

# GSP NEWSLETTER

Finding Your Pennsylvania Ancestors

Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania

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FamilySearch

Midwestern Roots

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August 2023

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## Library Hours

GSP Library &  
FamilySearch  
Affiliate Library

By appointment:

Mon/Tue/Thurs  
10 am to 4 pm

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays  
10 am to 2 pm

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## Follow Us



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## MESSAGE FROM GSP'S PRESIDENT

This summer, GSP is busy with plans for the upcoming year. Save the date for the Pennsylvania Genealogy Event (PaGE) (page 10). And we have more updates to the website and educational programs on the horizon, so stay tuned!

Until then, we're participating in other educational activities, and we hope that you'll join us! On June 16, we enjoyed David Grinnell's talk on Methodist records, which is now available until August 16 for GSP members on our [Programs and Events](#) page.

July's Third Thursday program, free to all, features Drew Smith on Using Evernote to Capture Notes and Ideas. Drew's presentation will show you how to organize material gathered during research for viewing across multiple devices. GSP members will be able to view the recording on our Programs and Events page for 60 days (page 6).

If you're attending the [Midwestern Roots Conference](#) (July 15 and 16), stop by the GSP table, say hello to Jim Beidler and Angie Indik, and learn more about what GSP has to offer!

July also brings numerous other genealogical educational opportunities. Register for upcoming events hosted by several organizations (page 3). The [Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh](#) resumes July 11 - 15 with four free evening lectures (page 8). If you've thought about registering for one of GRIP's week-long courses, read more about three that are still open (page 8). And [FamilySearch](#) is offering four free beginner webinars this month, beginning on July 6 (page 9), along with [several other webinars](#).

Read about progress on GSP's 1950 U.S. Census Community Project (page 2). In this month's First Families Corner, Nancy Nelson writes about how our ancestors sometimes stretched the truth a bit (pages 4 - 5). And learn more about where to research in Lancaster County in this month's featured county spotlight (page 7).

You can become more involved with GSP through volunteering: writing for publications, assisting with programs, indexing collections, and adding website content. Thanks to all of you for your support of GSP's work to provide Pennsylvania genealogical resources and education!

Valerie-Anne Lutz

President, The Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania

# 1950 US CENSUS COMMUNITY PROJECT - UPDATE

**Overall Project Nationwide:** Review Headers 100% Complete, Review Names 100% Complete. The Review Names Process is new and improved. [Learn More.](#)

**Pennsylvania:** 67% complete overall. Review Families 2% complete. [Get Involved.](#)

## Genealogical Society of PA 1950 Census Review Team Contributions

[Join Us](#)

**Total Group Stats**  
**777** Families Reviewed    **223,709** Names Reviewed    **157** Headers Reviewed

<p><b>New York</b></p>  <p><b>7</b> Families Reviewed <b>690</b> Names Reviewed</p>	<p><b>Michigan</b></p>  <p><b>8</b> Families Reviewed <b>330</b> Names Reviewed</p>	<p><b>New Jersey</b></p>  <p><b>9</b> Families Reviewed <b>253</b> Names Reviewed <b>1</b> Headers Reviewed</p>	<p><b>Illinois</b></p>  <p><b>1</b> Families Reviewed <b>256</b> Names Reviewed</p>
<p><b>Pennsylvania</b></p>  <p><b>631</b> Families Reviewed <b>0.2M</b> Names Reviewed <b>153</b> Headers Reviewed</p>	<p><b>Massachusetts</b></p>  <p><b>9</b> Families Reviewed <b>2.5k</b> Names Reviewed</p>	<p><b>Maryland</b></p>  <p><b>2.4k</b> Names Reviewed</p>	<p><b>Washington D.C.</b></p>  <p><b>2.2k</b> Names Reviewed</p>
<p><b>Washington</b></p>  <p><b>45</b> Names Reviewed</p>	<p><b>Texas</b></p>  <p><b>43</b> Names Reviewed</p>	<p><b>Iowa</b></p>  <p><b>43</b> Names Reviewed</p>	<p><b>Virginia</b></p>  <p><b>3</b> Families Reviewed <b>19</b> Names Reviewed</p>
<p><b>California</b></p>  <p><b>5</b> Families Reviewed <b>243</b> Names Reviewed</p>	<p><b>Indiana</b></p>  <p><b>79</b> Families Reviewed <b>63</b> Names Reviewed</p>	<p><b>Vermont</b></p>  <p><b>67</b> Names Reviewed</p>	<p><b>Maine</b></p>  <p><b>62</b> Names Reviewed</p>

## UPCOMING VIRTUAL EVENTS

[Time Zone Converter](#)



### The Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania

#### [Using Evernote to Capture Notes and Ideas](#)

Drew Smith

Thursday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, 7 pm



### Bucks County Genealogical Society

#### [Bringing Your Family History to Life Through Social History](#)

Katherine Scott Sturdevant

Saturday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, 10 am



### Genealogy Quick Start TV

Hosted on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) by Shamele Jordan



### The Historical Society of Pennsylvania

#### [The Philadelphia Black Metropolis of 1838](#)

Morgan Lloyd, Michiko Quiones

Wednesday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm



### Legacy Family Tree Webinars

#### [What's New at DNA Painter](#)

Jonny Perl

Wednesday, July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2 pm



### North Hills Genealogists

#### [Clinical Tips to Manage Uncomfortable Conversations about Surprising DNA Results](#)

Karen Stanbury

Monday, July 11<sup>th</sup>, from 7 pm

#### [Connecting Your DNA Matches](#)

Diahan Southard

Saturday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 11 am

Have an upcoming Pennsylvania related genealogy event you would like to advertise in the GSP newsletter? Contact us at [editor@genpa.org](mailto:editor@genpa.org).

## FIRST FAMILIES CORNER

### WOULD I LIE TO YOU?

Would your ancestor lie to the federal government? If the lie would help granny to get that \$8.00 per month pension as a widow of an 1812 War veteran, the answer might be yes.

Having no idea what the law said regarding pensions, people often tried to second-guess what their answers should be on the government pension forms. The bulk of the pensions for soldiers and widows of the War of 1812 were issued beginning in 1871, based on reporting what had happened to them over 60 years before. Often the widow (or her children) assumed that to qualify for the pension, the widow needed to have been married to the soldier before his war service, and so they created an earlier marriage date not realizing the actual marriage date was recorded in local records. Others made sure that they reported a marriage date at least nine months before the proven birthdate of the oldest child, because - well, just because.

Proof, you say? You want proof of all those dates, like maybe a family Bible? Alrighty then, create an official Hamic family Bible. Never mind that grandpa enlisted under the name Hammock, which was how the family was spelling it during his lifetime. Never mind that the record pages (birth, marriage, death) in this Bible are all written in the same handwriting, and the same ink. Those fools in Washington will never know the difference. Except, of course, they did.

Who remembers the television show MASH, with the soldier Klinger desperately trying to get a discharge from the army? He didn't seem to realize that the letters that he and his family were writing to Colonel Potter were being collected and compared.

I immediately thought of Klinger when trying to make sense of one branch of my family and their efforts to collect a Revolutionary War pension. Isaac Henderson had enlisted in a New Jersey regiment and had been wounded in both knees. He filed for a pension as an invalid in 1830 but died before the pension was approved. His widow Elizabeth filed to collect the pension due him before his death, and later she filed for a widow's pension. Elizabeth had two children prior to marrying Isaac, Edmund and Prudence Maples, and a son with Isaac named William Henderson.

It is Mrs. Henderson's daughter Prudence Maples who reminds me of MASH's Klinger. Prudence would have been just three years old when her mother married Isaac Henderson, yet there is a document in the pension file in which Prudence states that she was six years old and distinctly recalls her mother's marriage to Isaac Henderson. A few years later, when her mother had died and Prudence wanted to collect the residue of the pension (and to keep it all for herself, it seems) Prudence swore that Edmund was an illegitimate - she did use that word - child of her mother. She falsely claimed that she and William were children of Isaac, born after the marriage, that William had moved away, and she had no idea where he was. According to the census William was still right there in the same county with Prudence. Apparently, Prudence thought that she had to be a child of Isaac, not just of his widow, in order to claim the balance of the pension that was due upon her mother's death.

The employees of the Pension Board must have become quite cynical over the years, reading all those desperate letters

that came pouring in after every war. In 1907, the veterans of the Union army in the Civil War were guaranteed a pension, based on age:

- \$12.00 per month if aged 62-69
- \$15.00 if 70-74
- \$20.00 if 75 or older.

Suddenly men who had previously given an 'about' when asked their age or birthdate started scrambling for proof of an exact date. William Rianhard found himself just a few months short of the magical age 70, so he got his brother Isaac to swear that he had been born Dec 3, 1836. Unfortunately for William, the file already contained papers stating that he had been born in 1837 and also

in 1838. After many, MANY letters back and forth, and even an attempt to alter a family Bible, the government finally settled on a birth year of 1838 and William didn't get his increase until he was entitled to it.

Mark Twain nailed it when he said, "If you tell the truth, you don't have to have a good memory." In those early days before carbon copies – maybe some of our ancestors should have taken that to heart.

—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

To [submit an FFP application](#), you must be a current [member of GSP](#).

GSP is seeking volunteers to assist with the processing of FFP applications. Contact us at [info@genpa.org](mailto:info@genpa.org) for more information on volunteer opportunities with First Families of Pennsylvania.

### 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.

## THIRD THURSDAY WEBINARS

GSP's Virtual Third Thursday Programs are free to the public.  
Third Thursday [recordings](#) are posted on our website for GSP members.

### Using Evernote to Capture Notes and Ideas

Drew Smith

Thursday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, 7 pm

This presentation will cover how to set up a free Evernote account, how to create and edit notes, and how to clip online articles into Evernote using the Evernote Web Clipper browser extension. Information can also be emailed directly into Evernote. Learn to organize Evernote notes into notebooks and notebooks into stacks. Notes can also be tagged for easier finding, such as for specific surnames, locations, and document types. Collaborate with others by sharing Evernote notebooks or individual notes. Evernote can also be used to create research to-do lists and reminders.

Drew Smith is the genealogy librarian at the University of South Florida Libraries in Tampa. In 1996, he founded the mailing list GENEALIB for genealogy librarians, and he continues to administer it for nearly 1000 subscribers. In 2016, Drew received the Filby Award for Genealogical Librarianship, presented by the National Genealogical Society. He is co-host of *The Genealogy Guys Podcast* and host of the *Genealogy Connection* podcast.

He writes a regular productivity column for the *Association of Professional Genealogists Quarterly*. He wrote *Organize Your Genealogy: Strategies and Solutions for Every Researcher* and coauthored *Advanced Genealogy Research Techniques*.



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## Upcoming Third Thursday Events:

Aug 18<sup>th</sup>, Michael John Neill, "Unburying Funeral Home Records"

Sep 15<sup>th</sup>, Vic Dunn, "The Scotch Irish from Pennsylvania Through Virginia and the Carolinas"



## COUNTY SPOTLIGHT: LANCASTER

Pennsylvania became a state 12 December 1787. There are 67 counties and 2561 municipalities. Lancaster County was formed on May 10, 1729, from parts of Chester County. The county seat is Lancaster.



**Prominent People:** James Buchanan, Simon Cameron, Charles Demuth, Barney Ewell, Jim Furyk, Mimi Senkowski Griffin, Jonathan Groff, Tom Herr, Milton Hershey, Taylor Kinney, Alexander McNair, John F. Reynolds, Evelyn Ay Sempier, Thaddeus Stevens, Bruce Sutter, Kristen Wiig, Richard Winters

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](#)

### Finding Family and Historical Records in Lancaster County

I. Lancaster County Archives: <https://www.co.lancaster.pa.us/127/Archives-Division>

II. Lancaster County Register of Wills and Orphans' Court online search: <https://paperless.co.lancaster.pa.us/psi3/v/search/marriagelicense>

III. Lancaster County Recorder of Deeds: <https://www.lancasterdeeds.com/>

IV. FamilySearch Wiki on Lancaster County: [https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Lancaster\\_County,\\_Pennsylvania\\_Genealogy](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Lancaster_County,_Pennsylvania_Genealogy)

V. Lancaster County History: <https://www.lancasterhistory.org/>

VI. Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society: <https://mennonitelife.org/>

VII. Manheim Historical Society: <https://manheimhistoricalsociety.org/>

VIII. Lancaster County USGenWeb: <http://usgwarchives.net/pa/lancaster/>

IV. Find A Grave Lancaster County Cemetery List: [https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery-browse/USA/Pennsylvania/Lancaster-County?id=county\\_2276](https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery-browse/USA/Pennsylvania/Lancaster-County?id=county_2276)

X. Lancaster County Survey Map (1851): <https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3823l.la000762/?r=0.507,0.185,0.447,0.231,0>

XI. *Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, Tax Lists, 1751, 1756, 1757, 1758 with additional tax lists and index* (free e-book) by Albert H. Gerberich: [https://archive.org/details/lancastercountyp00gerb\\_0/mode/2up](https://archive.org/details/lancastercountyp00gerb_0/mode/2up)

XII. *A Biographical History of Lancaster County: being a history of early settlers and eminent men* (free e-book) by Alexander Harris: <https://archive.org/details/abiographicalhi00harrgoog/mode/2up>

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

XIV. FamilySearch: <https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/results?count=20&placeld=187672&query=%2Bplace%3A%22United%20States%2C%20Pennsylvania%2C%20Lancaster%22>

## GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF PITTSBURGH

Sunday, July 10, 2022 – Friday, July 15, 2022



The following (Virtual) Courses still have openings:

### [Gateway to the Garden State: Courses and Strategies for New Jersey Research](#)

Course Coordinator: Melissa A. Johnson, CG

Additional instructor: Judy G. Russell, J.D., CG, CGL

Instructors will teach attendees about New Jersey records, how to access them, and how to use them for genealogical research. Examples, hands-on exercises, and case studies will be used to demonstrate how challenging New Jersey research problems can be solved.

### [Guide to Treasures Found in Federal Records](#)

Course Coordinator: Michael L. Strauss, AG

Additional Instructors: Cara Jones, MS, CG, Annette Burke Lyttle, Rich Venezia

This course covers a variety of government-related documents covering military records, bounty land, census, tax records, immigration, naturalization, copyright, and trademarks. It is an in-depth assessment of records used for structure assignments that is intended to offer maximum return over the short term.

### [Ireland Law & Government Documents, Part III](#)

Coordinator: David E. Rencher, AG, CG, FUGA, FIGRS

Additional Instructor: Rick Sayre, CG, CGL, FUGA

Prerequisite: Irish Research Part I or Part II

This course is for Irish genealogical researchers who have a good understanding of localities and the multiple record keeping jurisdictions in Ireland. It will cover law and governmental records in the major archives and explore a deeper understanding of records created by local governments, ecclesiastical entities of the State Church, and Parliament.

(Virtual) Evening Lectures – Free to the Public

Monday, July 11, 2022 (Sponsored by North Hills Genealogists)

[It's All About Respect: Clinical Tips to Manage Uncomfortable Conversations about Surprising DNA Test Results](#), Karen Stanbary, MA, LCSW, CG

Tuesday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm (Sponsored by Western New York Genealogical Society)

[Reconstructing the Lives of Our Farming Ancestors](#), Annette Burke Lyttle

Wednesday, July 13<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm (Sponsored by FamilySearch)

[An Update on What's New at FamilySearch and the 1950 Census Indexing Project](#), David Rencher, AG, CG, FUGA, FIGRS

Thursday, July 14<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm (Sponsored by Orange County, California Genealogical Society)

[Alien Registrations in America](#), Rich Venezia



## FAMILYSEARCH

### Upcoming FamilySearch Webinars

#### [Using the FamilySearch Wiki \(Beginner\)](#)

Wednesday, July 6<sup>th</sup> 10 am

The FamilySearch Research Wiki is a free, online, genealogical guide. Learn how to effectively navigate and use the Wiki to find websites, databases, records, and research strategies.

#### [Using the FamilySearch Catalog \(Beginner\)](#)

Monday, July 11<sup>th</sup> 10 am

The FamilySearch Catalog is one of the most useful tools in family history research. Learn tips and tricks for using the FamilySearch Catalog to help in your family history research.

#### [Overview of FamilySearch \(Beginner\)](#)

Wednesday, July 20<sup>th</sup> 10 am

Overview of the FamilySearch.org website and its valuable resources and features. Learn to navigate on the site with many of the functionalities available. See how to create an account, where to find historical record collections, and how to get help.

#### [Research Process: The Ins and Outs \(Beginner\)](#)

Wednesday, July 27<sup>th</sup> 10 am

Introduction to the research process and how to get started in learning more about your family.

### Limited Access Records



If you encounter the limited access icon, click on it to learn more about where the file can be accessed. [Learn More](#)

### [Find a Family History Center or FamilySearch Affiliate Library](#)

Visit the [FamilySearch Affiliate Library](#) at GSP. Admission to the FamilySearch room is free.



## MIDWESTERN ROOTS, JULY 15TH -16TH Indianapolis, IN

Angie Indik and James M. Beidler will be in Indiana, staffing the GSP table, at Midwestern Roots.



If you're attending the conference, stop by to say "Hi" and check out Jim's lectures:

Isms and Schisms: The German Religious Peopling of the Midwest

Your Second Wave German Immigrant, Explained

Lost Generation of the 17<sup>th</sup> Century: Prelude to Colonial Immigration

Springboards from Pennsylvania to the Midwest



THANK YOU  
TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

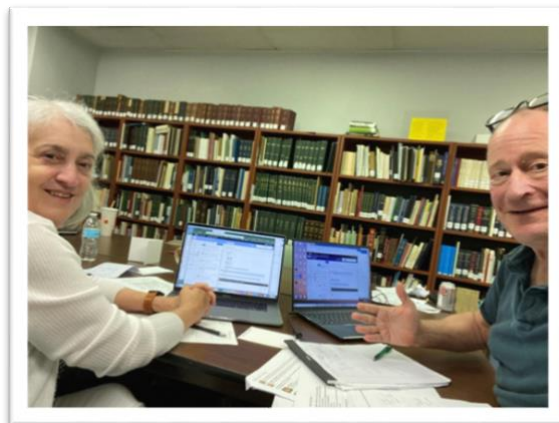
## **PENNSYLVANIA GENEALOGY EVENT (PaGE) 2023 August 5<sup>th</sup> - August 12<sup>th</sup>**



Top-flight virtual conference experience with speakers, exhibitors, social time and more!

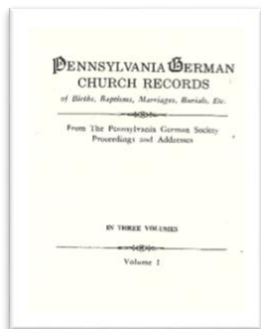
All the advantages of an in-person conference without the hassle of traveling anywhere!

Watch this space for updates!



GSP Board Secretary Kathryn Donahue and Interim Executive Director James M. Beidler have next year's conference on the virtual drawing board.

## Used Books for Sale in our Store



### [Pennsylvania German Church Records of Births, Baptisms, Marriages, Burials, Etc. Volume I](#)

**\$55** (Used in Good Condition. Less than ten pages are highlighted with handwritten notes. Fore-edge has a stain. Pages are crisp and intact.)

#### Description

Year: 2001  
Pages: 900  
Binding: Paperback  
0-8063-1018-9

Pennsylvania German Society Proceedings and Addresses. Contains English translations of German Church registries of the following: Birth and Baptismal Registry of Trinity Lutheran Church, Lancaster PA; Birth and Baptismal Registry of the First Reformed Church, Lancaster PA; Births, Baptisms, Marriages, Confirmations and Burials of Augustus Evangelical Lutheran Church in Trappe, PA; Baptisms and Marriages of St. Michaels's and Zion Church of Philadelphia.



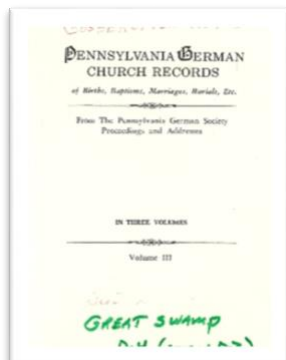
### [Pennsylvania German Church Records of Births, Baptisms, Marriages, Burials, Etc. Volume II](#)

**\$55** (Used in Good Condition. Less than ten pages are highlighted with handwritten notes. All pages are crisp and present.)

#### Description

Year: 2001  
Pages: 700  
Binding: Paperback  
ISBN: 0-8063-1019-7

Pennsylvania German Society Proceedings and Addresses. Contains English translations of German Church registries of the following: Births, Baptisms and Communicants of United Reformed and Lutheran Church Called Blimyrs, in Hopewell Township, York County PA; Births and Baptisms, Marriages, Deaths and Burials and Communicants and Confirmations of Williams Township Congregation of Saucon, Northampton County, PA; Baptisms, Catechumens and Adult Baptisms, Confirmations, Marriages and Deaths of Lutheran Church in New Hanover, Montgomery County, PA; Guide to the Old Moravian Cemetery of Bethlehem, PA 1742-1910



### [Pennsylvania German Church Records of Births, Baptisms, Marriages, Burials, Etc. Volume III](#)

**\$45** (Used in Good Condition. The cover has handwritten note as shown in photo. Some pages show highlighting with checkmarks and a few handwritten notes. All pages are intact without creases.)

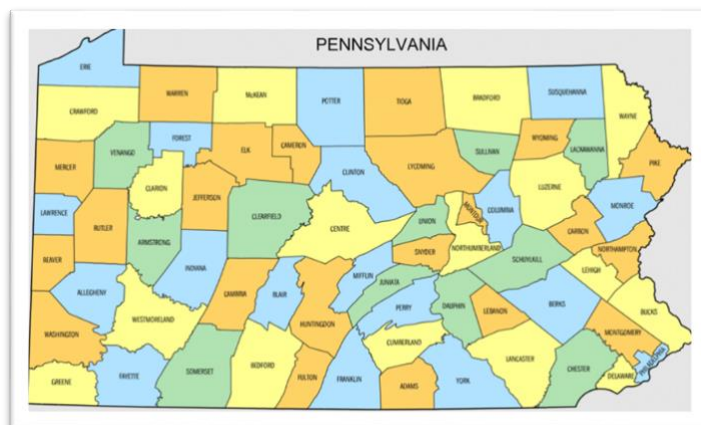
#### Description

Year: 2001  
Pages: 771  
Binding: Paperback  
ISBN: 0-8063-1020-0

Pennsylvania German Society Proceedings and Addresses. Contains English translations of German Church registries of the following: Church Records of the New Goshenhoppen Reformed Congregation, Upper Hanover Township, Montgomery PA; Church Records of the Old Goshenhoppen Reformed Congregation of Upper Salford Township, Montgomery PA; Church Records of the Great Swamp Reformed Congregation of Lower Milford Township, Lehigh County, PA; Tohickon Union Church, Bedminster Township, Bucks County, PA

## The Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania

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### GSP Executive Board

President: Valerie-Anne Lutz  
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Cheryl VanLeer

### Interim Executive Director

James M. Beidler

### Office Manager

Angie Indik

### Volunteers

GSP has many volunteer opportunities at home or on-site.  
Contact 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  
Contact the Newsletter Team at [editor@genpa.org](mailto:editor@genpa.org).