



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. We continue to respond to calls at 267.686.2296 and emails to info@genpa.org. Our website is open 24/7 at genpa.org.

The GSP newsletters can be printed for those who like a print publication. See *Publications and Specials* in the [GSP Store](#)

[Archived Newsletters](#)



MESSAGE FROM GSP'S PRESIDENT

As we prepare to gather with family and friends during the holiday season and catch up with our family history research, let's remember the importance of preserving our stories, photographs, and records for future generations.

Imagine how wonderful it would be to have audio and video of our family members who were born in the nineteenth century and have identified photographs of them? This is how preserving our stories, photos, and records and those of the family we have known will benefit the children who are now under 10 and yet to be born when their children and grandchildren ask them in the 2050s and beyond about their lives and families.

A distant cousin reminded me of how much fun this could be. He recorded several home movies from the 1950s and 1960s on YouTube, with voice overs identifying family members and friends and sharing stories about them. If you have home movies and videos, give this a try. If you have scanned or digital photos, consider putting together slideshows with voice overs identifying the people, places, and events shown the images, along with your reminiscences.

Imagine how wonderful it will be for the children of today to be able to share these with their children and grandchildren. This is similar to finding photographs from the turn of the last century in photo albums with captions and notations written by our ancestors, but even better.

If you have unidentified photographs, don't discard them. With the wonders of contemporary technology, you or someone else might be able to identify them, now or in the future. Through DNA, we found a cousin who had a photocopy of an 1870s photo that we had, but her copy had names written on it. We've also found photographs of family members on Ancestry and other sites that have enabled us to identify people in photographs that we have.

In this issue, our Ancestor Spotlight focuses on family photos. Our First Families Corner discusses family events that "never happened." Learn more about Greene County and read more

about upcoming programs.

GSP has been busy over the past couple of months, reinstating our programming with several virtual presentations and in-person tours. We're also working on a new digital library with several new collections to help people learn more about their families.

We couldn't do all of this without your support through your memberships, volunteer work, and donations. You can join GSP at <https://genpa.org/membership>. To make a year-end donation, please visit <https://genpa.org/about-gsp/donate-to-the-genealogical-society-of-pennsylvania/>. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Angie Indik, Office Manager, at info@genpa.org.

Best wishes for a safe and happy holiday from your friends at GSP.

— Valerie-Anne Lutz, GSP Board President

Upcoming GSP Third Thursday Programs (Free to the general public)

DNA Ethnicity in 2022:

More inclusive, Specific, Accurate and Meaningful

Online Zoom event presented by Diahan Southard

Thursday, January 20, 2022 – 7:00 p.m.

Vital Records of Pennsylvania 1852 to Today

Online Zoom event presented by Diahan Southard

Thursday, February 17, 2022 – 7:00 p.m.

GSP members will have access to recorded GSP programs for a limited time.

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 (GSP) was among the first in the United States to recognize the value of collecting and preserving the vital and personal records of those ancestors whose lives now comprise our American History.

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

JOIN GSP

NEWS AND UPDATES

Registration for Applied Genealogy Institute's spring courses is open from January 2-9. [Learn more](#)

National Archives News

[1950 Census Release Will Offer Enhanced Digital Access, Public Collaboration Opportunity](#)

Finding Your Roots Season 8 Premieres on 4 January 2022

[Season 8 Official Preview](#)

[Season 8 Schedule](#)

FamilySearch - RootsTech Conference

[RootsTech Connect](#) 3-5 March 2022 #chooseconnection

Free Virtual Conference Online

[Registration](#)

Standard Access Registration – free

All Access Registration – free with a FamilySearch account

[Sessions](#)

National Genealogical Society

Reminder: Access to 2021 Family History On-Demand Webinars Ends 31 December 2021

[NGS Family History Conference](#) May 24-28 2022 is scheduled as an in-person event in Sacramento, California. [Hotel reservations are now open.](#)

Fold3

[New UK Royal Navy Records Added!](#)

Collection spans 1904-1970 and includes the First and Second World Wars.

FamilyTreeDNA

[Y-DNA Haplotree Reaches 50,000 Branches, a Milestone for Genealogy](#)

Read more at [DNAeXplained Y DNA Tree of Mankind Reaches 50,000 Branches](#)

MyHeritage

[Publishes Huge Collection of 463 Million Historical Records from France](#)

[Publishes 359 Million Additional Historical Records from France](#)

[Updates Germany, North Rhine Westphalia, Death Index 1874-1938](#) (4.8 million records added)

PRONI [to release Belfast poor relief application indexes online](#)

[Margaret McBride's Parade Street Home: Introducing Historic Pennsylvania Law](#)

Read More: [A Gift for Keystone State researchers](#)

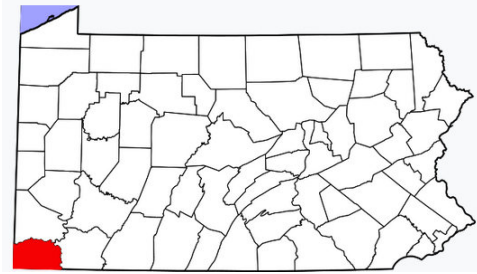
- [Historic Pennsylvania Statutory Law](#)
- [Historic Pennsylvania Case Law Digests](#)
- [Historic Pennsylvania Law Extras: Courts, Judges, and Lawyers](#)

FEATURED COUNTY: GREENE

Pennsylvania became a state 12 December 1787. There are 67 counties and 2561 municipalities.

Greene County was formed on 9 February 1796 from parts of Washington County. The county seat is Waynesburg.

Prominent People: Arthur I. Boreman, Edward Martin, Josh Koscheck, Bill George, Todd Tamanend Clark and Jesse Lazear



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 Greene County

I. Greene County Register of Wills and Recorder of Deeds: <https://www.co.greene.pa.us/departments/register-recorder>

II. Greene County Clerk of Courts: <https://www.co.greene.pa.us/departments/clerk-of-courts>

III. Family Search Wiki on Greene County: https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Greene_County,_Pennsylvania_Genealogy

IV. Greene County Historical Society: <https://greenecountyhistory.org/>

V. Cornerstone Genealogical Society: <https://cornerstonegenealogy.com/>

VI. Greene County USGenWeb: <http://usgwarchives.net/pa/greene/>

VII. Find A Grave Greene County Cemetery List: https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery-browse/USA/Pennsylvania/Greene-County?id=county_2270

VIII. Rainey's Farm Line Map of Greene County (1897): <https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3823g.la000754/?r=0.347,-0.005,0.743,0.41,0>

IX. *Records of Greene County and Vicinity* by Daughters of the American Colonists, Christopher Gist Chapter: <https://archive.org/details/recordsofgreenec03unse/mode/2up>

X. *History of Green County, Pennsylvania* by Professor Andrew Jackson Waychoff, Curator of the Greene County Historical Association at Waynesburg Pennsylvania: *index of articles published by the Waynesburg Messenger* by Lucretia Emily Donley Garretson: <https://archive.org/details/historyofgreenec00garr/mode/2up>

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

ANCESTOR SPOTLIGHT

Viola Blanche (Davis) Lewin (1879-1980)

Submitted by Barbara Brister



The photographs in this photo album were identified by my grandmother, Viola Blanche (Davis) Lewin (1879-1980) who lived most of her life in Royersford, Montgomery County. The album belonged to her parents John Henry Davis (1853-1940) and Lydia Catharine (Mowrey) Davis (1857-1945) of Chester County, PA.



Walter Herman Davis, b. 6 Dec 1889, d. 18 Mar 1960.



William Arthur Davis, b. 27 May 1887, d. 8 Jul 1890. Spring City, Chester Co.



John Harvey Mowrey, b. 9 Jul 1879, d. 17 Jun 1940. Spring City, Chester Co.



Joseph Irvin Mowrey, b. 25 Jan 1854, d. 30 May 1943. Spring City, Chester County, Pa.



Annie Latshaw Mowrey, b. 6 Sep 1877, d. 12 Mar 1871. Spring City, Chester County. Married Frank Linwood Latschar.



Frances Willard Guss, b. 3 Dec 1885, d. 19 Apr 1903. Spring City, Chester County, Pa.



Loren Everett Guss, b. 2 Jan 1874, d. 6 Feb 1964. Spring City, Chester County, Pa.



Charles Linwood Guss, b. 6 Apr 1879, d. Jan 1969.



Enos Elmer Mowrey, b. 5 Feb 1863, d. 11 Jul 1927. Spring City, Chester County, Pa.



Lidie H Keyser, b. 25 Dec 1870, d. 2 Mar 1957. Married Enos Elmer Mowrey.



Elsie May Wells Mowrey, b. 29 May 1877, d. Sep 1977. Married George Wanner Reiff and Arthur Henry



Elsie May Wells Mowrey



Clara E Shantz Wells, b. 13 May 1857, d. 15 Feb 1936. Married William Ashley Mowrey.



Edgar W Mowrey, b. 22 Dec 1878, d. 30 Dec 1954.

Additional loose identified photographs



William Lewin, b. 4 May 1823 in England, d. 4 Nov 1878. Immigrated 1820 with father John Lewin (1801-1883) and stepmother Jane Wells; settled in Trappe and later in Royersford, Montgomery County, Pa.



Sarah J (Geisinger) Custer, b. 24 Aug 1837 in Luzerne Co.; d. 5 Jan 1929 in Bloomsburg, Columbia County, Pa.



Elizabeth Louise "Bess" (White) Oman, b. 12 Jan 1881 in Mt. Pleasant Twp.; d. 10 Jun 1926 in Philadelphia, Pa.

These photographs are from a collection donated to the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania in a Deed of Gift by Barbara Brister on 8 October 2021.

FIRST FAMILIES CORNER

Did It Really Happen?

I have a collection of British royalty commemoration items: mugs, biscuit tins, pill boxes, even a teapot. The older items are souvenirs of coronations, while the newer ones record births and marriages of the current crop of princes and princesses. One mug is rather special, since it commemorates a coronation that did NOT happen on May 12, 1937. The profile on the mug is that of King Edward VIII, or as you probably know him, the Duke of Windsor. He was indeed king for several months after the death of his father, but notoriously, he abdicated the throne to marry a twice-divorced American woman, Wallace Warfield Simpson. The potteries that produced this mug and many others like it took quite a financial hit when Edward stepped down and that date, May 12, 1937, was actually the date of the coronation of his brother, George VI. (I also have THAT mug!)

I bought the mug at an antique shop; obviously boxes of them had remained in a warehouse somewhere for decades until being offered as collectibles. Do you have souvenirs of family events that never happened? I know of two women who were 'left at the altar,' after mailing out invitations and posing (many days in advance) in their wedding gowns for photos that appeared in the local papers on the Sunday morning after the non-wedding. Like the twentieth century bridal photos, yearbook photos are taken early, usually in the summer before the senior year. Often a yearbook will contain a photo of a student who never graduated, or who didn't graduate from this particular school.

Genealogists love to find marriage licenses that include the names of the parents. This can be a problem when either the bride or the groom was the child of an unmarried mother, and bore her maiden name. I have seen marriage licenses where the groom simply made up a father's first name and used his own (and his mother's) last name. This was the case with a grandson of one of my great-aunts. Not only did he create a father using his mother's maiden name, but he also then assigned his mother the maiden name of her own mother, his grandmother. Two marriage records and even his social security account show these fictional parents for him. Unwary descendants will of course be searching for non-existent great-grandparents.

Over the years, the easiest online records to locate were the census. Taken every ten years, the census can paint true, and also false, pictures of a family. One of my great-grandfathers served in the Union army along with three of his brothers. The 1860 census shows one of the brothers married to Lucinda, with a one-year-old baby. 1870 census shows Lucinda as a widow, with children aged 11, 9, 4, 2, and three months. In 1870 she filed for a Union army Widow's pension. Of course, family researchers assumed that her husband had died in 1869 or 1870 (his military headstone just lists his name, company, and regiment). The 1880 census shows Lucinda as a widow with three of her children, including Mary born 1868, who is identified as her daughter. I have copies of all of the pages of Lucinda's pension file. She names the three oldest siblings as children of the veteran – and she also gives his death date as April 17, 1866. This tells us that Andrew was not the father of the two youngest children – and perhaps Lucinda was not their biological mother.

So, if you find a beautiful engraved invitation to the wedding of a family member, but you have no other evidence of such a marriage; or if you find parents' names on an official document, but no other appearance of one or more of those parents – perhaps it "never happened".

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



First Families of Pennsylvania (FFP) is a lineage society open to any GSP member who can prove descent 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

Purpose of the Program

The First Families program offers GSP members a way to honor their Pennsylvania ancestors at the same time they are preserving part of their research. Once an application is approved, members will receive a specially designed membership pin and a certificate including the time period and the ancestor's name. Presentations are announced at the next Annual Meeting of the Society

Two First Families ancestors for the price of one

If you have a husband and wife that you can prove were in Pennsylvania at a specific time, or a parent and child, you can include both people on your application. The only caveat – aside from proving your descent, of course – is that both people appear in the same category: Colony and Commonwealth, for example. You will receive one certificate that will show both names, and one FFP pin. Each ancestor will be listed separately in our Approved Ancestors file, which appears on the genpa.org website.

To file an application for our FFP program, you must be a current GSP member. The fee for filing the FFP application is \$75.

To learn more about First Families and how to apply, visit <https://genpa.org/first-families-of-pennsylvania/>

We are seeking volunteers to assist with the processing of First Families of Pennsylvania applications. Please contact us at info@genpa.org for more information.



THANK YOU
TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

RESOURCES FOR WORLD WAR II RESEARCH

The attack on Pearl Harbor was a surprise military strike by the Imperial Japanese Navy Air Service on the United States naval base at Pearl Harbor in Honolulu on Sunday, December 7, 1941. The attack led to the formal entry of the United States into World War II the next day.

Over 16.5 million men and women served in the armed forces during World War II, of whom 291,557 died in battle, 113,842 died from other causes, and 670,846 were wounded.

[Pearl Harbor Casualty List](#)

[WWII Registry](#)

Serial number, Name, Residence, Birth date, Birthplace, Age, Mailing address, Name and address of person who will always know registrant's address, Employer's name and address, Race

[WWI Draft Cards \(Fourth Registration\) for the State of Pennsylvania – NARA at St. Louis](#)

This series consists of draft cards containing the registrant's serial number, the name of each registrant, his residence, mailing address, phone number, birth date, birth place, name of employer, address of employment, the registrant's height, weight, race, hair color, eye color, distinguishing marks, the registrant's signature, and the name and address of a person who would always know the registrant's address.

[Pennsylvania, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, World War II Casualty Cards, 1933-1947](#) – FamilySearch
Name, Rank, Parents or nearest relative, Residence (Street Address, City, State), Newspapers

[World War II honor list of the dead and missing, state of Pennsylvania](#) – FamilySearch

Name, service number, rank, type of casualty

[Pennsylvania Selective Service Board Areas – Internet Archive](#)

[First Report of the Selective Service System in Pennsylvania September 16, 1940 to November 30, 1941](#) – Internet Archive

[Official Military Personnel Files](#)

[1973 Fire and affected records](#)

[Veterans History Project – Library of Congress](#)

[US Army Center of Military History](#)

[Air Force Historical Research Agency](#)

<https://www.history.navy.mil/>

[Coast Guard Historian's Office](#)

[Military Resources: World War II – NARA](#)

[World War II Cambridge American Cemetery and Memorial - England](#)

USED BOOKS FOR SALE IN OUR STORE - Just added!

[Ship Passenger Lists: Pennsylvania and Delaware \(1641–1825\)](#)

\$30 Used in Good Condition. Cover is in very good condition with slight wear around the corners. Inside pages are intact and in good condition with small staining on a few pages.

Description

Year: 1980

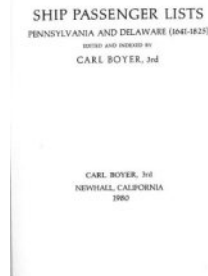
Pages: 289

Binding: Hardback

ISBN: 0-936124-02-4

Carl Boyer, 3rd

German, Swiss, Welsh, and Irish immigrant information compiled from authored sources. Mostly in English. Some text in German.



[Bishop White's Private Marriages 1801–1836](#)

\$15 Used in Good Condition. Cover has library label with small marking. Inside pages are intact and in good condition with small marking on cover page.

Description

Year: July 1989

Pages: 31

Binding: Cardstock

ISBN: 0-9612804-8-8

Harry C. Adams

Listing of all private marriages performed by the Rt. Rev. William White, Episcopal Bishop of North America from 1786 and Rector of Christ Church, Philadelphia, 1778-1836. Marriages arranged by date, by groom, and by bride, notes. These records were transcribed with the assistance of Bucks County Genealogical Society.

[A Directory of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, Blacksmiths](#)

\$8 Used in Very Good Condition). Cover and cover page has library labels and stamp. Inside pages are intact and in excellent condition.

Description

Year: August 2001

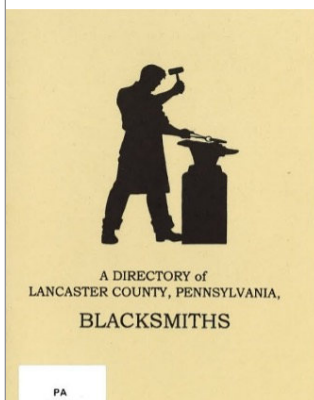
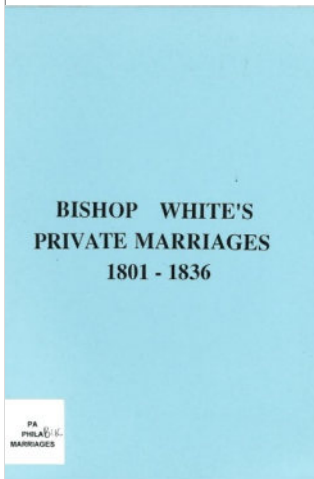
Pages: 67

Binding: Cardstock

ASIN: B00DSSP8OE

Mid-West Tools Collectors Association Area P

A compiled list of blacksmith names with township and year listed in tax records, business directories and/or family histories , etc.



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Newsletter Staff**



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GSP Executive Board

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Angie Indik

VOLUNTEERS: GSP has a number of volunteer opportunities at home, in the office, or on location. If you're interested in helping, e-mail us at info@genpa.org or editor@genpa.org.

The GSP Pennsylvania Resource Guides can help answer where to find great Pennsylvania research sources:

<https://genpa.org/public-collections/pennsylvania-resources>.

The GSP newsletters can be printed for those who like a print publication
[Previous newsletters..](#)

See **[GSP Store](#)** for publications and specials.