

# *The Perry Historians*

P.O. Box 73  
Newport, PA 17074-0073

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The Perry Historians receive no public funding and are totally dependent upon **MEMBERSHIPS** in order to acquire and properly house the records of the families and history of the Perry County area. We invite you to participate with us in preserving the heritage of Perry County. We offer a professional research service on a purely **VOLUNTEER** basis.

**TERM OF MEMBERSHIP:** Full annual memberships run from **January 1 to December 31**; you will receive all the newsletters and **The Perry Review** for that year. If you join on **July 1 or later** you may elect to pay one-half the dues rate for the class of membership you choose; you will receive half of the newsletters for that year and **The Perry Review**. If you join on **October 1 or later** you may elect to have your membership begin on January 1 of the following year. **Be sure to indicate the year you are paying for on the front of the membership application form.**

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS:** Please notify us **well in advance** of address changes. Publications are sent by bulk mail, which is not forwarded but returned to us for a special postage due fee.

## MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

1. **Use of the Library is FREE.** Daily rates for non-members is currently \$8.00 per day per person.
2. **Reduced research fees** – see attached “Research Request Guidelines”.
3. **Bi-Monthly newsletter** – “The Airy View”, in which members may place free inquiries.
4. **“The Genealogical Exchange”** - If you would like to participate, please make sure you list – only up to 5 - surnames or subjects on the lines under Surnames and Subjects section of the membership application. Also make sure you list your correct phone number and/or e-mail address – for contact purposes. List to be published in newsletter throughout the year.
5. **Reduced prices** on special publications.

## AN ABBREVIATED LIST OF RECORDS IN THE LENIG-FOCHT LIBRARY

1. **CHURCH RECORDS:** Copies of all extant Perry County church records, translations, copies from other counties, several originals.
2. **NEWSPAPERS:** Microfilm of all extant files from 1820 on, which are being indexed.
3. **TOMBSTONE INSCRIPTIONS:** All Perry County burial grounds copied plus most of those in surrounding counties; German stones translated; transcription of several destroyed burial grounds.
4. **MORTUARY RECORDS:** Originals of two funeral homes plus microfilm copy of another; access to cemetery burial records.
5. **COURT RECORDS:** Deeds, probate, vital statistics, tax lists, civil & criminal cases. Perry, Cumberland & Juniata Counties. We are the caretakers of most of the original records from the Perry County Court House.
6. **LAND SURVEY DRAFTS:** Originals from the late 1700's to the early 1900's.
7. **PRINTED WORKS:** Large collection of genealogical, biographical & historical publications and reference works.
8. **FAMILY & SUBJECT FILES:** About 8,000 files arranged by surname & subject plus a card catalogue of about 800,000 cards.
9. **PHOTOGRAPHS:** A large collection of photos of people & scenes.
10. **TAUFSCHHEIN COLLECTION:** (birth & baptismal certificates) almost 100 plus publications containing approximately 1,000. These give date and place of birth and almost always provide the mother's maiden name.

GENEALOGICAL HISTORIANS OF PERRY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

## GENEALOGICAL HISTORY OF PERRY COUNTY

As life is the interaction between people, one with another and their surroundings, so history is the record of these interactions. In both life and historical study, **PEOPLE** are the basic ingredient. **PEOPLE**, therefore, are the basis from which **THE PERRY HISTORIANS** approach the history of Perry County. We call this concept **GENEALOGICAL HISTORY** because it is the history of a certain area as revealed through a thorough study of the individuals and families of that area and their interactions. Through this approach history takes on a very important **PERSONAL** value for each individual because he/she is learning about the past through the involvements of his/her own ancestors. The serious genealogical historian will not be satisfied to merely learn the names and dates of birth, marriage, and death of his/her ancestors but will endeavor to construct an understanding of the personality and lifestyle of those ancestors.

Did he fight for American Independence in 1776 or remain a Loyalist? Were they active in the life of the church and community? What were their occupations? Did they live in a log, frame, stone, or brick house? When we learn the answers to these questions the buildings, people, and locations in Perry County and the whole world take on a special importance and receive the respect due them and the genealogical historian gains a valuable awareness of the contributions of his/her ancestors to the advancement of civilization.

To the statement that "The past is dead" or "History is bunk" we strongly reply that the present and future are determined by the decisions, actions, and mistakes of past generations. The past is the foundation of the present and future and a thorough understanding of the past is essential to know who and what we are and why we are situated in life as we are. Consider the sacrifices our own parents may have made so that we could have a college education and try to visualize the trauma our immigrant ancestors endured on coming to a wilderness from the civilizations of Europe. The can be ascertained only through a thorough study of the past lives of individual families. For the enrichment of yourself and your descendents, learn something of your own roots. Do not be afraid of "skeletons in the closet". Everyone is human and it adds color to the story.

**THE PERRY HISTORIANS** is an all **VOLUNTEER** organization concerned with the heritage of Perry County as revealed through the lives of individuals and families. We are actively preserving and organizing the source materials and representative artifacts relative to the **GENEALOGICAL HISTORY** of Perry County and adjacent areas. We have restored a brick country schoolhouse and erected a concrete vault to house and use our holdings. We are now adding a two-story addition to house our continually expanding accessions. In addition to our own collection, we hold the collection of the late HARRY W. LENIG for whom our library is named, Ardella Ebersole, Louella Sweigert and others. Your participation through a membership will allow us to continue our many projects of procuring and preserving the records and artifacts of our heritage and providing safe and proper housing for them so they will be available to this and many future generations.

### RESEARCH REQUEST GUIDELINES

**PLEASE: READ THOROUGHLY BEFORE REQUESTING RESEARCH FILE FOR FUTURE REFERENCE!**

1. **RESEARCH INITIATION:** If your purpose in becoming a member of The Perry Historians is to have research done by us PLEASE ADVISE US OF THE RESEARCH TO BE UNDERTAKEN WHEN YOU SEND IN YOUR MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION.
2. **RESEARCH TIME:** Research fees are for time and expenses **REGARDLESS OF THE RESULTS.** Please advise us of the amount of time to be spent on your request. Research time will vary greatly depending on the accessibility of the requested data. It is almost impossible to **ESTIMATE** the time required to answer your questions until we do the research.
3. **BE SPECIFIC:** Do not ask for **EVERYTHING** that can be learned about a family/subject unless that is what you **REALLY** want.
4. **PROVIDE KNOWN DATA AND SOURCES USED:** This will eliminate the possibility of duplicate work and un-necessary charges.

5. **COMPLETE DATES (MONTH, DAY, YEAR) & LOCATIONS** of birth, marriage, and death will provide us with info that we can verify if we are searching for the correct person and allow us access to records, which should provide the data requested.
6. **RESEARCH FEES: MEMBERS** of THE PERRY HISTORIANS -- \$10.00 per hour for research in Perry County as well as research in records of other areas which **ARE IN OUR LIBRARY.**  
**NON-MEMBERS** of THE PERRY HISTORIANS – \$25.00 per hour for research in our library and in Perry County.
7. **COPY SERVICE: ZEROX** – Letter size \$.50; Legal size \$.60; Ledger size \$.70  
**MICROFILM** – Letter size \$1.00     **FILES from COMPUTER** - \$1.00 per page  
**COLOR** – Letter size \$1.00     **ORIGINAL TAUFSCHEIN** from our collection - \$25.00 each
8. **S.A.S.E.** (Self-Addresses Stamped Envelope)
  - A. Enclose a #10 SASE for replies requiring only a letter. NOTE: #10 envelope measures 9 ½ “ x 4 ¼”
  - B. For research that will likely include copies – **DO NOT SEND** a SASE. We will **BILL** you for the **POSTAGE.**
9. **LEGIBILITY:** Please type or legibly write your communications and inquiries.
10. **INQUIRIES FOR PUBLICATIONS:** Please write your inquiries **EXACTLY** as you want them printed with dates or some indication of time period and location/residence. Be **SPECIFIC** as to what you want to learn. We suggest a limit of 100 words per inquiry.
11. **PHOTOGRAPH SERVICE:** We will provide photos of tombstone, buildings, etc., for \$5.00 each PLUS \$1.00 per mile travel expense.
12. **PENNSYLVANIA VITAL STATISTICS:** The county courts of Pennsylvania do not have the BIRTH, MARRIAGE, DEATH RECORDS that county courts in many other states have. The vital statistics available for Perry and most of the Pennsylvania counties are:
  - A. **BIRTH RECORDS:** 1852-1853, consisting of only 27 births; 1893-1919. From 1906 to present the Division of Vital Statistics has certified birth records (see address under Death Records). **Cost \$20.00.**  
*[NOTE: Some Pennsylvania Birth and Death Records are currently available through Ancestry.com]*
  - B. **MARRIAGE RECORDS:** August 1852 – March 1855, provide the names of parents of both bride and groom plus groom’s place of birth, occupation, and residence. Beginning in October 1885 the present Marriage Dockets were started, which continue to the present. Two items in these dockets must be noted: 1) There is no index of BRIDES until 1894.  
2.) MAIDEN NAMES OF THE MOTHERS of the bride and groom are **NOT** given until 1913.
  - C. **DEATH RECORDS:** 1893-1919, give place of birth, marital status, age, occupation, cause of death, duration of illness, place of and date of death and burial, name of the parents of children. In some instances the names of the parents of adults are given. From 1906 to present the Division of Vital Statistics has certified recorded death certificates, which provide all of the above data including the maiden name of the mother, provided all the questions, are answered. **Cost \$15.00.**  
Copies of Birth and Death Certificates are available from:  
Division of Vital Statistics, PO Box 1528, New Castle, PA. 16103.  
Note: **YOU MUST PROVIDE THE “PLACE OF DEATH”** plus the day, month and year of death. These are recorded by **PLACE OF DEATH**, regardless of where the person lived or was buried.  
*[NOTE: Some Pennsylvania Birth and Death Records are currently available through Ancestry.com]*  
**COUNTY LEVEL DEATH CERTIFICATES [Funeral Directors’ Records]:** May 1852-February 1855 provide the name, place and date of birth, death, occupation, name of spouse, parents, cause of death, place of burial and names of children. Unfortunately, these records are incomplete. We hold copies of these for Perry County and also other counties.

**PLEASE FILE FOR FUTURE REFERENCE.**

**HAPPY HUNTING!**

The Perry Historians and Lenig-Focht Library physical street address is:  
763 Dix Hill Rd., New Bloomfield, PA. 17068  
(Please note that we cannot receive any mailings at our physical address!!!)

The Perry Historians and Lenig-Focht Library mailing address is:  
PO Box 73, Newport, PA. 17074-0073

Open EVERY Wednesday & the special Fridays from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.  
Exceptions for 2024: November 27  
...or if a major holiday and weather permitting.

Library will be open the following days (Saturdays only) from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.  
[Weather Permitting]

2024

January 20    February 17    March 16    April 6    May 17 & 18    June 14 & 15  
July 20    August 17    September 21    October 26    November 15 & 16    December 7

Special Events

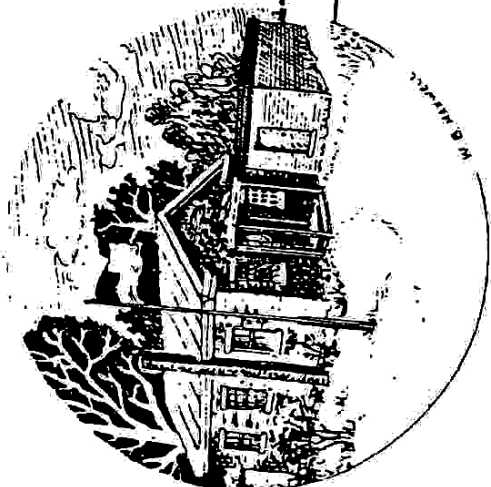
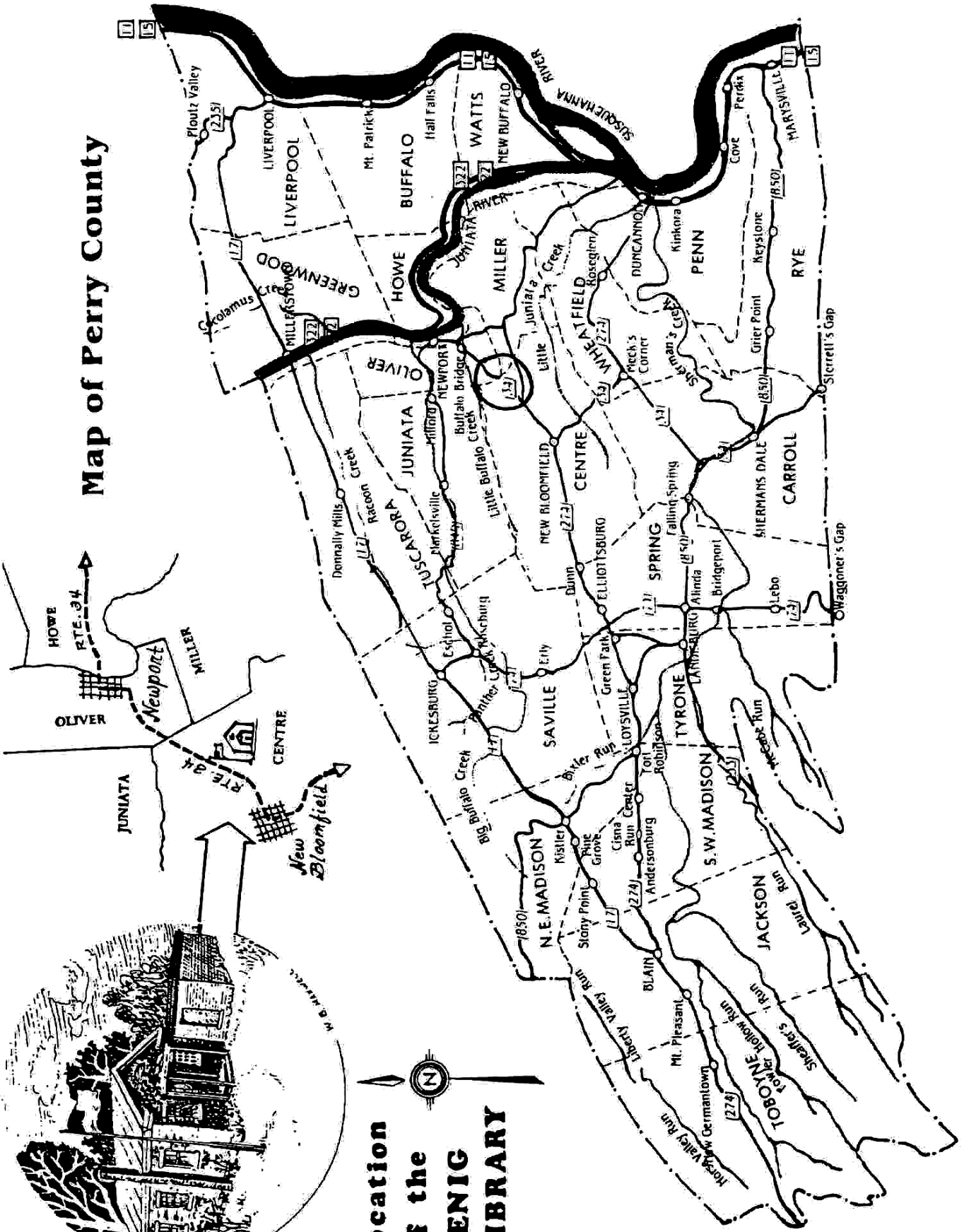
March 2    *Annual Beginner Genealogical Workshop – Lenig-Focht Library - 9:00 - 5:00*  
March 23    *Annual “On the Trail of Perry County History” Bus Tour*  
April 6    *Annual Advanced Genealogical Workshop – Lenig-Focht Library – 9:00 – 5:00*  
May 15    *Annual Membership Meeting – Lenig-Focht Library – 4:00pm*  
June 14 & 15    *Annual Used and New Book Sale – Lenig-Focht Library – 10:00 - 2:00*  
October 11 & 12    *Blain Heritage Days Apple Butter Boil*  
October 19 & 20    *Little Buffalo Apple Festival Apple Butter Boil*  
December 7    *Annual Holiday Bazaar & Raffle Drawing in the Hoverter Archives*

Contacts: LIBRARY - (717) 582-4896    Jill Martin - (717) 789-3180    Arlene Warner – (717) 582-2221  
Donna Heller Zinn - Donna@ThePerryHistorians.org  
<http://www.ThePerryHistorians.org>    Like us on Facebook



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# Map of Perry County



**location  
of the  
LENIG  
LIBRARY**

THE PERRY HISTORIANS  
 P.O. BOX 73  
 NEWPORT, PA 17074-0073



January 2024

**THE PERRY HISTORIANS, P.O. BOX 73, NEWPORT, PA. 17074**

Dues paid for calendar year 20 24 (Please fill in year) [Calendar year: January 1<sup>st</sup> thru December 31<sup>st</sup>]

DUES Please check one:	<u>INDIVIDUAL</u>	<u>HUSBAND/WIFE</u>
Youth (under 18 yrs.)	— \$ 10.00	N/A
Senior Citizen (65 yrs. or over)	— \$ 30.00	— \$ 35.00
Regular Membership	— \$ 35.00	— \$ 45.00
Contributing	— \$ 60.00	— \$ 75.00
Senior Citizen Life	— \$ 250.00	— \$ 350.00
Regular Life	— \$ 350.00	— \$ 450.00

Mr. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_ NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Ms. \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIPCODE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to have your newsletters sent electronically – via e-mail? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

Newsletters will be sent (in states) by bulk mail. If you desire 1<sup>st</sup> class mailing, in the states – enclose \$10.00.  
 Canada and foreign countries cannot be sent bulk and must include \$12.00.

SURNAMES and SUBJECTS for Genealogical Exchange (please list only 6):

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