

Pennsylvania German Research

8:30 — 9:00 Registration

... coffee, tea, juice and doughnuts will be available

9:00 – 9:50 Key Note Address by June Burk Lloyd
“*The Pennsylvania German World of Lewis Miller*”

10:00 — 11:00 Session 1

PA German: Pennsylvania German Church Records

An in-depth lecture talking about one of the richest ethnic record groups – the baptisms, marriages, burials, and confirmations recorded by the pastors of the Germans who came to America in Colonial times.

The presenter is German Life’s Family Research / Familie Forschung columnist James M. Beidler. Mr. Beidler is the author of two successful commercially published German genealogy books (*The Family Tree German Genealogy Guide* and *Trace Your German Roots Online*). His newest book is *The Family Tree Historical Newspapers Guide*. Beidler writes “Roots & Branches,” a weekly newspaper column and blog (at www.roots-branches.com). He is also editor of *Der Kurier*, the quarterly journal of the Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society.

Research: The Ins and Outs of Researching Your Family Tree

This session is a basic introduction to finding and gathering genealogical information by using websites, available sources and facilities, and forms.

The presenter, Rebecca Anstine is a graduate of the University of Maryland with a master’s of Library Science. Becky is an SCPGS board member and a volunteer at the York County History Center. She has published articles in our newsletter and in the York County History Center journal, and she has given presentations at our meetings, at the York County History Center, and at Penn State York’s OLLI program.

11:15 — 12:15 Session 2

PA German: Colonial Ships’ Lists and Naturalization Records

For the colonial and Revolutionary periods, the Pennsylvania State Archives holds lists of Germanic immigrants arriving in the port of Philadelphia, records of naturalizations authorized by the General Assembly and the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, and records of oaths taken by those swearing loyalty to the new Revolutionary government. This session will describe the available sources and discuss their accessibility to researchers in various formats.

The presenter, Jonathan Stayer is supervisor of the Reference Section at the Pennsylvania State Archives in Harrisburg, where he has been employed as a reference archivist since 1985. He is the president of the South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society, and he serves on the board of the Friends of Camp Security. He has been engaged in personal genealogical research for almost forty years, tracing most of his ancestral lines to eighteenth-century Germanic immigrants to Pennsylvania.

Research: Beginner’s Guide to Ancestry.com

Learn how to effectively navigate and use Ancestry.com. This presentation explores the major record groupings in Ancestry; using database descriptions; finding the records you need; search strategies (including “wild cards”), hidden gems, and other tricks and techniques. Ancestry hosts digital images of more than 1000 National Archives microfilms series (much more than census!); learn how to find and use these resources. Discussion also includes the classic census, immigration, and military record groups, as well as tactics for dealing with index errors and other common problems.

The presenter, Gerald “Jerry” Smith is a Certified Genealogist who specializes in Pennsylvania research. He serves as on the faculty of the Institute for Historic and Genealogical Research, Salt Lake Institute for Genealogy, and has presented at national and local venues including the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and the David Library of the American Revolution. He researches regularly at the National Archives, the Pennsylvania State Archives, county societies and courthouses, and various denominational archives. He is the author of a number of books and journal articles.

12:15 — 1:30 Pennsylvania Dutch Buffet Lunch ... and time to browse the vendor and lineage society tables

1:30 — 2:30 Session 3

PA German: Crossing the Atlantic: Tracing Your Pennsylvania German Ancestor Back to Germany

This session will examine various sources and strategies for finding the Heimat (hometown) of your German ancestors. The presentation will further explore how to proceed once you have located your ancestors' place of origin. Available church, civil and emigration records will be discussed, some of which are completely online through LDS or European sources, while others are only available in German church or state archives or on site in the town or village.

The presenter, Richard K. Konkel, Esquire is a York native and Attorney at the CGA Law Firm in York. He is a graduate of Dickinson College where he studied history and German, and Widener University School of Law. Richard has also been a cellist in the York Symphony Orchestra for over 25 years. He has been engaged in genealogical research for over 35 years. With an ancestry that is largely German, his paternal grandparents and father having emigrated from Germany in 1956, and his mother being predominately of Pennsylvania German ancestry, Richard has from the beginning of his research had to do extensive research using German records, and has developed some expertise in this area.

Research: Resources of the York County History center Library

This session will highlight the wealth of historical resources found within the History Center when researching Pennsylvania German ancestors. Examples include not only church records, tombstone abstractions, and county histories, but also lesser-known resources such as business records, city directories, church histories and diaries. Periodicals such as *Pennsylvania Folklife* will also be reviewed. The library also has published material from adjacent counties in Pennsylvania and northern Maryland that complement the mission of preserving York County history and trace the mobility of our ancestors.

The presenter, Lila Fourhman-Shaull is the Director of Library & Archives at the York County History Center. She is a long-time member and board member of the SCPGS.

2:45 — 3:45 Session 4

PA German: Pennsylvania German Research Collections

This presentation will describe research sources about Pennsylvania German culture, folklife and history that the author has encountered in doing research for the past twenty years. The presentation will focus on the most important collections, both archival and digital, including those of Franklin and Marshall College, Ursinus College, and Millersville University among others. There will be a brief discussion of collections of material culture, but most of the emphasis will be on archival records pertaining to culture, history and folklife. The content and significance of these collections will be explained.

The presenter, William W. Donner received his PhD in anthropology from the University of Pennsylvania. He is a professor of anthropology at Kutztown University. He has been involved with the Pennsylvania German Cultural Heritage Center, The Kutztown Folk Festival, and other Pennsylvania German organizations for over twenty years. He has published about Pennsylvania Germans in numerous journals including, *Pennsylvania History*, *Pennsylvania Magazine of Biography and History*, *Yearbook of German-American Studies* and *Sociological Inquiry*. He has recently published a book, *Serious Nonsense: Groundhog Lodges, Versammlinge, and Pennsylvania German Heritage* (Penn State Press).

Research: Evidence and Documentation for the Beginning Genealogist

Evaluating evidence and citing your sources can seem overwhelming... and often results in shortcuts that come back to haunt later. This session explores the essentials of the Genealogical Proof Standard, the method that professional genealogists use to evaluate evidence, analyze evidence, and reach conclusions in the face of imperfect or conflicting evidence. Yet having your evidence is of little benefit if you cannot recall where it came from or return to those records for further research. Practical tips for citations and records that will enhance your research and facilitate preserving your work. The presenter is Jerry Smith.

3:50 — 4:15 Roundtable Discussion with Speakers and Wrap-Up