



Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania Newsletter

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A Message from the President.....

Genealogists enjoy looking at BRANCHES on their family tree, but research success can depend on being willing to BRANCH OUT in order to visit and utilize new ideas and approaches. In an effort to allow this to happen, GSP has hosted ROOTS Luncheons twice monthly since May and, in July, initiated a DNA Special Interest Group which meets monthly. Those who attend have an opportunity to share ideas, exchange information, and have questions answered. Most leave with plans to explore research pathways they had not considered before. Members who live at a distance aren't as able as those closer to attend these events, but some from a distance do come to the Philadelphia area to do research and will stop at the office to visit and attend an event if one is scheduled. We do hope that this newsletter also serves as a way to make readers aware of new and different ideas and urge readers to write articles for the newsletter about approaches to research that have worked for them. You just might have the answer someone else is waiting for and needs! Both meetings and newsletters are wonderful hubs for communication and sharing of ideas for all of us

Carol M. Sheaffer MD, President

The GSP online newsletter

We look forward to keeping you informed by giving you dates and times of upcoming events, answering questions and being a source of information to our membership.

UPCOMING EVENTS

GSP September 2018 Events

Beginning May 2018, there will be two lunch events each month – ROOTS and ROOTS FOCUS. Both are designed to allow researchers to discuss genealogy over brown bagging lunch. ROOTS will be an opportunity to discuss all questions with each other and share research, artifacts, photos and questions. ROOTS FOCUS will offer an opportunity to discuss a specific topic. Participants need to register in advance as space is limited and bring their own lunch. GSP will provide coffee, tea and dessert

The following September 2018 events are held at the GSP offices.

Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania
2100 Byberry Road, Suite 111
Philadelphia, PA 19116 -
267.686.2296 info@genpa.org

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GENEALOGY, ZEBRA FISH, AND MIDDLE SCHOOL

A few months ago, Laura Kuchmay of the Middletown Free Library in Lima, PA contacted GSP to request our involvement in this year's TechniGals STEAM CAMP in August. In 2015, the Middletown Free Library in cooperation with Penn State Brandywine launched TechniGals and it has since been an annual week-long event. A program for middle school girls, it is designed to use a STEAM approach (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) to assist learning while using and integrating concepts drawn from the five STEAM fields. During the TechniGals STEAM CAMP, participants hear from lecturers and work on projects that require integration of all of these fields.

GSP lecturers are quite experienced in talking with adults but developing an approach to middle school girls presented a new challenge. There was the need to understand how girls of that age best learn, how material and concepts need to be presented, and how to capture the attention of these young listeners.

So, we accepted the challenge and we did learn. The outcome was a new genealogy beginner's lecture for this age group, 30 minutes in length, entitled "Who Am I?" which was presented on August 9th by Nancy C. Nelson and Carol M. Sheaffer. Genealogy was introduced as the "story of your family" with emphasis on learning and preserving stories about ancestors as a precursor to actual research. Such stories, already implanted in the minds and memories of the girls and their families, somewhat parallel another internal source of family information – our DNA. While our lecture touched on DNA that adults can have tested and younger people may have tested with parental permission, Laura Kuchmay shared her own DNA ethnicity results with the group following our presentation.

The context in which our lecture occurred needs mentioning as it placed genealogy solidly in the midst of the STEAM approach. The girls, on the day prior to our lecture, had met with a lab researcher from Penn State

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11 September 2018 12 Noon-2 PM
ROOTS: Bring Your Ancestor to Lunch

An opportunity to meet over lunch with other researchers to discuss research questions, successes, frustrations, get new ideas, and share ancestor photos and artifacts

Led by Carol M. Sheaffer, President

GSP will supply coffee/tea and dessert.
 Advance Registration Required Due to Space Limitations. Registration: GSP Members Free; GSP Non-Members \$5 **REGISTER**

20 September 2018 6 PM – 8 PM
Lecture: First Families of Pennsylvania
 Nancy C. Nelson, Chair,
 First Families of Pennsylvania

Registration: \$15 Members; \$20 Non-Members. Advance Registration Required Due to Space Limitations **REGISTER**

22 September 2018 10 AM - 11:30 AM
DNA SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

DNA Discussion: Testing, Results, Using in Genealogical Research
 Advance Registration Required Due to Space Limitations. Registration: GSP Members Free; GSP Non-Members \$5.
 email: info@genpa.org to register

25 September 2018 12 Noon-2 PM
ROOTS FOCUS: First Families of Pennsylvania

An opportunity to meet over lunch with other researchers and discuss a specific topic
 Led by Carol M. Sheaffer, President

GSP will supply coffee/tea and dessert
 Advance Registration Required Due to Space Limitations . Registration: GSP Members Free; GSP Non-Members \$5 **REGISTER**



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who talked with them about genetics and, as a project, each girl created a Zebra Fish embryo. On our arrival on the morning of August 9th, the room was abuzz with 26 girls who were also arriving and excitedly looking at their embryos under the microscope to look at the state of the embryos' development overnight. Thus, the girls were learning about the creation of life itself, terminology and concepts of genetics as they apply to fish and humans, and family history! What a package of knowledge they will likely not forget!

We thank Laura Kuchmay (Adult Services Librarian) and Mary Glendenning (Library Director) of the Middletown Free Library for involving GSP in the 2018 TechniGals STEAM CAMP. We look forward to additional opportunities to help young people learn about genealogy. Information about scheduling this and other GSP Lectures can be found by going to the GSP Home Page, choosing "Events" and then "Topics for Presentation." Lastly, but just as importantly, let us know what you individually or your local organization collectively have done to bring genealogy to young people.

Nancy C. Nelson and Carol M. Sheaffer

Q&A

Do you have questions about Pennsylvania genealogy? We have answers! For example, we can answer questions such as "**Where-How** can I find marriage license records?" or "**When** did Pennsylvania start recording birth certificates?" We'll feature the question and answer in the newsletter. Submit your questions (not family specific research) to: editor@genpa.org

What Is the Person's Ancestry? Revisited

In 1985, The Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania published a brief two-page article in *The Pennsylvania Genealogical Magazine* entitled "What Is the Person's Ancestry?" (PGM Vol 34, No.3, pp. 228-229). That title was actually a question asked on the 1980 Federal Census, long-form. The answers provided interesting statistics on population composition at that time.

In June of 1983, *The New York Times* reported on an analysis of replies to the question. Results indicated that 118 million Americans traced their ancestry back to one foreign country and 70 million listed more than one country of origin. English ancestry was the most reported. The number of those claiming English ancestry totaled more than the then current population of England and Wales combined. Those reporting Irish ancestry in that 1980 census totaled more than the total population of Ireland at that time. The article went on to discuss distribution of various ethnic groups, indicating that the five largest (English, German, Irish, Afro-American and French) were evenly distributed in the United States but that the other 47 ethnic groups had more regional distributions. Percentages for all 52 countries were listed.

So, the question now is how individuals will answer the question of ancestry if it appears on the 2020 census. After all, since 1980, many Americans have had their ethnicity determined through DNA testing and many more will test before 2020. If we are to believe TV commercials, many who have had their DNA tested are surprised that their ethnicity differs from the family story of their origin. Thus, statistics in 2020 may vary considerably from those obtained in 1980. If the question about ancestry is asked again, will it be followed by a question asking whether the ancestry reported is based on DNA testing or family belief? Will it ask for the DNA percentage of the major ethnicity? Time will tell.

Carol M. Sheaffer



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WHAT TO EXPECT AT A WEEK-LONG GENEALOGICAL INSTITUTE

As I indicated in my article in the June 2018 issue on a series of genealogy events at the Chester County Historical Society, I mentioned that I am continuing to educate myself in preparation to become a professional genealogist. While I have been researching my family off and on since I was 10 years old (I'm 36 now), it has been only about two years since I have been seriously considering making a career out of my love of genealogy. I realized last year that going to an evening lecture or two, or even attending a day-long workshop every so often, was not going to prepare me to take on clients or possibly start my own business.

After much investigating, there seemed to be two main options for intensive offline genealogical education outside of the Philadelphia region. National conferences, where crowds can swell to tens of thousands, were not the best fit for someone like me. The other option was to choose from one of four separate week-long institutes: Genealogical Institute on Federal Records (Gen-Fed), Washington, D.C.; Institute on Genealogy and Historical Research (IGHR), Athens, GA; Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy (SLIG), Salt Lake City, UT; or Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh (GRIP), Pittsburgh, PA or Amherst, NY. I chose GRIP in Pittsburgh, mostly for the course I wanted to take, but also partly because I could drive there.

During the registration process, you have the option to choose to stay at the dorms and/or buy a meal plan. I chose both, mostly for the convenience, since the dorms and cafeteria are mere feet away from the classrooms. For a dorm room, La Roche College in Pittsburgh was actually not too bad. You can choose to room with someone or, for an extra fee, have a private room. A dormitory is not a hotel, so pack accordingly and be aware that the mattresses may have seen better days. There are hotels nearby, but opting to stay off campus would require you to drive to class each day. Staying right on the campus also would be less expensive, of course.

There were actually three different weeks of GRIP this year. The courses varied depending on the week, and there were eight courses to choose from in each session. I chose to go in late June because it was the only time the course on family archiving was being offered. The official course title was "Family Archiving: Heirlooms in the Digital Age." Denise Levenick, "The Family Curator," was the course coordinator and taught most of the sessions during the week. Denise has authored two books on family archiving, and also has a blog devoted to the topic. Four other guest instructors provided the class with presentations on topics that one might not think had much to do with archiving. For example, Judy Russell, JD, CG®, CGL, spoke to the class about copyright law and genealogy. Even though some of the material was a bit overwhelming, Judy was able to explain it in a way that was easy enough for everyone to understand.

Be prepared for a full week of learning. The courses started at 9 am and usually ended at 4:30 pm. Of course, there are breaks and larger chunks of time allotted for meals and downtime. It was during some of these breaks that I learned possibly even more than I had learned during the first few hours of

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presentations in my course. One of the best uses of my free time was looking at portfolio samples from the Board of Certification of Genealogists® (BCG). I hope to be certified someday, so seeing how the process works on paper and what compiling a portfolio entails was extremely helpful.

Most evenings, there was a lecture by one of the instructors, which was also open to the public. I enjoyed these immensely, even though I was tired from a long day of learning. Blaine Bettinger's talk on chromosome mapping of DNA and visual phasing may not sound interesting to many except to DNA geeks, but the speaker personalized his talk with examples from his own family, all the while teaching the audience about DNA research.

One of the best parts of the week was meeting new people and networking. I've always been an introvert, but I soon realized that since I didn't know anyone there, I would have to go up to people and introduce myself. I can't tell you how many wonderful people I met who obviously shared a similar passion as my own. I spoke with a certified genealogist who has been researching for more than forty years and also with someone who really has little genealogical experience, but who inherited a Civil War diary and doesn't know what to do with it. I was able to speak to graduates of different online genealogy education courses, like ProGen and Boston University's two courses. For my next event, one of my goals is to come prepared with my own business cards to hand out. I don't have a business yet, but many people at these events have their own cards to hand out at with their contact information and sometimes the surnames that they are researching. Anything would be better than tearing out pieces of notebook paper to write down my name and email address. It is not exactly the sign of someone looking to become a professional genealogist.

I will say that now that I've been to one genealogical institute, I'm hooked. GRIP is very convenient for me and I would go back in a heartbeat; however, I would also like to see how the other institutes stack up in comparison. I would also like to attend a national conference like NGS or RootsTech. Sure, I could sit at home in my pajamas and watch a webinar or even a livestream of a conference, but nothing will beat interacting with your fellow genealogists. You never know; the answer to your brick wall ancestor(s) could be waiting for you at one of these events.

For More Information:

- ◆ <http://www.gripitt.org/>
- ◆ <http://www.gen-fed.org/>
- ◆ <http://ighr.gagensociety.org/>
- ◆ <https://slig.ugagenealogy.org/>
- ◆ <https://thefamilycurator.com/>

Joseph Roby, GSP Copy Editor

September 2018

GSP NEWSLETTER

Finding your Pennsylvania Ancestors



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Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania Newsletter

The Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania continues to digitize the Pennsylvania Genealogical Magazine for our website. These files are searchable using the website search engine. Abstracts of Wills of Westmoreland County. Registered at Greensburg, Pennsylvania is an example of an article from PGM. The complete 25 page article is available on our website to our membership. You can become a member of GSP at [Join GSP](#).

**ABSTRACTS OF WILLS OF WESTMORELAND
COUNTY, REGISTERED AT GREENSBURG,
PENNSYLVANIA.**

ABSTRACTED AND CONTRIBUTED BY MARY ELLISON WOOD.

THOMAS SUMMRELL, of SOMRELL, Hempfield Township, dated February 24, 1773, proved April 8, 1773; mentioned brother John Simrell; sister Mary; brother-in-law James Kinkade executor; witnesses, William Lindsay, John Simrall and Thomas Jack. Will Book No. 1, p. 1.

URIAH HUMBLE, of Westmoreland, dated July 17, 1773, proved October 7, 1773; mentioned wife; children: Paul and Susanna Johnson; other children not named; James Johnson; son Michael Humble executor; witnesses, Paul Humble, Susanna Johnson and James Johnson. 1, p. 2.

DAVID SHIELDS, Letter Kenny Township, Cumberland County, dated May 27, 1766, proved May 8, 1773; "being old and weak;" mentioned wife Mary; children Matthew, Isabel, Rebacka and Janet; grandsons, George, David and John Shields, sons of Robert Shields deceased, also said Robert's younger children (minors) William, Matthew, Robert, James and Hannah; son Matthew and grandson George Shields executors; witnesses, John McNeight, John McClelland, Senr., and John McClelland, Junr. 1, p. 3.

THOMAS JAMISON or JAMESON, farmer, of Westmoreland County, dated January 9, 1774, proved March 1, 1774; mentioned wife Ann; children William, Mary (minor); grandson Thomas Hendricks (minor); Thomas Roberts "son of my present wife by her former husband;" daughter Ann Hendricks; land on Connemach River and tract on Four Mile Run purchased from Benjamin Sutton, tract purchased of William McMin; son-in-law Abraham Hendricks; wife Anna and son William executors; witnesses, Peter Chaigneau, Absolum Hendricks and Michel Huffnagle. 1, p. 3.

FRANCIS WADDEL or WADALE, dated July 11, 1776, proved April 11, 1778; mentioned wife Susannah; children Mary (only daughter) (minor), James (only son) to be sent to his uncle Rev. James Waddle his guardian; brothers James, John, Samuel and William; wife Susanna and Andrew Robinson executors; witnesses, John McCuchin, James McCracken and James Waddle. 1, p. 4.

CLEMENT FINDLAY of Westmoreland, dated August 11, 1775, proved September 2, 1775; mentioned wife Elizabeth; children John (minor), Elizabeth

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RESEARCHING THE EARLY 1800s

The early 1800s can be a challenging timeframe for researching our ancestors. For the most part, church and tax records are our main sources. But thanks to George Washington we have census records to help with our research. The first census was enumerated over 10 months, starting on the first Monday in August (2 August in 1790). The early census records included much less data than later censuses, but they can be a goldmine for genealogists. Let's take a look at the 1810 census as an example of what is available, what we can expect to find, and what the limitations are.

Looking at what is included

There were 26 districts in the 1810 census. These districts were broken down into 6 Territories, 18 states and the District of Columbia. (Tennessee was divided into two districts, the District of Columbia was

separately enumerated for the first time as was the State of Ohio). Not all of the districts were broken down the same way. For example, various subdivisions, such as the northern sections of the country along with Ohio, Kentucky, and Georgia, were presented by counties and towns; New York was enumerated only by counties. The returns for the southern district were limited, as in preceding censuses, to counties, while the



population of the territories was generally returned by counties and townships.

The 1810 Census has been lost or partially lost for some of the districts. Pennsylvania is not one of them. Some of the lost census' have been reconstructed using Tax Records, deeds, wills, church and court records.

Our country was rapidly expanding and growing in these years, and borders changed a lot. So be sure to get familiar with the map below so you can identify what state or territory your ancestors might have lived in at that time. For example, today's West Virginia was part of the state of Virginia in 1810. Also, when researching family in a specific county, pay attention to the chronology of the counties. For example, if you

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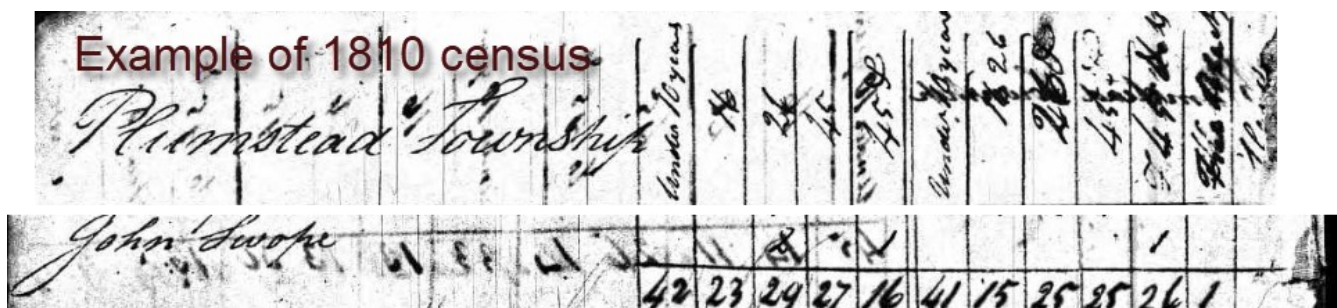
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are researching family in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania, in 1810, you need to know it was not a county until 1812 and was derived from Northampton County, Pennsylvania. Records before 1812 would most likely be identified as Northampton (for a look at the evolution of Pennsylvania's counties, see the USGenWeb's Census project, which provides maps showing the progression of additional districts included in each census at <http://www.us-census.org/states/map.htm>).

Understanding the form

The U.S. government did not furnish uniform preprinted schedules until 1830, so in 1810, enumerators had to supply their own paper and writing material, resulting in difficult-to-read returns. This image displaying the first and last rows of the 1810 census is an example of a hand-drawn form:



Ideally, the headings included the name of the head of the family followed by numbers or simple hashmarks representing other members of the household, accounted for primarily by sex and age:

City or township	Name of the head of family	Free white males					Free white females					All other free persons	Number of slaves
		under age 10	age 10 -15	age 16 -25	age 26 -44	age 45 and over	under age 10	age 10 -15	age 16 -25	age 26 -44	age 45 and over		
	Weber, Christian		2	1		2	1			1	1		

Assuming that the household comprised a family as we might think of it today can be misleading. For example, at first glance at this example, you might surmise that Christian Weber was the father and that the female aged 45 or over was his wife and mother of the children. But note that there are two men over age 45 in the household as well as two adult females (one aged 26-44, the other 45 or over), so another possibility is that Christian Weber and his wife were the grandparents whose son, wife, and children lived in their household. It's also possible that the man age 16-25 is a farm worker or a nephew living in the household when the census was taken. Other assumptions to avoid include:

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Never assume that the person listed as the head of household is the father.

He could be a grandfather, uncle, or in-law.

Never assume that the head of the household is the oldest male.

Never assume that the oldest female

is the wife of the head of household or the first or even second wife.

or that the wife wasn't married previously and brought children to the current marriage.

Never assume that there has been only one spouse.

Never assume that children are the children of the household.

They could be stepchildren, nieces, nephews, grandchildren, or apprentices.

Never assume that someone enumerated is a permanent resident.

They may be visiting for a length of time.

They may be a boarder or a worker.

Considering the timing

The official enumeration day of the 1810 census was 6 August 1810 but took 10 months to complete. So, if a household was recorded in November, for example, the ages of the people living there were calculated as of August 6. That means that a child who turned 10 in late August would have been recorded as 9 years old. Ideally, wherever someone was on that day is where he or she was enumerated, so if a couple was visiting her sister's home, that is where they would have been counted. In contrast, a soldier might have been enumerated at his home even though he was not physically there.

Tip for beginners

Although the pre-1850 censuses record the name only of the head of the household, look for trends over time. If you find a possible ancestor's family in the 1810 census, for example, check the 1820, 1830, and 1840 censuses to see if a pattern emerges. Try printing out blank census forms from online for the 1810 to 1850 censuses, and fill in them in. By the 1850 census, when the names of all household members were listed, you can confirm if you have the right family. (And if you find several possible ancestor families, fill in a separate form for each one until further research helps you confirm which one is yours.) Pennsylvania never conducted a state census.

For more information

United States Census <https://www.census.gov/>

National Archives <https://www.archives.gov/research/genealogy/census>

USGenWeb <http://www.us-census.org/>

State Library of Pennsylvania <https://www.statelibrary.pa.gov/GeneralPublic/Learn/Genealogy-and-Local-History/Pages/Census.aspx>

Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission <https://www.phmc.pa.gov/Archives/Research-Online/Pages/Census-Records.aspx>

Nancy Janyszeski, Treasurer



DNA CORNER

The DNA Special Interest group continues to meet on the 4th Saturday of the month at the GSP Office. The August discussion was centered on uploading DNA data to other services to connect with potential genetic matches. Uploading to another site will open the possibility of seeing different versions of your ethnicity estimate.

There are several other sites that are allowing, even requesting that you upload your DNA data. The upside for the other services are additions to their database, their current customers may get new matches and always the possibility of a new customer.

As always, do some research and check what others have to say before uploading your DNA data to any other service. Check their privacy standards.

If you would like to attend our DNA special interest group or have suggestions for discussion or newsletter topics let us know at info@genpa.org.

UPCOMING OFF-SITE LECTURES

REGISTRATION MANAGED BY HOST FACILITY UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED CHECK THEIR WEBSITES

Thursday 13 September 2018 7 PM

Lower Southampton Library, 1983 Bridgetown Pike, Feasterville-Treose, PA 19053

Internet Research: Finding What You Really Want to Find
Nancy C. Nelson and Carol M. Sheaffer

Tuesday 18 September 2018 6 PM

Donatucci Branch, Free Library of Philadelphia, 1935 West Shunk Street, Philadelphia PA 19145

Beginner's Lecture: Genealogy... Get Ready, Get Set, Get Going!
Nancy C. Nelson and Carol M. Sheaffer

Thursday 11 October 2018 11 AM

Free Library of Philadelphia-Parkway Central 1901 Vine Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103

Beginner's Lecture: Genealogy... Get Ready, Get Set, Get Going!
Nancy C. Nelson and Carol M. Sheaffer



FEATURED COUNTY - ALLEGHENY

Pennsylvania became a state December 12, 1787 there are 67 Counties and 2,561 Municipalities. Allegheny County was established September 24, 1788 from parts of Westmoreland and Washington counties. The county seat is Pittsburgh.

Microfilm copies of County records along with tools to help research county records are available at the [Pennsylvania State Archives - PHMC > Archives > Research Online > County and Municipal Records](#).

FINDING FAMILY AND HISTORICAL RECORDS IN ALLEGHENY COUNTY

<http://www.county.allegheny.pa.us/court-records/wills/genealogical-research.aspx>

Birth and Death Records , Marriage Records, Census Records, Civil and Criminal court records, Deeds

- ◆ Chronology of Pennsylvania Counties: <http://www.buckscountyhistory.com/chronological.htm>
- ◆ Pennsylvania Resource Guides: <https://genpa.org/public-collections/pennsylvania-resources/>

GSP has a number of volunteer opportunities, at home, in the office or on location.

E-mail at info@gmail.com or editor@genpa.org or call the office: 267-686-2296

Newsletter Committee: Joseph Roby, Nancy Janyszeski, Carol Sheaffer

Share your Research or Family History Story



Briefly (paragraph or two) share amusing, touching, unusual, interesting or tragic stories you have unearthed in your family research—

editor@genpa.org

GSP RESEARCH

GSP does not offer phone consultations. We require that all research requests be in writing. Request Form – [PDF Document](#)

Check the Research page on our website for additional information. <https://genpa.org/research/>

E-mail research requests to info@genpa.org

The GSP **Pennsylvania Resource Guides** can help answer where to find some Pennsylvania research sources. <https://genpa.org/public-collections/pennsylvania-resources/>

September 2018

GSP NEWSLETTER

Finding your Pennsylvania Ancestors



Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania Newsletter

GSP Executive Board

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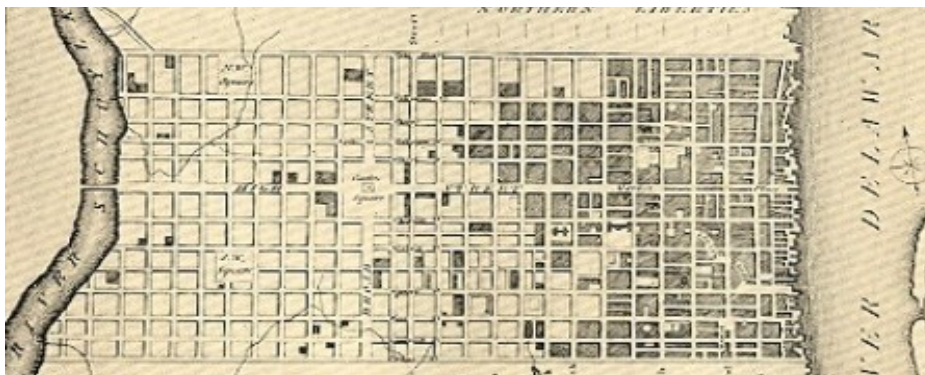
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JOIN GSP



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