GSP 2001: SPECIAL PROJECTS APPEAL

A FUND-RAISING CAMPAIGN designed to assist the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania in meeting its mission to make available Pennsylvania-related genealogical information has been initiated.

Called “GSP 2001: The New Library & Special Projects Appeal,” the campaign is looking to raise $150,000 to fund a number of items that will greatly enhance the society’s value to its members around the world, as well as anyone attempting to tackle Pennsylvania genealogy.

Pledges from the Board of Directors as well as designated bequests and grants have so far totaled more than $43,000 toward the campaign’s goal.

The centerpiece of the appeal is money to create a computerized card catalog of GSP’s collections of books, microfilms, CD-ROMs, and manuscripts.

This is crucial to “making available genealogical information” because GSP’s materials are currently difficult to access without such a catalog.

The computerized catalog – including hardware, software, and costs of creating the catalog – will enable users in the GSP Research Room and across the globe to find out what items are in the GSP collections.

Other categories identified for support are the following:

- Equipment to benefit researchers and programs such as a state-of-the-art microfilm reader printer; a laptop computer and PC video projector; and additional storage cabinets and shelving.
- Preservation technology aids, materials, and surveys to facilitate the purchase of hi-tech equipment such as a digital camera, traditional archival materials such as acid-free boxes and file folders, as well as funding a long-sought survey of Philadelphia’s probate and intestate records.
- Finishing touches on our new handicapped accessible headquarters on Philadelphia’s “Avenue of the Arts.”

Members will be asked to pledge to GSP 2001 appeal later in the summer. Generous gifts will allow the society to meet its goal and fulfill its mission.

ANNUAL MEETING

T HE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY of Pennsylvania’s Annual Meeting was held on 15 Mar in the society’s new headquarters.

The society conducted its annual business meeting, along with electing officers and board members for the coming year.

Elected as officers were the following: President, the Hon. Herbert K. Zearfoss; Vice Presidents, Jefferson M. Moak, Walter Stock, and Dr. Russell Weigley; Secretary, Kathryn Donovan; Treasurer, Lewis L. Neilson; and Counsel, Michael Willis Freeland.

Zearfoss, Moak, Stock, Neilson, Freeland are incumbents; Donovan became a GSP board member in 2000 and Weigley has been a board member for two three-year terms.

Jane L.S. Davidson, Marilyn Holt, Margaret Jerrido, and Dr. Robert Gill were elected to director posts on the board that expire in the year 2004. Elected for a partial term expiring in 2003 was Vivian Taylor.

The GSP president, secretary, and treasurer presented reports. Giving the primary address was the society’s Executive Director, James M. Beidler, who spoke on “Rededicating GSP for the New Millennium.”

An excerpt from that address appears as the “From the Executive Director” on the back page of this Penn in Hand.

GSP RESEARCH ROOM, 215 S. Broad St., 7th Floor, Philadelphia, PA
HOURS: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Wednesday; and Saturdays (by prior appointment)
(Closed 4 and 5 July for holiday; 23-27 July for Summer Camp II; and 3 Sept for holiday)

HSP LIBRARY, 1300 Locust St., Philadelphia, PA HOURS: 9:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.
Tuesday and Thursday to Friday; 1 to 8:45 p.m. Wednesday; 10 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Saturday
ANNUAL
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GSP NEWS BRIEFS

GSP's Board of Directors unanimously approved the Fellowship Committee’s nomination of James M. Duffin as a Fellow of the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania. Duffin is Technical Services Archivist at the University of Pennsylvania’s Archives and Records Center.

Among Duffin’s achievements have been books for the society such as Guide to the Sale of Commonwealth Properties in the City and County of Philadelphia, 1781-1798, and Guide to the Mortgages of the General Loan Office of Pennsylvania, 1724-1755. His latest work, Acta Germanopolitana: The Records of the Corporation of Germantown, 1691 to 1707, is expected to be published by the Colonial Society of Pennsylvania this year.

Duffin joins the following as current FGSP’s: Annette Kunselman Burgert, Jane Adams Clarke, Peter Stebbins Craig, Francis James Dallett, the Rev. Carl Thurman Smith, and Dr. Don Yoder.

A recently deceased FGSP, Walter Lee Sheppard, willed to the society his books and papers. Society volunteers including Jane Adams Clarke, Jeanne Pontarelli, Dorothy Rodgers, Cass Donovan, and Sue Wiley have been sifting through and cataloguing the boxes and boxes of books contained in Sheppard’s vast collection.

The Society was the beneficiary of two estates last year. Longtime supporters Bertram L. O’Neill and his wife Jane O’Neill willed the GSP $5,000 and $10,000, respectively. In addition, the O’Neill’s Philadelphia Foundation fund added $5,000 to the society’s general support.

Dr. Russell F. Weigley, a GSP Vice President and Temple University professor, was named the winner of the Lincoln Prize for his Civil War book, A Great Civil War: A Military and Political History, 1861-1865 (Indiana University Press).

In addition to the award’s prestige, it carries a cash award of $35,000. The Lincoln Prize is given by Gettysburg College.

The Partners program begun by GSP last year has picked up speed after a mailing to potential partner societies in April.

Enrolled GSP partners now include: Atlantic County (NJ) Historical Society, Lackawanna County Historical Society, Lancaster County Historical Society, North Hills Genealogists, Palmyra Area Genealogical Society, Wayne County Historical Society, and the West Shore Y Genealogy Club.

The Partners program is open to any organization or agency with genealogical constituencies and hopes to give many groups a common voice on issues affecting those in search of Pennsylvania roots.

GSP Executive Director James M. Beidler has been named to participate in the Pennsylvania Humanities Council’s Commonwealth Speakers Program for 2002 and 2003. The Commonwealth Speakers Program enables cultural institutions and community organizations to foster community discussions that increase public understanding and appreciation of the humanities. The Pennsylvania Humanities Council’s address is Constitution Place, 325 Chestnut St., Suite 715, Philadelphia, PA 19106-2607.
GENETICS AND GENEALOGY

About 140 people attended the "Genetics and Genealogy" conference co-sponsored by GSP and the African-American Genealogy Group of Philadelphia on 28 April and held in Solis-Cohen Auditorium at Thomas Jefferson University’s Alumni Hall.

The free event was underwritten by a grant from the Pennsylvania Humanities Council, the state-federal partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The main attraction of the event’s morning session was a presentation from Dr. Scott Woodward of the Brigham Young University Molecular Genealogy project. Dr. Woodward’s Molecular Genealogy group is putting together a 100,000-sample DNA database from which individuals will be able to gain information on ancestral lines that were previously blocked by a lack of traditional paper documentation.

Dr. Woodward detailed the various types of DNA that can assist genealogists and family historians, including the “Y chromosome” research of the type at issue in the Thomas Jefferson – Sally Hemings case, as well as how researchers will be able to utilize BYU’s Molecular Genealogy database.

This database uses the birth locations given in donors’ four-generation pedigree charts to provide individuals with ideas on where their ancestors may have come from.

The presentation by Dr. Woodward showed how the Molecular Genealogy team uses specific parts of individuals’ DNA to compare with other individuals.

In addition to Dr. Woodward’s presentation, there was an afternoon panel discussion on how DNA evidence may or will make an impact on historians, archivists, and genealogists.

Serving on this panel were:
• Dr. David Moltke-Hansen, president of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.
• Margaret Jerrido, director of Temple University’s Urban Archives.

Kay Haviland Freilich, a Certified Genealogist and approving genealogist for several lineage and patriotic societies.

While of necessity the answers to many of the questions posed were equivocal, the panel discussion allowed the audience a chance to digest much of the complex information given during the day.

Among the points made was one by Jerrido, who wondered if archivists may some day need an on-site lab to take care of a DNA sample or samples submitted with a person’s papers, since this “genetic signature” will be as important telling who the person in question was as the traditional letters and other papers have been in the past.

Freilich tackled the question of whether lineage societies will accept DNA proof that contradicts paper documentation. She said that her sense was that while DNA might prove descent from a remote ancestor, lineage societies require that each generation be documented, meaning that DNA will not provide a full substitute.

Also available to those attending the event was the opportunity to submit a small blood sample to be used in the Molecular Genealogy database. Nearly a hundred people attending the event gave samples for the database.

As a companion event to the 28 April lectures, Dr. Thomas Roderick, an internationally known DNA scholar based in Maine, answered questions for better than three hours in GSP’s third Virtual Lecture.

This “moderated chat” was put together by Kimberly Powell, the genealogy guide for About, the Human Internet.

Dr. Roderick answered questions from participants across the country on the impact of DNA on genealogy. A transcript of the questions and answers is available on the Internet at the URL, http://genealogy.about.com/hobbies/genealogy/library/blchattransroderick2.htm

NEW PUBLICATIONS

The "Helwig-Dimmick-Rabb-Drum and Related Families" has been assembled by Joseph Dimmick Helwig and Betty Rabb Helwig in four volumes. These families eventually settled in Columbia County, PA, but immigrants passed through Berks, Bucks, Lehigh, Montgomery, and Northampton counties. The families have been traced back to Alsace, Germany, and Switzerland. The research done there includes maps, photographs of towns and Taufscheins (Pennsylvania German baptismal certificates). This set is not available for sale but is available for use by patrons in the GSP Research Room.

UPCOMING EVENTS

13-14 Jul – New England Historic Genealogical Society, co-sponsored with the Connecticut Society of Genealogists, will hold its Summer Conference. This genealogical conference will feature “DNA and the Family Tree: Genetics and Genealogy.” The conference will be held at the Hartford Marriott Farmington. For more information call NEHGS at (617) 536-5740, ext 227, or toll free at (888) 286-3447 or visit their website at www.NewEnglandAncestors.org.

26-29 Jul – The Swedish Colony Society is having their FanFest at Villanova University for further details call (610) 519-6758. The American Swedish Historical Society is located at 1900 Pattison Ave., Philadelphia, PA, or check at www.ColonialSwedes.org.


23-25 Aug – British Isles Family History: “Journey to the Past” 14th Annual Seminar on board the Queen Mary, Long Beach, CA. For more information, see the Web site at: rootsweb.com-bifhsusa or contact the British Isles Family History Society-U.S.A. at 2531 Sawtelle Blvd., PMB 134, Los Angeles, CA 90064-3124.

12-15 Sept. – “Great River Bend Genealogy …a Heartland Gathering” the Federation of Genealogical Societies, Quad Cities Conference. Hosted by local societies, Blackhawk Genealogical Society of Rock Island and Mercer County Illinois and the Scott County Iowa Genealogical Society. To be held at Davenport, IA, at the River Center. For further information or registration write to FGS, PO Box 200940, Austin, TX 78720-0940 or call: (888) FGS-1500; Fax: (888) 380-0500; e-mail: Fgs-office@fgs.org; Web site: www.fgs.org.

25-26 Jan 2002 – GENTECH Boston 2002: two days of lectures, demonstrations and exhibits focused on the use of technology in genealogy. Hosted by The New England Historic Genealogical Society. To be held at the Hynes Convention Center, Prudential Center, Boston, MA. Check www.gentech.org or (888) 522-7313 for more information.

FAMILY REUNIONS


KOLB/KULP/CULP: 74th Annual Reunion of the Family Association will be held on 17 June at the Lower Skippack Mennonite Church, Evansburg and Meeting House Rd., Skippack, PA at 12:30 P. M. Mr Philip Roth will speak on “Isaac Kulp of Upper Gwynedd”. For further information contact: Gracefreed@aol.com or Ruth K. Oberholtzer, 209 S. 5th St., North Wales, PA 19454, (215) 689-3940 or BrianM22@aol.com.

LEININGER: The 12th Annual gathering of the descendants of Johann Jacob and Elizabeth Leininger will be held on 11 Aug at Mohn’s Memorial Church, Mohn’s Hill, Berks Co., Pennsylvania. For more information write: Thomas H. Leininger, 268 Church Rd., Mohnton, PA 19540 or call (610) 777-5576. E-mail - waldenshoehe@enter.net.

ROMBERGER (RAMBERGER, RUMBERGER, RUM-BARGER): All-Family Reunion will take place 15 July at St. John’s Lutheran Church near Berrysburg, PA. For information contact: Frank Herzel, 681 Maria Dr., Harrisburg, PA, 17109-4216 or E-mail: Fherzel@aol.com.

STOUDT/STAUDT/STOUT: 27th Annual Family reunion will be held on 12 Aug at Umbenhauer’s Parl, Bernville, PA. (Route 183m North of Reading Airport). For further information contact: Beulah Stout Follmer, 1610 Crowder Ave., Shillington, PA 19607, (610) 777-4814 or E-mail to Gayle Sanders Stout at sanders@kutztown.edu.

STUDEBAKER: The Studebaker 2001 Family National Gathering will be held on 13-15 July. For more information, contact: The Studebaker Family National Gathering, 6555 South State Road 202, Tipp City, Ohio, 45371.

WOMELSDORF: The Family Reunion is set for 10-12 Aug in Gallopolis, Ohio. For more information, contact: Womelsdorf Family Assoc., Fran & Stan Jeffers, Editors, 507 Jefferson St., Decorah, IA 52101-1711 or at http://gonow/to/wla

YODER: The 2001 Yoder National Reunion to be held in Oley, PA, on 20-21 July. For more information write: Oley Yoder Heritage Association, 415 State St., Pottstown, PA 19464 or e-mail: pty884@aol.com.
The following is a list of microfilm made available to researchers in the calendar year 2000. Included are records from counties (Record Group 47) and municipalities (Record Group 48), the type of records, the dates included, how many rolls and a search room number for the Archives Search Room.

Please be aware that the State Archives staff cannot do genealogical research on these records for patrons, however, they are encouraged to view the records in the State Archives Search Room.

Beaver County, Tax Records, 1842-1926, 17 Rolls (LR339. Search Room #11850 to 11866)
Beaver County, Tax Records, 1842-1926, 11 Rolls (LR336. Search Room #12002-12021)
Beaver County, Tax Records, 1842-1926, 17 Rolls (LR339. Search Room #11882-11898)
Beaver County, Tax Records, 1842-1926, 20 Rolls (LR339. Search Room #12002-12021)
Bucks County, Board of Co. Commissioners, Tax Book: 1766-1781, 1 Roll (LR 367. Search Room #11432)
Bucks County, Board of Co. Commissioners, Minute Books, 1875-1903, 1 Roll (LR 368. Search Room #11433)
Butler County, Clerk of Courts, Road Docket Papers, 1882-1940, 21 Rolls (LR359. Search Room #11969-11989)
Cambria County, Marriage License Books, 1885-1953, 32 Rolls (LC69. Search Room #12093-12124)
Cambria County, Register of Wills, Estate Records, 1917-1923, 55 Rolls (LRGP37. Search Room #11584-11638)
Cambria County, Register of Wills, Estate Records, 1904-1918, 90 Rolls (LRGP37. Search Room #11479-11568)
Cambria County, Register of Wills, Index to Estate Files, 1804-1926, 1 Roll (LR371. Search Room #11874)
Cambria County, Register of Wills, Estate Records, 1923-1926, 32 Rolls (LRGP37. Search Room #11701-11732)
Cambria County, Register of Wills, Estate Records, 1886-1930, 45 Rolls (LC68. Search Room #12048-12092)
Clearfield County, Prothonotary, Naturalization Records, 1820-1915, 21 Rolls (LRGP 32. Search Room #10663-10683)
Clearfield County, Prothonotary, Naturalization Records, 1912-1999, 26 Rolls (LRGP 46. Search Room #11931-11956)
Crawford County, Naturalization Records, Index to Naturalization Records, Occupational & Misc., 1879-1959, 12 Rolls (LRGP38.8. Search Room #11281-11292)
Cumberland County Historical Society, Estate Inventories, 1749-1854, 22 Rolls, (LRGP 48. Search Room #12125-12146)
Dauphin County, Prothonotary, Naturalization Records, 1917-1929, 10 Rolls (LR336. Search Room #9145-9154)
Fayette County, Quarter Sessions Dockets, 1911-1959, 12 Rolls (LRGP 44. Search Room #11957-11968)
Fayette County, Prothonotary, Alien Dockets, Naturalization Petitions, 1802-1929, 18 Rolls (LRGP39. Search Room 11445-11462)
Harris Township, Centre County, Minute Books, Ordinances & Resolution Books, 1925-1976, 3 Rolls (LR 385. Search Room #11999-12001)
Huntingdon County, Tax Assessment Records, 1834-1876, 51 Rolls (LRGP 41. Search Room #11794-11844)
Huntingdon County, Tax Assessment Records, 1788-1833, 5 Rolls (LC63. Search Room #11696-11700)
Indiana County, Mortgage Books, 1951-1956, 6 Rolls (LRGP 45. Search Room #11876-11881)
Indiana County, Prothonotary’s Office, Road and Bridge Papers, 1806-1977, 15 Rolls (LRGP 47. Search Room #12033-12047)
City of Johnstown, Cambria County, Marriage Records, 1892-1910, 2 Rolls (LR 375. Search Room #11918 to 11919)
City of Johnstown, Cambria County, Death Records, 1891-1912, 3 Rolls (LR 373. Search Room #11911 to 11913) City of Johnstown, Cambria County, Indexes to Death Records, 1891-1931, 4 Rolls (LR 374. Search Room #11914 to 11917) Philadelphia Department of Records, Marriages, Indexes, 1860-1885, 6 Rolls (LC 60. Search Room #11639-11644)


The Pennsylvania State Archives is at the corner of Third and Forster streets, just north of state Capitol (next to State Museum of Pennsylvania).
Hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday to Friday, 9 a.m. to noon, 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday for microfilm only.
Address: 350 North St., Harrisburg, PA 17120-0090; Telephone: (717) 783-3281
Web site: http://www.state.pa.us/PA_Exec/Historical_Museum/DM/genesis1.htm
NEWS OF OTHER SOCIETIES AND AGENCIES

The Blair County Genealogical Society lists in its Newsletter (Vol. 22, No. 1) the Declarations of Intent from 1897 and Naturalizations from 1893 in the Blair County Courthouse. A recent acquisition of interest is six volumes, Registers of Deaths, Bedford County, PA, 1894-1905. The Blair County Genealogical Society is located in the Roller Hojet Memorial Library, 431 Scotch Valley Road, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648.

A selection of names in the Old Brodhead Cemetery, Monroe County, PA, has been entered into a database by the Genealogical Research Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania, as noted in their newsletter, The Searcher. The Society will provide a free search of the database to anyone who requests it. Write to Research Director, GRSNP, PO Box 1, Olyphant, PA 18447; phone (570) 383-7661; or e-mail: genealogy@usnetway.com

The Clarion County Historical Society in its quarterly newsletter The Iron County Chronicle has announced a reprint in hardback of the Bowser Family History by Addison B. Bowser, originally published in 1922. Mathias Bowser, his descendants and allied families throughout the US are listed. This book is indexed with an addendum correcting previous errors. For ordering information, the society can be reached at the Sutton-Ditz House Museum & Library, 18 Grant St., Clarion, PA 16214-1015; phone (814) 226-4450; e-mail: cchs@csoline.net; Web URL: www.csoline.net/cchs/

In Swedish Colonial News, The newsletter of the Swedish Colonial Society, an article on Olof Thorsson of Swanwick and his Tussey Descendants is authored by Dr. Peter S. Craig. Also, the newsletter notes that just under the statue of William Penn on Philadelphia’s City Hall, there is a statue of a Swedish colonial woman, facing southeast toward the Swedish precinct of Wicaco. The Swedish Colonial Society is located at 916 South Swanson Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147-4332; Web site URL, www.ColonialSwedes.org.

The Chester County Historical Society, has a new Web site: www.chesco.org/archives. This site includes information on records available. The Chester County Historical Society is located at 225 N. High St., West Chester, PA 19380-2691; phone (610) 692-4800.

The Beaver County Genealogical Society has announced two new books for sale. "Delayed Birth Registration Index of Beaver County, Pennsylvania" ($12.50 postpaid plus PA sales tax, 75 cents). List of persons born before 1906 who needed birth information to apply for Social Security. Also, "Frankfort Springs Presbyterian Church Cemetery" ($12.50 postpaid plus PA sales tax, 75 cents). The cemetery is located in the Borough of Frankfort Springs, Hanover Township, PA. Includes tombstone records and biographical sketches of most families included. Make checks payable to Beaver County Genealogical Society and mail to c/o Nancy Y. Lindemann, 3225 Dutch Ridge Road, Beaver, PA 15009.

The Perry Historians (Vol.26 No. 2) the towns and townships of the County in the 1900 Census with number of households and people, also the names and ages of the oldest resident in each town or township. The Perry Historians group can be reached at PO Box 73, Newport, PA 17074-0073.

Special Publication No. 50 of The South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society is Dover Borough and Township Tax Lists, 1832-1836, and 1830 Census for York County, PA. The SCPGS Inc., PO Box 1824, York, PA 17405.

The American Society of Genealogists has announced the Scholar Award for 2000. The recipient is Douglas S. Shipley of Fredericksburg, VA. The award is a $500 scholarship, applicable to tuition and expenses at one of the two major programs in American genealogy, the National Institute on Genealogical Research (NIGR) and Samford University’s Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research (IGHR).

The Mercer County Genealogical Society reports in its newsletter, Past Times, that the group now has a computer available for the public to research in their library. Records are “read only” and Mercer County Cemetery Inscriptions are on the hard drive. For further information contact, the society, PO Box 812, Sharon PA 16146-0812.

The Delaware Public Archives has announced expanded hours. The archives is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Saturday, and until 8 p.m. on Wednesdays. The Web site has been revised to provide more useful information on holdings and is found at the URL: www.archives.lib.de.us The archives is located at 121 Duke of York St., Dover, DE 19901; phone, (302) 744-5047.

The Cape May County (NJ) Magazine of History and Genealogy (Vol. X, No. 5) has an interesting article entitled “Was she really a Mrs? The magazine also features letters and journals from two men during the Civil War, one Journal is from The Cape May Ocean Wave newspaper, written by Josiah Granville Leach, one of the founders of the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania.
LEARNING AND GENEALOGY

By John T. Humphrey, Director, NGS Learning Center

Most Family historians launch a search of their family history by acquiring information on relatives. It does not take long until they also discover they need to acquire the skills necessary for the job.

Learning how to research one’s ancestors can encompass a variety of skills. For the beginning family historian, it can be as simple as discovering how to fill in a pedigree chart or finding a new record source, say undertaker’s records. Genealogists working at the intermediate level face problems that are very different. Here the family historian may need to learn how to “glean” indirect evidence from U.S. census records or learn language skills—the ability to write succinctly. Even advanced or seasoned genealogists have skills to learn—they may need to acquire the ability to read a foreign language or obtain some knowledge of seventeenth-century law. So, genealogists at all levels are constantly learning.

The need to acquire the skills necessary to properly research one’s forebears is one reason why education has become linked with genealogy. It is also the reason why education has become closely associated with the National Genealogical Society. In fact that is the reason why some have said the mission of NGS is education! Education for the family historian is never-ending because the family historian’s research problems are constantly changing with each generation.

The changing problems researchers face are not limited to time, but also to place. Genealogists may be confronted with a new set of obstacles because an ancestor may have moved. If an ancestor living in Virginia in 1790 moves to Ohio in 1810, any researcher tracking that family will have to learn the details of two different land grant systems-state and public. Those family historians will also need to study the differences in the survey schemes associated with each land grant process. But obstacles associated with an ancestral move are not limited to land records; they can be found in other areas of research as well, including those related to probate.

Some obstacles are more easily overcome than others. Those that are more difficult are frequently described as “The Brick Wall Experience.” Family historians need to recognize this not as an obstacle, but as a challenge, one that can frequently be overcome through learning. A seemingly impossible situation is created, for example, when the family historian runs out of usable records—records that enable the family historian to link generations based on statements of fact. Any genealogist might be able to overcome that obstacle by learning something about methodology: that family historian, for example, could learn how to surmount the obstacle with indirect evidence.

Learning in genealogy is not only ongoing, but it also requires specialization. Most family historians will discover that in order to solve a particular research problem they need an exacting skill, one that is directly related to the issue at hand. As an example, a researcher may have tracked his ancestors back to seventeenth-century England and in order to find records on that family, the researcher has to learn how to read old script.

The successful genealogist develops skills that are also very personal. All triumphant family historians develop an ability to look at problems creatively. They may look for new record sources located in obscure repositories, or they learn to make use of all information found in a record. As an example, a genealogist looking for a baptismal record may ignore the names of the sponsors who were present at the baptism because the object of the search was the names of the parents. That family historian may not realize the sponsors were the infant’s grandparents!

Successful family historians also learn to understand their own research habits. As an example, the fun of genealogy is finding a record that has been the object of an intense search—a search that may have taken years. Many family historians after finding that all important record discover later they did not copy all of the information, or they did not cite the source properly. It is natural to experience exhilaration when an important record is found, which is the reason why the record was not copied or cited correctly. In order to get around this kind of problem, the family historian needs to develop better research habits—those habits can be something as simple as learning to go back over newly discovered records after the elation has subsided.

Other personal skills include the ability to ask the right questions. Successful family historians also foster the talent to be good listeners. Family historians, wanting to succeed, recognize that “yes, but” arguments get limited results. They also recognize assumptions frequently get in the way of finding solutions. Assumptions as they relate to surnames are a classic example. It is possible to assume a family with the surname Carpenter, had its origins in Great Britain, when in fact, its origins were the German name Zimmer, was changed to its English equivalent.

Family historians need to understand learning in genealogy is ongoing and comprehensive. It never stops! The National Genealogical Society and its genealogical learning center are here to partner with its members and the genealogical community in their development as genealogists. NGS through its courses, conferences, and research trips wants to teach genealogists learning is ongoing, and it is the way to solve some seemingly impossible research problems.

INFORMATION WANTED

Here are the "Information Wanted" rules: 1. Members may submit any number of queries during their membership year. 2. All queries should have a clear PA connection and at least one date. 3. Please try to keep all queries to 75 words or less. You may include all the information you need to make your request as clear as possible but we will, of course, retain the right to edit where necessary. Queries are accepted only from members.

Some Internet sites that offer many queries:
- County sites of the PAGenWeb project. URL: http://pa-roots.com/pagenweb/
- Genealogy.com's GenForum, which offers surname and geographic search. URL: http://genforum.genealogy.com/pa/Philadelphia/
- GenConnect. URL: http://genconnect.rootsweb.com/~genbbs/
- Roots Surname List (Surname List only - no "messages"). URL: http://rsl.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/rsql.cgi?surname=&type=Surname&op=search

ACTON/McDEVIT: Nathaniel ACTON & wife Jane McDEVIT, came from Ireland to Augustia, ME, in 1828, then to Philadelphia in mid 1840s. 9 known children: Samuel, Nancy, Mary, Jane, Nathaniel, Margaret, James, Martha, all born in ME. Last child Isabella was born in Philadelphia. Seeking additional info on this family. Would like to locate any descendants. Willing to exchange information on great-grandfather Samuel Acton.
Lillian F. Wright, 9212 Ft. Smallwood Rd., Pasadena, MD 21122.

Mr. &Mrs. P.J. Axworthy, 51 Belgrave Crescent, Donnington, CHICHESTER, W. Sussex PO19 2SA

BEST/SHELLY: Samuel BEST, born 1831 in PA; married c 1862 or before, PA or MI. Wife's name unknown. Two children were born in MI: Eli in 1863 and Ella in 1865. Samuel was married 2nd the Frances SHELLY, 15 May 1870 in Williams Co., OH Frances was born 1843 in PA, daughter of Jacob Shelly. By 1880 Samuel and Frances (Frankie) Best were in Rapid River Twp, Kalkaska Co., MI. Living with them were Eli, Ella, Eugene and Minnie. Last two are children of Samuel and Frankie. Samuel died after 1899 in MI. Seek Information on the ancestry of Samuel Best.
Patricia Miller, 254 W. Oregon St., Lapeer, MI 48446

Doyle & Joanne Ivey, 107 Stoney Run Rd., Dillsburg, PA., 17019-9305. E-mail: DILAKE@paonline.com

COLLINS: Wm. COLLINS b. 27 Apr 1800, York County, PA, d. ?, OH, m. Catherine HOY, b. 24 May 1806, d. ?, OH
Mrs. Joyce M. Reidlin, 16244 Kline Young Rd, Stewartstown, PA

DAVIS: Seeking any information on Winfield DAVIS, b. 21 Nov 1850, Clarion County, and lived in 1880 in East Brady. Married to Jennie, with a son born in 1880. They were living with a family named W. and Helen Callander, who may have been the parents of Jennie.
Dorothy Davis Collins, 10303 12th Ave NW, Seattle, WA 98177-5211. E-mail: Msmoe2000@aol.com

DAVIS: Need information on Sarah Jane DAVIS, b. 14 Nov 1861, d. 1928 and is buried in Callensburg Presbyterian Cemetery. She had three husbands: William Kunke, John Levi, and a Meyer. She may have had a daughter, name unknown. Also unknown if other children.
Dorothy Davis Collins, 10303 12th Ave NW, Seattle, WA 98177-5211. E-mail: Msmoe2000@aol.com

DAVIS/VAN HORN: Samuel and Anna (VAN HORN) DAVIS, both born PA, 1787 & 1791, married 1808/09, PA. Possibly 15 children born, probably all in PA, Names are: Catherine, Martha (b. Northumberland Co., PA), Jennyane, Mathias, Samuel, Sarah, Joseph, Levi, John, Margaret, Hezekiah, James, Phiebia, Elizabeth and Wm. Parents and at least 9 children went Ohio by 1837. Seek ancestry of Sam/Anna and any info this family in PA.
Patria Miller, 254 W. Oregon St., Lapeer, MI 48446
INFORMATION WANTED (cont.)

JEFFRIES: Seeking information about and other descendants of a Willard JEFFRIES. Willard was married to a Mary Jones. They had 2 children, John, born 15 Dec 1894 and Lillian (date unknown). John married an Isabel Phelan (nee Long) on 17 Sept 1919. The Jeffries family had at one time (according to family tradition) received a royal land grant consisting of an Island in the Delaware River, for an ancestor’s service as a sea captain. Willard passed away by 1915. Mary remarried with a last name of Perkins.
Harold Bauer, 1201 S. First St., Springfield, IL 62704. E-mail: Haroldnjuide@msn.com.

JENKS/PEARSON: Three original PEARSON/JENKS Quaker wedding certificates (17th & 18th c.) were in the hands of William H. Jenks (WHI), Chestnut Hill, PA during early 20th Century. WHJ descended from Edward Pearson (16??-1697), Falls MM, Bucks Co., PA, Edward’s son, Enoch (1683-1758), Enoch’s son William & Elizabeth Duer/ Where are W&j mess. today? John W. Pearson, Box 6554, Altadena, CA 91003-6554

JONES: Seeking information about and other descendants of a Mary Jones. Mary was first married to a Willard Jeffries, who died by 1915. They had two known children, a John Jeffries, born 15 Dec 1894 in Philadelphia. After Willard’s death, she remarried a man with surname of Perkins. Mary and Willard’s second child was named Lillian.
Harold Bauer, 1201 S. First St., Springfield, IL 62704. E-mail: Haroldnjuide@msn.com

MEYERS/SHELLY: Catherine MEYERS, born c 1815, probably in Westmoreland Co., PA married Jacob SHELLY, Jr., 24 Sep 1835, possibly Westmoreland Co., PA Seek ancestry of her parents, Michael Meyers, born c 1790 and Elizabeth Smith, born c 1790, both probably PA.
Pamela Miller, 254 W. Oregon St., Lapeer, MI 48446

MOODY/ripp: Who were the parents of Andrew Moody born 16 May 1779 in Pennsylvania? He married Susannah Rippy. He was in Kentucky in 1803, Tennessee in 1804, Illinois in 1817, and Texas in 1848.
Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck, 3955-C Buena Vista Street, Dallas, TX 75204

PIECE/UNDERWOOD: Seeking information on Calvin 4 PIECE (George-1, Gainer-2, Gainer, Jr.-3) son of Gainer Pierce, Jr. & Jane UNDERWOOD. He was living in Sadsbury Twp., Lancaster Co., PA. At time of 1830 Census. Born 1790, Sadsbury, PA. Buried Friends Meeting House, Sadsbury, PA. Need date of marriage and to whom, date of death and children other than Jane, born 1806. Also seeking parents of his mother, Jane Underwood.
John Farmer, 15743 Valley Ave., Blue Ridge Summit, PA 17214. E-mail: farmer@com.net

CRANMER: Edmund CRANMER (abt. 1491-1557). Trying to link descendants of Edmund Cranmer (brother of Archbishop Thomas Cranmer: 1491-1555) to William CRANMER, reputed to have arrived in Southold, NY, c. 1660, possibly from England or Holland. Year? Ship?
CRANMER: Florence Rebecca LEWIS CRANMER (b. 1873, New York City; d. 1960, Camden, NJ), m Alfred R. Cranmer/Carmer, 1893, Island Heights (Toms River), NJ. Seeking info on and ancestors of her parents, Joseph T. Lewis and Emeline Winton.
Alfred C. Strohleim, 3559 Jevoll St., San Diego, CA 92109; e-mail: cathstro@att.net

MAGAZINE EDITOR SOUGHT

The Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania is seeking a person with genealogical editing experience and extensive knowledge of genealogical methodology. Ability to meet deadlines is a requirement; knowledge of Pennsylvania genealogy is preferred but not required. Duties include:
- Working with the Publications Committee on issue content as well as magazine philosophy and direction.
- Solicitation of manuscripts for potential publication.
- Working with authors to improve their manuscripts prior to publication.
- Correction of mechanics (for example: punctuation, spelling and grammar).
- Typesetting and independent proofreading of issue.
- Furnishing proof copy to the Publications Committee.
- Working with and providing camera-ready copy to the printer.
- Correcting errors found on printer’s blue line.

For compensation and other details, please contact James M. Beidler, Executive Director, GSP, 215 S. Broad St., 7th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19107-5325.
FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

When I went to Hofstra University on Long Island some 20 years ago, the President of the University was a man named Jim Stuart, who explained how much Hofstra meant to him - he had been affiliated with it much of his life - by saying, "I have a fierce pride of association with Hofstra University."

I see that type of "fierce pride" in many of the people who affiliate themselves with the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania. What I hope to persuade you and many others is that because we have this fierce pride in GSP, we should try to instill it in all members.

There is one way and only one way for this to happen. We need to make the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania as relevant to a member in California as it is to a member who lives within the shadows of Center City Philadelphia. In doing so, we need to make sure that we do not abandon those who have supported the Society for so many years.

Now that's easily said - but how do we transform that sort of rhetoric into actuality? Among the ways are:

- Creating a card catalog for our Research Room materials. We have rich resources in our Research Room, but access to those resources is often laborious. This computer card catalog project will provide the key to open up the collections to our Research Room users anywhere.
- Secondly, we want to purchase equipment to allow for better photocopies of items from GSP's Research Room as well as equipment that will allow our programs to travel to wherever they are needed. Included is a state-of-the-art microfilm reader printer; a laptop computer and PC video projector; and storage cabinets and shelving.
- We also want to purchase more archival supplies such as acid-free boxes and file folders, so that the GSP collections are properly preserved and stored.
- We want to fund a long-sought survey of Philadelphia County's Intestate Records in preparation for a major microfilming project.

At its meeting in February, the Board of Directors unanimously approved a Special Projects Appeal designed to raise $150,000 to fund these projects. If this Appeal is successful, I believe that we will be well on our way to making the Society relevant to all its members for the foreseeable future.

Let us share each other's fierce pride for the long-term betterment of our society.

James M. Beidler
Executive Director