



The German Society of Pennsylvania

Connecting the Old World with the New, since 1764.

Genealogical Resources at the Joseph P. Horner Memorial Library

The German Society of Pennsylvania's library contains a wealth of materials related to the history of German immigration to colonial America and the United States, and all aspects of German-American life, from its beginning through the present. Although genealogical research is not a specific focus of the collections, the library has many works that may be helpful to genealogical researchers.

The library is open to the general public Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 am to 4 pm.

Collections of potential interest to genealogical research include:

- **The German Society of Pennsylvania *Agentur* records (mid-1800s to mid-1900s)**
 - Contain biographical information about German immigrants who applied to the Society for charitable aid, or for assistance seeking employment. Entries in these ledgers include such information as: full names, occupation, origin (German city/state), how long individual had been in the US, marital status, and names/ages of immediate family members (spouses and/or children).
- **German-American newspapers on microfilm (mid-1800s to mid-1900s)**
 - Includes fairly complete runs of local German-language publications, such as *Der Demokrat*, *Freie Presse*, *Die Neue Welt*, and *Philadelphia Sonntags-Journal*. Sections of interest vary paper to paper, but may include: obituaries/death notices; advertisements for local businesses; announcements/coverage of local events (theatrical productions, concerts, festivals, etc.); and, during wartime, reports of military engagements (esp. Civil War).
- **German Society of Pennsylvania membership records (1764-present)**
 - Administrative records (financial ledgers, meeting minutes, etc.) dating back to the Society's founding. Being business proceedings, these materials do not contain extensive biographical information, but may provide basic information such as street addresses for Society members.
- **Reference section**
 - Features published works, ranging from general information on the German-American experience to specific genealogical titles (ex. Clifford Neal Smith's German-American Research monograph series). Includes some materials written in English in addition to German-language items.
- **German-American Collection; Main Collection; Manuscript Collections**
 - A wide variety of books, pamphlets, and ephemera, including biographies of notable individuals, programs from German-American Day celebrations, yearly reports of professional organizations, etc. Further information on items in these collections can be obtained by searching the online catalog (<http://gsp.library.net/>) and/or contacting the librarian (librarian@germansociety.org).

More in-depth information on the library and its collections can be found at:

<http://www.germansociety.org/library>

The German Society of Pennsylvania
611 Spring Garden Street
Philadelphia, PA 19123
215-627-2332
www.germansociety.org

TRACING YOUR GERMAN FAMILY HISTORY:

A Guide to Resources in the Philadelphia Area and Beyond

Thank you for your interest in the German Society of Pennsylvania. The Joseph Horner Memorial Library has very limited materials for researching German ancestors. The Library does, however, house an extensive collection on German-American history. For information on genealogical research, please consider the resources below.

PHILADELPHIA

Philadelphia City Archives

3101 Market St.
Suite 150
Philadelphia, PA 19104
215-685-9401
<http://www.phila.gov/phils/Docs/Inventor/genealogy.htm>
archives@phila.gov

National Archives, Mid-Atlantic Region

14700 Townsend Road
Philadelphia, PA 19154
215-606-0112
<http://www.archives.gov/philadelphia/>
Philadelphia.archives@nar.gov

Historical Society of Pennsylvania

1300 Locust Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107
215-732-6200
<http://hsp.org/genealogists-community-historians>

Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania

2207 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103
215-545-0391
www.genpa.org
ExecDir@genpa.org

FamilySearch History Centers

<https://familysearch.org/locations/>
West Philadelphia:
3913 Chestnut St
Philadelphia, PA 19104
215-382-2359

James M. Beidler

(Local Genealogy Researcher)
PO Box 270
Lebanon, PA 17042
(717) 507-7237
<http://www.jamesmbeidler.com/>
james@beidler.us

Philadelphia – Religious

The Lutheran Archives Center at Philadelphia
7301 Germantown Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19119
215-248-6383
<http://ltsp.edu/mtairyarchives@ltsp.edu>

Philadelphia Archdiocesan Historical Research Center

100 E Wynnewood Rd,
Wynnewood, PA 19096
(610) 667-2125
<http://www.pahrc.net/pahrc89@gmail.com>

PENNSYLVANIA

Pennsylvania State Archives

350 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120
717- 783-3281
<http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/genealogy/3183>

GERMANY

Deutsche Arbeitsgemeinschaft Genealogischer Verbände

<http://www.dagv.org/info@dagv.org>

WEBSITES

Latter Day Saints

<https://familysearch.org/>

Ancestry

<http://www.ancestry.com/>

Ellis Island (passenger record search)

Ellis Island
<http://www.libertyellisfoundation.org/>

German Emigrant Database

<http://www.deutsche-auswanderer-datenbank.de/index.php?id=51>