A Message from the President

Some of the fun and excitement in genealogical research comes as one discovers new resources to explore and new ways to find those resources. The Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania, in keeping with its mission, strives to help you as you research. We have developed a huge online collection of data and continuously add to it, and we continue to grow our onsite library. We offer research by mail, one to one consultation in the office regarding your traditional research as well as your DNA data and its uses. The First Families of Pennsylvania program enables you to focus research on one family line and preserve the information you submit for future researchers to use. Our newsletter provides information about research and ancestors, opportunities to connect with others via queries, and information on GSP. There are lectures for beginners and advanced researchers both onsite and offsite. Informal ROOTS LUNCHES help researchers meet and share as do our Special Groups – DNA, PrePro, Philadelphia Research and Brick Wall Busters. We hope we are helping you connect with others and find new avenues to pursue as you seek to find your ancestors.

Carol M. Sheaffer MD, President

The GSP online newsletter

We look forward to keeping you informed by giving you dates and times of upcoming events, answering questions and being a source of information to our membership.

UPCOMING EVENTS

GSP 2019 Events

GSP will host two lunch events each month – ROOTS and ROOTS FOCUS. Both are designed to allow researchers to discuss genealogy over brown bagging lunch. ROOTS will be an opportunity to discuss all questions with each other and share research, artifacts, photos and questions. ROOTS FOCUS will offer an opportunity to discuss a specific topic. Participants need to register in advance as space is limited. Participants are also asked to bring their own lunch, however, GSP will provide coffee, tea, and dessert.

Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania
2100 Byberry Road, Suite 111
Philadelphia, PA 19116 -
267.686.2296  gsp.deborah@gmail.com

REGISTRATION
GSP Members Free; GSP Non-Members $5
Advance Registration Required Due to Space Limitations.

EMAIL to Register: info@genpa.org

SAVE THE DATE
GSP’s Annual all day Ulster Conference -
Sunday, March 15, 2020 at Brookside Manor
Details to follow in January 2020

(Continued on page 2)
SEPTEMBER 2019 EVENTS

12 SEPTEMBER 2019 ~ ROOTS LUNCH 12:00 PM-2:00 PM

**Bring Your Ancestor to Lunch**

- Open Discussion of research topics, frustrations, successes
- Bring Your lunch: GSP will provide dessert, water and coffee
- Registration required – email: info@genpa.org or call the office (267.686.2296).

17 SEPTEMBER 2019 1:00 PM-2:30 PM

**Philadelphia Research Special Interest Group**

- Discussions of and visits to repositories in and around Philadelphia County
- Registration required – email: info@genpa.org or call the office (267.686.2296).
- GSP Members Free: Non-Members $5.00

21 SEPTEMBER 2019 ~ 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

**DNA Special Interest Group**

- Group discusses DNA discoveries, questions, data use in research
- Registration required – email: info@genpa.org or call the office (267.686.2296).
- GSP Members Free: Non-Members $5.00

21 SEPTEMBER 2019 ~ 12:00 PM-2:00 PM

**PrePro Special Interest Group**

- Group discusses topics relevant to for those wanting to become professional genealogists
- Registration required – email: info@genpa.org or call the office (267.686.2296).
- GSP Members Free: Non-Members $5.00

26 SEPTEMBER 2019 ~ 12:00 PM-2:00 PM

**New Special Interest Group – Brick Wall Busters**

- An opportunity for researchers at all levels, beginners to advanced, find an elusive ancestor over lunch. Registrants must complete Brick Wall Busters Form available on the GSP website (and next page) and bring to a meeting. Researchers present will discuss your problem and search online for answers or information to develop an effective research plan to break down that frustrating brick wall. Bring Your lunch: GSP will provide dessert, water and coffee.

  Office hours are Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM
  267.686.2296
BRICKWALL BUSTERS SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

New to genealogy or very experienced? Have an ancestor who is elusive? When you have tried everything you can think of and haven’t resolved your research problem, you need a TEAM approach.

Complete this form and bring to The GSP Brick Wall Busters Special Interest Group. A Team of experienced GSP Researchers will discuss your problem with you and go online while you are there to seek answers or help develop a Research Plan that might lead you to those answers.

Registration required via info@genpa.org. GSP Members free; Nonmembers $5.00

NAME OF RESEARCHER

ANCESTOR INFORMATION: NAME – LOCATION - TIME FRAME

BRICK WALL PROBLEM

SOURCES ALREADY SEARCHED
A CAREFULLY CRAFTED RESEARCH QUESTION AND PLAN CAN SOLVE A FAMILY MYSTERY

I used to be one of those people who assumed that I didn’t need to take the extra time to write out a research plan. I figured all the information I needed was either in my head or in my family tree. Sometimes I had success while researching, while other times I didn’t. Often, I would go off down the proverbial rabbit hole and be up until 2 o’clock in the morning chasing dead ends.

It wasn’t until I began to attend some intermediate-level courses that the idea of a research question and plan was drilled into me. I encourage everyone who would like to improve their research skills to seek out a class, society meeting, webinar, and/or article on how to develop a research question and write a research plan. You and your ancestors won’t regret it!

This July, I went to the Institute of Genealogical & Historical Research (IGHR) in Athens, Georgia. I decided to make a genealogical road trip out of it, since most of my paternal grandmother’s side of the family was from the South, Virginia mostly. I knew I wanted many different types of records and numerous ancestors I wanted to explore further, but what would be my best option to narrow down the countless choices? You guessed it -- a carefully crafted research question and plan.

While my example focuses on Virginia, this strategy can be used for any area of genealogical research, including Pennsylvania research.

I decided to write down as many questions as I could think of about my paternal grandmother’s family tree. Most of her family has been researched over the centuries in published articles and books, as well as unpublished family papers. So I was able to narrow my focus quite a bit because of that previous research. One question I kept coming back to concerned my 3rd great-grandfather, Henry “Hal” Grafton Dulany. It was because my grandfather introduced me to Hal and his wife, Ida Powell Dulany, through their involvement in the American Civil War, that I became interested in history and genealogy as a child.

There were rumors as far back as I can remember, and I’m sure well before that, that Hal had been in an insane asylum at some point in the latter years of his life, and possibly even died in one. In every source I had, which was not many, Hal’s death was barely mentioned, if at all. I had a date of 10 October 1888, and most published works agreed on that date. However, most of

(Continued on page 5)
these authored works lacked proper citations, especially for Hal’s death date and especially for his place of death.

I found a few clues online which would eventually lead me to the answer. On FamilySearch, I came across an indexed Virginia death record in the collection, “Virginia Deaths and Burials, 1853-1912.” Unfortunately, the images are available only at a family history center or FamilySearch affiliate library. In retrospect, I should have taken the time to get to one near me, but I couldn’t find the time before my trip. Luckily, it all worked out in the end.

The indexed record was for Henry G. Dulaney; gender: male; death date: 10 Oct 1888; death place: Staunton, Staunton, Virginia; age: 33; birth date: 1855; birth place: Loudon[sic] Co., Va; race: white. https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XRS8-6J2

This record looked very promising, but I noticed several problems. My Henry Grafton Dulany did not spell his surname with an “e” before the “y.” However, it is very common to see it misspelled this way. My 3rd great-grandfather, Henry, was born in 1834, not 1855. To complicate matters, my Henry had a nephew, another Henry Grafton Dulany, born in 1854 (Henry’s nephew died in 1890).

Loudoun County was accurate for the birth place for both Henry Dulanys, but the death place was intriguing. Staunton was home to one of two state insane asylums in Virginia during this period. Western State Lunatic Asylum, now in operation as Western State Hospital, was quite a large facility by the late 1880s. Was the Henry G. Dulaney who died in Staunton on 10 Oct 1888 the same person as my 3rd great-grandfather?

Another interesting wrinkle to my online research was the couple of death notices I found for my ancestor. The newspapers reported that Henry Grafton Dulany died on Sunday, 14 Oct 1888 at his home in Fauquier County, Virginia. His burial in Middleburg, Loudoun County (only a few miles away) was also noted. Were these death notices, the indexed record on FamilySearch, or another record not as yet uncovered correct as to my 3rd great-grandfather’s death? Which record is correct?

I needed a detailed research question and plan in order to find more evidence of Hal Dulany’s death. The question I posed above would be the basis for my research question: Was the Henry G. Dulaney who died in Staunton, Virginia on 10 Oct 1888 the same person as the Henry Grafton Dulany who died at home around Oct 1888 in Fauquier County, Virginia?
I spent a considerable amount of time researching the best libraries and archives to visit in the short amount of time I would have. If you haven’t checked out my previous article in the June 2019 issue of GSP’s newsletter on “3 Important Steps Before Your Next Research Trip,” I encourage you to do so.

The three best resources I have used to find the collections I needed onsite are: 1) the citation of an online record, 2) the FamilySearch Research Wiki, and 3) a Google search. What I found was then put into my research plan. In order to guarantee that my trip would be as successful as possible, I wanted to be able to tell the librarian or archivist exactly which items I needed. I made sure to note every detail that would help a staff member locate the material, as well as help me craft my citation later.

I also considered my time constraints at a repository when I put my research plan together. I allowed myself extra time to complete my tasks, while I also left myself with plenty to do if I finished early. Without a research plan, it is very easy to spend a day chasing after dead ends. Dead ends happen much less frequently with solid research plans, however.

I realized that the Library of Virginia should have most of the records I was looking for. This repository held the county and city death registers on microfilm for the time period I was researching. As an extra bonus, most of Western State Asylum/Hospital’s archives had been transferred to the manuscript collections of the Library of Virginia. There were extremely helpful and detailed finding aids online, which made searching for my ancestor a lot easier.

After my first two hours at the library, I had examined the death registers for Fauquier (home county) and Loudoun (border less than a mile from home and buried there) counties, as well as the city of Staunton (indexed record indicated death here). I checked the year I thought he died (1888), as well as the few years before and after.

I came up empty in Fauquier County. However, that was a good piece of negative evidence because if he had died at home, he should have been listed. The only Henry Grafton Dulany I found in the death registers of Loudoun County was Hal’s nephew, who died in 1890. I could distinguish the two because of his age, residence, and parents’ names. Even more negative evidence. Great!
I found the death register entry for Henry G. Dulaney, which was indexed on FamilySearch. It was such a relief to be able to finally see the actual image from the indexed Staunton death record. Not surprisingly, there was more information available than was indexed. It listed a cause of death and a specific place of death: W. L. Asylum (short for Western State Lunatic Asylum)! However, this Henry was listed as being only 33 years old just as it stated on the indexed version of this record on FamilySearch. I had more evidence to collect and more questions which needed answers.

My research plan pointed me to the Western State Asylum admission registers next. These registers are on microfilm at the Library of Virginia. Each new admission was given his/her own number. The admission registers were organized by date of admission. Since I knew a date of death, I could try to approximate an admission date.

I found a H. G. Dulaney, Sr., who was admitted on 15 May 1888 and died on 10 October the same year. The register listed him as being a farmer from Loudoun County, but it did not list his age. Still feeling good that this was my 3rd great-grandfather, I continued my research. (I should mention that even if I did not think I was on the right track, it would still be a good idea to trace this person through the records to see exactly who he was. Negative evidence is still evidence.)

The next step in the process was to move to the manuscript room. There I could request materials from the closed stacks by filling out call slips. From my research plan, I already had my list of items to request. I requested the case books from 1888 when H. G. Dulaney, Sr. was a patient there.

Jackpot!!! Not only did I find daily medical notations, but the first section gave a brief biography and medical summary of the patient. This included his marital status (married), how many children he had (three), his age (54), his residence (Loudoun Co.), and the reasons he was admitted. From everything I read and already knew about my ancestor, the patient named H. G. Dulaney, Sr. was my 3rd great-grandfather, Henry Grafton Dulany.

Without my research question and research plan to guide me, I don’t think I would have found this information, at least on this one trip to Richmond, Virginia. I did my research before I went to the repository, and it paid off. The Library of Virginia is an easy place to get sidetracked, as are many other repositories. Take the time to craft your research question and plan. You may just unearth a decades-old family secret or solve a family mystery!

Joseph Roby – GSP Board Member & Copy Editor
U.S. CENSUS & THE CITIZENSHIP QUESTION

MARGARET M. NICHOLSON, PhD

The discussion over returning the citizenship question to the 2020 census reminded me of my own immersion into census records. After submitting a DNA kit for analysis, I began my online search to find Mom’s and Dad’s ancestors. When my DNA results arrived and revealed a close, unknown relative, a journey of discovery led to a surprise biological father. My story, along with “how to” instructions, is told in My Surprise Family: Find Your Ancestry Story. Though the political implications of the citizenship question are at issue in the news, this article is about the impact the decision will have on genealogical research: How important are such questions and their answers for discovering family history?

During my earlier research, I uncovered a treasure trove of fascinating tidbits about our country’s history through the design of the census form and the nature of the questions included. A reprint of a page, “Notes About US Census Records,” taken from my book is included below. During my “citizenship question” quest, I learned even more about the construction of our every-ten-year national survey.

From the first census in 1790 to 1840, only the person considered the head of the family was named, with other inhabitants tabulated by gender, age, and status (free or slave). These early records take more work to be useful, and compared to later years, little information is available about other family members. The screen shot for the 1800 census shows Zachariah Rice, my sixth-great-grandfather, along with a tick for (my best guess) his three youngest children and two of his older sons. Grandma Abigail, rest her soul, had her first child at 16, her last of twenty-one who lived to adulthood at 44, and passed away in 1789 at 47 years of age.

To make it easier to decipher handwritten records, blank census forms can be downloaded from Ancestry.com. Because column headings are not always on the census page, the typed-headings make it possible to clarify the ticks. (I transcribed the ticks as an example.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Names of Heads of Families</th>
<th>Free White Males</th>
<th>Free White Females</th>
<th>All other Free Persons</th>
<th>Slaves</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Zachariah Rice</td>
<td>Under 10</td>
<td>10 thru 15</td>
<td>16 thru 25</td>
<td>26 thru 44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
By the time the government first asked the “naturalization” question in 1820, Grandpa Zachariah was dead. I learned from other sources that he and Abigail were “foreign-born” in Germany. I assume they were naturalized because they were known as patriots during the Revolutionary War. It would have been nice to see it on a census record. All the Rices’ children were born in the U.S. Many of my distant cousins obtained DAR and SAR status because of the contributions made by the Rices during the war. Peter Rice, my fifth-great-grandfather, was on that 1820 census. For emphasis I enlarged the type of the column with the naturalization question.

The biggest boon for genealogists came with Congress’s decision to include the name of every free person beginning with the 1850 census. Previously “whites” and “people of color” were in separate columns, as can be seen in the 1820 form above. A “race” column was added. People designated as slaves continued to be tabulated under the head-of-family name, but researchers should be aware there were instances when a first name was recorded. (See links under References.)

Previously, when only a head of house was named (typically a man unless a woman was widowed), any question of citizenship applied to that person. Now, with all family members named, the citizenship question could be asked of each person. But until the 1920 census, women and children were considered to have the same citizenship as their husband or father. I should not have been surprised. In the early 1970s, with the revival of the women’s movement, I’d become more aware of lopsided laws. The law requiring foreign-born women to apply for naturalization on their own was implemented in 1922. Foreign-born children under 18 became naturalized at the same time as either parent.

Whether a question pertaining to citizenship was included or not varied from 1820 to 1890. Then for the next sixty years some such question was included every decade. The phrasing for 1890 was:

- How many years has the person been in the United States?
- Is the person naturalized?
- Has the person taken naturalization papers out?
If you have been involved in genealogical research, you probably know that most of the 1890 results were destroyed. (See link under References.) This made the census that followed even more valuable. The formulation for the citizenship question was:

- What year did the person immigrate to the United States?
- How many years has the person been in the United States?
- Is the person naturalized?

When I saw my maternal grandmother’s nickname—Hattie—on the 1900 Perry County, Pennsylvania census, my heart skipped a beat. Eight years old, she was living with her paternal grandmother and her aunt Maggie. (My mother was named Margaret too, but she was called Marg instead of Maggie. Socially, I still go by my childhood nickname, Peggy.) Little Hattie was Zachariah’s fourth-great-grandchild. Since all three Briners were born in the U.S., there was no need for the census taker to fill in the citizenship questions.

The last time the question was posed in the census was in 1950, and the formulation was straightforward with no distinction between type of citizenship.

- Person’s place of birth
- If foreign born, is the person a citizen?

The question was dropped for the 1960 general census, but remained on the long form which was sent to a significant sample of households. Eventually the long form was discontinued. Currently the American Community Survey (ACS) asks the question in the same format as does that proposed for the 2020 census:
Census records that include the birthplace of a person, the birthplaces of both parents, as well as how long someone lived in a location are so helpful. Many of us have developed extensive ancestral trees and learned family history we would never have known without this material. Seeing that someone was naturalized or not yet a citizen, leads us to search further for immigration records or ship manifests. How wonderful it is that our census records hold such a rich supply of information for ourselves and for the generations of genealogists who follow. Tracing the path of the citizenship question for this article was sufficiently challenging. I’m relieved not to be in a position to delve into the political implications of returning the question to the 2020 census.

REFERENCES & CAUTION
I gathered observations and factual information from the following sites. If you find contradictory information, I would love to hear from you. Any opinions are strictly my own. Links worked at time of publication.

On Ancestry.com’s website you can find blank census forms showing the information collected for each census year. These can be downloaded and are handy to have while looking at online records that are difficult to read. (Census forms for the U.K. and Canada are also available.)

Ancestry.com Census Forms
The Center for Immigration Studies link opens to “A History of the Census Bureau’s Birthplace and Citizenship Questions in One Table.”

Center for Immigration Studies
This site explains the purpose of questions asked on the American Community Survey (ACS). The link will open to the page that addresses place of birth, citizenship, and year of entry.
American Community Survey - Citizenship Question
The Pew Research center lays out the issues: “What to know about the citizenship question the Census Bureau is planning to ask in 2020.”

Pew Research
This site has both general information and a link to every census year, which includes all questions asked.

United States Census Bureau
This link brings up a Power Point presentation which pre-dates 2012 when the 1940 census was made public, but remains informative and helpful.

African-American Census Research
This link opens to the FamilySearch.org wiki.

African-Americans in the U.S. Federal Census, Introduction
This link to a published article by the National Archives. The story is as sad as it is informative.

The Story of the 1890 Census
“U.S. census records are confidential for seventy-two years. “Records from the 1950 to 2010 censuses can only be obtained by the person named in the record or their heir after submitting form BC-600. Copies of these records often are accepted as evidence of age, citizenship, and place of birth for employment, social security benefits, insurance, and other purposes.”

Obtaining Unpublished U.S. Census Records
Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS) advertises itself as “the world's largest individual-level population database.” The link opens to a page where I found the information about women and children holding the citizenship of their husband/father. Category Group: Race, Ethnicity, and Nativity — PERSON

IPUMS - Citizenship Comparability
This article was originally written for the St Augustine Genealogical Society’s Ancient City Bulletin, July 2019.

Margaret M. Nicholson, PhD wrote about her experiences in My Surprise Family: Find Your Ancestry Story. Described as a mystery, a memoir, and a manual, the print book can be ordered from Amazon.com. She can be reached at MySurpriseFamily@gmail.com.
Ancestry.com has blank census forms available from 1790 to 1940 to view online or download. Having these forms in front of me with easy to read headings (questions asked) helped me understand the hand-written completed records much faster. My curiosity about why the census forms varied every ten years led me to the US Census Bureau website where I found fascinating explanations.

My experience was mostly with how the census records were completed in central Pennsylvania. For some jurisdictions every column was completed, while for others many items were left blank. Households by address (not necessarily by family) were enumerated. The head of the family, along with a surname, was listed first. Husbands were “heads” unless a wife had been widowed. Other family members followed with children in descending order by age. Servants and boarders, if there were any, came last. A different surname was added as necessary for a married daughter or non-family members. When relationships were noted, they were in reference to the head of household. For example, if the wife’s mother was living with the couple, the relationship was listed as “mother-in-law.”

I was taken back in time reading the words used in some questions: “Deaf, dumb, blind, or insane?” and “Whether maimed, crippled, bedridden, or otherwise disabled.” With no idea of the purposes for collecting this information, I noticed the assumption that answering “Yes” for either question didn’t distinguish among the terms. It’s as if the ability of a person to function independently was irrelevant. Or that services for special needs could be lumped together. Was it assumed that education or healthcare for people who are blind or insane would be the same? I wondered what they meant by crippled: walking with a cane?

Questions varied from one ten-year period to the next. By 1920 a question about service in the Union or Confederate army or navy had been dropped. I was sorry when the question about the number of children born and the number still living to a woman was eliminated. Another asked how long a couple had been married. At one time, there were questions about the year of naturalization and mother tongue.

Collecting names for family trees is not always straightforward. First and middle names are sometimes reversed from one census record to another. You may never know what name was on the birth certificate (if there was one) Walter Oliver or Oliver Walter—both versions can be found among census, death, and marriage records. But be careful. It is not unheard of for a family to use such a format for two different children—make sure children in the same family were born and died on different dates. Keep an eye out for a change in a name—you may find Walter O. in the 1900 census at six years old and think he disappeared or died, until you realize W. Oliver at sixteen is the “missing” child.

Changes in international boundaries following World War I, caused confusion for those from Austria-Hungary, Germany, Russia, or Turkey. Only the name of the country was to be entered instead of naming a province, state, or region.

*From My Surprise Family: Find Your Ancestry Story by Margaret M. Nicholson, PhD.*
Pennsylvania Queries—September 2019

- Seeking information on the Peter Butler family from Hopewell Township, Bedford County, Pennsylvania. Peter married Ann Silver on 16 April 1786 in Frederick, MD and moved to Hopewell, Bedford, PA soon after. Known children: John b. 1786, Elizabeth b. abt. 1795, and Richard b. 1799. I'm most interested in Peter and Ann's death dates and places.


- Searching for James Irwin, son of Garrett Irwin. James was mentioned in his father's will and told he was to take care of his mother, Susan. The will was probated in Ayer Township, Fulton County, Pennsylvania in 1813. James and sibling Samuel were told to sell plantation in Huntingdon County to disburse funds. If this seems familiar, I have more details.

- Seeking information on parents and immigration info on Catherine Ryan Gilbride, b. approx. 1855, possibly in County Mayo, Ireland. Married Feb 1875 in Scranton, Luzerne, PA to Michael Gilbride at Holy Rosary Church. Mother of John Joseph Gilbride, b. Jan 1876 in Scranton. Catherine was committed to Danville Asylum for "mania" after losing stillborn second child in March 1877 by Directors of the Poor of Providence; she is shown there in 1880 Defective, Delinquent and Dependent Schedule, and in patient record. She died at Danville in Jan 1881 of pneumonia. Interred at Cathedral Cemetery. Also interested in finding committal proceedings of the Directors of the Poor for her case.

Queries regarding Pennsylvania ancestors may be submitted to editor@genpa.org for inclusion in the Pennsylvania Queries section of The GSP Newsletter. Queries should be brief, specifying an individual or family, origin of same, and PA residence if known with actual or approximate dates for vital information.

Responses to queries will be forwarded to the contributor by the Newsletter Editor.
The Exodus from Dauphin County as Related in the Hummelstown Sun, 1877-1890 is a 16 page collection in the Pennsylvania Genealogical Magazine, Volume 33, Spring 1983-Fall 1984. A five page preview is included and the remaining pages of the collection can be found in the Members area of the GSP Website.
The Exodus from Dauphin County as Related in The Hummelstown Sun, 1877-1890

Compiled by Janet Snyder Welsh

The years between 1875 and 1890 brought many changes to the Pennsylvania German farmers and tradesmen living on the land just east of Harrisburg in Dauphin County. The panic of 1873 and the depression which followed it caused many of these people to leave their land and seek their fortune elsewhere.

By 1885 the exodus was in full swing. THE HUMMELSTOWN SUN reported in the edition of March 6, 1885, “Among the 177 farmers from Dauphin and Cumberland counties who left Harrisburg on Tuesday for the west were the Messrs. Samuel, Joseph, Isaac, William, and Michael Page and Samuel P. McIlhenny who purpose settling on a large tract of land purchased by Mr. Samuel Page and his sons in Dickenson County, Kansas, near the towns of Detroit and Abilene”.

Family and friends were important to these emigrants. Major events could be communicated by telegraph, annual letters were written, and the growing railroad system made occasional visits possible. Most of these occurrences were dutifully noted in THE HUMMELSTOWN SUN, a weekly newspaper which began in 1871 and which continues to report the local news each week. Many of the emigrants subscribed to the SUN and sent glowing reports of their new enterprises, which accounts were published unedited for all to read.

The westward movement of the population has presented the genealogist with many problems but early newspapers like THE HUMMELSTOWN SUN provide a virtual treasure trove that Editor William Hendricks and his cohorts never visualized.

The following peregrinations have been culled from the files of the SUN covering the period from August 1877 to April 1890. The date shown is the publication date of the newspaper. The location of the emigrant is given and, when known, the town or area he left is listed.
When no local address is shown, it can be presumed that Hummels-town was his former home. Whenever noted, additional genealogical information has been included.

17 August 1877: DR. SAMUEL NISSLEY of Pemberton, Ohio, is visiting after being away eight years.
21 September 1877: S. B. STILES of Springfield, Ohio, has returned for a visit.
   REV. ELI HUBER, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
   ABNER FOX, Baltimore, Maryland.
19 October 1877: THOMAS EBERSOLE and JACOB HOFFER left for Kansas to engage in farming.
22 March 1878: ADAM LANDIS and family of Derry left for Kansas.
29 March 1878: PHILIP D. MOYER and family and PETER SMITH and family left from Lower Paxton Township to make homes in the west.
12 April 1878: MARTIN L. NISSLEY and family of Swatara Township and MICHAEL F. MOYER and family of Derry Township left for Kansas.
17 May 1878: The son of JOSEPH HOFFMAN is now a salesman in a wine shop in Indianapolis, Indiana [HARRY A. HOFFMAN].
   M. HOCKER MILLER, son of D. W. Miller, is employed in a syrup factory in St. Louis, Missouri.
   D. W. MILLER moved to Troy, Doniphan County, Kansas, to enter the tailor business.
28 June 1878: HENRY MOYER moved from the vicinity of Union Deposit to Emporia, Kansas, where he bought a farm.
8 November 1878: MARTIN L. NISSLEY and family, Fairburg, Jefferson County, Nebraska.
16 May 1879: ADAM KNULL, Indianapolis, Indiana.
30 May 1879: GABRIEL MOYER left Derry Township for Emporia, Lyons County, Kansas.
13 June 1879: FELIX B. FISHBURN, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, formerly Derry Township.
15 August 1879: H. G. BOMGARDNER, Covell, McLean County, Illinois. JACOB SPITLER of Lyons Station, Fayette County, Indiana, where he has been located for the past 33 years, is visiting his brother ADAM SPITLER.
24 October 1879: WILLIAM E. BOWMAN of Hummelstown and his nephew A. G. BOWMAN of Lebanon will leave for Denver, Colorado, next Monday to locate there.
7 November 1879: A. B. KEGGERREIS of Bellevue, Ohio, visiting in Derry and vicinity.
12 December 1879: MICHAEL F. MOYER, Emporia, Lyons County, Kansas.
19 December 1879: THOMAS H. FISHBURN left Hummelstown in 1855 for Wilton, Iowa.
5 March 1880: SAMUEL PAGE, Abilene, Kansas, formerly of Beaver Station.
26 March 1880: GEORGE W. SHOEMAKER left to take a clerkship in Tiffin, Ohio.
2 April 1880: HENRY GARMAN and family and ? HUBER and family, Lower Paxton Township, to Abilene, Kansas. GEORGE ZIEGLER, Reading, Pennsylvania.
DAVID PALMER, Columbia, Pennsylvania.
30 July 1880: MRS. FRANK LANSDOWN, formerly MISS MAGGIE KELLER, of Kenton, Ohio, is visiting her parents here.
[AMOS KELLER]
WILLIAM E. BOWMAN, Boulder, Colorado.
27 August 1880: MISS ANNIE HENDERSON, Danville, Illinois, daughter of the late DR. JAMES HENDERSON.
12 November 1880: JACOB STILES, Springfield, Ohio.
ISAAC LANDIS, Shippensburg, Pennsylvania.
AMOS KELLER, JR., and family, Kenton, Ohio, are visiting his parents after an absence of 9 years.
10 December 1880: DAVID BLESSING, Emporia, Kansas.
4 March 1881: WILLIAM R. FRALEY, Berlin Heights, Ohio, visiting parents.
18 March 1881: EDWARD GISH, Springfield, Clark County, Ohio.
25 March 1881: EPHRAIM GERBERICH, Arkansas.

JACOB HOFFER, Nebraska City, Nebraska.
JOHN C. HOERNER and GEORGE CASSEL of West Hanover left on Tuesday with their families to make their homes in McPherson County, Kansas.

1 April 1881: MRS. MARY W. CLARK, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania.

AARON B. SCHAEFFER of Lower Paxton moved to Ida Grove, Ida County, Iowa. On his arrival he met a number of acquaintances, among them: MR. DAVID ROOP, MR. HARRY HORST and MR. DAVID TECHTMeyer, who were formerly in Londonderry Township and MR. D. C. KOLP, and MR. J. POTTEIGER formerly of Harrisburg.

MR. SCHAEFFER went by train and the train was snowbound for a few days between Chicago and Ida Grove.

15 April 1881: F. S. Rhoads, North Springfield, Summit County, Ohio.

29 April 1881: SOLOMON STILES and HOCKER STILES, Springfield, Ohio.


ARTMAN HUMMEL, Sellersville, Pennsylvania.

5 August 1881: MRS. GEORGE SNYDER, Monmouth, Illinois.

26 August 1881: EDWARD LEEBRICK, Burlington, Iowa.

9 September 1881: LUTHER HECKAMAN, Cisco, Piatt County, Illinois.

18 November 1881: JOHN LaROSS, Kansas.

9 December 1881: MRS. ADA GROVE, Sedalia, Missouri.

20 January 1882: S. G. BOMGARDNER, Bloomington, Illinois, absent from here ten years.

24 March 1882: FRED S. RHOADS moved from North Springfield, Ohio, to Brittain, Summit County, Ohio.

14 April 1882: MRS. MAGGIE YUNDT and mother-in-law left on Wednesday for Silver Lake, Kansas, where they will meet MR. YUNDT, who preceded them. MRS. YUNDT is a daughter of MR. L. ZIMMERMAN of Derry.
21 April 1882: J. HARRY ALEXANDER of Campbelltown, brother of F. M. ALEXANDER, returned to Stark, Wayne County, Michigan.

19 May 1882: FRANK M. LANSDOWN and wife, nee MISS MAGGIE KELLER, of Belle Center, Ohio, are visiting her parents here.

5 January 1883: MRS. MARY FISHER and MRS. ELIZA LIGHT, Muscatine, Iowa, sisters of MISS ADDIE BOWERS, Harrisburg.

ABRAHAM HOLLINGER and family, Astoria, Fulton County, Illinois.


JACOB HUMMEL, Shelby, Ohio, brother of ADAM HUMMEL.

19 January 1883: HENRY HORST returned from Ida County, Iowa, and will remain in Middletown.

26 January 1883: ENOCH MATLACK and son WALTER, Ida Grove, Iowa.

23 February 1883: J. P. FISHBURN to Abilene, Kansas.

2 March 1883: JOHN WALTERS, Elpaso, Illinois, had been absent 28 years.

23 March 1883: SAMUEL SHENK, Clide, Sandusky County, Ohio, had been absent 12 years.

JOHN LANDIS, Falling Waters, West Virginia, came home to attend the funeral of his brother JOSEPH LANDIS in Swatara.

6 April 1883: JOSEPH HOFFMAN, JR., joined his brother HARRY A. HOFFMAN in Indianapolis, Indiana.

MICHAEL RHODES, La Selie, Michigan.

11 May 1883: ELIAS KLINE and his wife left Lower Paxton for California where two of his brothers have resided for two years.

SAMUEL WRIGHT, Ida Grove, Iowa. His mother lives in Oakdale, Lower Paxton Township.

29 June 1883: MRS. MARY KOCK, daughter of JOHN WOLIVER, has left for North Platte, Nebraska, to join her husband.

31 August 1883: CHARLES KELLER, Kenton, Ohio.

14 September 1883: JOHN H. YINGST, Kansas.


1 February 1884: JOHN H. ALEXANDER, Livonia, Michigan.

7 March 1884: JOHN L. FRANTZ left to join his parents and brothers in Menoken, Shawnee County, Kansas.
In August 2016, I was casually browsing my DNA matches, and I came across an individual that I didn’t recognize. The individual in question turned out to be my half-uncle, my dad’s half-brother, who is five years older than my dad. At the time of this discovery, my dad was the oldest in the family. When I discovered this unknown person as a 1st cousin match, I was confused. I didn’t have a known uncle with the initials “DFW”. So naturally I sought to communicate with him. In the meantime, I gave my dad a call, but of course my mother answered because my dad couldn’t come to the phone right away. I told her what I had uncovered, and when my dad called me back, he informed me how my mom broke the news to him. She began by telling him that he should sit down, lol. Then she told him that he had an older brother.

When I started to converse with my newly found uncle, whose name is David Frank Walls, I wanted to find out all I can. Our family was quite confused with this discovery of a long-lost uncle and brother. So, through our many conversations over the course of several months, I was able to find out many interesting things about him and what he knew about his father, my grandfather, and my dad’s father, Frank Burton Walls. There are some pretty amazing coincidences between where my family lived and where David had lived. The biggest mystery, that has been gnawing at me, is where my grandfather met my uncle’s mother, Martha Belle Nullet. I know my grandfather was on leave from the U.S. Army Air Corp. during WWII from Dec. 1943 to July 1944. He had just finished his 25th mission piloting a B17 Flying Fortress. It was a rarity surviving 25 B17 missions, but he reenlisted and flew another 25, so in total he completed 49 missions before the end of WWII.

To put all this into perspective, my grandfather completed his B17 flight training in Spokane, WA, while Martha Belle Nullet, did her nurse training in Spokane, WA. My grandfather was from Dubois, PA and was born in 1917 and passed in 1996 in Calimesa, CA. Martha was from a few hours north of Spokane, WA and was born in 1919 and passed in 2008 in Philadelphia, PA. David was born in Philadelphia, PA in 1945 and my dad, Winfred Lockhart Walls, was born in 1950 in Dubois, PA. Some of the other strange findings I discovered was that David lived and worked near Dubois, PA when my grandfather and my family lived in Reynoldsville, PA, which is just south of Dubois. Another strange coincidence was that David worked as a teacher in Fontana, CA when it opened its new high school in 1994, which was where my aunt worked as head of security for the school district. Her office was in the new school, and I’m sure that they walked by each other while they both worked there but didn’t know that they were brother and sister.
When David was a kid, he was told that his father was dead, but he did say that he had met him from time to time but wasn’t totally sure. When David decided to submit his DNA to Ancestry, he hadn’t anticipated finding a brother or even entire family. He told me that he was just looking for an aunt, uncle, or cousins on his father’s side. He didn’t start looking until after his mother passed and my grandfather passed in 1996, so all the questions that we have go unanswered.

David Frank Walls  
Winfred Lockhart Walls  
Frank Burton Walls

In April of 2017 we finally met David at my parents’ house in St. Thomas, PA. My dad and I were able to answer any questions that he may have had and gave him a little closure when it came to his father. We had a great time getting to know my long-lost uncle. We keep in touch and my parents have met up with him on several other instances. It would be nice if my dad’s full brother and sisters would be able to meet him, but they aren’t as forthwith as my dad was. It’s probably due to the fact that my dad is 7 years older than his closest sibling and 13 years older than his brother, so my dad’s recollection of his father was a little different than the rest of his siblings. Below is a picture of our meeting with David.

For information on submitting an article for the newsletter email: editor@genpa.org
Pennsylvania Featured County - Cameron County

Pennsylvania became a state December 12, 1787. There are 67 counties and 2561 municipalities. Cameron County was established on March 29, 1890 from parts of Elk, McKean, Potter and Clinton Counties. The county seat is Emporium.

Prominent People: Joseph T. McNarney, Tom Mix and Rick Peltz

Microfilm copies of county records along with the tools to help research county records are available at the Pennsylvania State Archives - PHMC > Archives > Research Online > County and Municipal Records (under Genealogy)

Finding Family and Historical Records in Cameron County

I. Recorder of Deeds, Register of Wills and Clerk of Orphans Court:
   http://www.cameroncountypa.com/?page_id=4134

II. Search Wiki on Cameron County: https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Cameron_County,_Pennsylvania_Genealogy

III. Cameron County Historical Society:
     https://cameroncohistorical.wixsite.com/cameroncohistorysoc

IV. Cameron County Genealogy Facebook Group:
     https://www.facebook.com/groups/CameronCountyPA/

V. A Pioneer Outline History of Northwestern Pennsylvania by W.J. McKnight (free eBook):
   https://archive.org/details/pioneeroutlinehi00mckn_0

VI. History of Counties McKean, Elk, Cameron and Potter Pennsylvania with Biographical Selections by M.A. Leeson (free eBook):
    https://archive.org/details/historyofcountie00inlees

VII. Chronology of Pennsylvania Counties: http://buckscountyhistory.com/chronological.htm

VIII. Pennsylvania Resource Guides: https://genpa.org/public-%20collections/pennsylvania-%20resources/

Angie Indik, 2nd Vice President and Copy Editor
DNA CORNER

There were eight members attending this DNA Group meeting. A new participant called and requested “6 seats.” Four of the six came and turned out all six are cousins who are working together on their family research. They shared a great deal about their DNA test results and had questions for the group to help answer about those results. It’s so unusual, but refreshing, for so many family members to be interested. The group also discussed the recent publication Advanced Genetic Genealogy, edited by Debbie Parker Wayne.

Carol M. Sheaffer, President

Share your Research or Family History Story

Briefly share amusing, touching, unusual, interesting or tragic stories you have unearthed in your family research - Submit your story in plain text to editor@genpa.org

Q&A

Do you have questions about Pennsylvania genealogy? We have answers! For example, we can answer questions such as “Where/How can I find marriage license records?” or “When did Pennsylvania start recording birth certificates?” We’ll feature the question and answer in the newsletter. Submit your questions (not family specific research) to: editor@genpa.org

Many questions on researching Pennsylvania can be answered by the Pennsylvania County Resource Guides. The guides are in the free Public Collections area of the GSP Website.

Public Collections
PrePro Special Interest Group  17 August 2019

Quite a few PrePro members are still in vacation mode, but five of us met and others plan to resume in September. We discussed a genealogical writing course one member took at the Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh (GRIP) in July. Also discussed was the software program Scrivener. Scrivener helps authors manage and organize notes, documents, concepts and more. Those PrePro members who have tried it, recommend it highly.

Carol M. Sheaffer, President
GSP has a number of volunteer opportunities at home, in the office or on location. E-mail at info@genpa.org or editor@genpa.org or call the office 267-686-2296

**Newsletter:** Joseph Roby, Angie Indik-Copy Editors, Nancy Janyszeski, Carol M. Sheaffer

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E-mail research requests to info@genpa.org

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