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)
- 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

Copying and Research Services

The Pennsylvania State Archives offers reproduction services in paper and digital formats. The Archives reserves the right to determine the appropriate method for copying 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 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 research services.

Research Hours

Wednesday–Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Saturday (microfilm use only), 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 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 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.pastearchives.com for directions.

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

Parking

Metered street parking and garages are nearby. Street parking is free on Saturday in selected areas. Call the State Archives for directions.

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 State Archives
350 North Street • Harrisburg, PA 17120-0090
www.PAStateArchives.com
(717) 783-3281
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.

Collection
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. Over 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.

Special Media
The Archives collections include non-textual materials from public and private sources:
- 4,000 land office drafts and maps
- Aerial photographs (1937–1942)
- Postcards for all counties

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 (1882–2009)
- Mine accident registers (1899–1975)
- Industrial Board minutes (1914–1986)
- Department of Highways photographs (1907–1966)

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