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“Doings” of the Advent Historical Society

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Board President Welcome

Dear friends of the Advent Historical Society:

In our Spring newsletter, we outlined the strategic plan the Board of Directors established to guide us through the next 5 years. I am happy to report that, despite a worldwide pandemic, quarantines, and social distancing, we have been able to make significant progress in a number of areas. While we have had to delay plans for in-person programs, we have begun to reach out to new audiences through social media and electronic platforms. We received excellent feedback from the first issue of our printed newsletter, which will continue to provide information and history that supports our mission. Members of the history committee continue to research Civil War veterans, the early history of the Advent Church and the families associated with the Advent Cemetery. Articles in this issue explore genealogical resources and family research relevant to Boggs Township and Centre County.

One of the Society’s goals is to seek listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register was established in 1966 and is maintained at the national level by the National Park Service; in Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) manages the program. The process involves completing a Historic Resource Survey Form that is reviewed by a committee of the SHPO using National Register criteria to determine eligibility.



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To help us meet the requirements for a successful nomination, the Board has enlisted the assistance of Jerry Clouse, an architectural historian who has a long career working on projects in Pennsylvania, including Centre County. He is a member of the Vernacular Architecture Forum and a current board member of the Historic Barn and Farm Foundation of Pennsylvania. On August 18th, he made a site visit to the church and will be working on a description for the National Register form this fall. While National Register listing does not provide additional protection or support for the property, it does provide important recognition for the historical integrity and

importance of the building at local, state, and national levels. Whether or not the church meets the eligibility requirements, a professionally completed Historic Resource Survey will be an important addition to our preservation documentation.

Thank you for your interest in and support of the Advent Historical Society’s ongoing work to preserve the historic Advent Church.

—Barbara Franco, President

A Resource for Family History: The Spangler Collection



Used with permission of the Bellefonte Historical Society

Recently, several members of the Advent Historical Society attended an online seminar hosted by the Bellefonte Historical Museum that highlighted the Spangler Collection, a specialized reference collection of local history and genealogy compiled by Adella Fink Spangler (1871–1964).

During her lifetime, Mrs. Spangler compiled 173 notebooks on Centre County families that included marriage records, Bible transcriptions, church records, and other family records. She had access to the courthouse, allowing her to copy wills, estate records, and tax records. She also personally interviewed many local families to record their family histories and recorded grave stones in the local cemeteries. Her careful transcription and notetaking have preserved information from many primary documents that may no longer exist.

Additionally, the collection includes her scrapbooks from local newspapers from 1926 to 1945, as well as history of the Civil War 148th Regiment. Her work is fully indexed on-site in the 250,000-item card catalog. *(continued on p. 2)*

(continued from p. 1)

Elaine Franco writes that genealogical information in the Spangler Collection helped to verify names and dates on a fragment of a baptismal certificate for Maria Barbara Poorman, daughter of Michael and Mary Ann Poorman, born in 1789 in Dauphin County. The Spangler Collection also led her to Mary Ann's will in the Centre County Courthouse and to the graves of both Michael and Mary Ann in the Milesburg Cemetery. The gravestone inscriptions have deteriorated and become faint with age, but the data are recorded in the Spangler Collection.

Judy Hefty notes that when she was doing research on the *Watson Heritage Book (1780–1993)*, she found some of her information in the Spangler Collection and the library staff were very helpful.

Anyone doing research on their family history can visit the Centre County Library and Historical Museum, located at 203 North Allegheny Street in Bellefonte, PA. Also, visit their website at www.centrecountylibrary.org, or reach the staff via e-mail at paroom@centrecountylibrary.org.

—Contributed by Judy Hefty & Elaine Franco
History Committee

The Resides Family: Early Centre County Scots-Irish and Adventist Pioneers

—Contributed by Justin K. Houser



1861 map of Boggs Township showing William Reside near Church of the Messiah

For Mr. Houser's complete article tracing the family's ancestral roots in Scotland and Northern Ireland and a more detailed genealogical history, please visit our website: www.adventhistoricalsociety.org.

The Resides family, several members of which were prominent in the early Adventist/Messiah's Church movement in Centre County, have been a presence here for more than 200 years.

William Resides, son of James and Hannah Margaret Reside, was the ancestor of the Resides who were members of the Advent Church and who are buried in its cemetery. He was born April 1, 1801, on his parents' farm along Buffalo Run in what is now Benner Township, Centre County. At the age of 24, he was married to Sarah Steere (age 21) by the Rev. James Linn, Presbyterian pastor of Bellefonte.

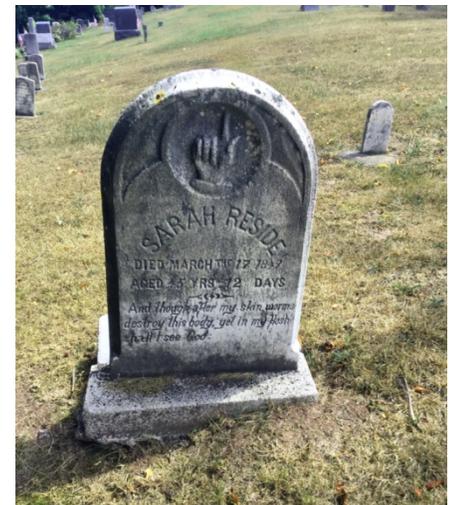
The Resides family continued to live in Boggs Township where they owned property and engaged in farming. It is likely that they may have rented the farm that William later purchased in 1851. During this time, Sarah (Stere) Resides embraced the doctrines of the Advent Church in 1848 following the extensive missionary efforts of Rev. J. D. Boyer. William was converted at a revival later that year and by August was involved in the organization of a camp meeting. They were among the first members of the Marsh Creek Messiah's Church. Sarah was already ill, however, and frequently unable to attend services; she passed away on April 6, 1849, at the age of 45. Her obituary in the *Advent Herald* newspaper reports that in her dying days, she stated that she did not think that she would recover "and exhorted her friends to meet her in the kingdom of God." The text from her funeral was St. Paul's teaching on the resurrection, 1 Thess. 4:13–15. Sarah was laid to rest in one of the first graves in the Advent Cemetery. Her headstone contains a hand pointing to heaven and a quote from Job 19:26: "And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God."

By 1870, William moved in with his daughter, Sarah, in Snow Shoe. They were also active in the Messiah's Church there, being among the founding members in October 1869, and with William serving as deacon. On December 31, 1870, he made a report at Quarterly Conference from the Snow Shoe congregation that "Meetings good and Regular but few in number and no Sabbath School."

William Resides passed away June 24, 1878, at the age of 77, and was laid to rest beside his wife in the Advent Cemetery. His gravestone is a fitting tribute to his Adventist faith. A hand points upward to heaven and the inscription is from Job 19:25, "For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth."

William and Sarah were the parents of seven children. Of these children, Philip (1833–1907), together with his wife Matilda (Walker) Resides (1836–1916), became leading members of the Advent Church at Marsh Creek. Philip regularly appeared in the minutes of the Quarterly Conference and provided reports on the Marsh Creek congregation. In 1870, he was part of a committee to purchase a campground. He was also a prominent member of the Bald Eagle Grange No. 151, P. of H. It appears that Mary Resides (1835–1912) and her husband Thomas Eckley (1835–1899) were also members of the Advent Church.

Justin K. Houser is an avid historian and genealogist with deep roots in Centre County. Anyone interested in sharing further information about the Resides family can contact him at jkhouser84@gmail.com.



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From the Archives

Judy Hefty submitted this photo. The man second from the left is her grandfather, Clyde (Doc) Watson, pictured with other members of the "Cemetery Committee." Barbara Franco solved the mystery of the Red Arrow sign they are holding in Emma Watson's "Holt's Hollow" columns for *The Centre County Democrat*, which have been copied and collected by Twyla Newman and Kathy Sherman. In a 1930 column, Emma mentions a Red Arrow merchant promotion offering \$100 in gold as a prize, and encouraged everyone to renew their subscriptions to help the church qualify to win the prize. If you can help us identify others in this photo, please e-mail us at adventhistoricalsociety@gmail.com.



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