

Ethnic and Minority History

The Pennsylvania State Archives offers research opportunities for those interested in the study of ethnic and racial groups and partners with the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom.

Notable holdings include:

- The first state law in the U.S. to abolish slavery
- Muster rolls for the United States Colored Troops in the American Civil War
- Works Progress Administration historical and cultural projects
- Ethnic studies and oral history collections



ECW Camp in Rothrock State Forest, Mifflin County, 1933.

Genealogical Resources

The Archives holds a broad range of sources that help to document family history. Frequently consulted materials include:

- Birth and death records (1852–1854, 1893–1906)
- Original 20th-century birth and death certificates beginning 1906
- Marriage records (1742–1762, 1852–1854, 1885 and thereafter)
- 18,000 rolls of county records on microfilm—wills, deeds, tax records, etc.
- Military records from the French and Indian War through the Vietnam War
- Pension records for the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812
- Philadelphia ships' lists of German passengers (1727–1808)
- Colonial naturalizations (1740–1773)
- Pennsylvania Supreme Court naturalizations (1794–1868)
- Federal population censuses on microfilms and soundexes (1790–1930)
- U.S. Direct Tax of 1798, also known as the Glass Tax
- Pennsylvania Septennial Censuses (1779–1821)
- Pennsylvania Farm Censuses (1924, 1927)
- State land records including warrants, surveys, and patents (1667–2000)
- State penitentiary records (1829–1972)
- Occupational records for coal miners, doctors, and teachers
- Maps
- Family papers
- Free access to Ancestry.com.



WWI veteran Bob Hoffman, founder of York Barbell Company.

All images in this brochure are from the Pennsylvania State Archives.

Copying and Research Services

The Pennsylvania State Archives offers reproduction services in several formats such as photocopies, digital scans, and microfilm. The Archives reserves the right to determine the appropriate method for producing copies of items in its custody.

Limited research services are available for those who cannot travel to Harrisburg. Staff will search only original records held by the Archives. This reference service does not apply to the microfilms of county records, federal censuses, or materials held by other institutions. All research fees are nonrefundable.

Current prices and ordering information are found on our website or by telephone. Payment is required in advance for copying and other research services.

Pennsylvania State Archives

350 North Street • Harrisburg, PA 17120-0090

www.PAStateArchives.com

(717) 783-3281

Research Hours

Wednesday–Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Saturday (microfilm use only), 9:00 a.m. to noon, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Closed Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Saturday after Thanksgiving, and state holidays. Please phone before visiting to check current hours.

Admission is free. No appointment is required except when using special media, or unprocessed or restricted holdings.

Location

Southeast corner of Third and Forster Streets, adjacent to The State Museum of Pennsylvania. Enter at the art deco gates facing Third Street. Visit www.pastatearchives.com for directions.

Parking

Metered street parking and garages are nearby. Street parking is free on Saturday.

Pennsylvania Trails of History®

The Pennsylvania State Archives, adjacent to the State Capital in Harrisburg, is one of 25 historic sites and museums administered by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission as part of the Pennsylvania Trails of History.®

Visit www.PATrailsofHistory.com and begin your journey today.



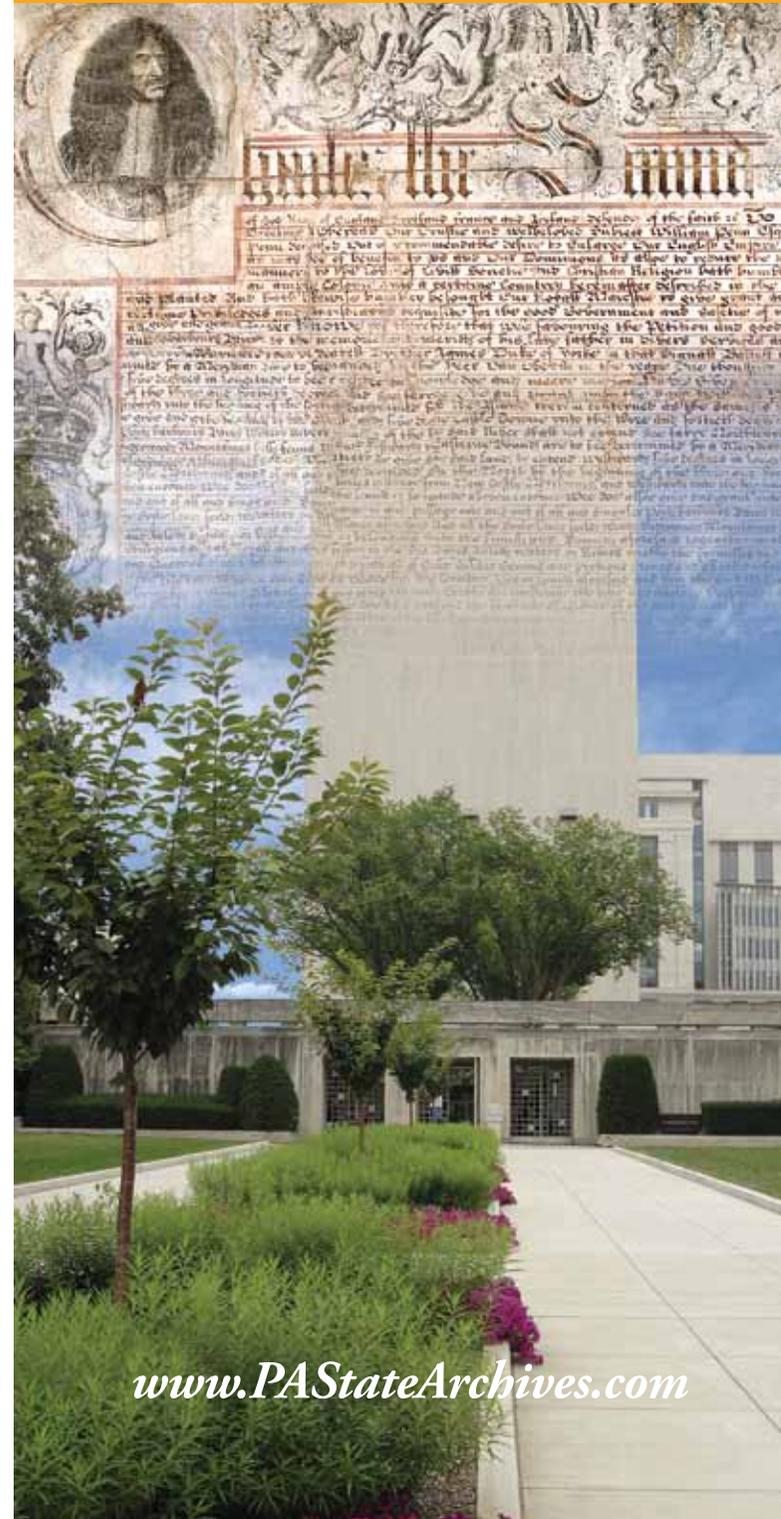
Pennsylvania
Historical & Museum
Commission

www.phmc.state.pa.us

Tom Wolf, Governor
Andrew E. Masich, Chairman
James M. Vaughan, Executive Director



The Pennsylvania State Archives



www.PAStateArchives.com



Whether exploring Pennsylvania's documentary heritage or learning about your family's past, you'll discover a wealth of resources at the Pennsylvania State Archives. Established in 1903 as an administrative unit of the Pennsylvania State Library, the State Archives was combined with the Pennsylvania Historical Commission in 1945 to form the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC).

The primary function of the State Archives is to acquire, preserve, and make available for study, the historical public records of the Commonwealth. The State Archives also acquires select private papers relevant to Pennsylvania history.

Pennsylvania State Archives Web Resources

The State Archives website provides topical research guides, container or folder listings of collections, digital copies of some records and indexes, and information about Archives policies and fees. You can access these web resources by visiting www.pastatearchives.com.



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(Top) President Franklin D. Roosevelt in Harrisburg, 1936. (Bottom) Judge Genevieve Blatt.

Collections

The holdings (1664 to the present) include 78,000 cubic feet of research materials and 30,000 rolls of microfilm. More than 80 record groups contain materials from the Commonwealth's executive departments, boards, and commissions; records from the legislative and judicial branches of state government; and selected records of county and municipal governments. More than 500 manuscript groups contain the records and papers of prominent individuals, families, business concerns, and numerous social, cultural, political, and military organizations relating to many aspects of Pennsylvania history and culture. Descriptive information about the holdings and digital copies of some documents in the State Archives are available on the State Archives website.

State Land Records

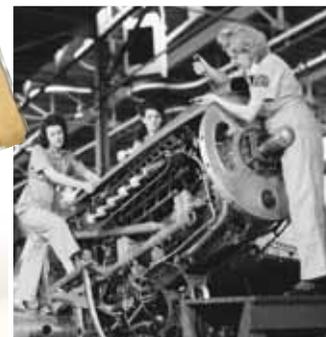
The state land records (1667–2000) document the original purchases of land from the Penn family and the Commonwealth. They include:

- Purchases from William Penn
- Land warrants and applications
- Original surveys and copied survey books
- Patent books
- Warrant registers and patent indexes
- Warrantee maps for about 30% of Pennsylvania's townships
- Donation lands papers – grants to Pennsylvania Line veterans of the Revolutionary War
- Virginia claims
- Connecticut claimants files
- Land office map collection

Detailed information about the land records, digital images of many of the indexes, and more frequently used documents in the State Archives can be found on the State Archives website.



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(Top left) 1684 William Penn land warrant. (Top right) Women refurbishing airplane engines during WWII. (Above) Pennsylvania Railroad's "Broadway Limited," 1938.

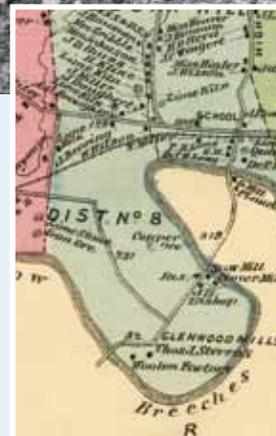
Transportation and Industrial Records

- State road and turnpike maps (1706–1873)
- Port of Philadelphia records (1728–1982)
- Cornwall Furnace records (1757–1940)
- Internal improvements files (1777–1902)
- Pine Grove Furnace records (1785–1914)
- Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company records (1792–1978)
- Pennsylvania Main Line Canal records (1816–1868)
- Fall Brook Railroad and Coal Company records (1819–1938)
- Baldwin Locomotive Works records (1834–1962)
- Pennsylvania Railroad records (1835–1968)
- Lehigh Valley Railroad records (1849–1962)
- Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission records (1882–1990)
- Mine accident registers (1899–1975)
- Industrial Board minutes (1914–1986)
- Department of Highways photographs (1907–1966)



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(Above) Logging near Leetonia, Tioga County. (Right) Upper Allen Township in 1872, Atlas of Cumberland County.



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Special Media

The Archives collections include non-textual materials from public and private sources:

- 3,400 land office drafts and maps
- Aerial photographs (1937–1940)
- Postcards for all counties
- Over 500 posters
- 600 oral history recordings
- Motion picture films
- Philadelphia Commercial Museum photograph collection
- Photographs, negatives, and slides from various state agencies

Pennsylvania coal miners drilling in the 1930s.



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