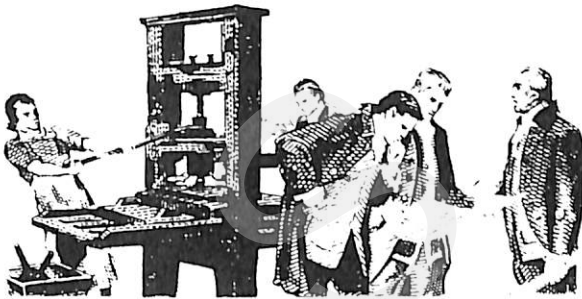


PENNSYLVANIA BIRTHS
Bucks County
1682-1800

John T. Humphrey



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Pennsylvania Births, Bucks County, 1682-1800
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PREFACE

This work was prepared as an aid for genealogical research in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, church records. As one of Pennsylvania's three original counties, Bucks was the birthplace of many people who relocated to other areas of the United States. Most of the early church records for this county can be found only in manuscript form in local libraries; only six of the twenty-two records used for this compilation have ever been published.

Settlement in Bucks County commenced shortly after William Penn established the Colony of Pennsylvania in 1682. William Penn, in fact, established his Pennsylvania residence in this county at Pennsbury.

Bucks County, like its neighboring Pennsylvania counties, was not homogeneous. That is, it was not settled by a single ethnic or religious group. Some of the earliest inhabitants were English Quakers who settled those areas of the county nearest to Philadelphia. In the early eighteenth century a number of Holland Dutch families from New Jersey and New York moved into the county. Germans established roots in Bucks County during the early- to mid-eighteenth century, settling in the middle to upper areas of the county. A study of names in this text will show that Scotch-Irish immigrants also settled in the county, the records for these families having been found in several early Presbyterian church registers.

A variety of sources were used for this compilation, including published works, manuscripts both handwritten and typed, and copies of original records found on microfilm. The birth/baptismal records for the German congregations were copied from English translations. Names and dates for all records were copied verbatim. No attempt was made to correct obvious spelling errors or to correct variant spelling of surnames; however, it was necessary to abbreviate several of the names found in the Dutch Reformed Church records because of their length.

Apparent variations within this text occur simply because early Bucks County church records do not adhere to a consistent form. Most churches recorded the date of birth, in which case that is usually the date included here. But in other records the recorded date was the day the infant was baptized. Those dates have been entered here with the notation "bp." Quakers recorded dates of birth only and they were transcribed in numeric form--that is, July 4, 1776 was written as "7mo 4 1776" or "4 7mo 1776."

In several church records the information recorded in the original church record is the day of a child's baptism, along with the child's age in lieu of a date of birth. In those instances, a calculated date of birth is provided here based on the child age. A calculated date is entered, for example, as "ca Jul 1776."

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The format used for each birth record should be fairly obvious. Following the boldface surname, the initial name listed is the child's first name. The notation "bp" following a child's name signifies that the date following is the date of baptism. The names following the date of birth or baptism are the names of the father and mother. The number in the extreme right column identifies the church record where that birth record can be found—as numbered and listed at the end of this Preface. A name in parentheses following the mother's name is her unmarried surname. Note, however, that the Dutch Reformed Church recorded both the father's and mother's full names, in which case the mother's name is entered here as found, without the customary parentheses to indicate her unmarried surname. A sample entry including the above listed possibilities might read:

Infant	Date of Birth or baptism	Father	Mother	Record
Ratzel				
Heinrich	27 Mar 1763	Jacob	Elisab. (Metzger)	14
Jacob	bp 16 Apr 1748	Daniel	Margaret	22

In several instances question marks appear in the text. In some cases those question marks were placed there to indicate my inability to read the original text. In other instances the question marks already appeared in the typed or handwritten translations or in copies of the original text, obviously placed there by the person making the translation or transcription from the original. Undoubtedly the translator or transcriber experienced a similar difficulty reading and/or translating certain names.

Other notes and abbreviations found in the original records include the designation for twin, shortened here to "tw," and "ill" for illegitimate. Although researchers will find evidence for the birth of twins in some of these records beyond those identified by "tw," the twin designation appears throughout this text only when it was found in the source record.

The Quaker records used for this work were family registers wherein each family member, including the mother, was identified by the family name. For the mothers, the family name found in these registers was not their family surname at birth. Given the name change that occurs upon marriage, it would be misleading to list birth records for these women with the births in the main body of this text. A separate section was added to the end listing the records for these married women.

Another section at the end, labeled "miscellaneous," contains birth records where the surname is unknown.

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Three additional notes of vital concern to genealogical researchers:

First, this book is not offered under the pretense of being a “complete” Bucks County birth record; it is complete only to the extent that records were available for research in 1993. Extant evidence confirms that several churches and/or congregations existed beyond those found for this compilation. The Hilltown Baptist Church in Hilltown Township, for example, was established in 1781. Eighteenth-century birth or baptismal records for this congregation have not been located. Likewise, St. James Protestant Episcopal Church in Bristol was established in 1717, but neither birth nor baptismal records for this congregation have been found. It should also be noted that although there were Mennonite churches in Bucks County, Mennonites did not maintain birth or baptismal records; hence, information for Mennonites could not be included.

Second, information for this book was obtained from records for Bucks County only; however, there is no guarantee that all of the infants included in this work were, in fact, born in Bucks County or that their families even lived there. For example, many baptismal notations in the Tohickon Reformed Church register name infants born in the adjacent county of Northampton. Conversely, some baptisms for infants born in Bucks County have been found to be recorded in the registers of churches in adjacent counties. Therefore, a search of church and other records for adjoining counties may provide additional information about families listed in this text.

And finally, it is also very important to keep in mind that this book is not intended as a substitute source for Bucks County church records; rather, it is intended to facilitate access to those records. Family historians who are able to determine that one or several of their ancestors were born in Bucks County should consult the original record or a transcription of that record, both to verify information obtained from this text and to gather additional information, such as the date of baptism and the names of baptismal sponsors.

Church Records

The date noting the beginning of the church records listed below is the year for the first birth or baptismal entry found in that record. In some instances the church was actually organized or established earlier.

1. Records of the Falls Friends Monthly Meeting
birth records begin 1683.

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The records for the Falls Friends Monthly Meeting were published by William Wayde Hindshaw in the *Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy*, Volume 2, 1938. These records have been republished.

2. Records of the Middletown Friends Monthly Meeting
birth records begin 1682.
3. Records of the Wrightstown Friends Monthly Meeting
birth records begin 1713.
4. Records of the Richland Friends Monthly Meeting
birth records begin 1730.
5. Records of the Buckingham Friends Monthly Meeting
birth records begin 1690.
6. Records of the Southampton Baptist Church
birth records begin 1732.
7. Records of the Tinicum Presbyterian also known as Red Hill
Presbyterian Church
baptismal register begins 1766.
8. Records of the Neshaminy Presbyterian Church, Hartsville in
Warwick Township
baptismal register begins 1788.
9. Records of the Newtown Presbyterian Church in Newtown Township
baptismal register begins 1767.
10. Records of the Reformed Low Dutch Church of Southampton and
Northampton Townships
baptismal register begins 1737.

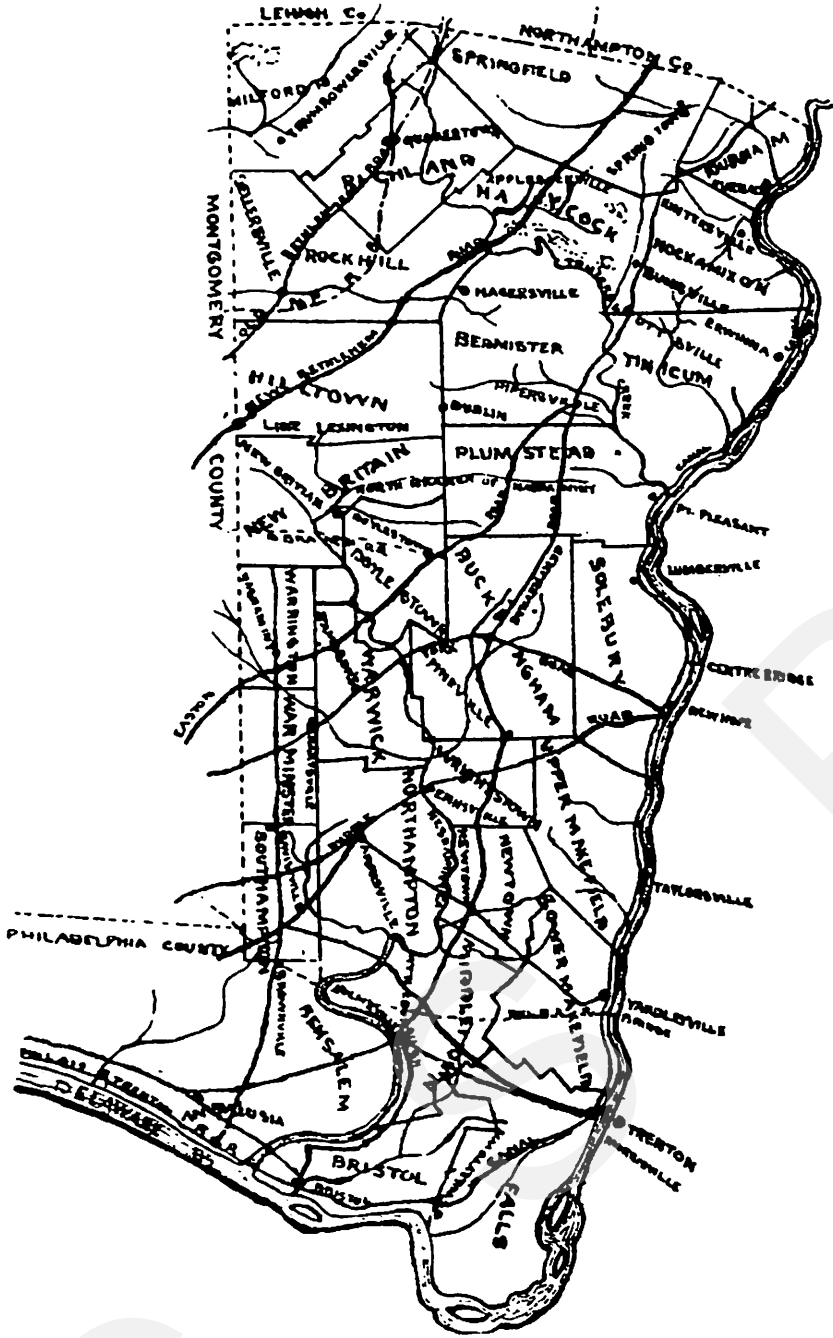
A partial record of this church, that is baptisms from 1737 to 1780, was originally published in 1956 by the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania in *The Pennsylvania Genealogical Magazine*, Volume XX. This record was republished in Volume I of *Pennsylvania Vital Records*. Births from 1737 to 1800 were included in this text.

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11. Records of the Dutch Reformed Church, Bensalem
baptismal register begins 1710.
This record was originally published in 1912 by the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania in *The Pennsylvania Genealogical Magazine*, Volume V. This record was republished in Volume I of *Pennsylvania Vital Records*.
12. Records of the Tohickon Reformed Congregation in
Bedminister Township
baptismal register begins 1745.
This church record was originally published in 1925 by The Pennsylvania German Society in Volume XXXI of *The Pennsylvania German Society Proceedings*. This record was republished in Volume 3 of *Pennsylvania German Church Records*.
13. Records of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church also know as
Tinicum Lutheran Church in Tinicum Township
baptismal register begins 1760.
14. Records of the Tohickon Lutheran Congregation in
Bedminister Township
baptismal register begins 1750.
This church record was originally published in 1925 by The Pennsylvania German Society in Volume XXXI of *The Pennsylvania German Society Proceedings*. This record was republished in Volume 3 of *Pennsylvania German Church Records*.
15. Records of Christ Reformed Church, Trumbauersville in
Milford Township
baptismal register begins 1772.
16. Records of the Springfield Lutheran Church in Springfield Township
baptismal register begins 1751.
17. Records of St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bedminister
Township also know as Keller's Lutheran Church
baptismal register begins 1751.
18. Records of the Springfield Reformed Church in Springfield Township
baptismal register begins 1760.

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19. Records of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Nockamixon Township
baptismal register begins 1766.
20. Records of the St. Luke's Reformed Church, Ferndale in
Nockamixon Township
baptismal register begins 1773.
21. Journal of John Dyer, Plumsteadville, Plumstead Township
birth record begins 1769.
This was the only personal record used for this compilation.
This record was originally published in 1906 by the Genealogical
Society of Pennsylvania in *The Pennsylvania Genealogical Magazine*,
Volume III. This record was republished in 1982 in Volume II of
Pennsylvania Vital Records.
22. Records of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, Trumbauersville
in Milford Township
baptismal register begins 1770.



Map of Bucks County.