

Historical Society of Montgomery County local church records collection

07

**Finding aid prepared by Celia Caust-Ellenbogen and Michael
Gubicza through the Historical Society of Pennsylvania's Hidden
Collections Initiative for Pennsylvania Small Archival Repositories.**

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Historical Society of Montgomery County

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Summary Information

Repository	Historical Society of Montgomery County
Creator	Historical Society of Montgomery County.
Title	Historical Society of Montgomery County local church records collection
Call number	07
Date [inclusive]	1789-1969
Extent	3.5 linear feet
General Physical Description note	Linear footage estimate is very rough.
Language	English
Abstract	The Historical Society of Montgomery County local church records collection, 1789-1969, consists of miscellaneous records from and material related to churches in the vicinity of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. In addition to original records from about one-dozen churches, there are papers of several pastors, and clippings and notes compiled by researchers about churches.

Biography/History

Montgomery County, situated in southeastern Pennsylvania, was established in 1784 out of the western portion of Philadelphia County. Part of the Welsh Tract, an area of Pennsylvania settled by Quakers

from Wales, it is located along the Schuylkill River. Montgomery County has played an important role in U.S. history, including being the site of such Revolutionary War events as the dramatic reshaping of Washington's Army at Valley Forge and the lesser-known engagement of General Lafayette at Barren Hill. Among its significant residents are military figures Winfield S. Hancock, John F. Hartranft (also Governor of Pennsylvania), and Henry "Hap" Arnold; abolitionist Lucretia Mott; inventors David Rittenhouse and Thaddeus Lowe; and artist Thomas Hovenden. Since its founding, Montgomery County has experienced "booming industry and manufacturing, rich farm fields, advanced transportation, artistic endeavors and unique religious beliefs."

The Historical Society of Montgomery County was established in 1881 as the institutional successor to the Federation of Montgomery County Historical Societies. The Society's mission is "to preserve the county's rich heritage and help tell the stories of the many people who have walked and tended its soil."

Bibliography:

Quoted text from: Historical Society of Montgomery County. "Home." Accessed March 2, 2012. <http://www.hsmcpa.org/>

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of miscellaneous records from and material related to churches in the vicinity of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. In addition to original records from about one dozen churches, there are papers of several pastors, and clippings and notes compiled by researchers about churches. The Historical Society of Montgomery County also maintains a collection of pamphlets and publications of Montgomery County churches, and transcriptions of cemeteries (which are not included in this collection description).

A very rough inventory of the collection is provided below. It does NOT cover all the church records held by the Historical Society of Montgomery County, but provides a general sense of the types of material in the collection.

Aaron, Rev. Samuel papers

Boehms Reformed Church (Whitpain Township): account ledger in German (1789-1844) and Church Annals

Burr Meetinghouse Committee of Supervisors minutes

Emmanuel Lutheran Church of Pottstown records

First Presbyterian Church of Norristown, Reverend D. Mallory framed letter of acceptance

Great Swamp Reformed Church, marriage, birth and death records

Greater Norristown Area Council of Churches pamphlet, 1969

Greater Norristown Area Council of Churches, three scrapbooks with minutes and records (1965-1968)

Mount Pleasant Baptist Church (Ambler) notebook, 1964 and clerk's book, 1954 and record book, 1834 and minute book (1867-1898), register (1928-1954), minute books (1899-1928)

Port Kennedy Presbyterian Church account book

Reverend George Wack book of marriages, 1803-1839

Reverend Simon Gross, private pastoral records

Seamen's Church Institute of Philadelphia notes

St. James, Perkiomen, records

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church--Laurel Hill Cemetary of Philadelphia records, 1924

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Norristown records

Steinbright clippings scrapbook on local churches, 1948

Sunday movie campaign clippings, 1947

Three Tuns Church minutes, 1897-1904

Transcription (1924) of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church (Red Hill, Pa.) records

miscellaneous religious materials, newspapers, and booklets

notebook on history of Montgomery County churches

Photocopies of vital records (birth, marriages, deaths) from various churches, mostly Evangelical, in Montgomery County

Administrative Information

Historical Society of Montgomery County

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Sponsor

This preliminary finding aid was created as part of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania's Hidden Collections Initiative for Pennsylvania Small Archival Repositories. The HCI-PSAR project was made possible by a grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Access Restrictions

Contact Historical Society of Montgomery County for information about accessing this collection.

Immediate Source of Acquisition Note

Materials collected at various times by the Historical Society of Montgomery County.

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials Note

Historical Society of Montgomery County: Mount Pleasant Baptist Church records, 1834-1977.

Historical Society of Montgomery County: Historical Society of Montgomery County family papers.

Controlled Access Headings

Geographic Name(s)

- Montgomery County (Pa.)

Subject(s)

- Christian communities
- Christians
- Church buildings
- Religious gatherings