



# The Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania

2100 Byberry Road – Suite 111

Philadelphia PA 19116

Web address: [www.genpa.org](http://www.genpa.org)

Email: [membership@genpa.org](mailto:membership@genpa.org)

## Luzerne County Repositories

Consult the web sites listed for specific information about holdings, current hours, current admission fees, and access rules. Many archives and repositories have very limited hours. Pennsylvania became a state December 12, 1787, has 67 Counties and 2,561 Municipalities

Luzerne County was created from Northumberland County in 1786. The county seat is Wilkes-Barre.

### LUZERNE COUNTY GOVERNMENT

<http://www.luzernecounty.org/>

#### - LUZERNE COUNTY TOWNSHIPS & BOROUGHES

see Humphrey, John T. *Pennsylvania Research: County and Township Records*. Washington DC: PA Genealogy Books, 2006, pp. 183-189.

Tax Assessment records, beginning as early as 1809 for some townships, held on microfilm at the NE Pennsylvania Genealogical Society.

### LUZERNE COUNTY PUBLIC RECORDS CENTER

The office of Register of Wills and Recorder of Deeds in the Luzerne Co. Court House annex, River St., Wilkes-Barre (across from court house)

**MARRIAGES** - Marriage License Dockets, 1885-1950 online at:

<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1589502>

#### JAIL/INMATE SEARCH

<http://www.jailexchange.com/countyjails/pennsylvania.aspx>

### MAPS

Luzerne County Map

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Map\\_of\\_Luzerne\\_County\\_Pennsylvania\\_With\\_Municipal\\_and\\_Township\\_Labels.png](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Map_of_Luzerne_County_Pennsylvania_With_Municipal_and_Township_Labels.png)

### SOCIETIES

#### LUZERNE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

<http://luzernehistory.org/society/>

Multi-COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY: NE Pennsylvania Genealogical Society

<http://nepgs.com/wordpress/>

#### CHURCH & CEMETERY RECORDS - at the NE Pennsylvania Genealogical Society

Most of the 307 cemeteries have been recorded, either paper records or headstone enumerations or both, available in print or on microfilm.

Some Protestant and 90% of all Catholic church records of the county have been digitized and available to view at the Society, with some age restrictions for certain records.

## LUZERNE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

- <http://www.luzernelibraries.org/>

## RESOURCES

- **Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania GSP**  
<http://GenPA.org>  
**GSP Research** <https://genpa.org/research/>
- PAGenWeb Luzerne County - <http://www.pagenweb.org/~luzerne/>
- Obituaries – available through newspapers.com and genealogybank.com
- **LDS** <http://ldsgenealogy.com/PA>  
[http://www.newspaperobituaries.net/pennsylvania/???\\_county\\_obituaries.htm](http://www.newspaperobituaries.net/pennsylvania/???_county_obituaries.htm)
- County Newspapers
  - all newspapers held by the Luzerne Co. Historical Society, 1797-1950, have been digitized by Ancestry.com and are available on newspapers.com
  - – Pittston Dispatch and Hazleton newspapers digitized by NE PA Genealogical Society (not available online)
- **Random Acts of Kindness** <https://www.raogk.org/>
- **Family Search LDS:** <https://familysearch.org/> Free site but does require a login  
Collection List <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/list>  
[https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/???\\_County,\\_Pennsylvania\\_Genealogy](https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/???_County,_Pennsylvania_Genealogy)
- **Collections at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania HSP** - <http://hsp.org/collections>
  - HSP is membership based and there is a fee  
1300 Locust Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107  
215-732-6200 ext. 235 or [membership@hsp.org](mailto:membership@hsp.org)
- **RG-47. RECORDS OF THE COUNTY GOVERNMENTS**  
Guide to African American Resources at the Pennsylvania State Archives  
<http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/bah/aaGuide/AA-RG-47.html>
- **National Archives of Philadelphia (NARA)**  
Mid Atlantic Region: [http://www.nara.gov/research\\_rooms/mid\\_atlantic/](http://www.nara.gov/research_rooms/mid_atlantic/)

### Records Request Process

National Archives  
14700 Townsend Road  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19154-1096  
Telephone: (215) 305-2044  
Fax: (215) 305-2038 E-mail: [philadelphia.archives@nara.gov](mailto:philadelphia.archives@nara.gov)  
<https://www.archives.gov/philadelphia>

### Naturalizations: NARA

Pennsylvania: Philadelphia, 1790-1991; Pittsburgh, 1820-1979; Erie, 1940-1972; Scranton, 1901-1990; Wilkes-Barre, 1943-1972; Williamsport, 1909-1913; and Harrisburg, 1911-1917

All Luzerne County naturalizations microfilmed by LDS are now digitized and searchable, including indexes, on FamilySearch. Accessed through FHL Catalog.

## MILITARY

The National Archives at Philadelphia (**NARA**), through its partners Ancestry.com and Fold3.com, provides access to records relating to the military service of individuals from the American Revolution through World War II. Please note that Official Military Personnel Files from World War I to the present are held by the National Archives at St. Louis.

<https://www.archives.gov/st-louis>

World War I and World War II, Fourth Enumeration Draft Cards can also be accessed through our partner sites. In addition, Records of the Selective Service System, 1940-1969, for individuals from Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia are available from the National Archives at St. Louis. Copies of World War I draft cards can be requested from the National Archives at Atlanta ([Atlanta.archives@nara.gov](mailto:Atlanta.archives@nara.gov) ).

For information on obtaining World War II era and later draft cards, please see <http://www.archives.gov/st-louis/archival-programs/other-records/selective-service.html> <https://www.archives.gov/philadelphia/public/family-history.html#military>

### **Pennsylvania Military Records Research Guide**

<https://www.raogk.org/pennsylvania-genealogy/pa-military-records/>

### **Probate – Wills Administrations**

Probate records may include Person's exact death date, Names of the family members, Family relationships, Names of spouses of children, Residences, Adoption or guardianship of minor children or dependents, Worth of the property and land holdings, Evidence of occupation, religion, or military service

**Family Search:** Pennsylvania Probate Records, 1683-1994 <https://familysearch.org/>

This collection includes probate records created in Pennsylvania counties. The records include wills, estate records and indexes.

### **State of Pennsylvania Vital Records**

The **Pennsylvania State Archives** collects, preserves and makes available for study the permanently-valuable public records of the Commonwealth, with particular attention given to the records of state government.

Mailing address:

350 North Street

Harrisburg, PA 17120

Email: Email PA State Archives

Phone: (717) 783-3281

GPS address:

801 North 3rd Street

Harrisburg, PA 17102

Coordinates: 40.266080, -

76.886053

### **BIRTH CERTIFICATES, 1906-1910**

The Division of Vital Records (DVR) maintains birth records that occurred in Pennsylvania from 1906 to the present.

For information on public records (births occurring from 1906 to 1910), click on Pennsylvania State Archives <http://www.phmc.pa.gov/archives/Pages/default.aspx> or our Genealogy page. <http://www.health.pa.gov/MyRecords/Certificates/Genealogy/Pages/14125.aspx#.WNvLKfkrJHY>

### **Death Certificates, 1906-1965**

Original birth certificates for 1906-1910 and death certificates for 1906-1965 are available at the State Archives. Digital copies of the 1906-1908 birth certificates and the 1906-1963 death certificates may be found on Ancestry.com. Pennsylvania residents can access these records free of charge through Ancestry.com Pennsylvania. A free account can be created.

### **Certified Copies of Death Certificates**

The Division of Vital Records maintains records of deaths that occurred from 1906 to the present. Certified copies of death certificates (with a raised seal)

<http://www.health.pa.gov/MyRecords/Certificates/DeathCertificates/Pages/default.aspx#.WP4qINLytHa>

## **BIRTH AND DEATH CERTIFICATES PRIOR TO 1906**

The Division of Vital Records began collecting birth and death certificates in 1906. Contact the appropriate Pennsylvania County Courthouse for births and deaths that occurred prior to 1906.

### **COUNTY COURTHOUSES**

[http://www.health.pa.gov/MyRecords/Certificates/Genealogy/Pages/608673.aspx#.WNvLm\\_krJHY](http://www.health.pa.gov/MyRecords/Certificates/Genealogy/Pages/608673.aspx#.WNvLm_krJHY)

**Luzerne County** birth and death registrations, 1893-1905, and delayed birth registrations have been digitized and searchable at FamilySearch

### **PHMC > ARCHIVES > RESEARCH ONLINE > VITAL STATISTICS RECORDS**

Birth Indices ~ Census Records ~ County and Municipal Records ~ Coal Miners ~  
Death Indices ~ Indentured Servants ~ Naturalization and Immigration ~  
Naturalizations, PA Supreme Court ~ Prison Records ~ Ships' Passenger Lists ~ Vital  
Statistics ~

### **LAND RECORDS INDICES**

PHMC > Archives > Research Online > Land Records Indices

<http://www.phmc.pa.gov/Archives/Research-Online/Pages/Land-Records-Indices.aspx>

PRE-1733 LAND RECORD INDEXES ~ POST-1733 LAND RECORD INDEXES ~  
APPLICATION REGISTERS ~ SURVEYS AND SURVEY LISTS ~ MILITARY BOUNTY  
LAND ~ MAPS

### **NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF PHILADELPHIA**

14700 Townsend Road  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19154-1096  
Telephone: (215) 305-2044  
Fax: (215) 305-2038  
E-mail: [philadelphia.archives@nara.gov](mailto:philadelphia.archives@nara.gov)

#### **Records Available**

- Census Records
- Ship's Passenger Lists
- Naturalization Records
- Military Service Records

### **Scholarly Commons at University of Pennsylvania,**

**Magazine of Early American Datasets** <http://repository.upenn.edu/mead/>

The Magazine of Early American Datasets (MEAD) is an online repository of datasets compiled by historians of early North America. MEAD preserves and makes available these datasets in their original format and as comma-separated-value files (.csv). Each body of data is also accompanied by a codebook. MEAD provides sweet, intoxicating data for your investigations of early North America and the Atlantic World.

**Research at GSP** <https://genpa.org/research/>

We would appreciate knowing if you come across an error or broken link. Email [membership@genpa.org](mailto:membership@genpa.org)