

Genealogy Research Trip Log, 9/7/2003 – 9/27/2003

Sunday, September 7, 2003 -- 11:20 pm EDT

Here I am in Gettysburg, PA after driving from the Pittsburg airport. It was very strange driving in, seeing township and county signs for places that I am so familiar with thru genealogy. It is hard to believe that my ancestors lived here 250 years ago. I can hardly wait to see the area in the daylight and to get started on my research.

Of course, this area is a very big Civil War battlefield, but most of my ancestors had moved west by then. I'll have to check my documents to see who was left around here during that time.

Monday, September 8, 2003 -- 6:30 pm

Today I visited the York County Archives and got copies of the following documents:

1. Will of Moses Jenkins, proved 1/30/1789, names
 - Dr. Robert Ambrose and wife Ann
 - John Sheakly and wife Margaret
 - James Parker and wife Frances
 - John Mooney and wife Rebecca
 - Robert Campbell (no wife listed)
 - Walker Jenkins, son
 - Moses Jenkins, son
 - Frances Jenkins, wife
2. Admin papers for estate of Moses Jenkins, 12/27/1797
3. Will of Joseph Heslet, proved 5/11/1767, names
 - Esther, wife
 - Mary, daughter
 - Agnes, daughter
 - "child not yet born"
 - William Shekley ("my brother")
4. Admin papers (and inventory) for estate of Joseph Heslet, 11/20/1771, names
 - Esther Heslet now being the wife of Robert Taylor
 - William Shekly
 - Mary Shekly, paid 2,5,0
 - A debt due to the estate of Mary Shekly, paid 6,0,0
5. Orphans Court, appoint guardian for Mary Heslet, 12/6/1771 -- she chose Robert Taylor (so she would be over the age of 14 and under the age of 21)
6. Orphans Court, appoint guardian for Agnes and John Heslet, 12/6/1771, Hugh Dunwoodie named
 - Agnes age 10
 - John age 4 "and upwards"
7. Will of James Haselet, proved 11/22/1760, names
 - Mary, wife
 - Samuel (younger child)
 - Joseph (younger child)
 - John, son
 - Sarah, daughter
 - William, son
 - James, son
 - Robert, son

8. Admin papers for estate of James Haselet, 12/2/1762
 - Mary, widow
 - James Haselt
 - William Haslet
 - Robert "who is dead"
9. Orphan's court Mary Haslet widow of James Haslet apprentices son Samuel age 11 in April last to Benjamin Harbison, a copper smith in Philadelphia until age 21. Dated 10/7/1762
10. Orphan's court John Haslet, minor son of James Haslet (deceased), age 16 on 1/18/1761, apprentice to James Robb "the art or mystery of sadler, until age 21. 1/29/1761
11. Orphan's court Mary Haslet widow of James Haslet apprentices daughter Sarah, age 14 on 4/30 next (4/30/1761) to Nathan McDowel until age 18, to read bible, knit, sew, spin. (the Rev Nathan McDowel?)
12. Deed book entry 10/27/1795 -- pd to Jenet Sheakly (late Jenet Moore) to settle estate of James Moore (her husband)
13. Deed book entry 5/14/1791 -- bond to William Shakely of Mt Pleasant Twp for 1000 pounds by Jennet Sheakly (wife of William Shakely and late widow and executrix of James Moore deceased) George Duffield and William Vance
14. Deed book entry 5/13/1791 -- Jennet Sheakly wife of William Sheakly and wife and relict of James Moore, quit claim on estate?
15. Deed book entry 5/31/1790 -- John Sheakly of Cumberland Twp THIS ONE NEEDS MORE STUDY -- 3 pages -- looks like 400 acres sold to Wm Shakley by Robert McCreary in 1775, then he sold it to John in 1785, now John is selling it to the Armstrongs
16. Deed book entry 5/21/1798, William Shakely and George Shakely of Franklin twp sell land to Jacob Slagle

So, the new info is that Esther Haslet had a son John after her husband Joseph died, and she remarried to Robert Taylor. Got info on Moses Jenkins heirs. Found James Haslet, but not sure who he is.

BIG question, who is the Mary Shekly and Mary Shekly's estate mentioned in Joseph Haslet's estate admin papers?

Tuesday, September 9, 2003 -- 6:10 pm

Good day spent at the Adams County Historical Society in Gettysburg. I got the following documents:

1. Clean copies of the wills and admin papers for both George & Margaret Sheakley
2. Bond in the death of William Sheakley (1858) for Robert Sheakley (his brother) as administrator
3. List of Sheakleys in tax records for Adams Co.
4. Numerous land records for the Shakleys going back to about 1775
5. Cemetery records for Jenkins and Sheakley
6. Numerous newspaper articles about the Shekley and Jenkins family members
7. Hazlett family file (nothing interesting)
8. Baptismal records for McCurdys
9. Directions to cemeteries that are possibilities
10. McCurdy family file with numerous notations about Margaret m. George Shekely, and Margaret's parents
Most references come from Larimer, McMaster or I've seen on the web.
11. Suggestion to check out Lancaster County -- and the McCurdy's came from there!

Wednesday, September 10, 003

What an amazing day! I visited a bunch of cemeteries, drove through the land north of Gettysburg where I believe that William lived with son George Sheakley until his death. I stopped to ask a question of a lady out cutting her grass, and she had the original deeds for the property that shows it was split up (when Robert died?)

The morning was the easiest because I just went next door (from the hotel) to the Evergreen Cemetery. I was able to get printouts of

the gravesites I needed and a map of the cemetery that made it simple to find the graves. After lunch, I went to several other cemeteries, with not very much luck. At Great Conewago, I found George Sheakley's grave and spoke with the man who is the president of the cemetery board. He said that there are many unmarked graves, usually because the stones are just gone. He said that there were several unmarked spaces around George and there could easily be other graves there.

He pointed me to another cemetery -- Round Hill. There I found a stone Nancy Weakley daughter of ?? -- this could be the source of some of the trees that have a Nancy, daughter of William. The stone was very hard to read.

At Black's Cemetery (it was a part of the Greater Conewago congregation at one time) I found nothing. At Marsh Creek I found nothing. At Lower Marsh Creek I found a stone for Mary Creighton, died June 10 1779 in the third year of her age?

I think I'll go back to Evergreen tomorrow or Friday and see if he has a Bayly -- I think he looked for Bailey. I promised the lady with the deeds (Joyce Offutt) that I'd send her what I have on Hamilton and Bayly. I think that their mothers were daughters of George Sheakley.

Thursday September 11, 2003

Back to Great Conewago to redo George's headstone picture. Then to see Arthur Weaner. What a wealth of info he gave me! I'm too tired to list it all right now. He's a really interesting old bachelor farmer. He's lived his whole life in the same house, and he is very interested in land records. He had the most amazing records and he gave me copies of all kinds of good stuff about the Sheakley land.

Then to York Historical Society. I decided to skip Lancaster. I hope that I won't regret that!

Tonight I went back to Adams Hist. Soc. to get some info on the Wallaces and Hamilton's. Got a Civil War article that mentions Mr. S----, written by Harriet Hamilton Bayly. Most likely was one of the Sheakleys.

Friday September 12, 2003

To Evergreen this morning to look for Bayly family. Got a pic of Harriet Hamilton Bayly, the one who wrote the Civil War article I got last night.

Left for Frederick Co., MD about 10 am. Went to Frederick Historical Society, took lots of notes but I didn't see anything that was "right on."

To Waynesboro, checked into hotel and went to Public Library at 5pm. Saw lots of Wallace stuff and identified the correct cemetery.

Saturday September 13, 2003

Raining lightly this morning. To Burns Hill Cemetery and found some of Mary Wallace's siblings and her mother! Very old cemetery, trees dripping from the rain. I found an old caretaker who led me to the graves. The cemetery is up on a hill.

Back to library to get reference material from their town history books. Left town at 11:15 am, headed for Mercer

Sunday September 14, 2003

Rested and sorted stuff in the morning. Met Dennis Armstrong at 2pm at his house. Boy, what a place! It is on a dirt road, by a creek. The is piled to the ceiling with papers (literally!).

He really knows his local history and he took me on a tour of most of the cemeteries I needed to visit. He knew just exactly where the graves were that I wanted. I took lots of pictures even tho' I planned to go back another day -- just in case the rain came!

He told me about writing to the National Archives about J.W. being a postmaster of Sheakleyville PO (was Culbertson's at that point).

Took Dennis to dinner.

Monday September 15, 2003

To the Mercer Courthouse and got lots of deeds and ordered copies of wills to pick up tomorrow.

To Sharon Library -- not much there, but the Genealogical Society section was not open.

Tuesday September 16, 2003

To Clarksville Citizens cemetery to get pics of Ralph and Nancy Urmson, Spent rest of day at Mercer Co. Historical Society. Got lots of notes and some docs.

Wednesday September 17, 2003

Cemetery day -- Hadley and Sheakleyville, then back to courthouse.

Thursday September 18, 2003

Went back to courthouse and Mercer Historical Society this morning, then on the road to Westerville ahead of the storm. Got there late and checked into a hotel outside of town for the night.

Friday September 19, 2003

To Rosemary's this morning. (She is a cousin on the Rodgers side and I hadn't seen her for about 50 years.) When I got out of the car, she said "You look just like your mother." She looks just like her mother, too. What a scary thought! Had a wonderful time looking at pictures and taking digital pics of them. Her husband, Dick, came home from work early and we went out for dinner, then talked for a long time.

Saturday September 20, 2003

Left Rosemary's after breakfast, and went to meet Cora Hursey, a half-cousin on the Maffat line. She lives very close to Rosemary. We talked and then went to lunch and then talked some more. Then about 3:30 I headed to Cleveland. Met Janet (Nuibe cousin) at her apt and took her out to dinner, then back to her place for a few minutes. Then went to a hotel close to Donna's (Nuibe cousin).

Sunday September 21, 2003

Called Donna this morning, she said to come over at 4pm for a family get-together. Anita was there (widow of Walter Nuibe), both of Donna's kids (not Janet), Brian and his wife and three kids, Anita's boyfriend and Jen's husband Bob (they got married in May). We looked at pictures and ate pizza. Anita gave me lots of Nuibe pictures to take home to copy.

Monday September 22, 2003

Drove to Burton, Ohio to see Carol Schwenderman about her book about the Whites, but got a soft copy of her family tree because she had no more copies of the book, then drove to PA again, checked in to the Comfort Inn in Hermitage and it was really bad so I moved to the Super 8 right down the street. To bed early -- I'm TIRED. Tomorrow I will meet with Gayle Hyde (cousin on the Maffat side) and start checking out Youngstown.

Tuesday September 23, 2003

Met Gayle Hyde this morning and we went to the Youngstown Public Library (good genealogy section). I got lots of obituaries and figured out where some of the Thompson, Rodgers and McEvoy family were buried. I found some of the Thompsons in Belmont Park Cemetery so we went there to take pics, then on to the Warren Trumbull Co. Library for more research. Trying to figure out why

Patrick McEvoy was buried (according to family papers) in Bedford, PA (south part of state) in the Villa Marie convent cemetery when they lived in Struthers, Ohio.

In the evening I was looking at the map and looking for Villa Marie convent on the internet and discovered that there was a Villa Marie convent in NEW Bedford, PA -- just over the state line from Struthers!

Wednesday September 24, 2003

Today was another cemetery day. (Gayle took her mom to W.VA. to gamble, so I was alone.) I started with the Villa Marie convent and found that the old stones there are broken or missing so I just took pics of the grounds. The office sent me to the church (St. James, and that is what the cemetery is now called) and they said that I'd have to contact the Diocese archives in Pittsburgh for the records that far back. I got the web site and will do that when I get home. Then on to Youngstown.

First I went to Lake Park cemetery where my Thompson grandparents are buried. Then I drove by Grandma Thompson's old house on Pasadena Ave. What a sad place! The whole area is terribly rundown. And the senior apts where Gram lived after she left the house are completely gone!

I went to Oak Hill cemetery because that is the one that is next to the hospital that I remembered as a kid. No family members along the fence by the hospital, but I did see several stones for people who were neighbors of Gram -- Mr & Mrs Moyer especially.

Then to Calvary cemetery. I got a map and directions from the office and then went looking. All the family stones here are the flat to the ground kind (the newer ones because that is the cemetery policy and the older ones because -- who knows? Maybe because it was cheaper?) Mom and Dad's stones were partly overgrown so I cut back the grass and cleaned up Dad's plaque (it was muddy from all the rain). There were Canadian geese all over the grounds and there was duck poop everywhere.

I found Uncle Johnny's wife's stone but not his. Back to the office to check and he is buried to the left of her, but I guess nobody wanted to pay for the stone. I cleaned up her stone anyway. (*note: I later discovered that this was NOT the Uncle Johnny I was thinking of! My Uncle Johnny was actually John Rodgers, not John (Jack) McEvoy.*)

Then I went looking for Grandma and Granddad Rodgers' graves (along with their son Richard and Mom's infants) in the old section. I could not find them for the longest time. There were several sunken graves, filled with water. I finally found them, but Grandma's grave and the children's graves were sunken -- you could just barely make out Grandma's plaque thru the water. I couldn't see Richard's or the infants at all -- they are well under water. Granddad's was above water at least. Somehow, I feel that this placement is appropriate given what I know of them...

After I left there, I went by their old house on Ohio Ave. It was really scary. I didn't even get out of my car and the place is a complete dump. I couldn't wait to get out of that part of town. What is so strange is that just a few blocks north you see the beautiful mansions being kept up very well. How sad for Youngstown, it is just a mess now.

I finished up about 1pm, so I went back to Hadley and Sheakleyville cemeteries with my trusty shaving cream and retook some pictures and got lots more pictures of Morrisons and Whites. I'll sort them out when I get home...

I found Granddad Rodgers in the 1880 census with his family (on the internet), and now I want to look at other census records.

Thursday September 25, 2003

Gayle had plans with her mom, so I was alone again today. I went to the library in New Castle to look at census records. I got a copy of the 1880 census, and then found Michael Rodgers in the 1910 census living in Washington, PA with his son Charles. These are the two that were at Grandmom and Granddad Rodgers' wedding. I may have found Michael and his wife in the 1900 census, but I'm not sure. He was not in the 1920 census.

After I left the library, I was going to drive in to Youngstown again to try to find out the date of Grandmom and Granddad Rodger's wedding. I remembered that I had the church phone # with me, so I called to see when the church fire was (it was mentioned in the wedding article) and discovered that the church had their wedding record! So I went and got it (in Struthers) and that saved me from having to go into Youngstown again.

Back to the room by 3pm and did some sorting and bringing this record up to date. Gayle and her mom came by for a few minutes.

I'm planning to go down to Washington, PA in the morning. I really don't have anything left to do here and that is only about 60 miles south of the airport and my hotel for Friday night. So if I leave real early, I'll have most of the day to research. Maybe I can even find the cemetery where Michael and Anna are buried (unless it is in Pittsburgh -- and that is very possible). But maybe I can find out about the son Charles and the daughter Sarah who married Wm. Collins and lived around there.

Friday September 26, 2003

Drove to Washington, PA and went to the public library where they have a good genealogy section. No luck finding Michael or Charles Rodgers (or Rogers) in the county. That is not surprising – the records for the 1800's appear to be more easily accessible than those for the 1900s. Visited the local Catholic church and found that they have no records from the early 1900s; they have been sent to the Pittsburgh Archives. Drove to Comfort Inn by Pittsburgh airport for morning flight.

Saturday September 27, 2003

To airport at 5am for 7am flight. Glad to be home!

From	To	Odometer	Miles	Comments
PIT airport	Gettysburg	208.6	208.6	
	Lv Gettysburg	446.5	237.9	York and Adams Counties
Gettysburg	Lv Waynesboro	545.7	99.2	Frederick, MD and Waynesboro, PA
Waynesboro	Mercer	773.4	227.7	
	Lv Mercer	1057.8	284.4	All over Mercer County
Mercer	Westerville	1244.3	186.5	
	Lv Westerville	1271.4	27.1	Rosemary's to Cora's and lunch
Westerville	Willoughby	1421.5	150.1	
Willoughby	Burton	1444.0	22.5	To see Carol Schwenderman about book
Burton	Hermitage	1487.5	43.5	
	Lv Hermitage	1837.9	350.4	All over Youngstown, Mahoning & Trumbull Counties in Ohio, some in Mercer & Lancaster Counties in PA
Hermitage	Washington	1925.0	87.1	
	Lv Washington	1928.5	3.5	Public library and Catholic church
Washington	PIT airport	1977.8	49.3	
	Total Miles		1977.8	