

Penn in Hand

Vol. XXV, No. 1 – March 2004

The Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Annual Election Meeting

At the 112th Annual Meeting on 18 March, the following were elected to lead the Society for the coming year.

President: Hon. Herbert K. Zearfoss
VPs: John T. Humphrey
Richard W. Palmer, Esq.
Don C. Stone
Secretary: Kathryn M. Donovan
Treasurer: Lewis L. Neilson, Jr., Esq.
Counsel: Michael W. Freeland, Esq.
Directors :

Louise Sayre Hoopes Shafer and Craig A. Ten Broeck (terms expire 2006)

Robert J. Gill, M.D., David Fultz, Marilyn C. Holt and Rebecca Warlow (terms expire 2007)

Mr. Humphrey, Mrs. Shafer, Mr. Ten Broeck, Mr. Fultz and Ms. Warlow are new members of the Board of Directors, joining continuing members David Adams, Elizabeth B. Bunting, Annette K. Burgert, and Herbert D. Hart (terms expire 2005) and Timothy C. Coyne and Thomas C. Etter, Jr. (terms expire 2006).

Member Alert

At its February meeting, the Board of Directors established a policy regarding members who renew their annual dues after 30 September. Such members will be charged a \$5.00 fee if they wish to receive any publication or newsletter sent out between 1 July and 30 September of the renewal year.

Russell F. Weigley

It was with great sadness that the Society learned of the death of Russell F. Weigley on 3 March 2004. Dr. Weigley, a retired history professor at Temple University in Philadelphia, was a member of the Society's board since 1988. The Society expresses condolences to Dr. Weigley's wife, son and daughter. A fuller memoriam will appear in the next issue of the *Pennsylvania Genealogical Magazine*. There will be a memorial service on Wednesday, 5 May 2004 at 2:00 p.m. in Shusterman Hall, located at 1834 Liacouras Walk (formerly Park Mall) on the Temple University campus.

GSP RESEARCH ROOM, 215 S. Broad St., 7th Floor, Philadelphia, PA
HOURS: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Wednesday; and Saturdays (by prior appointment).

HSP LIBRARY, 1300 Locust St., Philadelphia, PA
HOURS: 1 to 5:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday;
1 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday



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David T. Moore, Editor

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GSP DONORS

ANNUAL FUND

Donations to the Annual Fund are used for general purposes. Levels of support are designated by the GSP Fund Raising Committee. This list contains the names of those whose contributions were received between 21 January and 31 March 2004.

Friend

(minimum gift of \$100)

Robert A. Smallwood

Conrad Wilson

Mr. & Mrs. James M. McFadden

Cynthia J. Myers-Morrison

Charlotte M. Taylor

Mary A. Traster

Supporter

(minimum gift of \$50)

Ruth H. Harrington

Laura Heebner

Other

Herbert D. Hart

John A. Zinn

BOOKS AND MATERIALS

Donations to the GSP Research Room are gratefully acknowledged on behalf of the GSP Library Committee. This list contains *only* names of those who have *signed and returned* Deeds of Gift between 21 January and 7 April 2004.

Jack L. Banther

John J. Bevan, III

Margaret L. Campbell

Shelley R. Cardiel

Ruth Priest Dixon

Gloucester County (NJ)

Historical Society

Lowell V. Hammer

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Michael S. Ramage

Dorothy R. Rodgers

The Rosenbach Museum and Library

Ralph D. Smith

Michael M. West

UPCOMING PROGRAM

Bridging the Delaware:

Conference with the Gloucester County Historical Society
**Saturday, 15 May, at the West Deptford Middle School,
 Grove Road, Thorofare, New Jersey.**

GSP and Gloucester County look forward to repeating 1998's successful daylong get-together. Cost is \$40 for members of the sponsoring societies and \$45 for non-members.

Look for a separate registration brochure!

New Forms And Fees For City and State Vital Records

Both the City of Philadelphia and the State of Pennsylvania have announced new fees and forms for obtaining copies of records. It is recommended that in either case the Philadelphia City Archives or the Pennsylvania Division of Vital Records be asked for a current application form in order to avoid misunderstandings and expedite the process.

For Philadelphia, *Cemetery Returns during the period May 1806 to 30 June 1860*, the fee is \$5.00 (complete death date must be provided); for *Death Records during the period 1 July 1860 to 30 June 1915* (complete death date must be provided), and *Certified Copies of Birth Records during the period 1 July 1860 to 20 June 1915* (complete birth date must be provided), the fee is \$9.00. Checks or money orders payable to "The City of Philadelphia" should be sent to Department of Records, City Archives, 3101 Market Street, 1st Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19104-2807. Note that for Philadelphia birth and death records after 30 June 1915, application must be made through the state (see below) and may be made in Room 1009, State Building, Broad and Spring Garden Streets, Philadelphia.

For Pennsylvania, as of 1 January 2004, the Department of Health, Division of Vital Records announced that the fee for each certified copy of a birth record is \$10 and for each death record is \$9. Birth and death records are available from 1906. The search for a death record when the year of death is *not* known is \$34 for a search from two to ten years, with additional two to ten year spans searched for another \$25 for each span.

Due to confidentiality, Pennsylvania does not permit self-search of records. To obtain a death certificate, a direct relationship to the decedent must be indicated. An application may be found at the Web site www.dsf.health.state.pa.us/health. The Commonwealth also requires a photograph of the person requesting the information; they suggest that an enlarged copy of the driver's license photograph be sent.

"Historic Pittsburgh"

The Digital Research Library of the University of Pittsburgh and the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania jointly are sponsoring a project and Web site on "Historic Pittsburgh." The Web site, <http://digital.library.pitt.edu/pittsburgh>, contains the full text of 521 books, images of over 1100 land ownership map plates (1872-1939), 582 finding aids, census schedules (1850, 1860 and 1870), 3600 visual images, and the catalogue of the society's collections at the Senator John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History Center.

REMINDER!

As reported in the December *Penn In Hand*, GSP is having a 50% off spring and summer sale of selected GSP publications until 31 August 2004 or while supplies last. On sale (and sale prices) are *Guide to the Mortgages of the General Loan Office of the Province of Pennsylvania, 1724-1756* (\$8.97), *Guide to the Records of the Sale of Commonwealth Property in the County of Philadelphia, 1780-1798* (\$7.47), *Colonial Philadelphians* (\$14.97), *1671 Census of Delaware* (\$11.25), *Military Petitions for Naturalization Filed in the Philadelphia [County] District Court, 1862-1874* (\$7.50), *Pennsylvania Civil War Veteran Burials: Adams and Perry Counties* (\$7.50), *The Back Part of Germantown: A Reconstruction* (\$5.50), *Lost in Pennsylvania? Try the Published Pennsylvania Archives* (\$2.87), *Pennsylvania German Roots Across the Ocean* (\$17.50), *Guide to 1930 Pennsylvania City and County Directories* (\$4.00). There is a special flat shipping rate for this sale only of \$4.00 per shipping order. Philadelphia residents add 7% sales tax; other Pennsylvania residents add 6% sales tax. Credit card orders are accepted by telephone.

Microfilm Records Available At Pennsylvania State Archives

The following is a list of microfilms made available to researchers at the Pennsylvania State Archives in 2003. Included are records from counties (Record Group 47) and municipalities (Record Group 48), the type of records, the dates included, how many rolls and a Search Room number for the Archives Search Room. Please be aware that the State Archives staff cannot do genealogical research on these records for patrons; however, they are encouraged to view the records in the State Archives Search Room. Microfilm marked "LR" or "LRGP" can be duplicated by the State Archives. Microfilm marked "LC" or without a letter designation cannot be duplicated for patrons.

Adams County, Board of County Commissioners, Almshouse Register, 1837-1874, 1 Roll (LR 443. Search Room #14340)

Beaver County, Patterson Township, Minute Books, 1922-2002, 6 Rolls (LR 414. Search Room #13890-13895)

Bucks County, Bensalem Township, Minute Books, 1910-1986, 19 Rolls (LR 439. Search Room #14215-14233)

Bucks County, Prothonotary, Court of Common Pleas Court Papers (Court Term Papers), 1733-1923, 37 Rolls (LRGP 117. Search room #14303-14339)

Bucks County, Prothonotary, Naturalization Papers, 1802-1931, 7 Rolls (LRGP 114. Search room #13879-13885)

Carbon County, Palmerton Borough, Minute Books, 1912-1996, 7 rolls (LR 424. Search Room #13872-13878)

Carbon County, Register of Wills, Delayed Births, 1941-1956, 5 Rolls (LC 87. Search

Room #14190-14194)

Centre County, Board of County Commissioners, Tax Assessment Books, 1844-1863, 17 Rolls (LC 82. Search Room Roll #13966-13982)

Centre County, College Township, Minute Books, 1916-2002, 11 Rolls (LR 441. Search Room #14341-14351)

Chester County, Register of Wills, Marriage Licenses, 1885-1930, 46 Rolls (LRGP 118. Search room #14352-14397)

Chester County, Westtown School District, Student Registers, General Committee Minutes and Index, 1799-1976, 3 Rolls (LRGP 121. Search room #14398-14400)

Clarion County, Register of Wills/Clerk of Orphans' Court, Orphans' Court Dockets, 1899-1927. 24 Rolls (LC 83. Search Room #13988-14011)

Cumberland County, North Newton Township, Minute Books, 1950-2003, 1 Roll (LR 430. Search Room #13965)

Cumberland County, Prothonotary, Court of Common Pleas, Civil Papers [Writs and Pleadings], 1749-1827, 9 Rolls (LRGP 119. Search room #14401-14409)

Dauphin County, Lower Paxton Township, Minute Books, 1991-2002, 15 Rolls (LR 435. Search Room #14199-14214)

Dauphin County, Paxtang Borough, Minute Books, 1914-2002, 5 Rolls (LR 426. Search Room #13959-13963)

Erie County, Harborcreek Township, Minute Books, 1892-2000, 6 Rolls (LR 417. Search Room #13902-13907)

Jefferson County, Brookville Borough, "Bill Pages", 1974-1990, 1 Roll (LR 423. Search Room #13889)

Jefferson County, Brookville Borough, Minute Books, 1878-1999, 6 Roll (LR 421. Search Room #13896-13901)

Jefferson County, Brookville Municipal Authority, Minute Books, 1958-1997, 1 Roll (LR 422. Search Room #13886)

Lackawanna County, Gibsonburg/Jermyn Borough, School Board Minute Book, 1870-1892, 1 Roll (LR 436. Search Room #14188)

Lancaster County, Eden Township, Minute Books, 1979-2000, 2 Rolls (LR 440. Search Room #14301-14302)

Lancaster County, Clerk of Courts, Criminal Case Files, 1902-1948, 134 Rolls (LC 84. Room #14027-14160)

Lancaster County, Mount Joy Borough, Minutes Books and Ordinance Book, 1851-2000, 12 Rolls (LR 425. Search Room #13947-13958)

Lancaster County, Prothonotary, Naturalization Files, 1800-1940, 16 Rolls (LC 85. Search Room #14161-14176)

Lehigh County, Board of County Commissioners, Tax Record Books, 1846-1888, 47 Rolls (LRGP 115. Search room #14254-14300)

Lehigh County, Board of County Commissioners, Tax Record Books, 1873-1881, 39 Rolls (LRGP 115. Search room #13908-13946)

Lehigh County, Clerk of Courts (Civil Division), Civil Case Files, 1812-1895, 347 Rolls (LC 84. Search Room #14419-14765)

Lehigh County, Macungie Borough, Macungie Borough (Village of Millerstown) Minute & Ordinance Books, 1858-1971, 4 Rolls (LR 437. Search Room #14195-14198)

Luzerne County, Ashley Borough, Minute Books & Ordinance Books, 1871-2003, 7 Rolls (LR 433. Search Room #14179-14185)

Luzerne County, Exeter Borough, Minutes, Ordinance and Resolution Books, 1897-1998, 3 Rolls (LR 428. Search Room #14016-14018)

Lycoming County, Nippenose Township, Minute Books and Resolution Book, 1942-2001, 2 Rolls (LR 438. Search Room #14186-14187)

Lycoming County, Prothonotary and Clerk of Courts, Miscellaneous Civil and Criminal Records, 1843-1932, 1 Roll (LR 429. Search Room #13964)

Perry County, Newport Borough, Minute Books, 1904-2002, 4 Rolls (LR 427. Search Room #14012-14015)

Snyder County, Register of Wills, Will Books Index [Records of Deaths of Testators & Intestates], 1816-2003, 1 Roll (LC 86. Search Room #14189)

Snyder County, Register of Wills, Estate Files, 1855-1978, 36 Rolls (LRGP 113. Search room #13836-13871)

Union County, Recorder of Deeds, Mortgage/Mortgagee, Grantor/Grantee and Secured Transaction Indices, 1813-1991, 20 Rolls (LRGP 116. Search Room #14234-14255)

Washington County, Clerk of Courts Office, Court of Quarter Sessions, Criminal Files, 1782-1827, 5 Rolls (LRGP 123. Search room #14410-14414)

Washington County, Clerk of Courts Office, Road Files, 1781-1824, 4 Rolls (LRGP 122. Search room #14415-14418)

Washington County, Twilight Borough, Minutes Books, Resolution & Ordinance Book, 1904-1992, 2 Rolls (LR 420. Search Room #13887-13888)

Westmoreland County, Smithton Borough, Minute Books, 1926-2003, 2 Rolls (LR 434. Search Room #14177-14178)

York County, Stewartstown Borough, Council Minutes, Ordinances and Borough Authority Minutes, 1850-2001, 5 Rolls (LR 431. Search Room #13982-13987)

York County, West Manheim Township, West Manheim Township Council, Planning Commission, School Authority, Recreation Board Minutes and Financial & Election Records, 1930-2003, 8 Rolls (LR 432. Search Room #14019-14026)

NEWS OF OTHER SOCIETIES AND AGENCIES

The **Armstrong County Historical Society** announces 6 April as the reopening date of the Lankerd Thomas Genealogy Library, closed since August 2003 for construction work and then for the winter.

The **Clarion County Historical Society** has proudly announced that their *Sutton-Ditz House Museum* has been added to the National Register of Historic Places, joining sites in the county including the Court House, the 1875 Jail and the Buchanan Furnace.

The **Historical and Genealogical Society of Indiana County** has received a \$10,000 general operating support grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

The **Kittochtinny Historical Society** has received a \$5000 general operating support grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, for such expenses as utility and telephone bills, snow removal, insurance and repairs.

The **Venango County Historical Society** announces grants from the County (matched by the state Historical and Museum Commission for a total of \$4000) for operating expenses, and from the Thomas Keating Trust (\$5000) to assist in cataloguing and processing the thousands of photographs in the society's collection.

The Winter 2003 (Volume 28 Number 2) issue of *Gleanings*, the newsletter of the **Beaver County Genealogical Society**, publishes the fruits of the society's tombstone researches in Boggs Cemetery, New Sewickley Township. The issue is available to researchers in the GSP research room.

In its newsletter, *Keyhole* (January 2004), The **Genealogical Society of Southwestern Pennsylvania** alerts Washington County area researchers that there were several "Pigeon Creek" churches: Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian and United Presbyterian.

The **National Huguenot Society (NHS)** has donated its entire book collection to the **Daughters of the American Revolution** library in Washington, D.C.

The **National Institute on Genealogical Research** has announced that its 2004 week of intensive study for experienced genealogists at the National Archives in Washington, DC, and College Park, MD, is **sold out**. To get on the mailing list for 2005, visit their Web site: www.rootsweb.com/~natngen/ or e-mail them at natngen@juno.com.

FAMILY REUNIONS

CHAPMAN: The 4th Chapman Family Association reunion will be 14-16 May at the Kansas City (MO) Airport Hilton. Information: CFA Data Central, PO Box 1586, Florissant, MO, 63031, or Gil Alford (314) 831-8648, or the Web site www.chapmanfamilies.org.

KEEFER: The Keefer Family Association will hold its 5th reunion in Morgantown, Lancaster County, PA, 4-6 June. Web site: www.geocities.com/Heartland/Trail/1936/kfa/kfa.html/.

RUFFNER: The Ruffner Family Association, PO Box 351, Luray, VA, is holding its reunion in Cincinnati, OH, 18-19 June. Their Web site is: www.ruffnerfamily.org.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

The **Blair County Genealogical Society** announces publication of *The Every Name Index to J. Simpson Africa's 1883 History of Huntington & Blair Counties, Pennsylvania*. 230 pages, soft cover, \$16.50 each plus \$2 shipping and handling for the first copy and 50¢ each additional book (PA residents add 6% sales tax to the total). Available from the society, 431 Scotch Valley Road, Hollidaysburg PA 16648-9697.

The **Fayette County Genealogical Society** has published the second volume of members' ancestor charts, indexed and with a key indicating persons referenced in the first volume. Volume II, containing 142 charts, is \$20, plus \$3.50 postage and handling. Volume I has been discounted to \$12. The society is at 24 Jefferson Street, Uniontown PA 15401-3602.

Retrospect Publishing, which specializes in electronic reprints of Pennsylvania genealogical and historical books, announces the CD-ROM of "Provincial Papers: Warrantees of Land in several counties of PA 1730-1798," which are volumes XXIV-XXVI of the 3rd Series of the Pennsylvania Archives. Information about this and other publications can be found at their Web site: www.retrospectpublishing.com.

Recently the recipient of a positive notice in the *Delaware Genealogical Society Newsletter* is a 2002 book, *The Invisible Web: Uncovering Information Sources Search Engines Can't See* by Chris Sherman and Gary Price. The publisher, Independent Publishers Group, promotes the book as "infiltrating the hidden Internet that typical search engines miss." A 402 page paperback, the book is available from the publisher by telephone at 800-888-4741; their Web site is www.ipgbook.com.

WEB SITES OF INTEREST

Our Name's The Game, newsletter of the **South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society** recommends that information on research and services available at the Adams County Historical Society can be found at the ACHS Web site: www.achs-pa.org.

Kindred Spirits, the newsletter of the **Prince William County (VA) Genealogical Society**, shares a Web site which provides calendars for any month the user selects, plus other useful functions: www.timeanddate.com/date.

The **Kittochtinny Historical Society** newsletter alerts readers to two Web sites regarding Ellis Island: www.ellisland.com connects to the museum there and www.ellisland.org connects to the immigration records search.

The **Fairfax (VA) Genealogical Society** notes the **Virginia Railway & Locomotive Historical Society**, www.rrhistorical-2.com/rlhs/research.htm, where one can find National Archives Reference Information Paper ("RIP") No. 91, a comprehensive survey of the holdings of the National Archives of railroad-related material which was compiled by David Pfeiffer, NARA archivist and transportation records specialist.

The **Middlesex (CT) Genealogical Society** reports on StoryCorps, a project being set up around the country by Sound Portraits Productions in partnership with the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. Modeled on the WPA's oral history interviews during the 1930s, the project encourages people to record each other's stories. The Web site is www.storycorps.net.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

There's good news and there's bad news. First the good news. For the third year in a row we have received a grant from The Philadelphia Cultural Fund to be used for general operating purposes. Back in 2001 when we first applied we were rejected by PCF because they decided that we were not serving a "cultural" purpose. Then in 2002, after we appealed another rejection, we were awarded an initial "probationary" grant of \$1650. In 2003 the amount was increased to \$1678 and this year we received a "substantial" grant of \$7100. It looks like we have finally reached a full-fledged "cultural" status along side of the other 218 Philadelphia-based cultural organizations that have received general operating funds from PCF "to stimulate and sustain growth in arts and culture."

In the PCF letter notifying us of our grant, it was pointed out that they continue to advocate for increased growth in the Fund's budget and that last year they received an additional \$650,000 allocation from the City. They are asking for more money this year and were hoping to reach a \$5 million budget goal by FY2008. The letter concluded by saying that our

"continued advocacy on behalf of the arts and culture community has a great impact on those who determine the city budget" and urging us to write to Mayor Street and City Council thanking them for our grant and "for their ongoing commitment to arts and cultural organizations."

And now the bad news. Within days of receiving our grant money, the Mayor released his proposed FY2005 budget that would cut The Philadelphia Cultural Fund by \$1.4 million, almost 60% from its FY2004 funding level of \$2.4 million. If this proposed budget is approved, GSP will obviously be getting a much smaller grant (if any at all) next year. The reaction has been immediate. We have received ACTION ALERT emails from the Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance (GSP is a member) requesting us to mobilize our members to contact City Council and the Mayor about this issue. The Cultural Alliance is providing Philadelphia government contact information and help with points to make when contacting city officials at its website <http://www.philaculture.org>. I hope you will respond affirmatively to this request.



Philadelphia, PA
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 [Redacted]
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 S2 P2

DATED MATERIAL

The Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania
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 Philadelphia, PA 19107-5325

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