

The Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania 2207 Chestnut Street Philadelphia, PA 19103 215-545-0391

Web address: www.genpa.org E-mail: ExecDir@genpa.org

PHILADELPHIA REPOSITORIES

Researchers are urged to consult the web sites listed for each repository for information about holdings, current hours, and current admission fees.

FREE LIBRARY OF PHILADELPHIA, 1901 Vine St., Philadelphia, PA 19103, 215-686-5322. Useful for research are maps, business and city directories, newspapers, government documents, index to ship photographs, ethnic guidebooks, government documents, and collective biographies. Map Collection 215-686-5396. Newspaper Center 215-686-5431.

Web site: www.library.phila.gov

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA, 2207 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103, 215-545-0391. Online collections include: Mt. Moriah Cemetery, Kensington Methodist Episcopal Church, Kimmerle & Helverson Funeral Home Records, Charles Barker Register of Burying Grounds in Philadelphia, Philadelphia *Public Ledger* newspaper indexes, 1836 – 1875, and indexes to Bible records and manuscript collections. Web site: www.genpa.org

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA, 1300 Locust St. Philadelphia, PA 19107, 215-732-6200. Library houses the Genealogical Collection that was compiled mainly by GSP volunteers, plus the library of the Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies. Four card catalogs serve as a guide to their holdings: published materials catalog, published books prior to 1952, manuscript collections, and microfilm collection. Strong in all areas of genealogical and historical research. Current non-member day research fee \$8. Online catalog includes most GSP holdings for churches and cemeteries.

Web site: www.hsp.org

NATIONAL ARCHIVES, MID-ATLANTIC REGION, 900 Market St. (entrance on Chestnut Street between 9th and 10th), Philadelphia, PA 19107, 215-606-0100. Research center with U.S. census, military – WWI and WWII draft cards – ship passenger lists, federal court records, including naturalizations, 1798 U.S. Direct Tax – Pennsylvania (window pane tax). Access to Ancestry.com.

Web site: http://www.archives.gov/midatlantic

PHILADELPHIA CITY ARCHIVES, 3101 Market St., 1st Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19104, 215-685-9400. Vital records from 1860 to June 1915, deeds before 1952, naturalization records from Philadelphia county courts, early Philadelphia tax records & City directories. Hours are Mon., Wed. & Fri. 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM. Web site: www.phila.gov/phils/carchive.htm

PHILADELPHIA CITY HALL, Broad and Market streets

- A) Register of Wills office, Room 180, (215-686-6253): Indexes to Wills and Administrations, 1682– present. Microfilm or microfiche of original wills (limited readers). Original probate packets, both wills and administrations, are to be ordered at Room 180; next day retrieval. *Entrance-northwest quadrant*
- B) Orphans' Court, City Hall, Room 415, (215-686-2234): Marriage License Bureau maintains indexes and marriages from 1885 to present. Entrance northeast corner of building sign in with picture ID
- C) Recorder of Deeds, Room 154, (215-686-2292): Holds deeds after 1952 on microform that must be paged.
- D) Prothonotary, Room 284, (215-686-6670): Listing of divorces: 1800–1973 on microfilm; 1973–present on computer.

Note: Off-site storage of some records; retrieval time required.

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PHILADELPHIA RECORDS

Birth: Begin July 1860

- July 1860-June 1915: PCA
- January 1906-present: Bureau of Vital Statistics, P O Box 1528, New Castle, PA, 16103.

Web site: http://www.portal.health.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/birth and death certificates/11596

Online Birth Index for 1906 - http://www.portal.health.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/public_records/20686

Death: Begin July 1860

- July 1860-June 1915: PCA; microfilm to 1903 at HSP
- January 1906-present: Bureau of Vital Statistics, New Castle, PA (see Births).
- WPA Index to Cemetery Returns, 1803-1860: PCA and HSP
- Death certificates & Index 1803-1915 available online LDS Family Search site- http://www.familysearch.org
- PA Department of Vital Statistics, Online Death Indexes 1906 1961 -

http://www.portal.health.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/public_records/20686

Marriage: Begin 1860

- 1860-1885: PCA; microfilm at HSP.
- 1885-1915: Index, applications, and returns at PCA.
- 1885-1915: Index on microfilm at HSP
- 1916-present: Orphan's Court, Room 415, City Hall
- 1885-1951 Indexes available online LDS Family Search site http://www.familysearch.org

Divorce: Begin 1800

- Records are sealed, copies of dockets available
- Listing of divorces available in Prothonotary's Office, Room 266, City Hall

Probate—Wills and Administrations:

- Indexes to Wills and Administrations, 1683-present: Room 185 City Hall
- Wills and accompanying papers (inventory, account, etc.) on microfilm: Room 185, City Hall.
- Original Probate Packets: PCA (Register of Wills Archives: to view files; order at City Hall, Room 180)
- Indexes to Wills and Administrations to 1900, Will Books to 1901: microfilm HSP.
- Abstracts of Wills to 1825: GSP and HSP
- Printed indexes 1683-1850: GSP and HSP

Orphans Court (excluding marriages)

- Indexes, estate files, and court dockets, 1878-present: Room 415, City Hall
- Indexes 1719-1852, 1852-1878, 1878-1938: microfilm at PCA
- Estate files 1719-1856; Court Dockets 1719-October 1880: PCA
- Indexes 1719-1852, 1852-1878, 1878-1938; Estate files 1719-1856: microfilm HSP
- Dockets 1719–1878; estate papers 1719–1856: microfilm HSP

Land and Property:

- Grantee and Grantor indexes and Deed Books, 1683–1951: PCA
- Indexes and Deed Books, 1683-1951: microfilm at HSP (several years missing)
- Indexes and Deed Books, 1952- present, Room 153 City Hall
- Indexes and Mortgage Books, 1749–1952: PCA (recorded in Deed Books before 1749)
- Indexes and Mortgage Books, 1952-present: Room 153, City Hall
- First land transactions through Proprietors at Pennsylvania State Archives Scanned Land Records Online http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/land_records/3184
- First land transactions: some microfilm at HSP & PCA
- Deed Indexes only 1682-1976, Philadelphia Dept. of Records http://philadox.phila.gov

Key to Repositories

GSP - Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania

HSP - Historical Society of Pennsylvania

PCA - Philadelphia City Archives