

### ***Upcoming Programming***

2:30 p.m., Sunday, October 1, 2023: ***Striking for Pennsylvania.***

Presenter: Scott Mingus

In the summer of 1863, 160 years ago this year, one out of every seven Confederate soldiers that fought at Gettysburg arrived there after marching or riding through York County. Nearly 10% of the Union Army of the Potomac also came through the county before engaging the Confederates at Gettysburg. Author Scott Mingus will discuss the three different Confederate commands that invaded York County (Jubal Early's division from June 28-30, Jeb Stuart's cavalry on June 30-July 2, and the lesser-known James Nounnan raid from Dillsburg to Dover on June 28-29). He will as well relate the feverish efforts of the local farmers to protect their horses, livestock, and private property, as well as the desperate attempts of a motley collection of local home guard troops and state emergency militiamen to slow the Rebels. He will also briefly discuss the battle of Hanover and the defense of the world's longest covered bridge at Wrightsville.

Multiple award-winning author Scott Mingus is a retired scientist and executive in the global specialty paper industry. The Ohio native graduated from Miami University. He was part of the research team that developed the first commercially successful self-adhesive U.S. postage stamps, and he was a pioneer in the early development of bar code labels. He has written more than 30 Civil War and Underground Railroad books and numerous articles for *Gettysburg Magazine* and other historical journals. He has appeared on C-SPAN, C-SPAN3, PBS, PCN, and several other TV networks. Mingus writes a blog on the Civil War history of York County, PA, where he and his wife Debi live. He also has written six scenario books for miniature wargaming. He received lifetime achievement awards from the York County History Center and the Camp Curtin Historical Society for his many contributions to local Civil War history. His books and wargaming scenario books have received or been nominated for numerous national awards.

2:30 p.m., Sunday, November 5, 2023: ***The 1829 Answer and Defense of Catharina Ziegler of Codorus Township to Accusations of Witchcraft.***

Presenter: Richard Konkel

Description: The June 5, 1829 German language edition of the *York Gazette* features a lengthy article written by or for Catharina, wife of Johannes Ziegler of Codorus Township in answer to accusations made against her by "Doctor" Sebastian Keller and members of the Michael Lau family about participating in a *Hexentanz* (Witches' Dance) along the road to York led by a musician clad in red (the devil); being able to read people's minds and other traits historically attributed to witches. The

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**WWW.SCPGS.ORG**

presentation will explore the parties involved, the accusations, and the popular beliefs they were based on and how some of these beliefs have persisted into modern times. These events were almost exactly 100 years prior to the murder of Nelson Rehmeyer in 1928 and the 1929 Hex trials of the three murder suspects.

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

### ***There is no program meeting in December 2023.***

2:30 p.m., Sunday, January 7, 2024: ***Show and Tell and Ask.***

Our traditional January meeting provides an opportunity for “education and enlightenment” with a program of sharing research findings and seeking assistance with research roadblocks. Come ready to talk about your latest genealogical discoveries or about some new, exciting source of information upon which you stumbled. Bring your research questions and problems to see if anyone in the group can offer helpful suggestions. Possibly you have an old family photograph or treasured heirloom that has an unusual story associated with it. Share that story with us! We hope that you will join us for an interesting and entertaining afternoon!

### **From the President . . .**

#### ***Mentors***

On August 26, we lost another one of our charter members, Gloria Aughenbaugh Knobloch. Ninety-five years old at the time of her passing, Gloria had been a vital contributor to our society for decades, serving as Vice President in the 1990s. At various times, she also held the offices of Recording Secretary, Director of Special Projects, and Director of Public Relations. She participated in the preparation of a number of our Special Publications, becoming known for her work on the “poor children” identified in the early-nineteenth-century York County tax lists. For me, however, she was one of my genealogical mentors.

Gloria and other members of the SCPGS, most notably David Hively and Len Heilman, welcomed me to the SCPGS when I first joined in 1981 as a newbie genealogist. These three individuals in particular encouraged my beginning efforts and offered guidance and suggestions as my research progressed. Thirty years my senior, Gloria often provided a motherly presence in my genealogy world.

Two other SCPGS members impacted my genealogical pursuits even more. From the days of my childhood, Alfreda Patton Davidson was closely connected to my family, being one of the best friends of my mother. She quickly recognized my early fascination with history, and she continually urged me to investigate my family lineage. To rebuff her constant prodding, I often quoted St. Paul’s words to his young protégé Timothy: *Neither give heed to . . . endless genealogies, which minister questions . . .* (I Timothy 1:4 KJV). She just laughed and half joked that someday . . .

Alfreda took me on my first visits to the State Library of Pennsylvania and to the D.A.R. Library in Washington, DC, even before I expressed an interest in my own genealogy. I still have the childish, tentative pedigree charts that I drew by hand at her coaxing. Many times, after I became a committed ancestor hunter, she would remind me that “I told you so!” She provided much encouragement and guidance over the years right up to the time of her untimely death in 2008.

As important as Alfreda was in laying the foundation on which my genealogical avocation has been built, former librarian of the York County History Center (then The Historical Society of York County), Landon Reisinger gave me the tools and instilled the principles that have defined my genealogical efforts since we first met in 1979. In the summer of that year, as a part of my financial aid package, the college work-study program placed me as a student assistant in the History Center’s library under the tutelage of Landon. Although I had experience working in libraries in school, I had little

understanding of genealogical methods and sources. Landon and his volunteers quickly taught me what I needed to know to serve the library's patrons.

As my personal interest in my family history developed, Landon pointed me to pertinent resources and shared valuable advice on research methodologies. Ever concerned that all ancestral data should be extracted from original records, he ingrained in me the importance of locating those sources and basing research on them. I am still a stickler for accuracy and authenticity in genealogical research. According to SCPGS records, Landon paid the dues for my initial year of membership in 1981.

Primarily based on my time at the History Center with Landon and on my growing expertise in genealogical research, the Pennsylvania State Archives hired me as a reference archivist in 1985, launching a career that extended for 35 years. They were looking for a new staff member who could help them meet the demands of the burgeoning fascination with family history. I am ever grateful to Landon for enabling me to have a life where my passion with my profession were combined.

Looking over this list of mentors, it is no surprise that all of them were recipients of the SCPGS's Henry James Young Award. In fact, Landon was the first one. Not only did Gloria, David, Len, Alfreda, and Landon contribute significantly to the genealogical community, each one of them greatly influenced my life, molding me into the genealogist and local historian that I am today. I thank them for the time and knowledge that they invested in me. I hope that you have such excellent mentors in your life. Our society is a good place to find them!

Jonathan R. Stayer  
President

### ***Gloria Lorraine Aughenbaugh Knobloch Obituary***



Gloria Lorraine (Williams) Aughenbaugh Knobloch, 95, passed away Saturday, August 26, 2023, at Country Meadows York West. She was the wife of the late Harry Ellis Aughenbaugh whom she married March 14, 1947, and the late J. Phillip Knobloch, Jr. who she married on October 18, 2014.

A Celebration of Life Tribute Service will be held at 10:00 AM Friday, September 8, 2023, at Heffner Funeral Chapel & Crematory, Inc., 1551 Kenneth Road, York, with Chaplain Gloria Bose of Country Meadows York West officiating. A visitation will be held from 9-10:00 AM Friday at the Funeral Chapel. Private burial will be in Prospect Hill Cemetery.

Born December 27, 1927, in York, a daughter of the late George Ernest and Estella Irene (Spahr) Williams, she was a 1945 graduate of William Penn Senior High School. Mrs. Aughenbaugh was a proofreader at Progressive Typographers, now Progressive Technologies, Inc., for 21 years until her retirement in 1981. She was a charter member of the South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society where she served as an officer and board member of many years. In 2005, Gloria was awarded the Dr. Henry James Young Award for her contributions to genealogy and the history of York County. She served as a library volunteer for 25 years at the York County History Center and also volunteer proofreader of several publications by the Society. Mrs. Aughenbaugh created several compilations published by the SCPGS including "Poor" Children Named on the Tax Lists 1811-1844 York County, Pennsylvania. Gloria also was a member of her high school class reunion committee.

Gloria was also a member of Col. James Smith Chapter, DAR; Heritage Trust of York Co.; Adams Co. Historical Society; Lancaster Co. Mennonite Historical Society; New England Historical Genealogical Society; Palatines to America; life member of the Duston/Dustin Family Assoc. of Mass.; Welsh-American Genealogical Society; Lutheran Social Services Auxiliary; and Salvation Army Auxiliary.

Mrs. Aughenbaugh is survived by two stepsons, John Knobloch, III and wife Nichelle of Spring Grove and William Knobloch and wife Stephanie of Lititz; stepson-in-law Michael Kochansky of South Carolina; three grandchildren, Julie L. and husband Clifford Russell, Jonathan D. Nester, and Andrew D.

and wife Rachel Nester all of Baton Rouge, LA; five step grandchildren; four great grandchildren, Luke A. and Noah R. Russell, Michael A. Nester, and Sydney R. Nester; a step great great grandchild; and nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by a daughter, Pamela L. Nester; a son-in-law, David Nester; stepdaughter, Lynn Kochansky; brothers, Paul and Robert Williams; a sister-in-law, Ardella Williams; and an aunt and uncle, Earl and Lucy Bosserman with whom she resided.

Memorial contributions may be made to York County History Center, 250 E. Market St., York, PA 17403. [www.yorkhistorycenter.org](http://www.yorkhistorycenter.org) or to Margaret E. Moul Home, 2050 Barley Rd., York, PA 17408. [www.margaretemoul.org](http://www.margaretemoul.org)

August 27, 2023, SCPGS Presentation by Charles “Chip” Kauffman: **PENNSILFAANISCH DEITSCH** by Becky Anstine

For some people growing up in York County, it was common to hear neighbors and family members speaking Pennsylvania Dutch. As the years have passed, the number of local people who speak this dialect has decreased. Newcomers to the area have found the language to be somewhat of a mystery. Chip’s presentation explained the who, when, where, and how this dialect developed and came to America. Around 300,00 people in 20 states and Ontario, Canada still speak the language. The dialect came from the Palatine area of Germany with influences from the Netherlands, Belgium, Austria, and other surrounding areas. Upon arrival of the Anabaptists in Pennsylvania, the dialect became a combination of Reformed German, Palatine dialect, and English. In Pennsylvania, the dialect is spoken in Berks, Lehigh, Northumberland, Cumberland, Dauphin, Lancaster, and York counties. The states of Ohio and Indiana also have areas where Dutch is spoken. Anyone who knows German will see the difference between the Pa Dutch spelling and German spelling of some of the words that Chip shared with us.

<b>Pa Dutch expressions</b>	<b>Pronunciation</b>	<b>English</b>
Guder Daag!	GOO-der DAHG	Hello, Good Day
Me Naame is _____	MY NAH-meh is _____	My name is _____
Dankaa/Dengki	DAHnk-yuh/DENKee	Thanks
1-10	eebsm, zqweem, drei, vier, fimf, sex, siwwe, acht, nein, zehe	

Chip’s presentation is available on the History Center’s Youtube site under SCPGS (scroll down the listings). Other Resources: YouTube “Your Pa Dutch Minute” (Douglas Madenford); Pa Dutch online forum; Amish-heritage.org; and Masthof.com (books on learning to speak Pa Dutch

**ISAAC LATTER was the name, not LATTER ISAAC**

**Original Record Causes Error**

Contributed by David P. Hively

The SCPGS is commended for publishing the series of Special Publications titled *1862 Enrollment Lists York County, Pennsylvania*. As someone who prepared some of the early SCPGS Special Publications, I know how much time and effort is involved in preparing and publishing them. I thank those individuals who have made contributions to the 1862 Draft Enrollment Lists.

I noticed, however, in Volume 5 of the Enrollment Lists, which includes Chanceford Township, a name that was listed with the given name and surname reversed. On page 9 of the book, the entry appears as “Isaac, Latter,” implying the man’s name was “Latter Isaac.” Other sources verify that he was indeed Isaac Latter. Although I am not a descendant of him, I am familiar with this man. While he seems to have no descendants, he had a connection to my mother’s Lighty family. Isaac Latter died two years before my mother was born in 1916, but she knew the name “Isaac Latter” and his association to her family.

Jonathan Stayer, SCPGS president, recently shared with me a copy of the original record page on which his name is listed. All the other individuals written on the original have the surnames entered first followed by the given names except for Isaac Latter. Consequently, it is understandable why the compilers of the publication transcribed the name incorrectly.

How was my family connected to Isaac Latter? My mother was Mary (Lighty) Hively, the daughter of Benjamin Franklin Lighty and the granddaughter of Maynard Benjamin Lighty. On November 11, 1889, Maynard B. Lighty purchased a 50-acre farm located in Chanceford Township, York County, Pennsylvania, from Isaac Latter for \$1,000. The property was located on what is now known as Boyd Road in Chanceford Township. Isaac had purchased the farm from Ann Kay and Margaret J. Steele on May 30, 1869. Although the 1889 deed does not include the condition that the Maynard Lighty family would care for Isaac Latter until he died, my mother knew of that responsibility to which the Lightys had agreed. Maynard Lighty retained the former Isaac Latter farm until 1920 when he sold it for \$4000 to James S. H. Bacon.

The death of Isaac Latter occurred on September 12, 1914. His death notice was printed identically on September 15 in both *The York Daily* and *The York Dispatch*.

#### Isaac Latter

*"Isaac Latter died at his home in Chanceford township, last Friday, of a complication of diseases. He was in his eighty-fourth year. The funeral will be held this morning at 10 o'clock from his old home. There are no survivors. The deceased was born in England and came to this country many years ago. He settled in Chanceford township and has remained there ever since his arrival in America. Interment will be made in the cemetery of the Bethel Methodist church, near Shenk's Ferry."*

Maynard B. Lighty provided the personal information on Isaac's Pennsylvania death certificate, which recorded that Isaac, a widower, was born November 2, 1829, in England. He died at age 85 years, 10 months, and 9 days. Physician Dr. D. C. Posey attended him from September 7 through September 11. The cause of death was listed as senility with a contributing factor of "Bronchopneumonia."

Lighty paid funeral director Earl B. Burg for the costs of the funeral casket and shroud. According to a September 15, 1914, receipt from Mr. Burg. After some deductions, the net expense was \$14.82.

Additional research yielded many insights about the life of this man whose fate became intertwined with the history of my family. The 1850 census lists an Isaac Lattah (age 18) living in a household with presumed parents John Lattah (age 48) and Harriet Lattah (age 45) and presumed siblings James Lattah (age 15) and Elizabeth Lattah (age 6). The family resided in London Britain Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania. As will be demonstrated later, the Isaac in this household almost certainly was the subject of this article.

The 1860 census shows Isaac Latta (age 30), a laborer, living with the McCullough family in Chanceford Township, York County. This family included a Thomas McCullough (age 40) a boatman by occupation. Most likely, he was the Thomas McColough who is listed directly above Isaac Latter in draft enrollment book. Thus, between 1850 and 1860, Isaac moved from Chester to York County.

On the 1862 Chanceford draft enrollment list, Thomas McColough's occupation was recorded as "Cpt Barge for st flower" with his military service as "Captain of the Barge in the Navy of the US." Isaac Latter's occupation was "Cpt Mate" and "Cpt Mate Barge in the Navy of the US" as his military service. Both commenced service on May 9, 1862. This evidence suggests that they served together, Latter being mate on McCullough's vessel. They probably knew each other before living in the Chanceford Township because both were from Chester County. Thomas McCullough is listed in the Chanceford Township 1890 Census of Veterans, but Isaac Latter is not.

The biographical portion for Chanceford Township in Gibson's 1886 *History of York County, Pennsylvania* yields the following information about Thomas McCullough. He was born in Chester County Pennsylvania in 1818. In 1856 he came to Chanceford Township and engaged in farming and boating. "When the tocsin [sic; an alarm or other signal sounded by a bell or bells] of war was sounded, he offered his life and interest in the defense of his country's honor. They received him and chartered his boats at Baltimore to convey soldiers across the Southern rivers, and he many days lay defenseless under the enemy's fire on the Pamunkey until the malarial fever drove him home."

Dr. Benjamin Franklin Porter of Chanceford Township was another connection between Isaac Latter and Thomas McCullough. The Gibson *History* sketch states that Mr. McCullough had married Miss Eliza Porter of New Garden Township, Chester County in 1848, and it contains a long biographical sketch of Dr. Porter, born in 1827 in Delaware. When Porter was three years old, his father Benjamin moved the family to New Garden Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania. This is where Eliza McCullough was from! In time, the Porters moved to Chanceford Township and lived near the McCullough family. In fact, in 1860 the families lived on adjoining properties. The father Benjamin Porter was a farmer, his son Benjamin F. Porter (age 30) was a "doctor of medicine" and the daughter Mary Ann, (age 24) was a teacher. Eliza McCullough and Dr. Porter were quite likely siblings. After his medical training, Dr. Porter had come back to Chanceford Township. The 1870 census has Dr. Porter's father, Benjamin Porter (age 82) living with the Thomas McCullough family. Most likely he was there because Thomas was his son-in-law.

From November 13, 1871, through February 14, 1875, Isaac Latter, or a member of his household was a patient of Dr. Benjamin Franklin Porter. Dr. Porter made 11 visits to the Latter home during that time and twice prescribed medicine according to a patient account ledger of Dr. Porter at the York County History Center.

On the 1870 census, Isaac Latta (age 38) was living with M A {Mary Ann} Latta (age 36) in Chanceford Township and working as a canal boatman. His personal property was valued at \$1500 and his real estate, \$2000.

The 1880 census has Isaac Latter (age 51), a farmer born in England, and residing in Chanceford Township with wife Mary A. (age 46). Also listed are his nephew William I. and niece Mary.

In the 1900 census for the same township, Isaac Latter was a boarder living in the Maynard Lighty household and was identified as widowed carpenter.

By 1910, now aged 80, Isaac Lighty was still living in the Lighty home with (as yet) no other relatives mentioned. The census reports that he immigrated to the United States in 1840 and was naturalized. I have been unable as yet to find the record of Isaac's naturalization.

Remaining with the Lighty family after Isaac's death, the Latter family Bible provides limited information. (The Bible later passed from Maynard to son Benjamin Franklin Lighty, then to his grandson David Hively.) The Bible record shows: "Isaac Latter, born the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November 1829" and in a different hand "Isaac Latter died September 11 A. D. 1914, age 84 years, 10 mon. and 9 days. William Isaac Latter born 20 of April 1867." On another page: "Mary Ann Clark born February th 11 1834. Mary Ann Clark Latter died Oct the 3 1896." The birth and death dates of Isaac and his wife match the dates on their tombstone in Bethel Methodist Cemetery. The Bible contains no marriage entries. As suggested by the 1880 census, William Isaac Latter appears not to have been the son of Isaac and Mary Ann Latter.

As noted in the 1910 census, Isaac Latter had come to America in 1840. Since he would have been only about 10 at the time, some family members most likely traveled with him. A John Latter died in 1869 in London Britain Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania. His wife was Harriet, and one of his four children was a son Isaac. The others were girls named Miriam, Jane, and Elizabeth. The death certificate of Isaac states his father was John. The 1860 census lists John and Harriet Latter, ages 68 and 53, living in Chester County with Strickersville as their post office. John Latter had been born in England.

On May 15, 1839, the ship Quebec arrived in New York City. In steerage on this vessel were John Latter, age 39, Harriet Latter, 34, Isaac Latter, 9, Miriam Latter, 7, and Jane Latter, 5. John's occupation was given as laborer. The family had come from "Great Britain."

Finally, using available sources, other interesting and helpful details about Isaac Latter and his family were discovered. For example, a "List of Letters Remaining in the Post Office, at Safe Harbor, for the quarter ending March 31st, 1859" includes Isaac Latter (Lancaster [County Pennsylvania] Intelligencer, April 5, 1859). This Safe Harbor was probably the village of that name along the Susquehanna River in Lancaster County.

In 1883, Isaac Latter's wife Mary Ann Latter and his assumed nephew William Isaac Latter were found guilty by a jury trial of assault and battery on a 10-year-old child named "Carrie Wanzell." On the stand, the child "gave her testimony in a straight-forward manner." The 1880 census finds Carrie in the household of her parents Christian and Kate Wanzell of East Marietta in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. The Latters lived in York County across the Susquehanna River so the distance between the locations was not far. What brought the Latters in contact with Wanzell and what caused the assault remains unknown unless court papers of the case have survived.

This writer has not checked all possible sources, some of which may show certain statements are not accurate or may provide additional information. Corrections or further details will be greatly appreciated.

### ***Using Church Marriage Records in Genealogical Research***

***By Richard K. Konkel, Esquire***

***SCPGS Vice-President***

In my previous article I explored using baptismal records in genealogical research. This article will address using various church marriage records. As discussed in the previous article, marriage was one of the seven sacraments in the Roman Catholic Church, but following the Protestant Reformation it was not considered a sacrament in any of the various Protestant denominations.

In early American Protestant churches, particularly Pennsylvania German Lutheran and German Reformed records, marriage records are scarce or entirely missing, perhaps in part because the rite of Holy Matrimony was not considered a sacrament. It should be noted however that marriage records are generally very complete in the Lutheran and Reformed congregations in Europe. The existence of marriage records in Protestant church records in Europe being due in part because the churches were part of the State and until the nineteenth century, when civil registration of births, marriages and deaths came into being, were the only entity maintaining vital records of these events.

At a presentation about 30 years ago by Stan and Mimi Miller at a Genealogy Conference at the York LDS Family History Center, good advice was given to always first look at marriage records in a place where ancestors lived because there are fewer of them than baptisms and they often provide maiden names and names of parents of the parties. Lutheran and Reformed marriage records in Germany prior to the 1800s generally list the name and residence of the bride and groom with the names and occupations of their fathers. If the groom is a widower, his father is not listed. If the bride is a widow, her late husband is listed, but no maiden name or father's name is given. Sometimes there are witnesses listed. In Switzerland, only the names of the parties are listed. No parents or occupations are listed. In early Swiss baptisms, the mother's maiden name is almost always listed, whereas in Germany, the maiden names of mothers only began appearing later in the 18<sup>th</sup> and into the 19<sup>th</sup> century in baptismal records.

German marriages generally took place in the home parish of the bride. The most common terms for marriage in German are *Trauung*, *Heirat*, and *Hochzeit*. In the Reformed church records of the

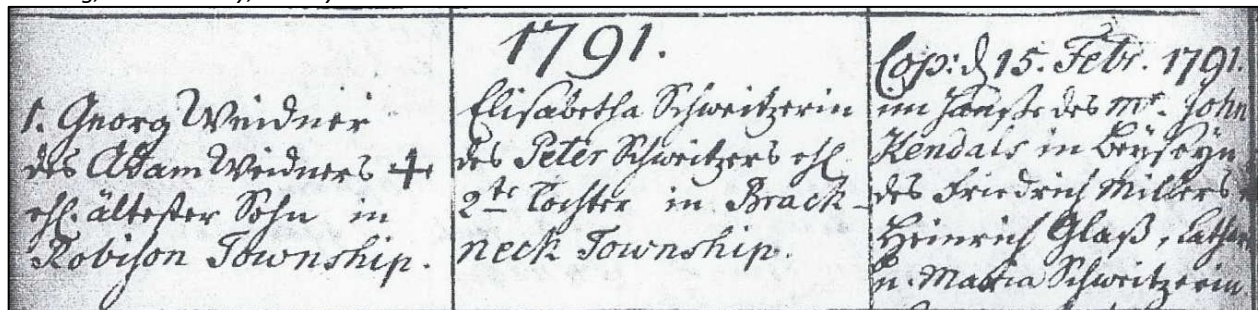
former Palatine town of Essenheim, Kreis Mainz/Bingen, Rheinland-Pfalz, where numerous 18<sup>th</sup> century York County emigrant families originated, the term *Hochzeit* seems to be used more commonly for marriages with wedding celebrations in the parish hall. The term is not used for simple marriages in the church without an extended celebration. Marriages generally did not happen during the penitential seasons of Lent and Advent. The most common times for larger wedding celebrations was in the months of February, prior to Ash Wednesday, and November after the harvest and before Advent. Some celebrations would last for several days.

Marriage records in Pennsylvania German Lutheran and Reformed churches in the 18<sup>th</sup> century can be rather sparse. Of the existing 18<sup>th</sup> century church records in York County, Kreutz Creek Reformed Church only recorded two marriages. Strayer's Lutheran Church in Dover Township recorded just over 100 marriages from 1758 to 1772, probably all performed by Pastor Lucas Raus. Canadochly Union Church recorded about 47 marriages from 1755 to 1759 performed by Rev. Joh. Samuel Schwedfeger. Stehley's Union Church in Chanceford Township only recorded five marriages. All of the other country congregations of York County recorded no marriages. The churches in the towns of York and Hanover had more numerous and consistent marriage records. First Reformed in York has nearly continuous marriage records from 1766 and First Moravian has some records starting about 1758. Christ Lutheran Church in York has marriages fairly continuously from 1735 to 1767 and then a gap to 1796. This gap is perhaps explained by a missing volume or private marriage registers maintained by Rev. Nicholas Kurtz and Rev. Jacob Göring who were pastors during this time. St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Hanover has 18<sup>th</sup> century marriage records while Emanuel Reformed in Hanover has none.

Why is there such a great scarcity of marriage records in the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century among the Pennsylvania Germans? The late Pastor Frederick S. Weiser offered several explanations why this may have been so. These early German Lutheran and Reformed congregations often shared a minister with a dozen other congregations. The church record book was kept in the church, usually in a cupboard or on a shelf in the altar or pulpit. The baptisms and communion services took place within the church and were recorded there. Marriages largely did not happen in the church until the mid-1900s. Before that marriages were rarely performed in the church, but more often at the pastor's home or at a tavern. Another possible reason for the lack of church records for marriages was the practice of Justices of the Peace and various other civil authorities having the power to perform marriages. Few records of this exist from the 18<sup>th</sup> century, but a fair number are to be found from the 19<sup>th</sup> century onward. Pennsylvania also was a state that acknowledged and honored common law marriage until it was completely abolished by the Courts in 2005. It only required the parties to enter into an agreement to marry by uttering *verba in praesenti* and holding themselves out to the community as husband and wife.

The below marriage record of Georg Weidner and Elisabetha Schweitzer in Berks County, presents a very complete marriage record full of information much like those kept in Europe. Please note the marriage taking place at the "house of Mr. John Kendal." This is very possibly a tavern.

*Marriage of Georg Weidner and Elisabetha Schweitzer, 15 February 1791, Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Reading, Berks County, Pennsylvania.*

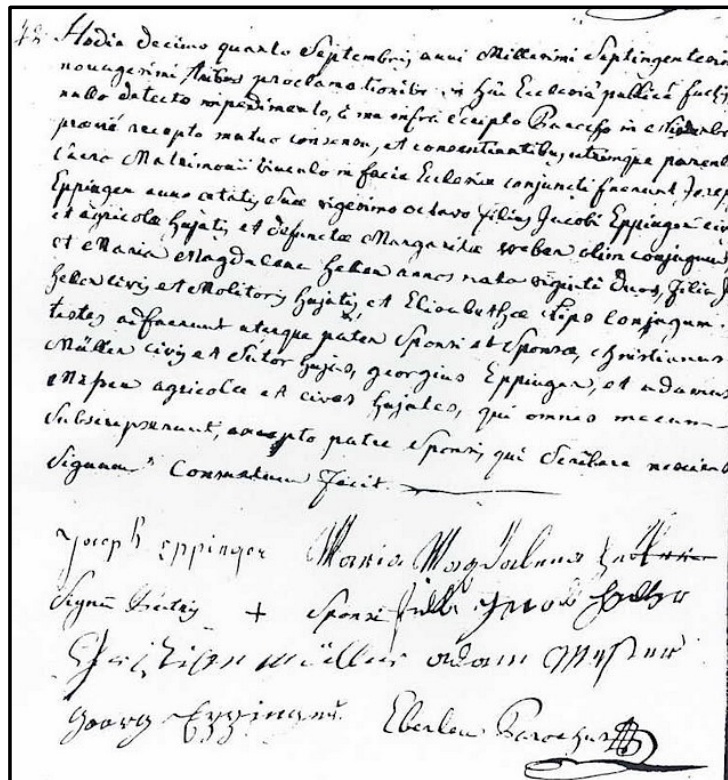




[Transcription] 1791 1. [groom] Georg Weidner des Adam Weidners + ehl. ältester Sohn in Robison Township. [bride] Elisabetha Schweitzerin des Peter Schweitzers ehl. 2te Tochter in Brackneck Township. [marriage] Cop; [uliert] 15. Febr. 1791 im Hauße des Mr. John Kendals in Beÿseÿe des Friedrich Millers, Heinrich Glaß, Catharina u. Maria Schweitzerin

[Translation] 1791. 1. [groom] Georg Weidner the deceased Adam Weidner's legitimate eldest son in Robeson Township. [bride] Elisabetha Schweitzer, Peter Schweitzer's legitimate 2nd daughter in Brecknock Township. Married the 15th of February 1791 in the house [tavern?] of Mr. John Kendal in the presence of Friedrich Miller, Heinrich Glaß, Catharina and Maria Schweitzer.

Marriage of Joseph Eppinger and Maria Magdalena Heller, 14 September 1790, Roman Catholic Church, Niederbronn-les-Bains, Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France. Archives Department Bas-Rhin, Strasbourg, France.



[translation] 14 September 1790 after three times public proclamation in the church and no impediments detected was by me in the parish church in Niederbronn joined in matrimony Joseph Eppinger age 28, son of Jacob Eppinger citizen and farmer of this place and the deceased Margaretha Weber his wife, and Maria Magdalena Heller age 22, daughter of Philipp Jacob Heller citizen and miller of this place and Elisabetha Lips his wife. Witnesses Christian Müller citizen and tailor of this place, Georg Eppinger and Adam Meßer farmers and citizens of this place. The parties, father of the bride and witnesses signed below. By Curate Antoine Eberle of the parish.

We will next discuss Roman Catholic marriage records. The example

above of Joseph Eppinger and Maria Magdalena Heller who were ancestors of mine who emigrated to Ukraine in 1809 is found in the church records for Niederbronn-les-Bains, Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France. This was the early part of the French Revolution shortly before the Reign of Terror had begun and the church was closed, and the Priest had fled for his life. Services only resumed there in 1801. This record shows a very complete marriage record, recording the reading of the banns, names, and ages of the parties, names of parents with mothers' maiden names, and witnesses. The parties all signed the church register. The practice of the parties and witnesses signing the register had become common by the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century in Alsace and across the Rhine in Baden. It was practiced in Catholic and Protestant churches.

The reading of the banns from the pulpit at three consecutive church services prior to the wedding was common in Protestant and Catholic churches. It was practiced in Lutheran churches in Pennsylvania up into the 1970s, although not legally necessary by that time. The banns were to inform the congregation and public of the pending marriage and to ensure that there were no impediments to the marriage, particularly a party already being married to someone else! The lines from the marriage

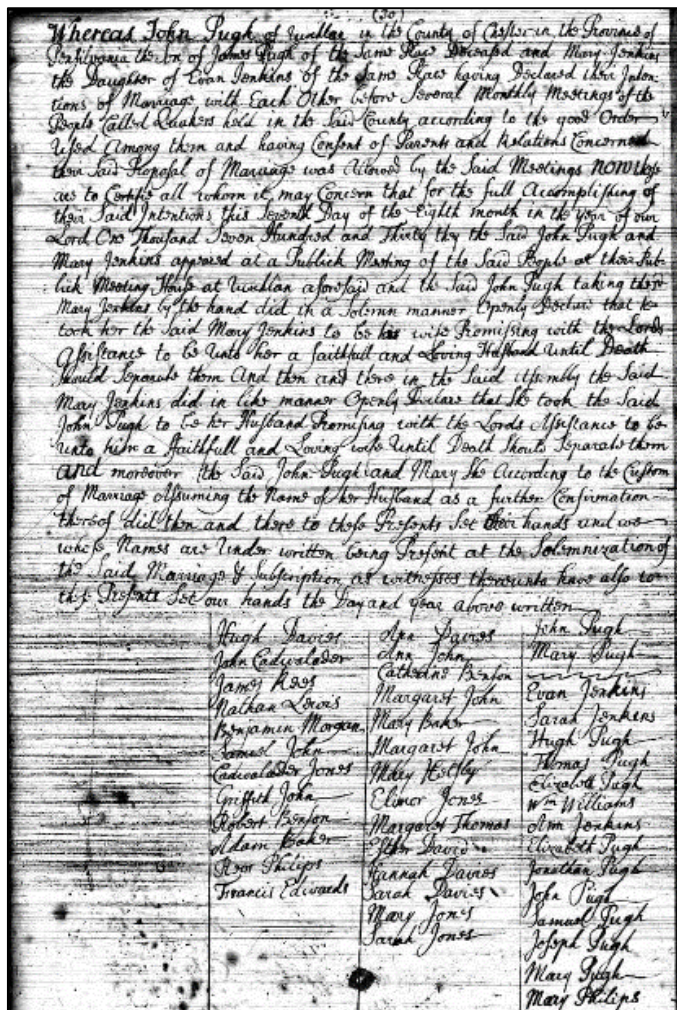
rite “*speak now or forever hold your peace*” that appears in movies and television programs is from the practice of reading the bans. With the introduction of marriage licenses, the reading of the bans is no longer practiced. Prior to marriage licenses being universally required, a special license could be obtained from the government to marry without the bans being read.

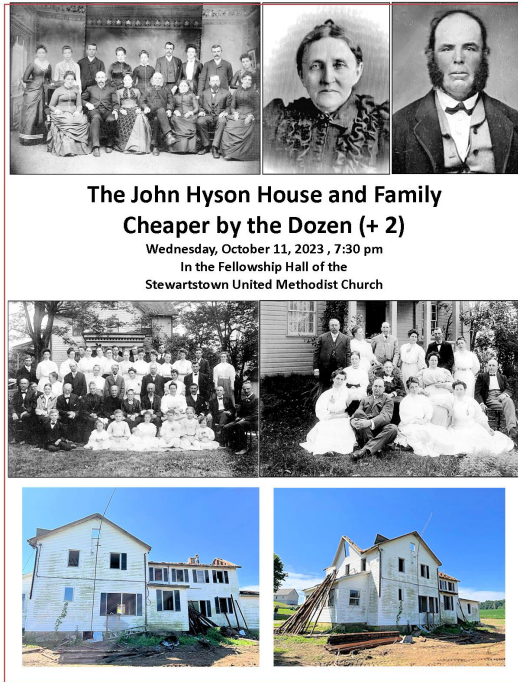
Roman Catholic Canon Law strictly governed which related parties could marry. In small villages where everyone was related, there were often dispensations granted for marriages between persons related by a certain degree of consanguinity. First cousins were not allowed to marry under Canon Law. Dispensations that I have seen have been for parties related in the third and fourth degree of consanguinity. Some of these I have been able to figure out, but some predate the earliest church records for the locality. In Reformed churches in Baden, I have encountered a number of marriages between first cousins. This is something that would not have happened in Roman Catholic congregations.

In some marriages, a dispensation had to be granted because of relationship by affinity or marriage. A case in point is the marriage in the Huguenot village of Ludweiler in 1748 of Pierre Renollet born 1719, brother of York County 1749 emigrant Jean Daniel Renollet (1725-1800). Pierre married Susanne Desgrange (1703-1772), the widow of his great uncle, Paul Renollet. A dispensation from the Prince of Nassau-Saarbrücken was required as the bride and groom were so closely related by marriage.

In Pennsylvania marriages among the Society of Friends, better known as Quakers, are unique

and very informative documents. The Quakers are non-Trinitarian, with no ordained clergy. They do not baptize or practice Holy Communion. For their marriages, the parties mutually marry each other in the presence of other members of the Society of Friends. Marriages were closely monitored, and the parties had to get multiple permissions before they could actually marry. Sometimes they lost patience and resorted to getting married by “a Priest.” This was a grave offense that could result in expulsion from the Society of Friends. Marrying a non-Quaker could also result in serious discipline or expulsion. Quaker marriage certificates are recorded in the appropriate Monthly Meeting. They recite the marriage promises between the parties. The bride and groom sign in the right-hand column. Their close relatives sign right under them. The rest of the congregation signs in the other columns. *Marriage of John Pugh of Uwchlan, Chester County, Pennsylvania, son of James Pugh deceased to Mary Jenkins of Uwchlan, daughter of Evan Jenkin. Married 7<sup>th</sup> day of the 8<sup>th</sup> month 1730 [7 October 1730] at Uwchlan Meeting House. Recorded in the minutes of Goshen Monthly Meeting.*





**The John Hyson House and Family  
Cheaper by the Dozen (+ 2)**

Wednesday, October 11, 2023 , 7:30 pm  
In the Fellowship Hall of the  
Stewartstown United Methodist Church

**The John Hyson House & Family: Cheaper by the Dozen (+ 2)**

A presentation entitled "Cheaper by the Dozen (+ 2): The John Hyson House and Family" will be given by Dr. Donald Linebaugh on Wednesday, October 11, 2023, at the Stewartstown United Methodist Church. The program will begin at 7:30 pm and will be held in the fellowship hall.

The early 19th-century John Hyson farmhouse, located in East Hopewell Township, was demolished this past year following the construction of a new house. Dr. Linebaugh documented the house with photographs and measured drawings as the structure was torn down. The house is one of several Hyson family properties along a one-mile stretch of Round House Church Rd., including the two Hyson Schools, the Robert B. Hyson House (John's brother), the Archibald Hyson House (destroyed by fire) (John's brother), and the Hyson Mill.

John (b. 1820; died 1892) and Margaret Miller Hyson (b. 1827; died 1910) raised an amazing brood of 14 children in the house, all of whom survived into adulthood and all of whom attended the nearby Hyson School. The children, 9 girls, and 5 boys, were born between 1848 and 1873.

The Hyson House was a two-story vernacular frame farmhouse with a rear ell addition. The structure was

constructed using heavy "German" framing typical of the period, and the rear addition seems to have been added in the late 1850s to early 1860s, likely to accommodate the couple's rapidly growing family. Based on several design characteristics, the house was likely built by John's brother, local carpenter Archibald Hyson. Archibald built many farmhouses (Shaw Orchard Farm, Trout-Linebaugh Farm), churches (Lutheran Church, Shrewsbury), and schools (Hyson, Trout, and possibly Mt. Pleasant) across southern York County.

Dr. Linebaugh will examine the architectural history of the structure and explore the work of builder Archibald Hyson within the context of farms and farmhouses in the area. He will also consider the multiple Hyson family properties and the family's deep connections to Hopewell (later East Hopewell) Township.

*A free-will offering will be taken to support the Historical Society. For more information, contact the Historical Society at 717-993-5003, or go to our website [www.stewhist.org](http://www.stewhist.org).*

***Notice Regarding SCPGS Membership Expiration Dates***

You may have noticed lately that since there are now one and two-year membership options, it's very easy to forget when your membership has expired. In an effort to sort out and keep you posted on your individual membership expiration date, we will regularly attach that date to your paper newsletter label and add a date to the subject line on your emailed newsletter. We will have this new notification system implemented by your November-December newsletter, if not before. Please let us know if you have any questions.

SOUTH CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
P.O. BOX 1824  
YORK, PENNSYLVANIA

DATED MATERIAL – DO NOT DELAY

**Bucks County Genealogical Society hosts its 2023 Virtual Ancestry Fair:  
"Buried Treasures in Pennsylvania."**

**Saturday, October 7th from 9 am – 4 pm via Zoom**

Pennsylvania has an enticing array of archives. The shelves of these institutions are brimming with information for family historians. The 2023 Ancestry Fair of the Bucks County Genealogical Society will take a close look at a number of these remarkable collections, through the guidance of Aaron McWilliams, Nancy "Sassy Jane" Loe, Beth Lander and Tom Myer. *New for 2023: The programs will be recorded and available for 30 days after the Fair to all pre-paid registrants.* For complete information and registration, please visit [www.ancestryfair.org](http://www.ancestryfair.org).

**Bucks County Ancestry Fair**  
Saturday, October 7, 2023

Featuring  
Aaron McWilliams,  
Nancy "Sassy Jane" Loe,  
Beth Lander, and  
Tom Myers

Virtual  
On Zoom

[www.ancestryfair.org](http://www.ancestryfair.org)

Bucks County Genealogical Society