

Capital Area Genealogical Society
P. O. Box 4502
Harrisburg, PA 17111-0502

Return Service Requested

Newsletter Vol. 5, No. 2

June 2009

James M. McAteer, Editor

Message from the Editor

Dear Member:

This issue we are attempting something different in that the opening will be a message from the editor instead of the President.

We have an interesting schedule of events coming for the fall, so do attempt to make the meetings. The August meeting will feature the program on The Sunken Town of Peach Bottom, arranged by the Lancaster County Historical Society.

Let me know if there is something specific that you would like to see in the newsletter and I will see if it can be included in future issues.

Jim McAteer

Monthly Topics

July 2009	The halls will be quiet in July as there is no meeting this month.
August 2009	Peach Bottom – the story of a sunken town.
September 2009	19 th Century Clothing – presented by Lancaster County
October 2009	Lebanon County Historical Society at the LCHS. They have a fine genealogical library.
November 2009	Dead Men Do Tell Tales – stories of Lancaster County's past
December 2009	Christmas Program

Genealogy Corner:

Computer Website:

Anyone researching Civil War ancestors may be interested in Grand Army of the Republic, Department of Illinois: Transcription of the Death Rolls, 1879-1947. This book contains death records of 1024 veterans of Pennsylvania Civil War units. Visit www.ngpublications.com for more details on purchasing this book.

Consider looking at this free website. It is run by the Latter Day Saints and contains an ever increasing amount of research data.

<http://pilot.familysearch.org/>

Biography

The Byrem family submitted several short biographies. Since they are interconnected family members, they are all included here. A genuine “thank you” goes to the Byrem family from the editor for the biographies.

Sam Byrem worked for the Harrisburg Press as a linotype operator. Later he had a cigar and newspaper store on North Third Street, Harrisburg, where the Pennsylvania Museum and Archives presently stands.

Benjamin Franklin Hoffman had a livery stable in Dillsburg and later an ice and coal business on North 7th Street, Harrisburg at the turn of the 20th century. Benjamin later moved to Camp Hill where he built several houses and an apartment building known as the Ben Franklin Apartments at the corner of 29th & Market streets, Camp Hill.

Hezekiah Cook was a farmer and preacher in the Church of the Brethren and lived outside Dillsburg, PA.

Research

The Capital Area Genealogical Society has a large collection of names in the library, which is open from 1:15 until 2:30 before each meeting. Some of the alphabetized index cards also reference other family names in the system. Below is a collection of names beginning with “A”.

Abbot, Luke	Adams, High, Joseph	Albright, Amos, Maude
Alcorn, Eliza	Alderfer, Christina, Frederick	Aldridge, Elcinda
Allaman, Henry	Alleman, Jacob, John Frederick	Leonhardt, Rosanna
Allen, Anna, Eleanor, Eliza, James, Jane, John, Joseph, Margaret, Robert, Sarah, Thomas		

Allison, Nancy Altorffer, Loenhard
 Anderson, Alvin, Catherine, Cecelia, Emanuel, James, Joan
 Angle, Alpha, Anna, Annie, Berry, Cora, David Martin, David Zeller,
 Eleanor, Elizabeth, Henry, Howard, Ida, Jacob, James, John, Katherine,
 Marion, Maryan, Rosanah, Susanah
 Anspach, Davilla Anthony, Annie
 Applegate, Abraham, Alice, Catherine, Delilah, Mary, Van Meter, Vincent,
 Walter
 Arbour, Joseph, Luther, William
 Arnold, Francis, Marian Atchisson, Ellis Augenstein, Inez
 Aurandt, Rev. W. K. Avery, Lawrence Avise, Jesse, Mary
 Axe, Able, Cornelius, Daniel, George, Lorenzo, Lydia, Mary Matilda, Mary
 Otila, Wilhelm

—

Centralized recording of deaths in Pennsylvania began in 1906. From 1906 to the present, all death records are stored in the Vital Records section of the Department of Health. Between 1893 and 1905, individual counties were responsible for these records. Not all counties kept accurate records. The Capital Area Genealogical Society has a copy of **Selected Dauphin County, Pennsylvania Death Records, 1893-1906** in the library. This should be of interest to any genealogist searching for ancestors who died between these years.

Meet a Member:

Gerald H. Byrem

Gerald H. Byrem, better known as Jerry to his friends and relatives, was born in a third floor apartment at 6th & Emerald streets in Harrisburg, Pa, on December 5, 1922. He was the only child of Emanuel Millard Byrem and Kathryn June Hoffman. His family moved to Camp Hill, Cumberland County, PA, when Jerry was two years old, and it was there that he grew up and attended school.

During the Great Depression, Jerry's father became ill and was not able to work for months. Wanting to help, Jerry had a morning paper route for his last three years in high school. Awakening at 5 AM six days a week, he delivered by bicycle out-of-town newspapers to 105 customers over a five mile route. After graduating from Camp Hill High School in 1940, Jerry was admitted to the Williamson Free School of Mechanical Trades near

Media, PA, for a three year program. The school, last of its kind in the United States, was founded and endowed by Isaiah Van Sant Williamson, a Quaker, to teach a trade and give a well rounded education to poor and worthy boys. The boys of Williamson were indentured to the school which educated, fed, housed and clothed them, gave moral and spiritual guidance, and taught a disciplined and regulated lifestyle along with a trade. In return the young men were expected to work around the campus and apply themselves to their studies. After graduation from Williamson School in 1943 as a machinist and tool & die maker, Jerry enlisted in the Army Corps of Engineers. As military minds work, he was assigned to the Tank Destroyers at Fort Hood, KY, for basic training. He later trained at the Army Specialized Training Program (ASTP) at Hendrix College, Conway, Arkansas. After completing that program, Jerry was assigned to the 99th Infantry Division at Camp Maxey, Texas, and participated in additional training before going to the European front lines during World War II. Jerry participated in, and was wounded during, the Battle of the Bulge. He spent time recovering in French and British hospitals and rejoined his outfit to finish the war. Jerry was honorably discharged in February, 1946.

After the war, Jerry took a refresher course at Williamson and spent a summer working as a draftsman for Aircraft-Marine Products, later known as AMP, Inc. Shortly after this time he contracted polio and spent weeks in Harrisburg Hospital.

After recovering, Jerry went to college under the GI Bill. There he met Lois Cumpson, another student, and they were married during his freshman year. Jerry graduated from Penn State University during 1950 with a degree in Industrial Engineering, returned to AMP, and retired in June 1985 with 35 years of service. Jerry and Lois have two sons, three granddaughters and 5 great granddaughters.