

PENNSYLVANIA GENEALOGY
SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY AND GUIDE
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Websites

Ancestry (www.ancestry.com) Available on the library's On-site Databases page and through personal subscription. Major Pennsylvania databases include:

- Pennsylvania Births, 1852-1854
- Pennsylvania Deaths, 1852-1854
- Pennsylvania Death Certificates, 1906-1964
- Pennsylvania Birth Records, 1906-1909
- Philadelphia Death Certificates Index, 1803*-1915
- Pennsylvania Marriages, 1852-1968
- Pennsylvania and New Jersey, Church and Town Records, 1708-1985
- Pennsylvania, Lutheran Baptisms and Marriages
- Pennsylvania, Methodist Church Records
- U.S., Presbyterian Church Records, 1701-1970
- U.S., Dutch Reformed Church Records, 1639-1989
- U.S., Evangelical Lutheran Church of America Records, 1826-1940
- Pennsylvania, U.S. Direct Tax Lists of 1798
- Pennsylvania, Tax and Exoneration 1768-1801
- Pennsylvania, Compiled Census and Census Substitute Index
- Pennsylvania, Land Warrants and Applications, 1733-1952
- Pennsylvania, Wills and Probate Records, 1683-1993
- Pennsylvania, Veteran Compensation Application Files, 1950-1966

Arias (Pennsylvania State Archives) (www.digitalarchives.state.pa.us) Free. Searchable military records.

Familysearch (www.familysearch.org) This site has many vital record databases as well as its catalog of digitized and microfilmed records. Major Pennsylvania databases include:

- Pennsylvania, Births and Christenings, 1709*-1950
- Pennsylvania, Civil Marriages, 1677*-1950
- Pennsylvania, County Marriages, 1885-1950
- Pittsburgh City Deaths, 1870-1905
- Philadelphia City Births, 1860-1906
- Pennsylvania, Church Marriages, 1682-1976

Find My Past (www.findmypast.com) Subscription. Contains the Periodical Source Index (Parsi).

Fold3 (www.fold3.com) Available on the library's On-site Databases page and through subscription. Contains military records and digital all-name access to the published *Pennsylvania Archives*.

Historic Pittsburgh (digital.library.pitt.edu/pittsburgh) Free. Historical images and maps.

Historical Maps of Pennsylvania (mapsofpa.com). Free. Images of more than 1,000 historical maps.

Historical Society of Pennsylvania Digital Library (digitallibrary.hsp.org) Free. Historical images.

Maps of Pennsylvania (www.mapofus.org/pennsylvania). Free.

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (<http://www.phmc.pa.gov/Archives/Research-Online/Pages/Land-Records-Overview.aspx>) Principal database for searching Pennsylvania land surveys with images.

Power Library: Pennsylvania's Electronic Library (www.powerlibrary.org) Free. Shared catalog of PA libraries.

State Library of Pennsylvania – Digital Collections (www.statelibrary.pa.gov)

Guides

Cuff, David J. *Atlas of Pennsylvania*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1989. 974.8 At6

Freilich, Kay Haviland. *Research in Pennsylvania*. 2nd ed. Arlington, Virginia: National Genealogical Society, 2007. 974.8 F882rea

Heisey, John W. *Pennsylvania Genealogical Library Guide*. Elverson, Pennsylvania: Olde Springfield Shoppe, 1994. 974.8 H362p

Humphrey, John T. *Pennsylvania Research: County and Township Records*. Washington, D.C.: PA Genealogy Books, 2006. 974.8 H84pr

Isrupe, William. *Pennsylvania Line: A Research Guide to Pennsylvania Genealogy and Local History*. 4th ed. Laughlintown, Pennsylvania: Southwest Pennsylvania Genealogical Services, 1990. 974.8 P3854

Woodroffe, Helen Hutchison. *Genealogist's Guide to Pennsylvania Records*. Elverson, Pennsylvania: Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania, 1995. 974.8 W86g

Church Records

Friends Historical Association. *Inventory of Church Archives, Society of Friends in Pennsylvania*. Philadelphia: Works Projects Administration, 1941. 974.8 P385icf

Hinshaw, William Wade. *Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy*. (Ann Arbor: Edwards Bros., 1936. Vol. 2. 929.102 F91h

Humphrey, John T. *Pennsylvania Births* series, various counties. Washington, D.C.: John T. Humphrey, various dates. Check catalog for holdings. (14 volumes).

Ruff, Paul Miller. Lutheran Church records, various congregations. Check catalog for holdings.

Weiser, Frederick S. Lutheran Church records, various congregations. Check catalog for holdings.

Land Records

Munger, Donna Bingham. *Pennsylvania Land Records: A History and Guide for Research*. Wilmington, Delaware: Scholarly Resources, 1991. 974.8 M92p

Boyd, Julian P., ed. *Susquehanna Company Papers*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1962-1971. 11 volumes. Connecticut grants in Pennsylvania, 1750-1808.

Parts of a Land Record:

- Application – Petition requesting a tract be surveyed
- Warrant – Written order for a survey to take place after application
- Survey – Measurement of the land with a diagram
- Return of Survey – Contains a description of the survey
- Patent – Document that finalizes the land sale with a title
- Deeds – Sales of land between private parties

Sources: “Pennsylvania, Land Warrants and Applications, 1733-1952, *Ancestry.com*

“Land Records,” Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission website

Military

Bates, Samuel P. *History of Pennsylvania Volunteers, 1861-65*. Harrisburg: State Printer, 1869-71. 973.74 P38b

Military Overview:

- First state militia organized in 1777 (all white males, 18-53)
- *Pennsylvania Archives* on Fold3. Militia and Revolutionary War lists
- *Fold3* Pension and service record files
- Miscellaneous National Archives service record databases, *Ancestry.com*

Miscellaneous

Linn, John Blair, et al. *Pennsylvania Archives*. Multiple series and volumes. Harrisburg, Pennsylvania: State Printer, 1872-1935. 974.8 P384h and online at Fold3 (www.fold3.com).

Livengood, Candy Crocker. *Genealogical Abstracts of the Laws of Pennsylvania and the Statutes at Large*. Westminster, Maryland: Willow Bend Books, 2001. 974.8 L74g

Westcott, Thompson. *Names of Persons Who Took the Oath of Allegiance to the State of Pennsylvania between the Years 1777 and 1789, with a History of the Test Laws of Pennsylvania*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1965. 974.8 W51n

Tax Records

- Pennsylvania U.S. Direct Tax Lists of 1798, *Ancestry.com*
- Pennsylvania, Tax and Exoneration, 1768-1801, *Ancestry.com*
- Pennsylvania, Compiled Census and Census Substitutes Index, *Ancestry.com*

- Published tax lists (check catalog under the county name)
- *Pennsylvania Archives* series (published records indexed on Fold3)

Vital Records

- 1852-1855 – Vital records kept, records of 49 counties survive
- 1860 – Vital records kept in Philadelphia
- 1870 – Vital records kept in Pittsburgh
- 1873 – Chester, Fulton, Cumberland Cos. kept some vital records
- 1893 – Some county vital records begin
- 1906 – State Bureau of Vital Statistics opens
- 1682 – Order for Civil Marriages (largely ignored)
- 1915 – Birth and death records kept statewide

MAJOR LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES IN PENNSYLVANIA

National Archives – Mid Atlantic Region, Philadelphia

Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia

State Library of Pennsylvania, Harrisburg

Pennsylvania State Archives, Harrisburg

Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh

Presbyterian Historical Society, Philadelphia

Friends Historical Society, Swarthmore

Heinz History Center, Pittsburgh