Monday, August 3

8:30-9:45  **The Keystone State: Putting Pennsylvania in Historical Perspective**  
_Frank Southcott_

Pennsylvania has been a keystone in the establishment of the United States since William Penn founded his colony in 1682. This presentation will explore the early settlement and boundary disputes, the political turmoil, and the eventual industrial might of a land rich in natural resources and open to immigration throughout its early development. We will set the stage for Pennsylvania family history research by understanding the vast complexities of Penn’s “Holy Experiment!”

10:00-11:15  **Pennsylvania Vital Records – The Backbone of the Keystone State**  
_Sydney Cruice Dixon_

Vital records can be the backbone of family research. We will explore the Keystone State’s history of vital records, the different types of such records, and where and how to access these valuable resources. We will discuss what you can substitute when the government records don’t exist or are insufficient. We will explore the development of the Pennsylvania counties and their government structures in order to understand their resources and gain access to their records.

11:30-12:45  **Pennsylvania’s Genealogical Gems and Database Treasures**  
_Sydney Cruice Dixon_

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is particularly rich with record collections and databases. From military records to ship crew lists – Pennsylvania’s records can supply details about your ancestors that even the Federal records cannot. However, making sure you are aware of these hidden gems and the best ways to access them can be a challenge. We will discuss the resources and websites that must be explored to incorporate these valuable records into your family research.

2:15-3:30   **HSP Collections / Laws of the Library**  
_Lee Arnold, DLitt et Phil, Senior Director Library and Collections, HSP_

This presentation will describe the special collections of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, provide a tour of the research rooms, and establish the criteria for use of the library during the course of the Researching Family in Pennsylvania program.

3:45-5:00   **Keys to Successful Genealogical Research at HSP**  
_Dawn King Carson_

The Historical Society of Pennsylvania is rich with hidden gems genealogists love to discover. This presentation will walk you through the website of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. Emphasis will be on the genealogy databases available to researchers.

Tuesday, August 4

8:30-9:45  **Courting the Keystone State: Key Court Records of Pennsylvania (Part I)**  
_Judy Russell, JD, CGSM, CGLSM, The Legal Genealogist_

Part I will give an overview and explore the basics of the Pennsylvania court system. It will investigate how the Pennsylvania courts were (and are) organized; court jurisdiction (what
10:00-11:15 **Courting the Keystone State: Key Court Records of Pennsylvania (Part II)**  
*Judy Russell, JD, CGSM, CGLSM, The Legal Genealogist*  
Part II will highlight the specialized records of the Pennsylvania courts including naturalizations, insolvent debtors, and slave cases. Also explored will be the specialized courts, including appeals courts, federal courts, and their records.

11:30-12:45 **Pennsylvania County Land Records (Deeds)**  
*Frank Southcott*  
That William Penn established a detailed process of warranting and patenting land in his colony cannot be overstated. The patent process formed the basis of land distribution throughout the counties and was the fundamental process to future land sales and county deed records. This presentation will explore the patent process, the importance of understanding county development and subsequent county deed records, and their benefit and usefulness to the family researcher.

2:15-3:30 **Metes and Bounds Land Platting Practicum**  
*Sydney Cruice Dixon*  
Understanding the land measurement system of metes and bounds is critical for family research in Pennsylvania. Anchoring your ancestor’s land to the exact location can enable you to discover church records and identify new family members. In this practicum, we will break down legal land descriptions in deeds and learn how to plat land. We will also explore different ways to anchor properties to the land on various land maps. We will discuss using surrounding deeds to assist with this process, and using internet tools like Google Earth and the United States Geological Survey Topography Maps.

3:45-5:00 **Metes and Bounds Land Platting Practicum (con’t.)**  
*Sydney Cruice Dixon*  

**Wednesday, August 5**

8:30-9:45 **Military Records at the Pennsylvania State Archives**  
*Sydney Cruice Dixon*  
This presentation will provide an overview of the military records available to researchers at the Pennsylvania State Archives. The presentation will cover the primary records and indexes available to researchers interested in the military service of Pennsylvanians from the French and Indian War to Vietnam.

10:00-11:15 **Taxes and Timelines: 18th Century Rural Genealogy in Pennsylvania**  
*Kimberly F.B. Bucklaw*  
Tax records are one of the most underestimated and underutilized sources in genealogy, owing in part to the fact that they don’t explicitly state a great deal of information. However, armed with an understanding of the taxation process and the records it created, as well as some creative methodology, genealogists can use even the limited data found in tax records to significantly advance their work. In this course, you will learn about 18th century Pennsylvania tax records and how to use them in conjunction with novel timelining techniques to overcome research obstacles pertaining to early rural families.
11:30-12:45  **Pennsylvania’s Revolutionary War Militia and Colonial Records: Census Substitutes**  
*Frank Southcott*

Unlike other colonies and largely due to the Quaker abhorrence to military action, Pennsylvania did not establish a state-wide militia until 1777. The establishment of the militia put into place a system of service which potentially locates and places an ancestor in a specific geographic location. By cross-referencing surviving colonial tax records with surviving militia records, one can establish a census substitute of neighbors and neighborhoods. This presentation will explore those documents and give examples of how those records can be analyzed.

2:15-3:30  **The “Other” Pennsylvania Archive: Exploring the Pennsylvania Archives Series**  
*Frank Southcott*

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission operates the Pennsylvania State Archives in Harrisburg. Many documents and resources are available online or by visiting the facility. Lesser known but just as valuable to the family researcher is the Pennsylvania Archives Series. The series is a collection of volumes detailing the early development of Pennsylvania from colonial times through the Revolutionary War period. This presentation will explore those volumes and detail the information available to the family history researcher.

3:45-5:00  **Navigating Resources Near the Delaware River**  
*Sydney Cruice Dixon*

Description coming soon!

**Thursday, August 6**

8:30-9:45  **Pennsylvania and the Religious Society of Friends: A Quaker Stronghold with Far Reaching Implications**  
*Frank Southcott*

The “Quakers” controlled Pennsylvania government and politics until the Revolutionary War period. They were the predominant early settlers who established a religious network of meetings throughout the eastern counties. This presentation will explore the Society of Friends and their philosophy’s impact on the development of Pennsylvania. It will detail the repositories and records available to research those early families including the Ancestry.com collection.

10:00-11:15  **Researching German Families in Pennsylvania**  
*Jim Beidler*

Successfully researching German families depends on the timeframe the immigrants arrived in Pennsylvania. Explore the records available and geographic areas that German settlers impacted Pennsylvania.

11:30-12:45  **Finding Your Vorfahren: Genealogy with German-Language Church Records**  
*Tom McCullough, Archivist, Moravian Archives*

Having trouble tracking down a German-speaking ancestor? Church records are often a great starting place! Using examples from the Moravian Archives in Bethlehem, course participants will learn about the various types and functions of German-language church records (such as church registers, catalogs, diaries, and many more) and how to navigate them for family research.
Western Pennsylvania: Researching in the Steel City and Beyond
Rich Venezia
Learn about researching the people that settled and lived in the western third of the state and the records they left behind. This course will cover the archives and record repositories in Western Pennsylvania, including the Detre Library & Archives at the Heinz History Center.

Coalminers, Railroaders, and Immigrants: The Keystones of Pennsylvania Labor
Frank Southcott
Coal mining and railroads played an extensive part in the industrial development of Pennsylvania. Understand the various coal mining regions of Pennsylvania, the simultaneous development of the railroads to support that industry, and the people involved. Realize the extensive immigrant population and their contribution to Pennsylvania society.

Friday, August 7

Locating Church Records in Pennsylvania
Dawn King Carson
Details Coming Soon

The People on Holme’s Map: Using Historical Records to Identify Them
Sue Long, PhD
Thomas Holme’s map of Pennsylvania in 1685 is a familiar sight, appearing in countless state histories. It shows the landowners at the time, with their tracts neatly outlined, and each tract named. Who were these people? The talk will include results of a year-long study identifying them, as well as engaging stories – about a suspected murder, a counterfeiting ring, cheating land deals, masters who assaulted the virtue of their servant women, astrology, highway robbery, pirates and more. We hear the voices of the late 17th century as people call each other “rogues, knaves, and beggarly dogs”, or when a horse thief calls his brother “the most faint hearted man that lives.”

Case Studies in Pennsylvania Research
Sydney Cruice Dixon
We will look at some Pennsylvania family case studies that solved difficult research issues by using the records sets, repositories, and resources presented at this institute this week.

Class Picture, Critique, and Certificate Exchange