small German principalities. Ancestors of King Charles III through his late father, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh include Kings of Greece and Denmark, Czars of Russia, and Kings of Prussia, as well as Grand Dukes of Hessen-Darmstadt and many smaller principalities. For those of us of German ancestry, the vast majority of our ancestors were subjects at one time or another of ancestors of King Charles III. It is further interesting to ponder that statistically nearly everyone of Western European ancestry is related in some way to Royalty. The challenge is proving that relationship!

The pomp and pageantry of the funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II is but a prelude to that of the coronation of King Charles III, which will happen sometime next year. While we mourn Her Majesty's passing, the ancient institution of monarchy lives on. We wish His Majesty well as his reign begins.

100th Anniversary of the Opportunity Center

by Becky Anstine

On June 15, 2019, the Church Women United celebrated their 100th year anniversary. The guest speaker was Rep. Carol Hill-Evans and included a buffet dinner, silent auction and was held at St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 830 West Market Street, York, PA. What was important in the celebration was the skit – the story of one of the group's endeavors which had undertaken the task of helping immigrants to York assimilate, learn English, and become citizens – The Opportunity Center.

The Opportunity Center was found in 1914 as a mission project of The Federation of Church Women of the City and County of York. In 1954, for the Fortieth Anniversary, Mrs. Paul E Klinedinst, recorded the history of the Center. Started in 1914 with \$3.00 in its budget, the International Missionary Union for Home Missions was decided that work should be done among the people living in the section of West Princess Street where most of the Italians lived. They made house to house visits to determine the needs of the residents – which included housing conditions. By 1916, the Union felt that

they should “secure” an Italian Pastor to hold a series of Evangelical meetings at the Princess Street Mission. In 1916, Miss Lillie Pope was hired as a Missionary. Lillie rented a room in an Italian home to be used for mission work. In 1918, the settlement was granted use of two room in the Princess Street Mission. By 1919, the mission decided to purchase a house on West Princess Street, two doors away from the Post Office. The first name selected for the house was “Sunshine Settlement”. In 1919, the name was changed to “Opportunity Center” and Miss Lillie Pope was named as Superintendent and was allowed to make her home in the 34 West Princess Street property.

Miss Hester Aldinger was hired to assist Miss Pope in 1921. Miss Lillie Pope resigned her position in 1923 due to ill health. Mrs. Valerie Ross was hired in 1924 to be the next Superintendent. 1934 saw the position of superintendent eliminated due to lack of income to pay her salary. Miss Hester Aldinger was to continue as a kindergarten and night schoolteacher, “doing as much as she is able”.

The Opportunity Center consisted of three rooms sparsely furnished and meagerly equipped where kindergarten, English and Citizenship classes, men’s classes, Sunday School, holiday parties, craft clubs, Mother’s clubs, vesper services were held. By 1926, over 1000 people from 15 different countries were helped by the center. A letter from a former student thanked the center for all the help they had received from the center, helping them become naturalized, learning about government, and giving so much support through the three years of night school that the individual had attended. Perhaps the letter was from Dionisio Pantano. In 1927, Doniniso had become a naturalized citizen. He worked in the masonry and cement business to earn money to bring his wife and children to America. In 1949, the family was reunited after an 11-year separation. The Center helped the family to learn English and become acquainted with American life. The Pantano family established a cement and masonry business in York which was responsible for the installation of sidewalks throughout York City and York County – such as the Wellington Project and York Suburban Junior High School.

In 1946, newspaper articles reported that the foreign brides of American GI’s were learning English and studying for their citizenship tests. The Center offered kindergarten and night school classes for adults. Social events such as a Sauer Kraut Supper, picnics, a variety of public programs, Christmas parties, plays and other activities. Hester Aldinger taught and operated the Center until 1971, when it closed. She received the Sertoma Club’s Service to Mankind and the York County Bar Association’s Liberty Bell award for her work with local immigrants. She resided at the Hahn Home until her death at the Barley Convalescent Home South on December 18th, 1979.

“To be ignorant of what occurred before you were born is to remain a child. For what is the worth of human life, unless it is woven into the life of our ancestors by the records of history?”

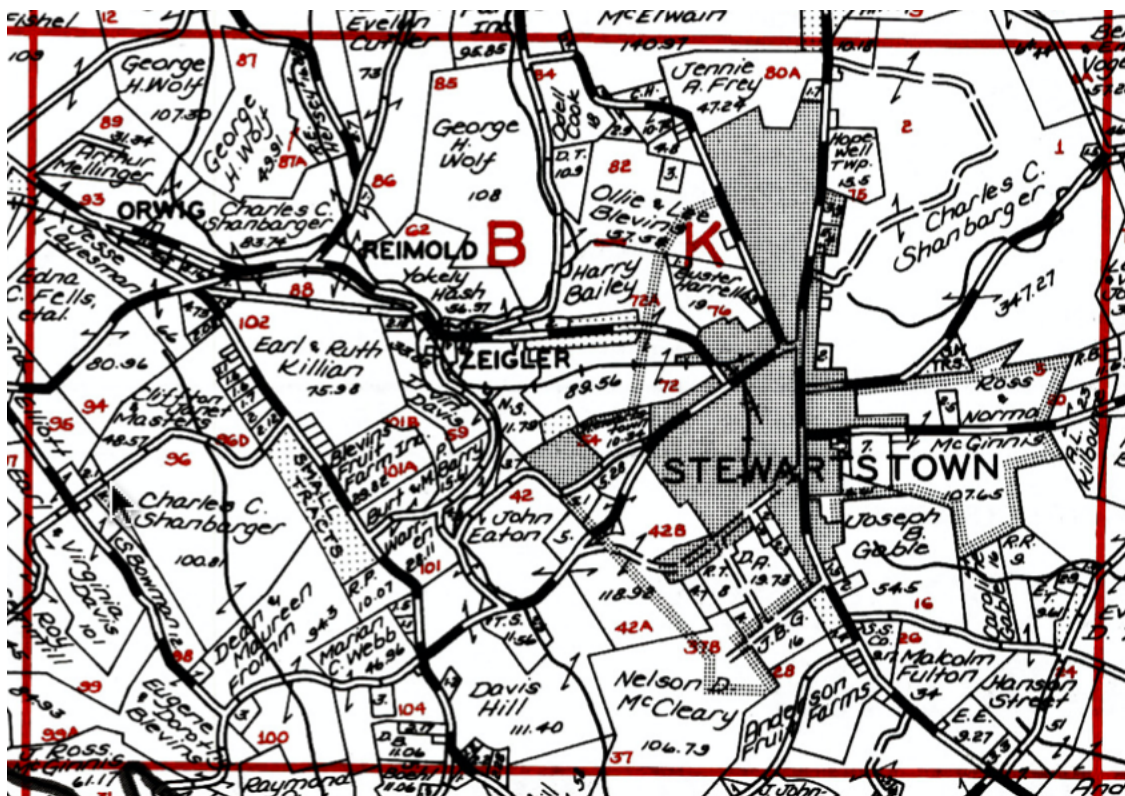
Marcus Tullius Cicero, Roman lawyer, philosopher, orator, statesman, and writer

Where Did They Live?

By Erica Runkles

In the course of her August 2022 presentation on “Using Online Deeds in Family History,” Lynn Nelson mentioned the desire of many of us to be able to gaze or walk upon the same property and grounds where our ancestors lived and toiled and may well... in our minds... still haunt. While deciphering a deed’s cryptic descriptions of property boundaries may eventually elucidate an exact location, there are some other images which can make the process easier. The 1860 and 1876 York County maps can be very helpful to show us the general areas our ancestors lived at a certain point in time, but the maps don’t delineate the lines, or size of their land holdings. County tax maps, which do indeed provide such details, are updated every year, and henceforth reflect only the current year’s information.

A number of years ago, I stumbled on a great resource at the York County History Center’s Archives and Library: The 1976 York County Atlas and Plat Book (974.841 A881), a 70-page paperback which celebrated York County’s Bicentennial of the American Revolution. Contained inside this slender volume are small plat maps and indexes for York County property owners in 1976. Most of the identified names are farmers with some acreage. However, the information provides a segue to the very large, bound, detailed volumes of tax maps at the York County Archives showing all county property owners. Personnel at the Archives confirmed that while usually destroyed, there are volumes of tax maps from 1973-1982 and 1984-1987 which were salvaged and are now housed in the Archives collections. These maps don’t have a plat booklet like the memorable 1976 publication, but they can still help track down where a possible ancestor resided or find the interim property owner which helps with a deed search.



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DATED MATERIAL – DO NOT DELAY

Please join the South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society

At the 48th Annual Oyster Festival

October 16th from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Agricultural and Industrial Museum

For wonderful food, music, museum tours, and demonstrations.

***** Look for our **SCPGS Table** and publications *****