



**The Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania**

**2207 Chestnut Street**

**Philadelphia, PA 19103**

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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](http://www.library.phila.gov)

**GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA**, 2207 Chestnut St., Philadelphia, PA 19103, (215) 545-0391. Online database: Mt. Moriah Cemetery, Kensington Methodist Episcopal Church, Rehoboth Methodist Church, and Helverson Funeral Records (19<sup>th</sup> century); 1800 Septennial census Delaware County. Partial catalog on-line plus indices to Bible records and manuscript collections. Web site: [www.genpa.org](http://www.genpa.org)

**HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA**, 1300 Locust St. Philadelphia, PA 19107, (215) 732-6200. Library houses 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. Strong in all areas of genealogical and historical research. Current non-member day fee: \$6. Web site: [www.hsp.org](http://www.hsp.org) Online catalog includes most GSP holdings for churches and cemeteries, deeds and probate for most Pennsylvania counties. Access to Ancestry.com.

**NATIONAL ARCHIVES, MID-ATLANTIC REGION**, 900 Market St. (entrance on Chestnut Street between 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>), Philadelphia, PA 19107, (215) 606-0100. 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 CITY ARCHIVES**, 3101 Market St., 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19104-2807, (215) 685-9400. Vital records from 1860 to 1915, deeds before 1952, naturalization records from Philadelphia county courts, early Philadelphia tax records. City directories. Web site: [www.phila.gov/phils/carchive.htm](http://www.phila.gov/phils/carchive.htm)

**PHILADELPHIA CITY HALL**, Broad and Market streets

- A) Register of Wills office, Room 185, (215-686-6261): 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 – visitors entrance**
- C) Recorder of Deeds, Room 154, (215-686-1776): Holds deeds after 1952 on microform that must be paged.
- D) Prothonotary, Room 266, (215-686-6663): Listing of divorces: 1800–1973 on microfilm; 1973–present on computer. **Entrance – northeast corner of building – visitors entrance**

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

December 2009

## PHILADELPHIA RECORDS

### **Birth:** Begin July 1860

- July 1860–June 1915: **PCA**
- January 1906– present: Bureau of Vital Statistics, P O Box 1528, New Castle, PA, 16103.  
Web site: <http://www.dsf.health.state.pa.us/health/cwp/view.asp?a=168&O=229939>  
provides downloadable request forms

### **Death:** Begin July 1860

- July 1860–June 1915: **PCA**; microfilm to 1903 at **HSP**
- January 1906–present: Bureau of Vital Statistics, New Castle, PA (see Births).
- WPA Index to Cemetery Returns, 1803–1860: **PCA** and **HSP**
- Death certificates & Index 1803-1915 online – FamilySearch Labs Pilot Site: [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)

### **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: Philadelphia Marriage Indexes – FamilySearch Labs Pilot Site: [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)

### **Divorce:** Begin 1800

- Records are sealed, copies of dockets available
- Listing of divorces available in Prothonotary’s Office, Room 266, City Hall

### **Probate—Wills and Administrations:**

- Indexes to Wills and Administrations, 1683–present: Room 185 City Hall
- Wills and accompanying papers (inventory, account, etc.) on microfilm: Room 185, 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 at **HSP**.
- Abstracts of Wills to 1825: **HSP** - Printed Indexes 1683-1850: **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 at **HSP**
- Dockets 1719–1878; estate papers 1719–1856: microfilm at **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
- First land transactions: some microfilm at **HSP & PCA**
- Deed Indexes *only* 1682-1976, Philadelphia Dept. of Records: [philadox.phila.gov](http://philadox.phila.gov)

### **Key to Repositories**

**GSP** - Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania

**HSP** - Historical Society of Pennsylvania

**PCA** – Philadelphia City Archives