



The Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania

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

LEHIGH COUNTY REPOSITORIES

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

Lehigh County was formed in 1812 with the division of Northampton County into two counties.
County Seat: Allentown

LEHIGH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 432 W. Walnut St., Allentown, PA 18102
Phone: 610 435-1074; Hours: Tuesday-Saturday 10:00AM – 4:00PM., Sunday 12:00PM – 4:00PM
Holdings: Cemetery, land, & military records; European church and legal records for Germanic Families, maps, compiled family histories; Orphans Court records, with index, 1815-1915; Tax records, 1813-1817, 1835, late 1840s-1970s; Prison records: 1869-1912, 1916-1917, 1926-1930, 1938-1939, partial index; Wills and estate records, 1812-1916, indexed (microfilm); Marriage records, 1885-1961, indexed (microfilm); Marriage and obituaries from five local and German newspapers have been indexed in English for the years 1812 through 1873. Numerous Lehigh County Church record collections.
<http://www.lchs.museum>

LEHIGH COUNTY COURTHOUSE 455 W. Hamilton St., Allentown PA 18101 (610) 782-3000.
Hours: Monday – Friday 8:00AM - 4:30PM.

Orphans' Court: birth and death records 1893 – 1905, marriage license applications beginning in October 1885 (610) 782-3173

Register of Wills: Records 1814 – present (610) 782-3170

Recorder of Deeds: Records 1812 – present (610) 782-3162

Prothonotary/Clerk of Courts: Include divorces, naturalizations, peddler's licenses, some tax records (610) 782-3170

GOVERNMENT CENTER Room 517, 17 South Seventh Street Allentown, PA 18101-2401 Phone: 610-782-3038 for tax assessments

BETHLEHEM AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY, The Bethlehem Room, 11 West Church Street, Bethlehem, PA 18018. Phone: (610) 867-3761. Hours: Monday – Wednesday 10:00AM – 8:00PM, Thursday and Friday 10:00AM – 6:00PM, Saturday 10:00AM – 5:00PM. Holdings: Newspaper extracts and indexes, maps, mayor's reports, *Bethlehem Steel* employee news magazine, church histories, family histories.

Additional resources:

US GenWeb Project, Lehigh County, PA: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~palehigh/>
Pennsylvania Genealogy 101: <http://www.pagenealogy101.com/lehigh-county/>

LEHIGH COUNTY RECORDS

Birth:

- 1893 – 1905: **OC**
- January 1906–present: Bureau of Vital Statistics, PO Box 1528, New Castle, PA, 16103
- Indexes for birth (1906 – 1908) are available online at –
http://www.portal.health.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/public_records/206861

Death:

- 1893 – 1905: **OC**
- January 1906–present: Bureau of Vital Statistics, PO Box 1528, New Castle, PA, 16103
- Indexes for death (1906 –1963) are available online –
http://www.portal.health.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/public_records/206861
- 1906-1924: Death Certificates available online at Ancestry.com

Marriage:

- 1885 – 1961: Marriage records and indexes: **LCHS**
- 1885 – present: **OC**

Probate - Wills and Administrations:

- 1814 – present: **RW**
- 1812 – 1916: Wills and estate records: **LCHS**
- 1812 – 1965: Various probate records available at Familysearch.org

Orphans' Court:

- 1815 – 1915: Records and indexes: **LCHS**

Land and Property:

- 1812 – present: Deed records and indexes: **RD**
- 1912-1983: Deed index available online at <http://www.lehighcounty.org/services/onlinerecordsaccess>
- 1813-1817, 1835, late 1840s-1970s: Tax Records: **LCHS**

OC – Lehigh County Orphans Court

LCHS – Lehigh County Historical Society

RW – Lehigh County Register of Wills

RD – Lehigh County Recorder of Deeds

Lehigh County Repository Guide compiled by GSP Volunteer Mary Phalan