



*The Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania*

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## **DELAWARE COUNTY REPOSITORIES**

*Researchers should consult the web sites listed for each repository for additional information about holdings, current hours, current admission fees, and access rules. Many archives and repositories have very limited hours.*

Delaware County was formed in 1789 from Chester County.

DELAWARE COUNTY ARCHIVES (DCA), 340 North Middletown Road, Fair Acres Geriatric Complex, Building 19, Lima (mailing address: 201 West Front Street, Media, PA 19083), (610) 891-5620. Hours: Tuesday-Thursday, 8:00AM-3:00PM. Holdings: Administrations 1790-1929 (index online); Birth Records 1893-1906 (index online); Civil Docket Books (Continuance and Appearance) 1797-1929; Civil Case Files (Original Writs) 1797-1929 (index online 1797 – 1870); Criminal Docket Books 1806-1929; Criminal Case Files 1823-1929 (online index 1823 - 1900); Death Records 1893-1906, excluding the City of Chester (online index); Equity Case Files 1856-1897; Marriage Records 1885-1940 (online index); Naturalization Petitions 1795-1990 (index online); Orphans' Court Docket Books 1790-1935 (microfilm through 1882); Orphans' Court Estate Case Files 1790-1935 (index online); Wills 1789-1935 (online index); Septennial Censuses: 1800, 1807, 1814, 1821 and 1828. Web site: [www.co.delaware.pa.us/depts/archives.html](http://www.co.delaware.pa.us/depts/archives.html)

OFFICE OF JUDICIAL SUPPORT (DCOJS), Delaware County Government, 201 West Front Street, Media, PA 19083, (610) 891-4399. Naturalization Records after 1926.

REGISTER OF WILLS (DCRW) [and Clerk of the Orphans' Court], Delaware County Government, 201 West Front Street, Media, PA 19083, (610) 891-4400. Administrations after 1900; Marriage Licenses after 1929; Orphans' Court Estate Case Files after 1925; Wills after 1900.

RECORDER OF DEEDS (DCRD), Delaware County Government, 201 West Front Street, Media, PA 19083, (610) 891-4152. Holdings include Deeds, Mortgages, Satisfactions of Mortgage, Financial Statements, Veterans Discharge Papers, Notary Publics, Police Commissions, Highway Plans, Subdivision Plans, Powers of Attorney, Assignments of Mortgage, and Releases of Mortgage. Land records begin in 1789.

DELAWARE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, 408 Avenue of the States, Chester, PA 19014; 610-872-0502; [www.delawarecountvhistoricalsocietv.org/](http://www.delawarecountvhistoricalsocietv.org/). Current hours: Tuesday, 1:00PM-8:00PM, Wednesday, 9:00AM-1:00PM; Saturday, 9:00AM-2:00PM. Day fee currently \$5. For some of their holdings, see [www.oldchesterpa.com/dchs\\_resources.htm](http://www.oldchesterpa.com/dchs_resources.htm).

## DELAWARE COUNTY RECORDS

### Birth:

- 1893-1906: (index online) DCA
- January 1906-present: Bureau of Vital Statistics, PO Box 1528, New Castle, PA, 16103.
- Web site: [www.dsf.health.state.pa.us/health/cwp/vicw.asp?a=168&Q=229939](http://www.dsf.health.state.pa.us/health/cwp/vicw.asp?a=168&Q=229939)
- Online Birth Indexes (1906):  
[http://www.portal.health.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/public\\_records/20686](http://www.portal.health.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/public_records/20686)

### Death:

- 1893-1906: (index online) DCA
- January 1906-present: Bureau of Vital Statistics, PO Box 1528, New Castle, PA, 16103.
- Web site: [www.dsf.health.state.pa.us/health/cwp/view.asp?a=:168&Q=229939](http://www.dsf.health.state.pa.us/health/cwp/view.asp?a=:168&Q=229939)
- Online death indexes (1906 – 1961):  
[http://www.portal.health.state.pa.us/portal/setvcr.pt/community/public\\_records/20686](http://www.portal.health.state.pa.us/portal/setvcr.pt/community/public_records/20686)

### Marriage:

- 1885-1929: license and application: (index online) DCA
- 1929-present: marriage licenses: DCRW

### Probate—Wills and Administrations:

- 1789-1900: Wills (name index): (index online) DCA
- 1900-present: wills: DCRW
- 1790-1929: Administrations: (index online) DCA
- 1900-present: administrations: DCRW
- 1789-1892: Will Books (microfilm): HSP.

### Orphans' Court (excluding marriages):

- 1790-1925: Orphans' Court Docket Book (on microfilm through 1882): DCA
- 1790-1925: Orphans' Court Estate Case Files (original papers): (index online) DCA
- 1925-present: Orphans' Court Estate Case Files: DCRW
- 1789-1865: Orphans' Court Docket Book (microfilm): HSP

### Other Court and Miscellaneous Records

- 1797-1929: Civil Docket Books (Continuance and Appearance) (indexes in each docket book): DCA
- 1797-1929: Civil Case Files (Original Writs) (original papers): DCA
- 1806-1929: Criminal Docket Books (name indexes in each volume): DCA
- 1823-1929: Criminal Case Files (original papers): DCA
- 1856-1897: Equity Case Files (name index): DCA
- 1935-1970: Licenses for Peddlers (alphabetical, usually with picture of peddler seeking license): DCA
- 1881-1900: Physicians' Registrations (handwritten copies of diplomas): DCA

### Land and Property:

- 1789-present: Deeds, Mortgages, Satisfactions of Mortgage, Powers of Attorney, Assignments of Mortgage, and Releases of Mortgage: DCRD
- Indexes and Deed Books, 1770-1820 (several years missing) (microfilm): HSP
- First land transactions through Proprietors at Pennsylvania State Archives
- First land transactions: some microfilm: HSP

### Naturalizations

- 1795-1990: Naturalization Records (name index online): DCA
- 1926-present: administrations: DCOJS

### Key to Repositories

DCA – Delaware County Archives  
DCOJS – Delaware County Office of Judicial Support  
DCRD - Delaware County Recorder of Deeds  
DCRW - Delaware County Register of Wills  
HSP - Historical Society of Pennsylvania