

MYSTERIES SOLVED!

CCHGS to the Rescue

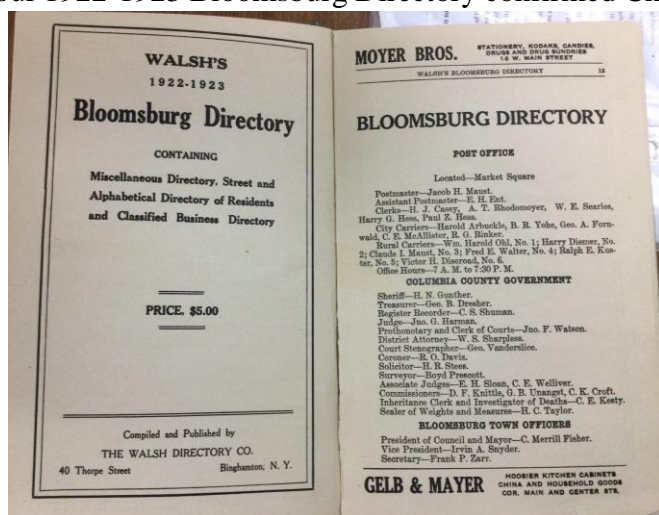
By Dani Crossley

It struck me recently that we at the Society had been very successful in solving genealogical mysteries for our customers, through the resources that are uniquely found at CCHGS.

With the advent of so many online resources, one might mistakenly think that all solutions can be gleaned through online database searches. There is just no substitute for availing oneself of the myriad collections housed in our library.

Directories and Death Certificates

While you might think that you can just check these resources online, there are some instances when it doesn't always work. We had a recent visitor in pursuit of information about his great-great-grandfather, Angelo Lucarini (whose name had changed to Charles and various iterations of Lukereen). Our resourceful volunteer, George Holdren, dove right in and through serious investigative techniques was able to reveal Angelo's whereabouts in the 1920 census. He first checked our Death Certificate collection and found that the address where Angelo/Charles was living at the time of his death in 1925 was 362 Railroad Street in Bloomsburg. A brief look through our 1922-1923 Bloomsburg Directory confirmed Chas Lukereen was at the same address. George

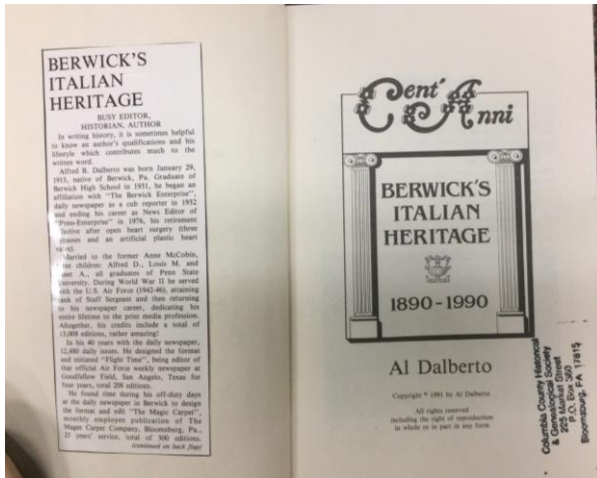


used one of his favorite research tricks of entering the name Smith to locate the area of the census that would cover the Railroad Street households. He then went page by page until he located house number 362. There he came upon Frank Moss (originally Giuseppi Masi), brother-in-law of Charles Luckerine. Our customer now knew how his great-great-grandfather had come to our area. He wrote this letter to us:

"I am eternally grateful to have visited you and met you all. I naively traveled to Bloomsburg hoping to find any scrap

of information about my great-great-grandfather, Angelo Lucarini. All I knew was that he was buried in Old Rosemont and that he left his 6 children behind in Italy 100 years ago when his wife died. Your records gave him a new life and helped my family rediscover his sacrifice. You all are doing important work keeping people's memories alive and I am so appreciative of your help."

Additionally, if you are researching an Italian ancestor from the Berwick area, you may find our copy of Albert Dalberto's *Berwick Italian Heritage* helpful.



was indentured (Mr. Fairman) as an indentured servant, but her father's name as well, George Taylor. Just seeing the original yellowed parchment with her X mark brought Mary and her sad tale so much closer.

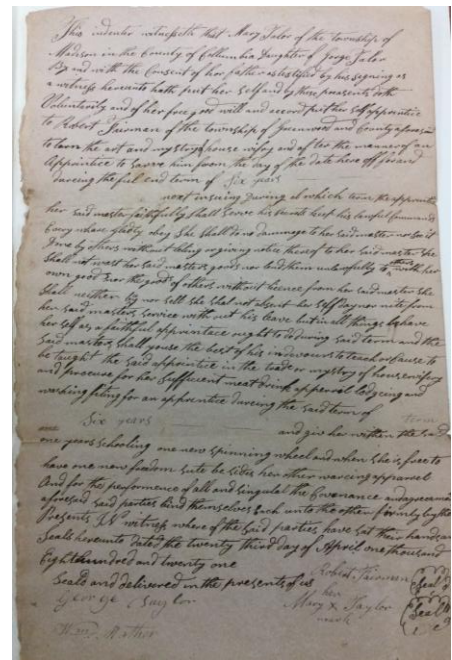
Cemetery Files and Photograph Database

My sister-in-law asked me to find information about her ex-father-in-law, Robert Drumm, who was a prisoner of war in WWII. She thought perhaps he had been part of the Bataan Death March. While pursuing this information (on Fold3.com), I realized that I was missing a death date for Robert Hidlay Drumm's grandmother, Minnie Jane Hidlay Drumm. I thought I would just pop over to Ancestry and find that data in one of the many Drumm family trees or one of the databases. It just was not to be found. Her husband, Clarence Edwin Drumm, was there in New Rosemont Cemetery in various resources but no information about her death was available. He died in 1942; she couldn't have lived that much longer and therefore should be in the Pennsylvania collection of Death Certificates. None of my research tricks unearthed this elusive record in Ancestry's database. I went to the CCHGS website and entered, "Drumm, M" in the search field for our Names Database and her death information came up quickly: Old Rosemont Cemetery Index (1936-1958), Restricted Book #14, pg. 83. At first I thought her name might've appeared as the next of kin/informant for her husband Clarence, but he had his own listing dozens of pages earlier. This was likely Minnie's own entry.

Deeds and Draughts

While this document is not a deed or draught, you will be hard pressed to find a copy of it on the internet. The original Indenture document for Mary Taylor is in a folder with her name on it and tells the story previously written about a few years back in this newsletter. We were researching the ancestor of one of our members, looking to find her parents' names.

The 1821 document not only told us to whom she



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RECORD OF INTERMENTS

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NUMBER OF INTERMENT	NAME	PLACE OF BIRTH	LATE RESIDENCE	AGE		SEX	DATE OF DEATH			CAUSE OF DEATH	
				YEARS	MONTHS		DATE	YEAR	MONTH		DAY
5469	Wm. P. McBride	Bloomington	Bloomington	64		M	W	54	12	10	Arteriosclerosis
5470	Minnie F. Hatfield	Bloomington	Bloomington	80		F	W	54	Sept	22	Arteriosclerosis
5471	Pierce Kline	"	"	80		M	"	"	"	"	"
5472	Adolph Arthur Caldwell	"	Bloomington	73		"	"	"	"	"	"
5473	Edna Hylbert	Bloomington	Bloomington	62		"	"	"	"	"	"
5474	Minnie H. Drumm	" R.D.	Hightstown	79		"	"	"	"	"	"
5475	Baby James	"	Stellton P.	8		F	"	"	"	"	"
5476	Maggie Thoms	"	Bloomington	83		F	"	"	"	"	"
5477	Benj. W. Jany	Bloomington	"	57		M	"	"	"	"	"
5478	Abelias M. Jany	"	"	75		"	"	"	"	"	"
5479	Benjamin Bonds	"	"	76		"	"	"	"	"	"
5480	Anna Taylor	"	New York	62		F	"	"	"	"	"
5481	Royd Clark	Christian Co.	Bloomington	67		M	"	"	"	"	"
5482	Alba K. Snyder	"	"	83		F	"	"	"	"	"
5483	John Cira	"	"	85		"	"	"	"	"	"
5484	Henry S. Minnith	"	"	62		M	"	"	"	"	"
5485	Thomas F. Halderman	Bloomington	"	63		"	"	"	"	"	"
5486	Jay Ellen Banks	Bloomington	"	64		F	"	"	"	"	"
		"	Danville	25		"	"	"	"	"	"



My next visit to the Society confirmed that Minnie had died September 6, 1954 of arteriosclerosis and was buried in New Rosemont. So, I then asked myself what happened to her death certificate at Ancestry? I did a search with no name, just the September date, and still no record. I accessed someone else's death certificate in the same time period and went one certificate at a time until I came upon hers with all the very legible information easily read. Somehow Ancestry had missed entering her in their database. I advised them of the oversight.

Lastly, I entered Drumm into our photo database and was lucky to find a hit on Franklin Pierce Drumm, Robert's father (and Clarence's and Minnie's son). He was in the last row of a Hidlay School class picture from about 1914, eerily resembling his grandson.

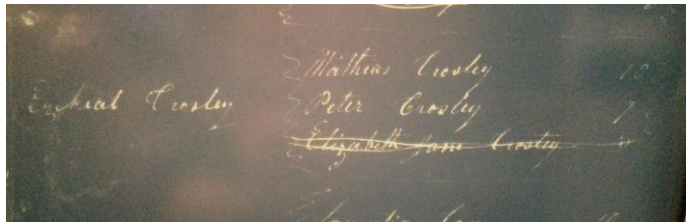


P.S. Robert Drumm was held captive at Luckenwald in Germany for about six months, not a participant in the Bataan Death March.

Township Tax Records

Our tax records (approx. 1802-1840) will reveal a wealth of secrets regarding our ancestors not included in census records. We are very fortunate to have copies of these records on microfilm, arranged by year and township. Neighbors, type of dwelling, livestock holdings and personal worth are some of the facts that might help you understand the life of your early 19th century ancestors. The one that caused my Eureka! moment was the listing of Poor Children (for educational purposes) at the end of the Triennial Census listing for each township. Some townships did not have any "poor children" to list, so there are no guarantees you will hit the

motherlode like I did. My husband's great-great-grandfather Ezekiel Crossley had five children that lived to adulthood. The younger two, George Washington and Anna Catherine, were still living with him in 1850 in Madison Township, where members of the family are enumerated. The older three were already out of the house. How was I ever going to find out their names? There were two boys and one girl. Lo and behold, there at the end of the Madison Township tax record in 1835, under the Poor Children listed at the end were: Mathias Crossley, age 10; Peter Crossley, age 7; and Elizabeth Jane, age 5. Her name had a line drawn through it because her attendance (and therefore necessary payment for her by the county) was not yet required at school. From there I was able to follow the members of the family as they grew up, married and had families of their own.



Free for Free

This unobtrusive cardboard box sits on the counter at the front of the Society. As various items in our collection are copied onto archival quality paper and stored for easy retrieval, the originals are placed in this box, available for the taking by anyone with an interest. Many of our members passing through take a quick look to see if anything in there applies to their families. Chris Sanders' great-grandmother was a Smith—a name problematic for family ancestry research. Her Smiths are connected to the pottery business in Greenwood Township. Because of an article about the Smiths she found in our Free for Free box, she was able to trace her family a couple more generations back, found mention of their movement from Forty-Fort to Greenwood in 1832 and involvement in the Wyoming Massacre! Can you imagine your reaction if you found information like that for your family?

Genealogy Files

Just by happenstance, Chris Sanders was looking through the Sands Genealogy File. She found the connection to her own ancestors through a family tree that someone had donated and was able to trace her family back to the Mayflower and beyond to England even earlier. Perhaps your family is mentioned in one of our files.

Volunteers

I have saved the best for last! Our volunteers are our best resource. If you have family that came from the northern part of the county, there is a good chance George Holdren knows something about them. Likewise, if you're across the river in the southern part of our county, you will want to talk to Al Oldroyd. Bonnie Farver, our past Executive Directory, is such a resource about our holdings and who is researching what families that she can likely put you in touch with someone who can shed additional light on your ancestors. Just recently one visitor was still shaking her head and clutching over 30 pages worth of data on her family after her visit on Tuesday. She was overwhelmed with how much and how quickly our volunteers were able to find answers to her questions.

Several months before the pandemic hit, we received a call from someone outside the area who had been adopted as a baby and was in search of his birth mother. He had her maiden name. Our volunteers got on it right away and found a photo of her in a high school yearbook, but did not know a married name. Through family tree research and a quick trip to look up her parents' obituaries, we were able to find her married name! The local directory had her listed. She was still alive! Some very sensitive visits and conversations ensued. The family was at last joyfully reunited!

We hope you will come visit us to explore in what ways our Society might help you in your genealogy research. One last tip from George Holdren: "Just Google it! (For example, something like "Gensil Family Tree.") You never know what you will find from this simple search.