



The Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania

2100 Byberry Road – Suite 111

Philadelphia PA 19116

Web address: www.genpa.org

Email: membership@genpa.org

BERKS 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.

Berks County was founded March 11, 1752, formed from portions of Philadelphia, Chester and Lancaster counties. County Seat: Reading Adjacent counties: Schuylkill County, Lehigh, Montgomery County, Chester County, Lancaster County, Lebanon County

BERKS COUNTY GOVERNMENT

<http://www.co.berks.pa.us/Pages/BerksCountyGovernmentOfficesDirectory.aspx>

BERKS COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES

Berks has one City: Reading. 28 Boroughs Adamstown (mostly in Lancaster County) ~ Bally ~ Bechtelsville ~ Bernville ~ Birdsboro ~ Boyertown ~ Centerport ~ Fleetwood ~ Hamburg ~ Kenhorst ~ Kutztown ~ Laureldale ~ Leesport ~ Lenhartsville ~ Lyons ~ Mohnton ~ Mount Penn ~ New Morgan ~ Robesonia ~ St. Lawrence ~ Shillington ~ Shoemakersville ~ Sinking Spring ~ Topton ~ Wernersville ~ West Reading ~ Womelsdorf ~ Wyomissing. 44 Townships: Albany ~ Alsace ~ Amity ~ Bern ~ Bethel ~ Brecknock ~ Caernarvon ~ Centre ~ Colebrookdale ~ Cumru ~ District ~ Douglass ~ Earl ~ Exeter ~ Greenwich ~ Heidelberg ~ Hereford ~ Jefferson ~ Longswamp ~ Lower Alsace ~ Lower Heidelberg ~ Maiden creek ~ Marion ~ Maxatawny ~ Muhlenberg ~ North Heidelberg ~ Oley ~ Ontelaunee ~ Penn ~ Perry ~ Pike ~ Richmond ~ Robeson ~ Rockland ~ Ruscomb manor ~ South Heidelberg ~ Spring ~ Tilden ~ Tulpehocken ~ Union ~ Upper Bern ~ Upper Tulpehocken ~ Washington ~ Windsor

Effective January 1, 2002, Wyomissing Hills Borough ceased to exist after merging with Wyomissing Borough. Effective January 1, 2006, West Lawn Borough ceased to exist after merging with Spring Township.

BERKS COUNTY PUBLIC RECORDS CENTER

The office of Register and Recorder in Berks County:

<http://www.co.berks.pa.us/recorder/site/default.asp>

Genealogy <http://www.co.berks.pa.us/Dept/RegWills/Pages/Genealogy.aspx>

JAIL/INMATE SEARCH

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

MAP

<http://usgwarchives.net/maps/pa/county/berks/usgs/>

BERKS COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

<http://www.berksgenes.org/research.html>

TRI-COUNTY HERITAGE SOCIETY: <http://www.tricountyheritage.org/>

BERKS COUNTY LIBRARIES

<http://www.berks.lib.pa.us/sco/locations/index.php>

RESOURCES

- **Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania GSP**
<http://GenPA.org>
GSP Research <https://genpa.org/research/>
- PAFamilySearch **BERKS County** – <http://www.berks.pa-roots.com/>
Berks County Vital Records USGenWeb Archives:
<http://usgwarchives.net/pa/berksp/vitals.htm>
- Berks History - <http://www.berkshistory.org/>
- **Obituaries** –
 - **LDS** <http://ldsgenealogy.com/PA>
http://www.newspaperobituaries.net/pennsylvania/berks_county_obituaries.htm
- **County Newspapers**
 - o <http://www.berksmontnews.com/> –
- **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/Berks_County,_Pennsylvania_Genealogy#Berks_County.2C_Pennsylvania_Historical_Facts
- **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
- **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)**
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

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

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).

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>

PENNSYLVANIA STATISTICS 2017

https://pasdc.hbg.psu.edu/sdc/pasdc_files/pastats/PAFacts_2017.pdf

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

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