

# Guide to the Peters Township municipal record book, 1803-1866

## Summary Information

<b>Collection No.:</b>	MS 2022-090
<b>Title:</b>	Peters Township municipal record book
<b>Inclusive Dates:</b>	1803-1866
<b>Author:</b>	Carolyn Friedrich and Margaret Dietzer, revised by Nancy Martin
<b>Repository:</b>	Peters Township Public Library 616 East McMurray Road McMurray, PA 15317
<b>Creator:</b>	Unknown
<b>Extent:</b>	1 volume (438 pages)
<b>Language of materials:</b>	All materials are in English.
<b>Abstract:</b>	The Peters Township municipal record book records election results, auditor reports, relief authorizations and stray animal reports in the township between 1803 and 1866.

## Biography/History

Prior to 1781, Virginia claimed Peters Township as part of its territory. Once Virginia ceded this part of Western Pennsylvania to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Peters Township was incorporated as one of the 13 original townships of Washington County on March 28, 1781 by an Act of the Pennsylvania Assembly.

The Act of 1781, that formed the townships of Washington County, required two Justices of the Peace to be elected in each Township. Elected Justices of the Peace were the only form of government that existed in Peters Township at that time.

In 1834, township boundaries were established. In 1850, the township's population was 924 persons with 209 registered voters. Farming was the primary occupation of the township's first settlers with coal mining emerging as another dominant occupation in the late 1800s.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The Peters Township municipal record book, which bears the title "The Township Book for Peters Township, Washington County, Pennsylvania" spans the years 1803 to 1866. This bound volume primarily contains entries that document the administrative activities of Peters Township municipal government during this period.

Entries consist of election results, auditor reports, relief authorizations, and stray animal reports.

The entries relating to election results date from 1806-1865 and include election dates (typically in March), names of individuals in whose homes elections were held, open township positions, and names of those elected. The book also records the outcome of votes held regarding a school (1825), a congressman (1842), and the sale of liquor (1847).

The auditor reports date from 1803-1866 and include date of the report, a review of the township's financial records to determine monies owed by and to the township, and settlement thereof. These entries constitute approximately half of the book. The reports are not always in chronological order.

The relief authorizations date from 1822-1829 and describe hardships experienced by community members in need of financial or other support from the township and specify authorizations of support to these individuals.

The stray animal reports date from 1814-1863 and include date of the report, names of individuals reporting stray horses, cattle, and sheep, descriptions of the animals, and any fees paid to the township.

## **Administrative Information**

### **Access Restrictions:**

Due to its fragility, the original volume cannot be handled. Patrons can access a digital copy of the record book online through PA Photos and Documents (PaPD). A link to PaPD can be found on the Library Archives' webpage at <https://ptlibrary.org/explore/archives/>.

### **Acquisition Information:**

Gift of an anonymous donor in December 2020.

### **Accruals note:**

No further accruals are expected.

### **Preferred Citation:**

Peters Township Public Library Archives, MS 2022-090 Peters Township municipal record book

### **Processing Information:**

This collection was processed by Carolyn Friedrich and Margaret Dietzer in January 2023. The description was revised by Nancy Martin in November 2025.

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### **Note:**

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