

Penn in Hand

Vol. XXVII, No. 3— Fall 2006

The Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM PRESIDENT HERBERT K. ZEARFOSS

On October 10, 2006, David Moltke-Hansen, President of The Historical Society of Pennsylvania and Herbert K. Zearfoss, President of The Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania signed a "Strategic Alliance Agreement" that had been previously approved by the Boards of both organizations following more than nine months of discussion and negotiation. The Agreement takes effect immediately, but its provisions will be implemented gradually over the next year and we will not be moving our offices to HSP's facility at 1300 Locust Street until sometime in mid-2007.

As soon as HSP has installed the necessary shelving we will begin transferring our collections of books and manuscripts to HSP. Any of our materials duplicated in HSP's collection will not be transferred, but will be deaccessioned either by sale or gift. And HSP's soon to be hired genealogical librarian will begin to process our manuscript collections (help from GSP volunteers will be needed for this project) so that they will be readily accessible to researchers.

When GSP members renew their membership on July 1, 2007, they will participate in a new membership program that includes many of the benefits of an HSP membership (such as access to the HSP research library) plus all of the benefits of the present GSP membership. There will also be a dual HSP/GSP membership available at a discounted rate for those who would like to receive all of the benefits of an HSP membership such as

the right to vote at HSP meetings.

GSP will continue its publication program of genealogical books and pamphlets as well as our *Pennsylvania Genealogical Magazine* which you receive with your GSP membership. *Penn in Hand* will be distributed to you as a part of the HSP newsletter *Sidelights*. Our Web site will be expanded to include additional research material in our "members only" area. We will, of course, continue our educational programming at our new location.

Returning to 1300 Locust Street is really like "going home." Our Society was formed in 1892 by members of HSP with the encouragement of the HSP Council and with the purpose of providing genealogical materials to HSP. Even for a time after our incorporation as a separate entity in 1920, membership in HSP was a requirement for membership in GSP. For the first 104 years of our existence we "lived" in HSP's building and built the "genealogical collection" that is housed in HSP's library. After more than ten years "on our own," it will be good to be home again.

We see real advantages to having our genealogical collections in a center city location under one roof and more available to our members. While we lack the financial resources to maintain a separate research facility, this move will reduce our operating costs which will allow us to save our resources to fulfill our mission of helping future generations of genealogists.

**GSP RESEARCH ROOM, 215 S. Broad St., 7th Floor, Philadelphia, PA
HOURS: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.**

**HSP LIBRARY, 1300 Locust St., Philadelphia, PA
HOURS: 12:30 to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday & Thursday
12:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday
10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Friday**



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Phone (215) 545-0391
FAX (215) 545-0936
E-mail: gsppa@aol.com
Web site: <http://www.genpa.org>

David T. Moore, Editor

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GSP 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 1 July and 11 October 2006.

President's Circle (minimum gift of \$1000)

Thomas S. Howland, Jr.

Sponsor (minimum gift of \$500)

Michael Willis Freeland

Contributor (minimum gift of \$200)

Kathryn M. Donovan

Supporter (minimum gift of \$50)

Cynthia Myers-Morrison, EdD.

Other

Carrol Hillis

RESEARCH ROOM DONORS

NOTE: This list contains *only* names of those who have *signed and returned* Deeds of Gift for research materials donated to GSP between 1 July and 11 October 2006.

Ervin F. Bickley, Jr.
Bruce Barnes Cannady
Gail Rodgers McCormick

Pennsylvania Society
of Mayflower Descendants
David J. Sautter
David A. Stuntz

NEW GSP RESEARCH ROOM STAFFER

GSP is excited to announce that Ms. Virginia (Ginny) Bergey has been hired to work in our Research Room for the balance of our stay at 215 S. Broad Street. Due to previous family obligations, she will begin working here on Tuesdays on 14 November, adding Mondays on 18 December.

A native of Montgomery County, PA, Ginny holds a BS in Medical Technology from Lebanon Valley College and a Certificate in Management from Penn's Wharton School. Employed by Merck & Co., Inc. for 28 years, Ginny became their first woman production manager, leading the pharmaceutical manufacturing division until retiring in 1995. After retirement, Ginny attended Savannah College of Art & Design to study photography; she is an active fine art photographer.

Ginny began family history research in 1990 and completed the American Genealogy course of the National Genealogical Society in 1999. She is experienced with Pennsylvania German research in Montgomery & Bucks Counties. Her current research is of families from central Pennsylvania: Montour, Columbia, Clinton and Centre counties and their migration to Pittsburgh, Buffalo and New York City.

INFORMATION WANTED

Here are the "Information Wanted" rules:

1. Queries are accepted only from members.
2. Members are encouraged to submit queries, understanding that GSP may have to limit the number from any one member in any one issue of *Penn In Hand*.
3. All queries should have a clear Pennsylvania connection and at least one date.
4. Please try to keep all queries to 75 words or less. You may include all the information you need to make your request as clear as possible but GSP, of course, retains the right to edit where necessary.

SNYDER/LAUGHNER: Seek surname & ancestors of Barbara A., wife of Harmon SNYDER, buried Salem Lutheran Cemetery, Salem Township, Clarion Co., PA. Harmon SNYDER (b. ca. 28 Feb. 1791, d. 24 Dec. 1844), Barbara A. (b. ca. 1796, d. 1851), possibly arrived Clarion Co. ca. 1841 from Clinton Co., PA. Son D.A. SNYDER m. Clara LAUGHNER (dau. of Barney & Catharine (McCALMONT) LAUGHNER.

Liz Williams, 1985 Palace Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105; 651-699-3434, liz.williams.art@att.net

SNYDER/WIMER: Seek ancestry of Mary Sophia SNYDER (b. 22 Jan 1769; d. 29 Mar 1842), wife of Christopher WIMER/Christophel WEIMERT (b. 4 Dec 1770; d. 4 Apr. 1842); both buried Wolf Creek cemetery, Slippery Rock twp., Butler Co., PA . Possibly resided 1798

Lancaster Co and 1800 Adams Co.

Liz Williams, 1985 Palace Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105; 651-699-3434, liz.williams.art@att.net

ADAMS/BLAIR: Seeking ancestors/relatives of Robert ADAMS, born c. 1753 and wife Keziah BLAIR, born 1758, died 22 March 1842 in Jefferson Co., PA. Son Thomas ADAMS born 10 June 1798 in Huntingdon Co., PA, married Elizabeth DODSON.

Barbara A. Lynch, 3823 Kirkwood Road, Philadelphia PA 19114-2839.

McGREGOR: Seeking ancestors/relatives of Alexander McGREGOR, born in Scotland, died 1828 in Bedford Co., PA, and his wife Ruth, said to be the daughter of Elijah ADAMS and Hannah BLAIR. Their Son, Daniel McGREGOR, born 1791 in Bedford Co., married Catherine Sink.

Barbara A. Lynch, 3823 Kirkwood Road, Philadelphia PA 19114-2839.

McCarty Genetic Genealogy and the Pennsylvania Wagon Road to South Carolina

McCarty descendants are using cutting-edge, "genetic genealogy" to find lost ancestors. The McCarty Edgefield South Carolina DNA Project is utilizing DNA testing to locate lost McCarty ancestors that settled in South Carolina in the 1700's. A simple swabbing of the inside cheek of the mouth is used to capture a DNA sample. The sample is then mailed to Family Tree DNA in Houston, Texas for testing. Robert McCarty, the project administrator is very pleased with their success thus far. He does believe however, that "absolute ancestral answers may depend on DNA testing in Pennsylvania and other migration points of origin." He theorizes that much family history was left behind, as these early pioneers set out to claim their new lands in South Carolina. The Pennsylvania Wagon Road may be littered with lost McCarty history that only DNA testing can recover. Interested McCartys can view the project at: <[http://www.familytreedna.com/\(5vvs4tn1bhfpeffbouclfub0\)/public/mccartysouthcarolinasurnames/index.asp](http://www.familytreedna.com/(5vvs4tn1bhfpeffbouclfub0)/public/mccartysouthcarolinasurnames/index.asp)>.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Our busy Fall got rolling on Saturday 16 September with GSP's annual joint conference with the Chester County Historical Society. Unlike past Conferences, this one had only two speakers and no "tracks." Here from the United Kingdom were Paul Blake and Maggie Loughran, speaking on the genealogical resources in the UK - both archival and on the Internet. We enjoyed our largest attendance ever for this Conference - over one hundred - and evaluations informed us that those attending found the information conveyed very valuable.

September's final weekend found me in Pittsburgh at our joint Conference with the Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society. When this conference was being planned we worried that we would not reach a registration of three hundred; the final tally of registrants was more than six hundred! The Pittsburgh folks did a wonderful job, as did Sylvia here at GSP, and the evaluations, again, were uniformly positive. Registrants from Alaska, Washington State, California, and every state in between, gave proof of

the heritage of all those Americans throughout the country whose ancestors settled in or passed through Pennsylvania. We're already being asked when the next conference on Pennsylvania genealogy will be.

Our farewell luncheon for Dottie Rodgers was held on 17 October. Sixteen of Dottie's friends and family joined her for lunch and wished her well in her retirement. GSP folks had a chance to meet two of her daughters and a son-in-law. A good time was had by all!

Finally, the long-awaited one-inch-diameter membership pin showing our GSP seal is now available. You may purchase one by mail; the cost is six dollars and fifty cents (\$6.50) each, which includes tax and shipping, regardless of residence. Send a check, money order, or credit card information (VISA or MasterCard) to the office and the pin will be sent out posthaste.

J. Thomas Showler
Executive Director

DATED MATERIAL

The Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania
215 S. Broad St., 7th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19107-5325