



The Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania

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• National Archives of Philadelphia (NARA)

<https://www.archives.gov/philadelphia>

National Archives

14700 Townsend Rd

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19154-1095

Telephone: 215-305-2044

Fax: 215-305-2052

Email: philadelphia.archives@nara.gov

Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30a.m.-3:30p.m.

NARA is closed on all federal holidays.

The National Archives at Philadelphia contains permanently valuable federal records from Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia and West Virginia.

The self-service Public Access PC Room at NARA provides computers with free access to Ancestry, Fold3 and FamilySearch. Genealogical records, such as ship passenger lists, U.S. censuses and some naturalization records, are available on microfilm and online. There is also a small reference library for your convenience.

The Textual Research Room is used for the less commonly accessed genealogical records, such as federal court records, seamen's protections records and merchant vessel logbooks. An appointment is strongly suggested as space is limited.

Please bring photo I.D. There are lockers to store your belongings. The break room is open to the public if you wish to bring a lunch or a snack. You may consider bringing a sweater as the temperature is kept cool to help preserve the records.

National Archives catalog: <https://catalog.archives.gov/>

Guide to Archival Holdings: <https://www.archives.gov/philadelphia/holdings>

Naturalization Records

Pennsylvania: Philadelphia 1795-1991; Pittsburgh 1820-1990; Erie 1940-1972; Scranton 1900-1991; Wilkes-Barre 1942-1990; Williamsport 1906-1912 and Harrisburg 1901-1916

These records are from federal courts only. If your ancestor naturalized in a county court, check with the county archive.

The National Archives at Philadelphia also has federal naturalization records for Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia.

Some naturalization records can be found online:

https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Pennsylvania_Naturalization_and_Citizenship

Ship Passenger Records

The National Archives at Philadelphia has ship passenger records for Philadelphia, Baltimore and New York City. Many of these records can be found online. Please refer to

<https://www.archives.gov/philadelphia/family-history> and scroll down to ship passenger lists.

Census Records

The U.S. census from 1790-1940 can be accessed on site or online. The 1890 U.S. census was mostly destroyed in a fire and cannot be found. The National Archives of Philadelphia also has non-population censuses such as the Pennsylvania Agriculture Census or the Pennsylvania Mortality Census. Many of these records can be found online: https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Pennsylvania_Census and/or accessed onsite.

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 recent wars. 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 Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, 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).

For information on obtaining World War II era and later drafts cards, please see:

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

<https://www.archives.gov/philadelphia/family-history#military>

Pennsylvania Military Records Research Guide

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

- **Pennsylvania State Archives**

<https://www.phmc.pa.gov/Archives/Pages/default.aspx>

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

Mailing address: 350 North Street

Harrisburg, PA 17120

Email: ra-statearchives@pa.gov

Phone: (717) 783-3281

GPS address: 801 North 3rd Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102 Coordinates: 40.266080, -76.886053

Hours: Wed.-Fri. 9:00a.m.-4:00pm

Sat. 9:00a.m.-12:00p.m. and microfilm only from 1:00p.m.-4:00p.m.

The Pennsylvania State Archives is closed Sun.-Tue.

- **State of Pennsylvania Vital Records**

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/certificates/Pages/Vital%20Records.aspx>

Marriage and divorce certificates filed in Pennsylvania are not available from the Division of Vital Records. These certificates are usually obtained from the courthouse in the county where the marriage license was issued or divorce decree was granted.

BIRTH CERTIFICATES, 1906-1912

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 1912), click on Pennsylvania State Archives: <https://www.phmc.pa.gov/Archives/Research-Online/Pages/Birth-Indices.aspx> or the Genealogy page for all birth certificates:

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/certificates/Pages/Genealogy.aspx>

Death Certificates, 1906-1967

Original birth certificates for 1906-1912 and death certificates for 1906-1967 are available at the State Archives. Digital copies of the 1906-1910 birth certificates and the 1906-1966 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)

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/certificates/Pages/Death-Certificates.aspx>

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.

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>

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

There are many genealogical online resources found here:

<https://www.phmc.pa.gov/Archives/Research-Online/Pages/default.aspx>

•County Courthouses

<http://www.pacourts.us/courts/courts-of-common-pleas/orphans-court-clerks>

Probate- Wills Administrations

Probate records may include a 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 and evidence of occupation, religion, or military service.

Family Search: Pennsylvania Probate Records, 1683-1994

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1999196>

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

LAND RECORDS INDICES

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

Scholarly Commons at University of Pennsylvania,

Magazine of Early American Datasets

<https://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