



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 an 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*, *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.
- **Genealogical 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.

Further information on items in these collections can be obtained by searching the online catalog (<https://gsp.kohacatalog.com>) and/or contacting the librarian for a research appointment (librarian@germansociety.org).