

LYCOMING LINEAGE

Newsletter of the Lycoming County Genealogical Society

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

October 25, 2008 at 1:00 pm
"Ole Bull and the Norwegian Colony in Northern Pennsylvania"
 Presented by William Paul

November 22, 2008 at 1:00 pm
"17,000 and Still Counting; Keeping track of our deceased veterans"
 Presented by Joan Blank
 Of the Lycoming County Veterans affairs office

December 27, 2008 at Noon
 Bring a tureen and join us for our annual Christmas Dinner & Program

January 24, 2009 at 10:00 to 4:00 pm
"Genealogy Fair"
 A "HOW TO" day!
 Learn how to get started on your family tree, LCGS Staff and other groups

February 29, 2009 at 1:00 pm
"Old Montoursville"
 Presented by Don King

March 28, 2009 at 1:00 pm
"Saving Your Digital Images"
 Presented by Wayne Palmer

April 25, 2009 at 1:00 pm
"The Boys in Blue"
 (Civil war)
 Presented by Don Saurers of the Packwood Museum

A THANK-YOU

The Lycoming County Genealogical Society would like to thank

Mr. Fred Holland, Esq
 of
Murphy, Butterfield and Holland, PC

442 William Street
 Williamsport, Pa 17701
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for his professional expertise in assisting us in the up-dating of our By-laws in preparation for our filing for Federal non-profit tax status. Without his help, support and free legal services, this project would not have been possible.

Research Policy

We can provide limited genealogical research on your ancestors. We do not search for living people.

Please email us with specific details at Lycominglineage@gmail.com — names, dates, and locations.

If you need copies, or if the research is more extensive - there will be a fee. We will notify you of the cost. Payment can be made by check or online using PayPal at our website, and "click" on Donation.

You may also send a request along with a SASE and \$5.00.

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PENNSYLVANIA LAND RECORDS

A continuation of the "Finding your Ancestor's Land Grant" article in the September-October newsletter

BY ROBIN LEIDHECKER

With the exception of the Revolutionary War years, the Land Office of the Commonwealth has operated continuously since William Penn arrived in Pennsylvania in 1682 and began to administer and sell land. In 1981, the land records and the functions of the office were transferred to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. Commonwealth land records only document transactions between the Penns or the post-revolutionary Commonwealth and the first purchaser(s) of each tract of land. **Deeds transferring land titles between private citizens, either after or during the patenting process, are maintained at the office of the Recorder of Deeds for the appropriate county.** Microfilm copies of some county deeds are available in the State Archives search room for the convenience of visitors, but State Archives staff cannot conduct searches in this microfilm (we only search records for which we hold original copies.) Researchers who wish to search federal land grants (including military grants made by the United States government) should find them deposited with the National Archives and Records Administration (Washington, D.C. 20408). It should be noted, however, that no such grants were issued in Pennsylvania.

Last month's issue described how to look for the warrant and patent information for land. Perhaps you are not finding what you need. There are a few more things that you can check. Was your land purchased before 1733? Your land would have to be in one of the three original counties: Bucks, Chester, and Philadelphia. These are contained in the "Old Rights" indexes on the web page.

If your land was purchased after 1733, most likely you will find it listed in the warrant registers. You need to check the county where the land was located when the warrant application was made. Wikipedia has a complete list:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_counties_in_Pennsylvania

There are several special indexes that can be found on the Archives website:

East Side Applications: this is land purchased east of the Susquehanna River, 1765-1769. The information contained in the East Side Applications has also been published and alphabetically indexed in *Pennsylvania Land Applications, Volume I: East Side Applications, 1765-1769* by Kenneth D. McCrea (Pennsylvania Chapter, Palatines in America: Strasburg, PA, 2002). Counties included: Berks, Bucks, Carbon, Chester, Dauphin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Monroe, Montgomery, Northampton, Northumberland, Pike, Schuylkill, and Wayne.

West Side Applications: land purchased west of the Susquehanna River, 1765-1769. This land is part of present day counties of York, Adams, Franklin, Fulton, Bedford, Blair, Huntingdon, Cumberland, Perry, Juniata, Snyder, Union, and southern portions of Mifflin and Centre.

New Purchase Applications: land purchased in western & central Pennsylvania 1769. Includes the counties of Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Washington, Greene, Fayette, Westmoreland, Indiana, Cambria, Somerset, Clearfield, Centre, Union, Lycoming, Northumberland, Montour, Columbia, Luzerne, Sullivan, Bradford, Wyoming, Susquehanna, Lackawanna, and Wayne Counties.

For a depiction of the actual boundaries of the New Purchase see the Genealogical Map of the Counties that appears in Donna Bingham Munger's book *Pennsylvania Land Records, A History and Guide for Research* (Wilmington: Scholarly Resources, Inc., 1991). A separate section of

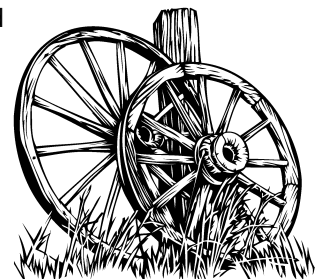
this register contain entries identifying officers who served in the 1st and 2nd battalions under Colonel Bouquet during Pontiac's Rebellion in 1764. They were rewarded for their service by a grant of 24,000 acres located along the waters of the West Branch of the Susquehanna River and then divided amongst themselves. These grants were authorized on February 3, 1769, and laid out in three locations. The Susquehanna River Tract lies entirely in present day Northumberland County and extends along the east shore of the West Branch of the river from the northern portion of Point Township through most of the length of Delaware Township. The Buffalo Valley Tract lies entirely within Union County. The Bald Eagle Tract lies along the Bald Eagle Creek in portions of present-day Centre and Clinton Counties. Connected drafts of these three "Officer's Tracts" are depicted in Kenneth D. McCrea, *Pennsylvania Land Applications, Volume 2: New Purchase Applications, 1769-1773* (Philadelphia, Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania, 2003), pp. xxiv-xxvii.

Last Purchase Applications: land purchased in northwestern Pennsylvania 1786-1817. This is for warrants granted for land in that portion of the Last Purchased in 1784 lying east of the Allegheny River and Conewango Creek.

Donation & Depreciation Lands : land given to Revolutionary War Veterans in northwestern PA. The **Donation Land** program was used by the Commonwealth to induce men to stay in service during the Revolutionary War. Each Pennsylvania Line soldier and officer who served in the Continental forces until the end of the war was to receive a bounty, or donation, of a tract of land consisting of 200, 250, 350 or 500 acres, the size of the tract to be based upon his rank. The Donation Land area was located within the Purchase of 1784, immediately to the north of the Depreciation Lands and west of the Allegheny River, including parts of the counties of Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Lawrence, Mercer, Venango and Warren. The land was divided into ten surveying districts, with 2,570 lots totaling over 550,000 acres of land eventually created by the Land Office. The tracts were distributed by a lottery system. After enough tracts were surveyed and numbered, their corresponding tract numbers were placed in one of four lottery wheels, one wheel for each tract size, and drawn periodically. For a full synopsis of the Donation Land program, please consult Donna Munger's *Pennsylvania Land Records - A History and Guide for Research*, pages 163-167. The **Depreciation Land** program was enacted to help reimburse Pennsylvania's Revolutionary War troops who had received depreciated currency for their pay during the conflict. Veterans who had served in the Continental forces in the Pennsylvania Line, Pennsylvania Navy, or who had been prisoners of war, were eligible to receive what were known as "depreciation certificates." Lands in the area immediately north of Pittsburgh, located between the Ohio and Allegheny Rivers, were sold to raise money to underwrite these depreciation certificates. The Depreciation Lands were divided into five districts, encompassing present-day Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, and Lawrence Counties. For a full synopsis of the Depreciation Land program, please consult Donna Munger's *Pennsylvania Land Records - A History and Guide for Research*, pages 159-162.

Certified Townships: Luzerne County: surveys and patents for tracts lying within the Certified Townships of Luzerne County originally claimed by Connecticut settlers. Information given is lot number, the name of the person to whom granted, the number of acres and perches, the name of the person to whom patented, and the volume, book and page numbers where the patent and the copied survey are recorded. These townships are now located in the counties of: Bradford, Lackawanna, Luzerne and Wyoming.

Reference source: According to the Pennsylvania State Archives web page: (<http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/bah/dam/landrec.htm>)



RESEARCH ETIQUETTE

By Robin Leidhecker

Robin is a paid deed researcher and spends countless hours at various county courthouses.

Although quantities of information are now accessible via the internet, many deeds, wills, and other documents simply have not been scanned. The county courthouse is still the best place for primary source documents.

After you have researched all you can from "afar," you will need to make a trip to the courthouse that has jurisdiction in the area where your ancestor lived. The local genealogy group and researchers can be helpful, but nothing can replace going there yourself.

Unfortunately, a few genealogists have given our hobby a bad name when it comes to courthouse research. A short discussion of appropriate courthouse behavior may be helpful.

Foremost, the local courthouse is a place of business. They are there to record documents. Current deeds, mortgages, wills, etc need to be recorded in a timely manner. These documents are also scanned and indexed. When a genealogist comes in carrying a bunch of notebooks and demands that they see a 1850 deed NOW, it is not well received.

Determine the minimum of research materials you need before entering the building. You do not need to carry in your entire family tree. It is helpful to write out your research goals. A laptop is usually permitted, however, plan on using your battery. Most offices don't have outlets available for public use.

Hang your coat on a rack prior to beginning research. No one appreciates working around your clothes draped over the counter. Keep your workspace small. Use one book at a time. Older deed books are often quite large. Having several open at one time uses a lot of counter room.

There will be a number of different people working in the same place you are. Some will be lawyers, paralegals, or abstractors. If you are coming to central Pennsylvania, you will find a large number of oil & gas researchers. This is especially in Lycoming, Clinton, Sullivan, Tioga and Bradford counties. There is also courthouse staff. If you have a question, locate a staff member and ask. Or go to the front desk and wait for someone to help you. Don't assume that everyone is available or qualified to help you.

If you need copies, most courthouses allow you to make your own copies on their machines. If you don't know how to operate the machine – ask ! Do this before accidentally making a bunch of mistakes. Many offices are now going to a code system on their copiers. You will need to check with the front desk to see how they want you to proceed. Some have a code for you to use.

Be sure you carefully note where your copy came from. This is a good idea for any research project. Use pencil in the margins to note deed book and page. Later if you discover you are missing something, you may be able to call and ask for additional copies. You may wish to make a copy of the index for all the entries for your family name. Later research may turn up additional names. You won't have to go back to the courthouse and check the index, you will already have it.

If we all approach the courthouse (and cemetery offices and all other types of repositories) with courtesy in mind, the experience will go smoother. Let's give genealogy a good name.



How can I trace ownership of my property ?

You may wish to know who owned your current property in the past. Following the legal description in your deed is a section known as Recital or "Being Clause." It gives the name of the persons who sold the property to the person who sold it to you and the Deed Book and page number where this transaction can be found. You go back to that deed and find the same information of the preceding transaction involving your property and so forth, hopefully back to 1795.

Occasionally, this information is not given on a deed. Then you must check the grantee indexes for the name of the person selling the property. There should be a listing of various properties that were purchased. Looking at each of these deeds, you should be able to locate the correct deed by comparing the description.

Sometimes, property was conveyed by being devised in a will. Today, there would be a deed from the executors of the estate. However, that was not always the case in the past. You would suspect that a person obtained property from the estate of his father, try looking in the grantee index for anyone with the same last name in the right location.



How can I tell the age of my house?

It is difficult to determine this by checking deeds since a deed is for the land and not the buildings. A deed may simply state "and the buildings thereon". It does not even have to state this. There are a number of books available which contains pictures of various kinds of building techniques used at different times. By checking the construction of your home with the pictures, you may be able to come up with a close guess. Be warned that you cannot rely on the information provided by the assessment office. If they did not know, either 1983 or 1901 is used. Neither may be correct.

Come to our GENEALOGY FAIR!!!!

January 24, 2009

Community Room at Thomas T. Taber Museum

1:00 to 4:00 pm



A "How To" on everything "Genealogy". We are putting together an event to encourage interest in getting started and to help others with their genealogical research projects that are underway.

Complete information will be forthcoming in the January-February newsletter.

THE PHOTOGRAPHERS OF WILLIAMSPORT — 1840 TO 1930

BY JOAN KNIGHT

Preface

Many of us have old photographs taken in the early years of photography. Often we are not quite sure of the identity of the people in the picture. Many of the photographs have a "photographers mark" on either the front or back, or are mounted in a folder that includes a galley name. These names sometimes include an address which can be clues to the time period in which the photograph was taken. One way to help with identification is to know when the photographer was doing business in a certain location.

The very first "photograph" ever made, was a landscape scene by Nicéphore Niépce done in France in 1826. The scenic exposure took eight hours.

In 1839, two major discoveries towards modern photography were made known - Louis Daguerre in France patented the daguerreotype and Williams Fox Talbot in Great Britain disclosed the positive/negative process.

The daguerreotype was a direct photographic process, producing a very delicate image that did not hold up well to handling. Daguerreotypes needed to be protected from damage by a glass-fronted case. It was the first viable process that allowed for commercialization. In the early 1840s, this invention was introduced in a period of months to practitioners in the United States by Samuel Morse, the inventor of the telegraph code. The Daguerreotype process was only in widespread use for approximately a decade before being superseded by newer developments.

The ambrotype was introduced in 1854; a negative image on glass, with a black paper, cloth or paint backing.

During these early years, photography was predominantly the work of itinerant practitioners who traveled from town to town. Some "professionals" began establishing galleries and studios in towns and city, and a flourishing market in portraiture sprang up. For the first time, ordinary people could obtain an exact likeness of themselves or their loved ones for a modest cost, making portrait photographs extremely popular with those of modest means. In Williamsport, the first daguerreotype gallery was opened in 1842.

In 1854, André-Adolphe-Eugene Disdéri introduced the *carte de visite*, or French "visiting card". Disdéri introduced a rotating camera which could reproduce eight individually exposed images on a single negative. After printing on albumen paper, the images were cut apart and glued to calling card-sized mounts. These tiny portraits were left by visiting friends, which inspired the name *carte de viste*. These were popular in America from 1850s to about 1910, with "cartomania" sweeping the country in the 1860s.

Tintypes, or ferrotypes, were produced in America in 1856 and continued until the 1940s. They are a negative image on an opaque metal plate, and have a dark, flat look to them. Early tintypes were encased like daguerreotypes. Later they were adapted to a *carte de visite* format.

During the Civil War, itinerant photography practitioners traveled with the troops, allowing the soldiers to send home a likeness of themselves in their uniforms.

Cabinet cards began to be produced in America in the mid to late 1870s and were popular until about 1900. They are photographs mounted on a heavy card stock usually 4 ½" by 6 ½" . Many also have ornate Victorian logos or designs on the reverse advertising the photographer.



Profiles of Williamsport Photographers

Jacob Lyons Mussina, was born at Aaronsburg, Centre County, April 29, 1807. Orphaned at the age of 11, he apprenticed in the jewelry business in Bellefonte. After a few years in Jersey Shore, he came to Williamsport in 1830, and worked in the Prothonotary's Office for four years until he opened his own jeweler's shop. He conducted that business for over 35 years. In 1842 he opened the first daguerreotype gallery in connection with his other business. He was strongly interested in the mechanical (*sic*) arts. He was also the first telegraph operator in this city when the line was opened through to Jersey Shore and filled that position for several years.

Thomas J. (Jefferson) Trapp arrived in Williamsport in 1852, driving a horse drawn wagon outfitted as a photograph gallery. Mr. Trapp was searching for a place to locate and practice his profession, and set up his wagon in Market Square. Business was good and as was Mr. Trapp's work. He liked Williamsport and it was not a difficult matter for Abel DuBois to persuade him to establish himself here. He continued to use his wagon "gallery" for some time after he purchased the property at 317 Market Street.

Mr. Trapp retired about 1909, and died April 1914. Godfrey Hess was the successor to T. J. Trapp.

Eugene Stuart arrived in Williamsport from Susquehanna County in 1858. He practiced photography for about 31 years until 1889. He died in 1891.

John F. Nice first had his business in Lewisburg 1864-1866. In 1867 he bought out Jacob Mussina's photography business. His business was on the north side of Market Square, where he continued until 1883. His brother, **Robert Y. Nice** (born June 1849) joined him about 1879 and continued the business after John's retirement, until sometime in the 1920s at 3 East Third Street. John died in May 1924. Robert died December 1929 at 81 years of age.

Godfrey Hess, the son of Godfrey Hess, Sr., was born in Williamsport in December 1844, in what was then the Hess block, at the corner of Fourth and Pine streets. He received a common school education and then began to clerk in his father's general store. He was educated in the city and learned the shoemaker's trade, and later the photographer's and carpenter's trades.

He was involved in a number of businesses: Edison Electric Co.; Williamsport Steam Co.; Wilkinson Truss Co.; and his own wet photography business.

Later he clerked for other merchants, afterwards purchasing the photograph gallery of T. J. Trapp, over Muir & Scott's store, corner of Third and Market streets. In 1878 he removed the gallery to 348 North Avenue and added a copying department and a camera supply store. Here he conducted a thriving business up to the time of this death.

When the electric light project for Williamsport was first talked of, Mr. Hess was a prime mover in the enterprise and with P. B. Shaw, built the first electric light plant for the city. Messrs. Hess and Shaw conducted the business for over 14 years, when they sold out to the Edison Illuminating company, retaining some of the stock. Mr. Hess was president of the United Gas, Water and Electric Company, of Sunbury, the Williams Valley Water company, the Williams Light, Heat and Power company, and Provident Manufacturing Company, and president and one of the organizers of the



Wilkinson Trust company, limited. He was a stockholder and director in the Savings institution, a stockholder in the Merchants' National Bank and interested in the Williamsport Steam company. Mr. Hess died August 1903, at 58 years of age.

Daniel R. Stiltz, born in Baltimore about 1837 and came to Williamsport after the Civil War. He had originally studied for the Episcopal ministry, but later took up photography. During the Civil War he was the photographer for the corps unit to which he was attached. He originally opened and operated a studio gallery for several years, and later formed the National Copying Company, which had its headquarters in Williamsport, and branches in other cities. He died in June 1903.

William F. Dean was born in Canadawaga, NY, November 1856, and came to Williamsport with his family in 1867. He first engaged in the mercantile business after his father, but in 1883 he established the firm of Dean & Cornwell and engaged in photography. Mr. Cornwell retired in 1887, and William Dean continued alone. He developed a leading photographic establishment, employing six assistants. He had the exclusive right to the photographing at thirteen furniture factories. In 1895, Mr. Dean adopted "Terms Cash" for his business, and found that without a bookkeeping department the photographs turned out "were superior in quality, mounting and finish to anything produces heretofore". He died in 1899.

The Dean Studio name was retained by J. M. Pottenger, first as P. M Pottenger/Dean Studio but then, later becoming Pottenger & Sargent.

Charles A. Shempp, a native of South Williamsport, born January 1867, and was a photographer for 38 years, operating shops at Laurel and Fourth and later on Fourth Street opposite the YMCA. His interest in photography grew out of a teenage enthusiasm for the Indians that visited Williamsport with Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show and Pawnee Bill's Circus. He followed them westward and spent months in South Dakota taking pictures of Indian camps, ceremonials and domestic scenes.

After retiring from photography because the silver nitrate used in developing pictures poisoned him; he had a second career as inspector of streets and sidewalks in Williamsport, holding that position for an additional 30 years. He was on duty when the first brick streets were laid and also witnessed the replacement of thousands of feet of boardwalks. He inspected the flagstone and concrete walks which took their place. [Mr. Shempp was the father of LaRue D. Shempp, who donated his extensive model train collection to Thomas T. Taber Museum.]

Albert F. Zimmerman joined Godfrey Hess in 1880 and worked with him until Mr. Hess's death in 1903. In 1904 he went into business for himself at 148 West Fourth Street, moving the business to 12 West Fourth Street in 1922. During his career he took many thousands of photos of Williamsport and its vicinity and was especially interested in documenting Williamsport's past. He was particularly interested in the lumbering boom that was occurring at that time. He died in 1938.

Mr. A. W. F. MacCollin (1878 had a gallery and practiced photography, but also performed vocally, doing recitations, opera and as an actor in various community productions and benefits. He was a member of the Acting Academy, and the Handel and Hayden Association (1875). In 1882, he left Williamsport to follow a career in the theatre as a stage director.

CdeV: On back: photographer: "A.W.F. MacCollin, Imperial Photographic Rooms, S.E. Cor. 3d & Pine Sts. Opposite City Hotel, Williamsport, Pa. Negatives Preserved."

Edmund MacCollin, his brother was also a photographer, and continued (what is assumed) to have been a joint business. The E. N. MacCollin Gallery moved to W 4th opposite Government building in April 1st, 1890. The *Daily Gazette and Bulletin* carried a article "MacCollin's New Gallery" that was part of the newly built Troxell Building on West 4th Street: "Five of the rooms on the second floor are occupied by E. N. MacCollin, the well known skillful photographers, who moved lately from the southeast corner of third and Pine streets. Mr. MacCollin has long desired to get located on a second floor, easy of access, and now that

he has been successful, some description on his present gallery may prove of interest to his many patrons. His gallery consists of five rooms in this beautiful building, and all are located on the second floor, at the rear end. The first room is the parlor of reception room, which is elegantly furnished, the floor is covered with Brussels carpet, and beautiful upholstered chairs are spread over it, the windows display lace curtains, and the wall fine photographs, etc. From this room the visitor comes direct to the operating room, where are seen all the latest improvements connected with that department. The sky light top and side are composed of ground glass, and the curtains are so arranged the softest kind of a light can be obtained at all times. Connected with the operating room is the ladies' toilet room. From his operating room Mr. MacCollin steps into his "dark room" and from there into the finishing room, both of which are of excellent size, and where he has all the requisite facilities for turning out first class work. As M MacCollin has long been recognized as a photographer so superior ability, and now that he has the convenience he so long has desired, he, no doubt, will succeed in largely increasing his business. He has engaged as an assistant to take charge of one of the departments of his gallery, a Philadelphia artist of fine ability."

In 1894, Edmund MacCollin was appointed to a position at the Philadelphia Mint. Edmund died in Philadelphia March 1913.

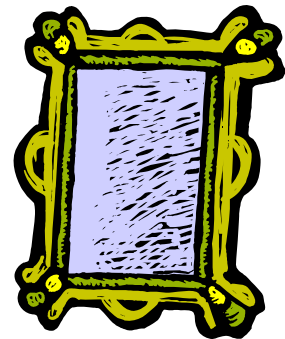
Next month, a chart of photographers and the years they were in business in Williamsport will be published, to help with identification.

From 1855 to 1910, the popular type of photograph were card photographs which were thin photographic paper prints mounted on cardboard stock. Three types were *Carte de visite*, Cabinet Cards and stereographs.

Carte de visite, popular from 1855 to 1870, were 4 ¼ inches by 2 ½ inches. These quite often will have a photographers mark on the back.

Cabinet cards, 1865 to 1905 approximately, ranged in several sizes, the most popular were 4 ½ inches by 6 ½ inches. Some are unmarked, some will have a photographers name or embossing on the front, while others can have elaborate designs on both the front and back of the card. The illustration is an ornately printed reverse side of a larger sized Cabinet card (Imperial size 9 7/8 inches by 6 7/8), done by Robert Y. Nice. He had a photography gallery in Williamsport from 1880 to 1921.

Stereographs, 1854 to 1908, were either 3 inches by 7 inches or 4 inches by 7 inches, and had two identical images, side by side. These were viewed with a stereographic viewer, which made the image to appear as 3-D. These cards were primarily produced for entertainment.



MORE NEWSPAPERS OF THE VALLEY

HISTORY OF THE NEWSPAPERS

From "*A History of the West Branch Valley of the Susquehanna*"

by John McGuinness, published 1857

Williamsport

The *Lycoming Gazette* is the oldest existing paper in the valley, having been published for over half a century, without change of name or suspension. Many other papers have been established in Williamsport, but after living for a brief period, they ceased to exist, and have been forgotten, whilst the *Gazette* continues on in the even tenor of its way. The early history of the *Gazette* is involved in much mystery, as no regular files, from the commencement, are to be found. After 1821, the exact dates and changes can be given accurately, as the files are preserved from that time. After much research and inquiry, I have obtained the following account, which is believed to be very nearly correct:

The *Lycoming Gazette* was established in 1802, by William F. Buyers, who continued alone till about 1808, when William Brinffle became associated with him as a partner. Buyers then appears to have retired, and I. K. Torbert took his place, and the publication of the paper was continued for some time under the firm of Brindle and Torbert. Brindle having retired, Torbert continued alone till 1819, when Ellis Lewis — now Judge of the Supreme Court — became a partner with him. How long they continued together is not known, but Torbert appears to have retired in the meantime, and Lewis conducted the paper alone till July 1821, when he disposed of the establishment to T. Coryell, who continued it alone till the 1st of August, 1823, when it was purchased by Henry Miller and John Brandon. It was continued by them till the 1st of August, 1827, when Miller retired, and James Cameron became associated with Brandon. This firm dissolved on the 19th of December, 1827, when W. P. Packer purchased Cameron's interest, and the paper was published by Brandon and Packer till the 17th of August, 1829, when Packer became sole owner and publisher. He continued alone till December 19, 1832, when John R. Beck became a partner with him, and they continued together till May 11, 1836, when Packer retired, and Eck conducted it till the 21st June, 1837, when it was consolidated with the *Chronicle* — a rival paper — and continued by John R. Eck and C. D. Eldred, under the title of the *Gazette and Chronicle*, till May 9, 1838, when Eck again became sole editor, and continued till the 20th of June, 1838, when Eldred became the owner, and it was published by him under the title of the *Lycoming Gazette*, till the 13th of August, 1840. At this time, C. W. Fitch purchased the establishment, and published the paper till February 10, 1842, when John F. Carter became associated with him, and they continued it till May 7, 1842, when Fitch retired and Carter became sole publisher. He continued the paper till February 11, 1843, when John B. Beck became a partner with him. This firm lasted till the 4th of March, 1843, when Beck became publisher, and Carter editor, which arrangement continued till November 18, 1843, when Carter retired, succeeded by Hamlet A. Kerr, (Beck still publisher,) who edited the paper till August 17, 1844, when he retired, and the firm changed to Beck & Co. On the 24th of June, 1846, C. D. Eldred, (who formed the Co. with Beck,) became editor and publisher, and continued till February 17, 1850, when P. T. Wright became associated with him, and continued till February 17, 1851, when Eldred retired, and Wright continued the paper till February 17, 1855, when J. W. Clark became a partner. This firm lasted till August 17, 1855, when Wright retired. Clark continued the paper till February 17, 1856, when he was succeeded by Atwood and Wilson. The latter retired on the 18th of August, 1856, and it is continued at the present time by N. L. Atwood alone. This is a correct history of this old paper since 1821 — previous to that time the periods when changes took place had to be guessed at, but the names of the publishers are correct. The *Lycoming Advertiser* was commenced in 1815, by Simpson and Gale, and continued about six months. The *Lycoming Chronicle* was started September 26, 1829, by A. Boyd Cummings, and continued till January 9, 1833, when he was succeeded by

Alexander Cummings, Jr., now of the Philadelphia Bulletin, and published by him till September 7, 1836, when C. D. Eldred became a partner. This firm continued till April 12, 1837, when Cummings retired, and Eldred conducted the paper till it was consolidated with the Gazette, June 21, 1837. I have been unable to find complete files of the following papers which had but an ephemeral existence, and the information had to be obtained from the old citizens, and the dates guessed at. The Free Press was commenced in July, 1836, by R. F. Middleton, who published it about one year, when it went into the hands of Cramer and Reed. It was also published by Loehr and Middleton. Discontinued about 1838. The publication of The Freeman was commenced about 1839, by John R. Eck, and continued till 1840, when W. P. and James R. Coulter, purchased the materials and commenced the publication of the West Branch Republican, which lived till about 1842. About this time the materials were purchased by John Sloan, who started the Lycoming Sentinel. -It lived about one year, when The North Pennsylvanian was established by John F. Carter, who let it die in about six months. The Jackson Democrat was started in 1845, by J. M. Newson and G. W. Armstrong. It was afterwards published for a short time by S. S. Seely, and by Q. W. Armstrong. It lived about a year. The Lycoming Democrat was started June 4, 1851, by John F. Carter. June 28, 1851, John R. Eck became a partner, but retired November 29, 1851, when it was continued by Carter till the fall of 1852, when it was discontinued, aged a year and a half. The Independent Press was established out of the materials of the Democrat, in 1852, by J. W. Barrett. In the fall of 1855, he disposed of the concern to a company, and F. A. Van Cleve became the editor, who discontinued it after issuing a few numbers. No paper was issued till the spring of 1856, when the publication was resumed by Barrett and Butt. Barrett retired, Oct. 18, 1856, and was succeeded by Jesse Fullmer.



*Limited years of the **Gazette & Bulletin** are available for citation searching, online, at the James V Brown Library website at <http://www.jvbrown.edu/>*

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Williamsport 1910 - 1911

Williamsport 1945 - 1990



More of the “self published” genealogies — by Surname in our library

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Glidewells	Hayes	Johnson (3)
Glossner	Haynes (2)	Kaschner
Grafius	Heess	Katzmaier
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Gramly	Heim	Kelchner
Graybill (2)	Heivly	Kelley / Kelly
Griers	Henry (2)	Kemmerer
Groff	Hepburn (2)	Kennedy
Group (2)	Hess / Reed	Kiess (3)
Gubala - Gublo	Heyler / Gutsmidt	Kindig
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Mystery Solved !!

STEINHELPER – WOODLEY – SHULER

The Steinhelper, Woodley and Shuler families lived in Lycoming County in Muncy and Washington Townships and in Williamsport for much of the 19th century. The families were linked in a way that was only recently clarified and may be of interest to the readers of Lycoming Lineage. The linkage may be summarized as follows:

Henry Steinhelper was born in 1840, the illegitimate son of Barbara Steinhelper and he adopted her surname. Barbara Steinhelper later married Martin Kuntz with whom she had several children.

Harriet Woodley was born in 1842, the youngest child of Anthony and Hanna Vanfleet Woodley.

Margaret Shuler was born in 1840, the eldest child of George and Sarah Woodley Shuler.

At the death of Anthony Woodley an 1864 deed book lists the heirs of Anthony including "Henry Steinplelfer and Harriet his wife". Neither Henry nor Harriet appear in the 1860 census and no record of their marriage has been found. Harriet does not appear in any subsequent censuses.

The 1870 census shows Henry Steinhelper married with a wife named Margaret and they have four children, Fannie, born 1861, Willard, born 1863, John, born 1865 and Carrie, born 1869. Later censuses show no additional children born to this marriage.

Margaret was determined to be Margaret Shuler and the 1900 census states that she was married 39 years and had four children, four living. This indicated that Henry and Margaret were married in 1861 and that their four children were from this marriage. But what happened to Harriet?

This perplexing relationship of Henry, Harriet and Margaret was further confused by the fact that there were other Henry Steinhelopers found in the census record but with different ages and in other locations.

The mystery was recently solved with the help of Ms. Sue Rice who located a descendant of Willard who had old family letters in which Willard complained of a cruel stepmother. These letters also indicated that his mother Harriet died in 1865 with the birth of her third child John.

Thus, it appears that Henry Steinhelper and Harriet Woodley were married in 1860 and had three children. Harriet died in 1865 and Henry subsequently married Margaret Shuler, about 1867, with whom he had one child. Mystery solved!



Robert Woodley

LCGS Note: Anyone wishing to donate material to LCGS may do so. Please include the name and address of the sender and a description of content.

NEW MEMBERSHIPS

S. Youngman at syoungman@earthlink.net is researching **YOUNGMAN, ANTES, DITTMAR, HEETHER, HETTER** and **JUNGMAN**.

Jeannette L. Molson at JLMolson@AOL.com is researching **COOK, SMITH, MOLSON** and **WILLILAMS**.

Carol Myers Rymes at carol@rymes.net is researching **MYERS, CORSON, FIESTER, KEPNER**, and **DOTTERER (DUDDERER)**.

QUERY

- **Myers and Musser Connection?** My Great-great grandfather was George W. Myers b. 1818 who was married to Susannah Fiester Corson, b. 1823. They were in Muncy for the 1850 census, but moved to Virginia in 1859. Their oldest son Edward is buried at the Immanuel Lutheran Church. I suspect that his father might be Henry Myers Sr., and his brother Henry Myers, Jr. They sold land in Plunketts Creek to Dr. William Musser, and also bought land in Virginia from Dr. Musser. I don't know what the connection between the families was (if any). Anyone having any additional information please contact me at carol@rymes.net.
- **Searching for book:** I am looking for this book.... "*Abraham Willett (c1735-c1805) of Onondaga County, New York.*" This work offers "a reasonable outline of the William Willett family from its earliest traditional ancestry to the present." Does anyone have a copy of this that can do a look up for me. I don't wish to buy it if there is no entry for a person who married into the family. Thanks, Connie at Philip4@comcast.net

Genealogy Bumper stickers

"I'd rather look for dead people than have 'em look for me"

"I'm not stuck, I'm ancestrally challenged"

"I'm searching for myself; have you seen me?"

"If only people came with pull-down menus and on-line help"

"Isn't genealogy fun? The answer to one problem, leads to two more!"



LCGS Publication List 2008

Histories:

- 1) History of Lycoming County, Pennsylvania, 1892 by John Meginness, reprint of 1892 ed, 1200 pages, indexed, hardcover \$119.00 + \$4.50 p&h
- 2) History of Lycoming County, Pennsylvania, CD ROM, 1892 by John Meginness, searchable, \$39.95 + \$2.50 p&h
- 3) Memoirs of John Burrows, Early Settler of Montoursville, unbound, \$5.00 + \$2.50 p&h
- 4) Cogan House Township – The 1900's, by Nancy Baumgardner, soft cover, indexed, \$28.50 + \$3.50 p&h
- 5) Early History of Cogan House Township, by Landis & Taylor, soft cover, \$25.00 + \$3.50 p&h
- 6) Index to Early History of Cogan House Township, unbound, \$5.00 + \$2.50 p&h
- 7) Pioneer Life or Thirty Years a Hunter, by Tomb, reprint of 1854 ed, hardcover, index, \$25.00 + \$3.50 p&h
- 8) Extinct Pennsylvania Animals, Parts I & II, Henry Shoemaker, reprint of 1917 edition \$28.50 + \$3.50 p&h
- 9) Williamsport City Burial Records 1872-1876, unbound, \$5.00 + \$2.50 p&h
- 10) Patriots of Valor, prepared by Lycoming Chapter of DAR, 2001, hardcover 175 pages \$49.00 + \$3.50 p&h Soft Cover, \$30.00 + \$3.50 p&h
- 11) Priceless Treasures, by David L Richards, soft cover, \$20.00 + \$3.50 p&h, limited supply
- 12) A Bicentennial Postcard History of Williamsport, by Richard and Miriam Mix, \$19.99 + \$3.50 p&h

Cemetery Records:

- 13) Jersey Shore Cemetery, compiled by Mary Guinter, \$35.00 + \$3.50 p&h –CD now available—CD has many photos and original records. CD \$35.00 +\$2.50 p&h
- 14) Bastian Funeral Home Burials 1905-1954, (Cogan House area), hardcover, \$32.50 + \$3.50 p&h
- 15) Kelchner Funeral Home Records, 1901-1933, (Jersey Shore area), soft cover, \$25.00 + \$3.50 p&h
- 16) Muncy Cemeteries, compiled by Lucas Brass, hardcover, index, \$35.00 + \$3.50 p&h
- 17) Lycoming County Cemetery Series, indexed – see prices at the end of the list
 - a) Volume 1: Anthony, Armstrong, Bastress, Brady, Cascade, Clinton Townships
 - b) Volume 2: Cogan House, Cummings, Eldred, Fairfield, Franklin Townships
 - c) Volume 3: Gamble, Hepburn, Jackson, Jordan Townships
 - d) Volume 4: Lewis, Limestone, Loyalsock, Lycoming Townships
 - e) Volume 5: Williamsport Cemetery, Presbyterian Church (Newberry)
 - f) Volume 6: McHenry, McIntyre, McNett, Mifflin, Mill Creek, Moreland, Muncy Borough, Muncy Creek, Muncy Townships
 - g) Volume 7: Nippenose, Old Lycoming, Penn, Piatt, Pine, Picture Rocks, Plunkett's Creek, Porter, Shrewsbury, Susquehanna, Upper Fairfield, Washington, Watson, Woodward Townships
 - h) Volume 8: Muncy Cemetery Addendum from 1967-1988
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The Lycoming County Genealogical Society, Inc. (LCGS), is a non-profit organization dedicated to the encouragement of research, publication, and preservation of genealogical materials. Its members work toward the improvement of genealogical research and publication.

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REGULAR MEETINGS

Regular meetings of the LCGS are held on the fourth Saturday of each month at the Thomas Taber Museum, 858 West 4th Street, Williamsport, PA, (570-326-3326), from 1:00 — 4:00 p.m. Doors open at 12:00 noon for "coffee and conversation." Programs of genealogical significance are offered at each meeting.

Members may submit an unlimited number of queries for the "Lycoming Lineage" newsletter each year. The charge to non-members is \$2.00 per query. Please be specific in your request.

The LCGS library is located within the Thomas T. Taber Museum, Lycoming County Historical Society, at 858 West Fourth Street, Williamsport, PA, (570-326-3326).

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