

Penn in Hand

Vol. XXVI, No. 1 – March 2005

The Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

Penn in Hand Two Versions: Electronic and Print

The Publications Committee of the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania is pleased to announce that at its fall meeting a decision was made to begin making *Penn in Hand* available to members in an online format and work is presently underway to make this a reality in calendar year 2005.

There are obvious benefits associated with publishing *Penn in Hand* electronically. Members who like to keep back issues of *Penn in Hand* will be able to save the newsletter in an electronic format either on their hard drive, on a disk or perhaps on a CD. Thus, members will find that they will not only free up valuable storage space, but they will always know where to locate their copies of *Penn in Hand*, and, they will be able to search back issues of *Penn in Hand* with great ease for topics or subjects of interest.

The electronic version of *Penn in Hand* will permit the editor to be more timely in terms of content of the newsletter. The print version requires the editor to schedule a set amount of time to collect or gather the news and information he wants to publish, then he has to get it written, edited and put in a form ready for printing, after which it is sent to the printer and then mailed. All of this takes time, so by the time members receive *Penn in Hand* some of the material which is date sensitive may already have taken place.

An electronic publication offers greater flexibility in the amount of information that can be published at one time. With a print publication such as *Penn in Hand*, the amount of information that can be published on paper is limited to eight pages. With an electronic publication, the editor can go beyond what is normally made available to members. The editor does not have to limit information such as a Research Tip to a set number of pages or columns. If the author of the Tip has a lot of interesting material, all of the information can be published in the electronic version of the newsletter because the editor does not have to cut material in order to fit a set page count. Thus if a majority of GSP members choose the online version of *Penn in Hand*, the opportunity exists to make more information available.

Lastly, the Society and its members will benefit from the dollar savings. It will cost less to produce an electronic version of *Penn in Hand* as opposed to a printed version. Those savings can be passed on to members in the form of other Society benefits like offering access to online databases.

So how will all of this work?

Continued on page 2

**GSP RESEARCH ROOM, 215 S. Broad St., 7th Floor, Philadelphia, PA
HOURS: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.**

**HSP LIBRARY, 1300 Locust St., Philadelphia, PA
HOURS: 12:30 to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday & Thursday
12:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday
10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Friday**



Penn in Hand, the newsletter of the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania, is published four times a year in March, June, September, and December.

Copy deadline: 15th of the preceding month

Phone (215) 545-0391
FAX (215) 545-0936
E-mail: gsppa@aol.com
Web site: <http://www.genpa.org>

David T. Moore, Editor

Copyright © 2005 by the
Genealogical Society
of Pennsylvania

Officers

President

Hon. Herbert K. Zearfoss

Honorary Presidents

Jane Adams Clarke, FGSP

John Howard Platt Jr.

Vice Presidents

Annette Kunselman Burgert

John T. Humphrey

Don C. Stone

Honorary Vice Presidents

Peter S. Craig, Esq.

Francis James Dallett

Terry A. McNealy

L. Jeanne Pontarelli

Walter Stock, CGRS

Secretary

Kathryn M. Donovan

Treasurer

Lewis L. Neilson, Jr.

Counsel

Michael W. Freeland

Executive Director

J. Thomas Showler

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Thursday, 21 April 2005

Migratory Patterns Into, Through, and Out of Colonial Pennsylvania

1 p.m.

GSP Research Room

This presentation by GSP board member and noted author Annette K. Burgert, FGSP, FASG, details the migration of people into Pennsylvania from Europe and other places. It goes on to discuss migratory paths that lead out of the colony. There will be an opportunity to ask questions of the expert following the talk.

Tuesday, 10 May 2005

Illustrating Your Family History on the Web

7 p.m.

Phila. Community College
West Philadelphia Campus
4725 Chestnut Street

Many people have put their family history on the web, but it is usually a text-only presentation. This talk will show how easy it is to put annotated images on the web, as a supplement to a text-only family history. With web hosting costs continuing to drop, a considerable number of photos and scanned documents can inexpensively be shared with the world. The presenter will be Don Stone, Chair of the GSP Technology SIG and a GSP vice president.

Monday-Friday, 19-24 June 2005

Summer Camp for Family Historians

GSP and

various other sites

Another one of GSP's highly-regarded programs to help genealogists through the complications of research in Philadelphia, with an informal meeting Sunday night followed by five days in local research facilities.

GSP Members should already have received a registration brochure by mail

Continued from page 1

***Penn in Hand* Two Versions: Electronic and Print**

Members of the Society will still have the option of choosing how they receive the newsletter. That is, members will be able to access the newsletter online at the Society's Web page or they can choose to receive *Penn in Hand* through the mail.

For those who choose the electronic version, the procedure is as follows: After the editor completes the task of putting *Penn in Hand* together, he will post it on the Society's Web site as a PDF file. Members will receive an e-mail message from the Society noting the most recent edition of *Penn in Hand* is now available. The e-mail message will include a table of contents for that issue. Members will have the option of reading *Penn in Hand* online from the GSP home page or they may download it to their computer.

In order to make ALL this happen, we will need some information from you, the member. First, we need to know if you want to receive the electronic version of *Penn in Hand*, or the print version. If you choose the electronic form, please send an e-mail to the Society (<gsppa@aol.com>) noting you want to be added to the list of those members receiving *Penn in Hand* electronically and providing us the e-mail address where we can notify you each time that *Penn in Hand* is available at the GSP home page.

John T. Humphrey

Vice President

Chair, Publications Committee

GSP ANNUAL FUND DONORS

Donations to the Annual Fund are used for general purposes. Levels of support are designated by the GSP Fund Raising Committee. This list contains the names of those whose contributions were received between 1 November 2004 and the end of March 2005.

President's Circle

(minimum gift of \$1000)

Thomas C. Etter, Jr.
Herbert K. Zearfoss

Sponsor

(minimum gift of \$500)

Michael Willis Freeland
David B. Fultz
Mrs. George C. McFarland
J. Thomas Showler

Contributor

(minimum gift of \$200)

Sara H. Brower
Kathryn M. Donovan
Robert J. Gill, MD
Margaret H. Kwadrat
Richard W. Palmer
Don C. Stone

Friend

(minimum gift of \$100)

Anonymous
Rodney Armstrong
Ervin F. Bickley, Jr.
James Tyson Carson
Tedd Cocker
J. William Ditter, Jr.
Virginia M. Hamister
Marilyn Cocchiola Holt
Allston Jones
J. Wayne Lee
Loretta M. (Lorie) Morris
Ann T. O'Hara
John H. Platt, Jr.
Edward J. Raser
John W. & Cheryl H. Rose
Louise H. Shafer
Lisa M. Sheppard

Supporter

(minimum gift of \$50)

Anonymous
Derien R. Andes
Miles R. Barnes, Jr.
C. W. Bartholomai
Helen L. Beall
Eleanor H. Bracegirdle
June Bittle Buck
Annette K. Burgert
Agnes E. Burkus
Catherine G. Campbell

Winchell S. Carroll
Earl C. Carver, Jr.
Elizabeth W. Claxton
Elizabeth Cunningham
Sarajane Dallas
Francis James Dallett
Thomas C. Deas, Jr.
Elizabeth L. Dreger
Dr. Charles J. Duey
Joan P. Farley
Beverlee Hower Felkner
Adrian R. Fenton
Harold A. Gennaria
Gilbert K. Greene, Jr.
Gordon B. Grimm
Elaine G. Hackman
Ruth B. Hamm
Joan S. Hanson
Herbert D. Hart
Gustave A. Heckscher, II
Laura Heebner
Frank B. Herzal, Jr.
William L. Hires
Frank A. Hoagey
Robert E. Hoagland
Gregory S. Hobbs
Grace W. Keffer
Laura M. Keller
Edward F. Kenna
Memma S. & Melanie Kilgannon
Lawrence W. & Regina M. Lake
Mary Anne Lawler
Mary K. Lindner
Dorothy J. Matuszewich
Lynne W. McDonough
Francis J. McGonigle
Carol A. McGrath
Joseph C. McTamney
Howard R. Morgan
Cynthia J. Myers-Morrison, EdD
James R. Nagle
Barbara & Edward Niemann, Jr.
Frederick W. Parsons, III
Michael A. Ports
Alfred C. Prime
Mark Reber, Jr.
Elizabeth M. Rice
Lois A. Rose
Janet E. Rupert
Eileen P. Russo
Nancy E. Schanes
Robert S. Sherley
Alan J. Sholomskas, MD
Craig A. TenBroeck
Frances Waite

Janet S. Watson

J. Arndt Weicksel
Martha Whitcraft
Lloyd Zeager

Other

Anonymous
Wayne A. & Helene S. Barner
Joseph P. Beggin
John J. Bevan, III
Patricia Bruhin
Elizabeth B. Bunting
Jeanne E. Byrnes
Florence J. Collier
Bridget A. Coullon
Roberta M. Daymon
Christine Dorval
Pamela S. Eagleson
Laura Fedoryk
Paul S. Frick
Howard W. & Jean M. Gant
Rita F. Gerardine
Norma C. Gransee
Joyce M. Haas
Robert E. Hackenberg
Nancy J. Halli
Ruth H. Harrington
Joseph F. Harrison, III
John E. Hopkins
Mary D. Howell
John T. Humphrey
Mary Louise R. Kip
Mary P. Koerwer
Eleanor Lyall
Jane Dart Maunsell
Agnes H. McBride
Romayne Shay McMahan
Nancy C. McNulty
Acquilla S. Muller
Lewis L. Neilson, Jr.
Eunice L. Ross
Johanna Schwartz
John C. Shipley, Sr.
A. Gertrude Slaven
Gerald J. Smith
John L. Taylor
Rebecca H. Thornton
Harry W. Ticknor
Erma I. Walsh
Patricia J. Weible
Alice C. Young
Mary Lee Young
John A. Zinn

Life in Mid-Eighteenth Century Pennsylvania

Excerpts from a presentation given by John T. Humphrey at GSP's Annual Meeting, 17 March 2005. This article was published in greater detail in Pennsylvania Mennonite Heritage, Volume 23, Number 4.

Details concerning what an ancestor may have done on any given day can be difficult if not impossible to find. But details concerning shared or common experience have been recorded and that information is useful in gaining insight into eighteenth-century life in Pennsylvania. Places where this sort of information can be found include: newspapers, travel diaries, journals, inventories of estates, the Statutes at Large of Pennsylvania, tax lists and an array of historical studies. (Examples include *Muhlenberg's Journals*, the *Dansbury Diaries*, and Gottlieb Mittelberger's *Journey to Pennsylvania*. Examples of good historical studies include James T. Lemmon's *The Best Poor Man's Country: A Geographical Study of Southeastern Pennsylvania*, John C. Miller's *The First Frontier: Life in Colonial America* and Aaron Fogelman's *Hopeful Journeys*.)

Shared experience is an analytical tool used by historians to research, interpret and analyze the past. Men and women of all generations have shared experience, like our contemporary habit of purchasing food in a grocery store. Details of that experience include the day of the week, time of day, the purchase, and the name of the store. The fact that most of us purchase food in a store provides an experience we all share in common.

The same was true of all eighteenth-century ancestors. If they were immigrants who came

to Pennsylvania all newcomers had to journey there on a ship—an experience shared in common. The specifics of that voyage were unique to that journey and to the passengers who traveled on that particular ship.

Ship captains carried out similar or routine sailing maneuvers on each and every trip across the Atlantic. As a sailing ship approached the North American continent, for example, the captain of the ship would have ordered a member of his crew to start “sounding for the bottom.” The crew member dropped a rope with a heavy lead weight over the side of the ship to test the depth of the water. He was trying to find the bottom. If the weight touched the bottom at ten fathoms the ocean was only 60 feet deep as one fathom is equal to six linear feet.

When a ship finally arrived in Philadelphia people usually gathered on the wharf. The narrator of one journal noted that as they approached the dock “a crowd of persons were seen gathering on shore in expectation the newly-arrived immigrants were to be exposed for sale.” Merchants looking for the ship soon boarded. Frequently those merchants were proprietors of the ship or were in the employ of the owner. An official tally was taken to determine the passengers who could be sold as indentured servants. The merchant then placed an advertisement in one of the Philadelphia newspapers: “Servants for Sale.” Sometimes those advertisements noted the wharf where the ship docked—information that can be especially useful for any family historian whose ancestors may have arrived in a ship so advertised.

Immigrants undoubtedly formed some lasting and interesting impressions of Pennsylvania in the days and weeks following their arrival. Newly-arrived Germans probably noticed the city had no walls. Most towns and villages in Germany of comparable size still retained their medieval fortifications. They probably noticed the streets in Philadelphia were rectilinear; that is, they ran at ninety-degree angles to one another. Streets in William Penn's capital did not meander as did many streets in towns and villages in Europe.

Most immigrants did not remain in Philadelphia for any length of time; those settlers wanted to get out on the land. Land was the lure that drew thousands of immigrants from the British Isles and Germany to Pennsylvania. Christopher Saur in a letter sent to Germany noted: "Because one may hold as much property as one wishes, also pay for it when one desires, everybody hurries to take up some property." In the mid-1750s a Moravian minister in Philadelphia noted the members of his congregation spent a good deal of time talking about the price of land and the places where they could buy it—a testimonial that suggests land was probably one of the topics of conversation in Philadelphia.

In terms of price, the further one moved from Philadelphia the cheaper land became. In 1750 Mittlelberger noted: "The price of farms around Philadelphia are quite high. Even a day's journey from Philadelphia prices for uncleared land is high." Advertisements in Philadelphia newspapers show that in 1750 the price of a homestead with a house, barn and cleared fields was twice the price of uncultivated land—a fact that forced many immigrants to search for land in the interior of Pennsylvania.

Building a temporary shelter was the first

task settlers faced after they found and purchased raw land. After a shelter was built, work commenced on erecting a more permanent cabin and clearing the land of trees.

Tax assessments for several eastern Pennsylvania counties list the quantity of land owned, and many of those assessments specify or list the number of acres under cultivation or cleared and the number of wooded acres. Those tax records provide a means of tracking deforestation. In 1768 John Heil was enumerated on tax lists in Moore Township in Northampton County as the owner of 15 acres of cleared land and 165 acres of woodland. In 1776 he was assessed for 50 cleared acres and 130 acres of woodland. In eight years time, from 1768 to 1776, John Heil cleared 35 acres on his 180-acre farm. On average he cleared four acres of land each year without the help of mechanical equipment.

The 1798 U.S. Direct Tax for Pennsylvania furnishes interesting insights into domestic life. The 1798 Direct Tax was a federal tax that furnishes details on structures. As an example, Christian Muffley, an early resident of Mt. Bethel Township in Northampton County was living in a one-story log home that measured 24 feet by 30 feet for a grand total of 720 square feet of living space.

Our eighteenth-century immigrant ancestors risked a dangerous voyage on a sometimes tumultuous sea, but they chose that route because they wanted the opportunity to take control of their own lives. They wanted the chance to succeed, many wanted religious freedom, and they wanted the opportunity to pass something on to their own children. The evidence found in Pennsylvania's land and tax records along with the inventories of estate suggests many families succeeded beyond their wildest dreams.

NEW ACCESSIONS

Materials catalogued in the GSP Research Room 2 September 2004 to 16 March 2005

Books

A Welsh classical dictionary, people in history and legend up to about A.D. 1000 by Peter C. Bartrum.

Welsh genealogies A.D. 300-1400 by Peter C. Bartrum.

Welsh genealogies, AD 1400-1500 by Peter C. Bartrum.

Briefs of title to the several tracts of land known as Cheltenham Hills, in Montgomery County, Cheltenham Township, Pennsylvania.

Lists of inhabitants of colonial New York: excerpted from the Documentary History of the State of New-York edited by Edmund Bailey O'Callaghan; indexed by Rosanne Conway.

Virginia claims to land in Western Pennsylvania published with an account of the donation lands of Pennsylvania edited by William Henry Egle.

Map Guide to German Parish Registers - Grandduchies of Mecklenburg-Schwerin and Mecklinburg-Strelitz by Kevan M. Hansen.

Map guide to German Parish Registers - Grandduchy of Hessen by Kevan M. Hansen.

The Documentary History of the Ratification of the Constitution: Volume 2, Pennsylvania edited by Merrill Jensen.

The provincial councillors of Pennsylvania : who held office between 1733-1776 and those earlier councillors who were some time chief magistrates of the province, and their descendants by Charles P. Keith.

The Delaware Finns; or, The first permanent settlements in Pennsylvania, Delaware, West New Jersey and eastern part of Maryland by E.A. Louhi.

Genealogist's Handbook for New England Research by Marcia D. Melnyk.

The Bethania Palladium newspaper, June 1832- September 1834, personals and obituaries extracted by Rita Schive Mowrer.

John Neal of Nanticoke, founder of an American Family (the Neal History Volume 1).

Philadelphia marriages & obituaries (1857-1860), Philadelphia Saturday Bulletin compiled & edited by Maryly Barton Penrose.

Plantagenet ancestry: a study in colonial and medieval families by Douglas Richardson; Kimball G. Everingham, editor.

The Chapel of Chichester; a Short History of St. Martin's Church, Marcus Hook, PA by Arthur and Jane Russell.

IrishRecords: Sources for Family and Local History by James G. Ryan.

New York State Society of the Cincinnati, biographies of original members & other continental officers by Francis J. Sypher, Jr.

The German element of the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia by John W. Wayland

Ancestors in german archives: a guide to family history sources by Raymond S. Wright ... [et al.].

Family Collections

Deed No. 171 Woodlands Cemetery to Jeremiah Starr March 19, 1850.

Manuscript materials on the *Trafford Family*.

Manuscript Room

Manuscript collection of the Butterworth - Schofield families which includes the correspondance of Elsie W. Butterworth.

Manuscript collection of *Franklin Davenport Edmunds*. (Manuscript of book, *Ancestry of Franklin D. Edmunds and Sue Price Parton his wife*. The collection also has newspaper clippings, especially from *Cape May Ocean Wave* newspaper 1856-1863 and 1920s.)

Helverson Undertaker business of Kensington, Philadelphia: manuscript records for 1828-1915.

Manuscript collection of *Hannah Benner Roach*. (Resource materials and drafts of her work on "The Planting of Philadelphia" and her work on the papers of William Penn).

Manuscript collection of Benjamin H. Shoemaker

INFORMATION WANTED

Here are the "Information Wanted" rules:

1. Queries are accepted only from members.
2. Members are encouraged to submit queries, understanding that GSP may have to limit the number from any one member in any one issue of *Penn In Hand*.
3. All queries should have a clear Pennsylvania connection and at least one date.
4. 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 GSP, of course, retains the right to edit where necessary.

Some Internet sites that offer many queries:

- County sites of the **PAGenWeb** project. URL: <http://www.pagenweb.org/>
- Genealogy.com's **GenForum**, which offers surname and geographic search. URL: <http://genforum.genealogy.com/pa/philadelphia/>
- **Roots Surname List** (Surname List only - no "messages")
URL: <http://rsl.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/rsllsql.cgi?surname=&type=Surname&op=search>

The following queries were submitted by Charles N. Ferguson, 811 South Market, Shawnee OK 74801

Dobbins: Need family information on John DOBBINS. Lived 1800 Whitley Township, Greene County, PA. 1 male about 5 years old, 1 male 16-36 years old, 3 females about 5-10 years old, 1 female 16-26 years old. Was John's mother's name Elizabeth Dobbins of Ireland? Also need Elizabeth's maiden name.

Francis: Need information on Lt. William FRANCIS or William H. FRANCIS. Born 1740 MD; took Oath of Allegiance to VA about 1777; discharged at Valley Forge, PA. Applied for pension 23 October 1820, age 80. His brother John, born 1719 MD enlisted in Revolution.

Brother Henry served in Revolution, died NC in 1780.

Gamble: Need information on Arthur Lee GAMBLE. Born 22 February 1892, Springfield MO, died 1967 OK, to which he came with parents when a child. Father believed to be from PA. Can not find Arthur in OK in 1910, 1920 or 1930 censuses.

McConnaughay: Need parentage, siblings, marriage date and place for James McConnaughay and wife Cicily/Cecily, maiden name unknown. Lived Chester County, PA. Children all baptized at Immanuel Church, New Castle, DE: John (born 1760 PA or DE), James (born PA or DE), David (born PA or DE), Mary (born PA or DE).

GSP ANNUAL ELECTION

At the 113th Annual Meeting on 17 March, the following were elected to lead the Society for the coming year.

President: Hon. Herbert K. Zearfoss
 VPs: Annette Kunselman Burgert
 John T. Humphrey
 Don C. Stone
 Secretary: Kathryn M. Donovan
 Treasurer: Lewis L. Neilson, Jr., Esq.
 Counsel: Michael W. Freeland, Esq.
 Directors :

Thomas S. Howland, Jr. (term expires 2007); Jefferson M. Moak, Richard W. Palmer, Esq., Linda Stanley and Charlotte M. Taylor (terms expire 2008).

Mr. Howland, Ms. Stanley and Ms. Taylor are new members of the Board of Directors, Mr. Moak is returning to the Board, and Mr. Palmer has been a Vice President.

They join continuing Directors Timothy C. Coyne, Thomas C. Etter, Jr., Louise H. Shafer and Craig A. TenBroeck (terms expire 2006), and David B. Fultz, Robert J. Gill, M.D. and Marilyn C. Holt (terms expire 2007).

The Society extends appreciation to David Adams, Elizabeth B. Bunting, Herbert D. Hart and Rebecca C. Warlow who have concluded service on the Board of Directors.

FROM THE STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

In December 2004 the GSP Board approved the GSP 2005-2007 Strategic Plan. The Strategic Planning Committee had developed the Plan after several years of research within GSP and studying trends in the world of genealogy. The Strategic Plan is the blueprint that the Society will follow to assure that we continue to fulfill our Mission. The Board expects that, by implementing the Plan, the Society can move strongly into the web-based genealogy world, and will maintain its genealogy leadership position in Pennsylvania. As is required, we are committed to improving the Society's financial situation, to assure the availability of adequate funds to operate well beyond the planning period.

The Plan calls for an increasing focus on education and outreach, developing a powerful website that will meet more of our Members' resource needs, and expanding the Partners Program. Overhead costs will be reduced by moving to new and better-utilized offices. Some parts of the Plan already have been completed, or have clear commitments (HeritageQuest Online, 2006

State-wide Genealogical Conference, expanded Web site including on-line catalog). Others are still in the planning stage (office move, school education program).

Over the next several months we will be sending out questionnaires to seek input from the Membership on issues such as the location of and desired amenities for our new office. We hope that you will respond promptly so that your ideas can be included in the decision-making process. We will keep you advised of our progress towards meeting the Plan, and we welcome any questions and/or comments you may have.

Members may receive a copy of the Strategic Plan in PDF format by simply e-mailing the GSP Office with their request and it will be forwarded to them as an e-mail attachment. Members without e-mail may request a paper copy from the GSP Office and it will be forwarded by U.S. Mail.

*David B. Fultz, Chairman
Strategic Planning Committee*



DATED MATERIAL

The Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania
215 S. Broad St., 7th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19107-5325

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Philadelphia, PA
Permit No. 4260