



The Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania
2207 Chestnut Street
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215-545-0391

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PHILADELPHIA REPOSITORIES

Researchers are urged to consult the web sites listed for each repository for information about holdings, current hours, and current admission fees.

FREE LIBRARY OF PHILADELPHIA, 1901 Vine St., Philadelphia, PA 19103. 215-686-5322. Useful for research are maps, business and city directories, newspapers, government documents, index to ship photographs, ethnic guidebooks, government documents, and collective biographies. Map Collection 215-686-5396. Newspaper Center 215-686-5431.

Web site: www.library.phila.gov

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA, 2207 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103, 215-545-0391. Online collections include: Mt. Moriah Cemetery, Kensington Methodist Episcopal Church, Kimmerle & Helverson Funeral Home Records, Charles Barker Register of Burying Grounds in Philadelphia, Philadelphia *Public Ledger* newspaper indexes, 1836 – 1875, and *Pennsylvania Genealogical Magazine*.

Web site: www.genpa.org

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA, 1300 Locust St. Philadelphia, PA 19107, 215-732-6200. Library houses the HSP collections, the Genealogical Collection that was compiled mainly by GSP volunteers, plus the library of the Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies. Four card catalogs serve as a guide to their holdings: published materials catalog, published books prior to 1952, manuscript collections, and microfilm collection. Many collection finding aids now online. Strong in all areas of genealogical and historical research. Current non-member day research fee \$8. Online catalog includes most GSP holdings for churches and cemeteries.

Web site: www.hsp.org

NATIONAL ARCHIVES, MID-ATLANTIC REGION, ^{14700 Townsend Rd. Phila, PA 19154} ~~900 Market St. (entrance on Chestnut Street between 9th and 10th)~~, Philadelphia, PA 19107, 215-606-0112. Research center with U.S. census, military – WWI and WWII draft cards – ship passenger lists, federal court records, including naturalizations, 1798 U.S. Direct Tax – Pennsylvania (window pane tax). Access to Ancestry.com.

Web site: <http://www.archives.gov/midatlantic> *philadelphia/*

PHILADELPHIA CITY ARCHIVES, 3101 Market St., 1st Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19104, 215-685-9400. Vital records from 1860 to June 1915, deeds before 1952, naturalization records from Philadelphia county courts, early Philadelphia tax records & City directories. Hours are Mon., Wed. & Fri. 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM.

Web site: www.phila.gov/phils/carchive.htm

PHILADELPHIA CITY HALL, Broad and Market streets

- A) Register of Wills office, Rooms 180-187, (215-686-6253): Indexes to Wills and Administrations, 1682–present. Microfilm or microfiche of original wills (limited readers). Original probate packets, both wills and administrations, are to be ordered at Room 180; next day retrieval: *Entrance-northwest quadrant*
- B) Orphans' Court, City Hall, Room 415, (215-686-2234): Marriage License Bureau maintains indexes and marriages from 1885 to present. *Entrance – northeast corner of building – sign in with picture ID*
- C) Recorder of Deeds, Room 154, (215-686-2292): Holds deeds after 1952 on microform that must be paged.
- D) Prothonotary, Room 284, (215-686-6670): Listing of divorces: 1800–1973 on microfilm; 1973–present on computer.

Note: Off-site storage of some records; retrieval time required.

PHILADELPHIA RECORDS

Birth: Begin July 1860

- July 1860–June 1915: **PCA**
- January 1906–present: Bureau of Vital Statistics, PO Box 1528, New Castle, PA, 16103
- Indexes for birth (1906 – 1908) are available online at –
http://www.portal.health.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/public_records/206861

Death: Begin July 1860

- July 1860–June 1915: **PCA**; microfilm to 1903 at **HSP**
- WPA Index to Cemetery Returns, 1803–1860: **PCA** and **HSP**
- Cemetery Returns & Death Certificates 1803-1915 – FamilySearch - <http://www.familysearch.org>
- Indexes for death, (1906 –1963) are available online –
http://www.portal.health.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/public_records/206861
- 1906-1924: Death Certificates available online at Ancestry.com

Marriage: Begin 1860

- 1860–1885: **PCA**; microfilm at **HSP**.
- 1885–1915: Index, applications, and returns at **PCA**.
- 1885–1915: Index on microfilm at **HSP**
- 1916–present: Orphan's Court, Room 415, City Hall
- 1885-1951 Indexes available online at FamilySearch – <http://www.familysearch.org>

Divorce:

- 1786 – 1815 Consult Pennsylvania State Archives (Series #33.41)
- Records sealed, copies of dockets available 1851-1875, 14 vols. Indexed: **PCA**
- Index only of divorces 1875-1970 available in Prothonotary's Office, Room 278, City Hall, 215-686-6652

Probate—Wills and Administrations:

- Indexes to Wills and Administrations, 1683–present: Room 185-187 City Hall
- Wills and accompanying papers (inventory, account, etc.) on microfilm: Room 185-187, City Hall.
- Original Probate Packets: **PCA** (Register of Wills Archives: to view files: [order at City Hall, Room 180](#))
- Indexes to Wills and Administrations to 1900. Will Books to 1901: microfilm **HSP**.
- Abstracts of Wills to 1825: **GSP** and **HSP**
- Printed indexes 1683–1850: **GSP** and **HSP**

Orphans Court (excluding marriages)

- Indexes, estate files, and court dockets, 1878–present: Room 415, City Hall
- Indexes 1719–1852, 1852–1878, 1878–1938: microfilm at **PCA**
- Estate files 1719–1856; Court Dockets 1719–October 1880: **PCA**
- Indexes 1719–1852, 1852–1878, 1878–1938; Estate files 1719–1856: microfilm **HSP**
- Dockets 1719–1878; estate papers 1719–1856: microfilm **HSP**

Land and Property:

- Grantee and Grantor indexes and Deed Books, 1683–1951: **PCA**
- Indexes and Deed Books, 1683–1951: microfilm at **HSP** (several years missing)
- Indexes and Deed Books, 1952– present, Room 153 City Hall
- Indexes and Mortgage Books, 1749–1952: **PCA** (recorded in Deed Books before 1749)
- Indexes and Mortgage Books, 1952–present: Room 153, City Hall
- First land transactions through Proprietors at Pennsylvania State Archives – Scanned Land Records Online -
http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/land_records/3184
- First land transactions: some microfilm at **HSP & PCA**
- Historic Deed Indexes online, *only* 1682-1976, Philadelphia Department of Records -
<http://philadox.phila.gov/phillyhistoricalindex/index.html>

Key to Repositories

GSP - Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania

HSP - Historical Society of Pennsylvania

PCA – Philadelphia City Archives