

# GSP NEWSLETTER

Your Pennsylvania Ancestors

Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania Newsletter

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### GSP UPDATE

Our office is now open to visitors, by appointment on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 10 am to 3 pm. Masking and social distancing required. Contact us at 267.686.2296 or [info@genpa.org](mailto:info@genpa.org). Find us at [genpa.org](http://genpa.org).

[GSP Newsletter Archives](#)



## MESSAGE FROM GSP'S PRESIDENT

It's been an exciting couple of months at GSP! We hosted a successful special event about online records at the State Archives of Pennsylvania, revived our popular Third Thursday series of programming, and welcomed two new board members. And we have more great upcoming events on the schedule.

This week, join us for Third Thursday on February 17 and for the return of our annual Irish event with Fintan Mullan and Gillian Hunt of the Ulster Historical Foundation on Saturday, February 19. Registration for Third Thursday is free. The Irish event has a registration fee but is a full day of information on Irish records and resources. Register for one or both through our programs and events page at <https://genpa.org/programs-and-events/>

Third Thursday has become very popular, drawing several hundred attendees each month. Most recently, we hosted Diahn Southard's presentation on DNA ethnicity on January 20 Dawn King Carson's presentation on working with probate records on December 16. On December 6, we hosted Aaron McWilliams, archivist at the Pennsylvania State Archives, who presented on navigating online resources at the state archives. You may view Aaron's presentation free at <https://genpa.org/programs-and-events/>

GSP is also going to RootsTech, virtually, from March 3 to 5 and we'd like you to join us! Registration is free at <https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/next/>, where you will have access to a wide range of lectures and programs. GSP executive director James M. Beidler will present four lectures and office manager Angie Indik will be at our virtual table, welcoming visitors.

Last, but not least, please join us in welcoming our new board members. Shamele Jordon returned to the GSP board after six years - another "happy reunion" for us. Many of you probably know Shamele from her extensive accomplishments, listed below. Pam Anderson is a new face at GSP, but not new to genealogy, as you can see below. Many of you probably know Pam as well. We're looking forward to working with them both!

**Shamele Jordan** is a professional genealogist, producer, writer, and lecturer. Her biographical highlights include award-winning TV producer of Genealogy Quick Start; co-founder of Black Genealogy Experience, and creator of Visualizing the Past, a local history program from youth. Awards include 2018 Best Independent Producer, Instructional/Training, presented by Alliance for Community Media; 2017 Learning Award Cammy presented by PhillyCAM, Philadelphia's public access station; and 2019 Lawnside Education Foundation honoree.

Shamele has been a researcher for the PBS series Oprah's Roots: African American Lives I and II and a NJ State Library grant recipient for her research of Civil War Burials in Lawnside, NJ. She is also advisory board member and faculty at the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research, University of Georgia, Athens, Ga, former president of the African American Genealogy Group in Philadelphia, and a workshop volunteer at the Family History Center in Cherry Hill, NJ.

**Pam Anderson, CG®** is the owner of Anderson CoGen <https://andersoncogen.com>. She has a master's degree in Speech Pathology, which she used until she changed careers. In 1991, she became the owner of Anderson Construction, completing construction projects and coaching clients until 2016. In 2010, she began studying her own family history, going professional in 2014, and researching for clients from California to Slovakia. She obtained her certified genealogist credential in 2016.

Pam is a volunteer researcher for the Franklin County Historical Society, teaches their "Using Courthouse Records" class, and chairs their First Families Committee. Pam is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG), National Genealogical Society (NGS), New England Genealogical Society (NEHGS), the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania, the Maryland Genealogical Society (article reviewer), and New York Genealogical and Biographical Society. She has written articles for most of their publications and presented to several of their associations. She can be reached at [pam@andersoncogen.com](mailto:pam@andersoncogen.com).

*--Valerie-Anne Lutz, GSP Board President*

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## NEWS AND UPDATES

**The Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania** welcomes Shamele Jordan and Pam Pracser Anderson to the GSP Board of Directors.

**Vital Records of Pennsylvania 1852 to Today presented by Denys Allen**

Thursday, February 17, 2022 – 7:00 p.m. [EST](#)

[Registration and more information](#)

**GSP 2022 Virtual Winter Conference**, Irish Research with the Ulster Historical Foundation

February 19, 2022, All day event on Zoom

\$35.00 GSP members

\$40 for non-members

Recordings will be available for all ticket holders following the conference

[Registration Link](#)

## The Historical Society of Pennsylvania

Finding Black Families: Stories from the Chew Papers

February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 6:30 pm [EST](#)

[Tickets](#)

Foundations of Genealogy I and II, formerly presented at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania by Sydney F. Cruice, are now hosted by Sydney Cruice Genealogy.

[Foundations of Genealogy I](#), an 8-week course, begins on Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm [EST](#)

## FamilySearch

Upcoming Webinars:

[African American Records and Strategies: Post-1865](#) (Beginner)

February 17<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am MST ([Noon EST](#))

[Overview of FamilySearch](#) (Beginner)

March 1<sup>st</sup> 10:00 am MST ([Noon EST](#))

**RootsTech** March 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> 2022, 100% Virtual, 100% Free

Watch for sessions presented by **James M. Beidler, Interim Executive Director at GSP:**

- Pennsylvania Predicament! Finding Keystone State Ancestry, three-part series  
A lot of records across the U.S. point to origins in Pennsylvania, which makes sense since 1 in 4 Americans have at least one ancestor who set foot in the state. This three-part Series starts with learning about Pennsylvania's history, continue with descriptions of the best sources for finding their origins; and finish with tips for making the records work for you!
- German Immigration from Hometowns to Final Destinations, three-part series  
America's largest ethnic group are those of German descent and searching for them requires some special methodologies because many records in Germany are still kept and stored locally.

## Bucks County Genealogical Society

Counting Her Life – Our Female Ancestors in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century US Census, Gena Philibert-Ortega

March 5<sup>th</sup> at 10 am [EST](#) [Learn More](#)

## Ancestry

Updated 1/13/2022:

[Pennsylvania, U.S., County Records of Enslaved and Free People, 1780-1834](#)

## North Hills Genealogists

Spring 2022 Family History Conference will take place on Saturday, April 9, *Live, via Zoom*.

Featured Speaker: Rich Venezia [Learn More](#)

## Schwenkfelder Library and Heritage Center

New workshops for adults on-site in Pennsburg, Pa.

Learn to read old German print and cursive

<https://www.schwenkfelder.org/adult-workshops>

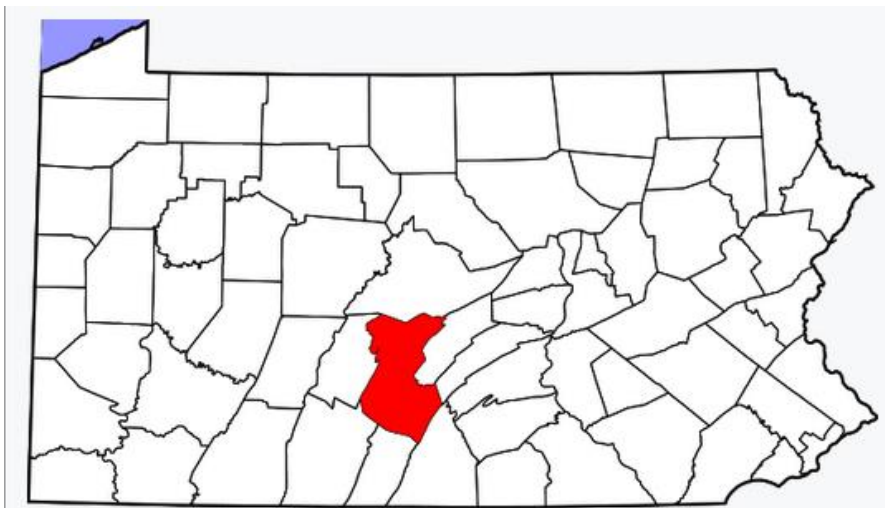
## Featured County – Huntingdon

Pennsylvania became a state 12 December 1787. There are 67 counties and 2561 municipalities. Huntingdon County was formed on 20 September 1787 from parts of Bedford County. The county seat is Huntingdon.

**Prominent People:** Hugh Brady, Christina Crosby, Chuck Knox, Dylan Lane, Horace Porter, John Purdue, William Wallace, and Curtis Wright

Microfilm copies of county records along with the tools to help research

county records are available at the [Pennsylvania State Archives - PHMC](#) > [Archives](#) > [Research Online](#) > [Research Guides](#) > [County and Municipal Records](#) (under Genealogy)



### Finding Family and Historical Records in Huntingdon County

I. Huntingdon County Register and Recorders Office:

<http://www.huntingdoncounty.net/Dept./CommonPleas/RegRec/Pages/default.aspx>

II. Huntingdon County Prothonotary and Clerk of Courts: <https://huntingdoncountycourt.net/prothclerk-of-courts/>

III. Family Search Wiki on Huntingdon County:

[https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Huntingdon\\_County,\\_Pennsylvania\\_Genealogy](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Huntingdon_County,_Pennsylvania_Genealogy)

IV. Huntingdon County Historical Society: <https://huntingdonhistory.org/>

V. Huntingdon County USGenWeb: <http://usgwarchives.net/pa/huntingdon/>

VI. Find A Grave Huntingdon County Cemetery List: [https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery-browse/USA/Pennsylvania/Huntingdon-County?id=county\\_2271](https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery-browse/USA/Pennsylvania/Huntingdon-County?id=county_2271)

VII. Directory Map of Huntingdon County from Surveys (1856):

<https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3823h.la000755/?r=-0.402,0.015,1.584,0.874,0>

VIII. *Historic Huntingdon, 1767–1909* by Huntingdon, Pennsylvania Historical Committee (1909) free e-book: <https://archive.org/details/historichuntingd00hunt/page/n7/mode/2up>

IX. *History of Huntingdon County in the State of Pennsylvania* by Milton Scott Lytle (1876) free e-book: <https://archive.org/details/historichuntingd00hunt/page/n7/mode/2up>

X. *The History of Presbytery of Huntingdon* by William J. Gibson (1874) free e-book:

<https://archive.org/details/historyofpresbyt00gibs/page/n7/mode/2up>

XI. Pennsylvania Resource Guides: <https://genpa.org/public-%20collections/pennsylvania-%20resources/>

## GSP Third Thursday Programs

Free to the General Public

GSP members have access to [recordings](#) for a limited time.

### **February**

#### **Vital Records of Pennsylvania 1852 to Today**

Free Online Zoom event presented by Denys Allen

Thursday, February 17, 2022 – 7:00 p.m. [EST](#)

[Registration and more information](#)

### **March**

#### **Happy Days! Find Your Family in the U.S. Census**

Free Online Zoom event presented by Beth Finch McCarthy

Thursday, March 17, 2022 – 7:00 p.m. [EST](#)

### **April**

#### **From German to English and Back!**

#### **You Know More German Than You Think You Do!**

Free Online Zoom event presented by Ken Weaver

Thursday, March 17, 2022 – 7:00 p.m. [EST](#)

### Join GSP

Our mission is to provide leadership and support in promoting genealogy through education, preservation, and access to Pennsylvania-related genealogical information.

Founded in 1892 as a non-profit organization, the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania was among the first in the United States to recognize the value of collecting and preserving vital and personal records.

GSP is committed to preserving and publishing previously unpublished primary sources. The continuing dedication to this service enables GSP to make a significant contribution to the cultural life of our city, state, and country.

### Join GSP

## FIRST FAMILIES CORNER

### Here Be the Dragons

When my older daughter was three years old, we visited the Smithsonian's Hall of Dinosaurs. Jennie's delighted voice echoed off the walls as she announced: DRAGONS!

Mariners in the Middle Ages often had maps that showed areas of danger with the warning "Here be dragons". This is a motto that genealogists should take to heart.

Cleaning out the basement recently I came across a file box full of copies of newspaper clippings, pages copied from old county and family histories, stuff that I had copied on trips to the New Jersey State Archives, even letters

from people that I vaguely remember. Here indeed be dragons.

Each item had to be checked against my family files to see if it had been used as a source or proof for one or more individuals, and if so, was there a digital copy of it attached to those individuals in my Rootsmagic file.

Whether you keep paper copies or digital ones – or both - it is a good idea to keep up with your filing. Nobody wants to have to deal with those pesky dragons.

—Nancy Cassada Nelson, GSP Board Member & First Families Chair



**First Families of Pennsylvania (FFP)** is a lineage society open to any GSP member who descends from a resident of what is now Pennsylvania during the time periods listed below:

- Colony and Commonwealth: 1638–1790
- Keystone and Cornerstone: 1791–1865
- Pennsylvania Proud: 1866–1900

To [submit an application](#) for our FFP program, you must be a current GSP member. The fee for filing the FFP application is \$75.

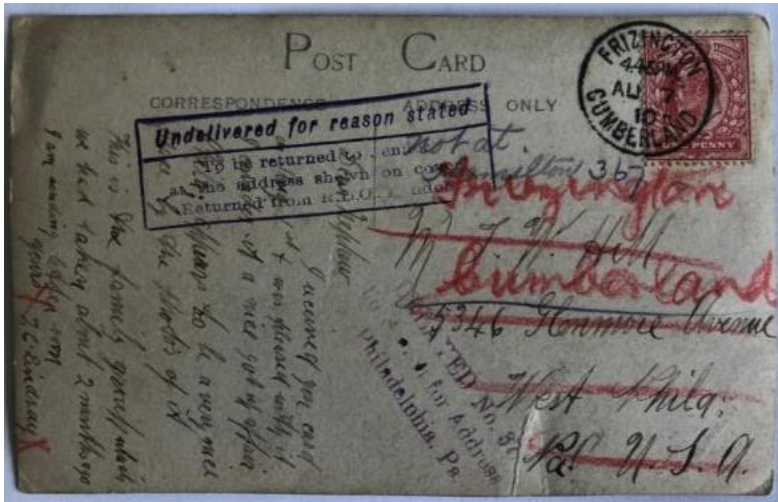
Please contact us at [info@genpa.org](mailto:info@genpa.org) for more information about volunteer opportunities with First Families of Pennsylvania.

  
**THANK YOU**  
 TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

## ANCESTOR SPOTLIGHT

### Joseph and Jane Hill

112 years ago, my great-grandfather Thomas Carlyle Lindsay sent a post card (this picture of his family) to his nephew, Mr. J. W. Hill at 5346 Glenmore Avenue, West Phila, Pa, USA. This post card was returned to my great-grandfather in Frizington, Cumberland, UK sometime later.



Thomas Carlisle's daughter, my grandmother, Selina Simpson (née Lindsay) told me this story when I was a child. She said it caused T. C. Lindsay much sadness.

Jane Hill (née Lindsay) born 3 June 1862 Hensingham, Cumberland, England. Joseph Hill was born c. 1858. They were married on 7th August 1886 in the South Shields registry office in Tyne and Wear. The family later emigrated to United States.

I have one other picture which had been sent from the USA to my great-grandfather. It is a picture of Mr. J. W. Hill, son of Jane and Joseph Hill.

I hope this information is of interest to others and I would be happy to correspond with descendants of Mr. J. W. Hill.

~Submitted by Keith Simpson

**Responses from readers will be forwarded to the contributor by the Newsletter Editor.  
Contact us at [editor@genpa.org](mailto:editor@genpa.org).**

## GSP 2022 Virtual Winter Conference

### Irish Research with the Ulster Historical Foundation



All Day Online Zoom Event  
**Saturday, February 19, 2022**  
9:00 am – 4:00 pm [EST](#)

\$35.00 GSP members,  
\$40 for non-members  
[Registration Link](#)

Join us for five 60-minute presentations, plus two 30-minute Q & A Sessions with Fintan Mullan and Gillian Hunt.

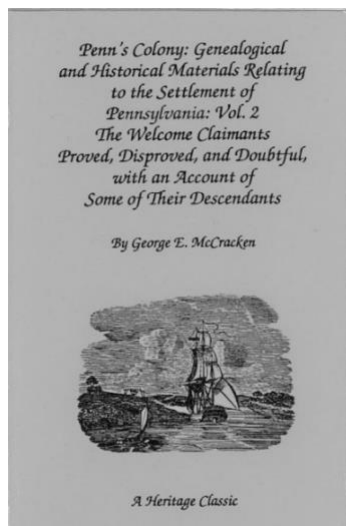
- **Understanding Irish townlands: importance of place, identity, and administrative divisions in Irish research**
- **Records Related to the Different Churches in Ireland**
- **Using land records: Griffith's Valuation, Tithe and Estate records**
- **Emigration from the north of Ireland to North America – sources for researching emigrant ancestors**
- **The Great Famine in Ireland: Sources for records**

**Fintan Mullan** has been Executive Director of Ulster Historical Foundation since 2001. With IT partners BRS Systems he pioneered the online births, deaths, and marriages online record system for Antrim and Down, which led to [www.rootsireland.ie](http://www.rootsireland.ie), the Irish Family History Foundation's unique database with over 20 million Irish historical records, making it the most useful online resource for Irish research. He has ensured the Foundation has been at the forefront of digital database developments for Irish genealogy. Fintan's publishing experience is extensive. Since 2001 he has managed the production of over 120 individual and diverse publications including the perennial favorite *Researching Scots-Irish Ancestors*. He is a non-executive director of the Irish Family History Foundation; sits on the board of and is a member of the management committee of the Northern Ireland Publications Resource (NIPR) and is a former member of the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, Readers Forum.

**Gillian Hunt** is Research Officer with the Ulster Historical Foundation and is responsible for the management of the Foundation's many genealogical activities. As well as managing the genealogy side of the Foundation's work, Gillian carries out research for clients and is a hugely experienced user of the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland and the General Register Office. She regularly teaches courses in Northern Ireland and gives talks on family history in the rest of Ireland, the UK, and North America.



## Used Books for Sale in the GSP Store



### [Penn's Colony: Genealogical and Historical Materials Relating to the Settlement of Pennsylvania: Vol. 2 The Welcome Claimants Proved, Disproved, and Doubtful, with an Account of Some of Their Descendants](#)

**\$30** (Used in Good Condition. Inner cover has a library label and back cover has a corner crease. Inside pages are intact and in overall good condition with a few pages marked with yellow highlighter.)

#### **Description**

Year: 1985  
Pages: 660  
Binding: Paperback  
ISBN: 0-7884-0397-4  
George E. McCracken

A critique of all available evidence regarding 304 alleged passengers; traces their genealogies for three generations. The definitive source.



### [Records of the Pastoral Acts at Christ Lutheran Church, Stouchsburg, Berks County, Pennsylvania Part 1 Baptisms, 1743-1819](#)

**\$20** (Used in Fair Condition. Front and back cover is worn with markings. Inside pages are intact and in very good condition.)

#### **Description**

Year: 1989  
Pages: 145  
Binding: Paperback  
ISBN: 0-911122-55-9  
Frederick S. Weiser

Name, parents' names, birth and baptismal dates, and names of sponsors are given.



### [Publications of the Pennsylvania German Society, Volume I. The Four Gospels translated into the Pennsylvania German Dialect and Daniel Schumacher's Baptismal Register](#)

**\$35** (Used in Good Condition. Spine has some wear. Cover page has library sticker and stamp. Inside pages are intact and in overall good condition.)

#### **Description**

Year: 1968  
Pages: 407  
Binding: Hardback  
LCCN: 68-25357  
Ralph Charles Wood and Frederick S. Weiser

*The Four Gospels, which is about 180 pages, is in PA German. The baptismal register was mostly translated to English with some exceptions.*

# The Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania

2100 Byberry Road – Suite 111  
Philadelphia, PA 19116 – 267.686.2296



## GSP Executive Board

President: Valerie-Anne Lutz  
1st Vice President: Doug Mondel  
2nd Vice President: Nancy C. Nelson  
Secretary: Kathryn Donahue ~ Treasurer: Frank Straup

## GSP Board of Directors

Deb Malinowski ~ Joseph Roby  
Mary Phalan ~ Lisa Miner ~ Cheryl VanLeer  
Shamele Jordan ~ Pam Pracser Anderson

## Interim Executive Director

James M. Beidler

## Office Manager

Angie Indik

## Volunteers

GSP has many volunteer opportunities at home, in the office, or on location.  
If you're interested in helping, email us at [info@genpa.org](mailto:info@genpa.org) or [editor@genpa.org](mailto:editor@genpa.org).

## Newsletter Team

Kathryn Donahue, Valerie-Anne Lutz, Angie Indik, Jane Benner

Contact the newsletter team at [editor@genpa.org](mailto:editor@genpa.org)