

CREATE A LOCATION RESOURCE GUIDE FOR REASONABLY EXHAUSTIVE RESEARCH - PENNSYLVANIA EXAMPLE

Janet Keating McNaughton

jkmcnaughton1@gmail.com

Genealogical Society of Santa Cruz County 7 June 2022

GOAL Provide ideas for the creation of a Location Resource Guide - a personalized guide for sources available for reasonably exhaustive research of specific research questions in a particular location.

RESEARCH PROCESS

Board for Certification of Genealogists, Genealogical Proof Standard

First of five steps - "reasonably exhaustive search in reliable sources for all information that is or may be pertinent to the identity, relationship, event, or situation in question."

Board for Certification of Genealogists, *The BCG Genealogical Standards Manual*. Provo, Utah: Ancestry Publishing, 2000, 1.

Family Search > Research Wiki> "Restart the Research Cycle"

1. Identify what you know about your family.
2. Decide what you want to learn about your family.
3. Select Records to search.
4. Obtain and search the record.
5. Use the information."

[https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Restart the Research Cycle](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Restart_the_Research_Cycle)

FORMAT

Word document with hyperlinks

Excel with hyperlinks

Notebook

Pinterest

Evernote

(Best format - the one you will use)

MORE INFO ABT LOCALITY GUIDES

BLOG - Genealogy Pants, Cari Taplin, CG, "Building a Location Guide: The Basics"

May 5, 2021 first of a series of blog posts on locality guides.

<https://genealogypants.com/2021/05/05/building-a-locality-guide-the-basics/>

Series continued through August 11, 2021 (examples for Wood County, Ohio)

BLOG - Family Locket.com, Diana Elder, AG, and Nicole Dyer

"Create Your Own Genealogy Research Guide," June 16, 2016

<https://familylocket.com/create-your-own-research-guide/>

BOOK - Elder AG, Diana, and Nicole Dyer, *Research Like a Pro: A Genealogist's Guide*, (Family Locket Books, Highland Utah) 2018, 33-44.

Chapter 3, "Locality Research"

PODCAST - Family Locket.com, Research Like a Pro (RLP)

RLP186 - Revisiting Locality Research Again, January 24, 2022

<https://familylocket.com/the-research-like-a-pro-genealogy-podcast/>

Research Reference Guide, International Commission for the Accreditation of Professional Genealogists (ICAPGen)

<https://www.icapgen.org/become-accredited/research-reference-guide/>

You Tube - ICAP Gen channel

"Using Locality Research to Solve Complex Problems," Mindy Taylor AG

"Creating a Research Reference Guide," Julie Stoddard, AG

OTHER PA RESOURCE GUIDES

American Ancestors by New England Historic Genealogical Society (subscription or free guest membership)

Pennsylvania Genealogy

<https://www.americanancestors.org/tools/pennsylvania-genealogy>

Library of Congress, Research Guides

Pennsylvania: Local History & Genealogy Resource Guide

<https://guides.loc.gov/pennsylvania-local-history-genealogy>

Main Reading Room > Pennsylvania: State Resource Guide

<https://guides.loc.gov/pennsylvania-state-guide>

The Newberry, Pennsylvania Genealogy

<https://www.newberry.org/pennsylvania-genealogy>

Family Tree Magazine, US State Research Guides for sale, including Pennsylvania (\$3 digital download)

<https://familytreemagazine.com/product-category/family-tree-magazine/genealogy-research-state-guides/>

National Genealogical Society, Research in the States Series

Haviland Freilich, Kay, CG, CGL, FNGS, *Research in Pennsylvania*, Third edition, 2016

PA STATE RESOURCE GUIDE

Updated 4 June 2022

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Suggestions for record types depending on the research question - Family Search> Research Wiki>

United States Record Finder

[https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/United States Record Finder](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/United_States_Record_Finder)

RESOURCE	NOTES
PENNSYLVANIA OVERVIEW	
Ancestry.com> Help> Support Center> Search> Finding Records (Search and Records)> Search Resources> Ancestry Academy OR Ancestryacademy.com (need free or paid registration)	https://www.ancestryacademy.com/browse Researching a State Pennsylvania: Genealogical Research in the Keystone State (12 part course) https://www.ancestryacademy.com/pennsylvania-genealogical-research-in-the-keystone-state Michael D. Lacopo, DVM
Cyndislist Cyndi Howells https://www.cyndislist.com/	https://www.cyndislist.com/us/pa/ 4561 Links as of 3 June 2022
Family Search https://www.familysearch.org/	Family Search> Search> Research Wiki Pennsylvania, United States Genealogy Page includes links to County entries and Record Types https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Pennsylvania, United States Genealogy
Family Search > Search> Catalog	https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog United States, Pennsylvania
Family Search > Records	Search by Location> Pennsylvania https://www.familysearch.org/search/location/united-states-of-america/pennsylvania Page has links to Learning Courses (201 courses - 17 results for Pennsylvania) Family Search Wiki Indexed Historical Records Image-Only Historical Records

RESOURCE	NOTES
Maps of World https://www.mapsofworld.com/	https://www.mapsofworld.com/usa/states/pennsylvania/pennsylvania-state-profile.html Website includes brief history of PA, geography, and many PA maps. Profile page has links to other PA pages
PGenWeb http://www.pagenweb.org/	Pennsylvania State page, part of USGenWeb Project Also has links to Pennsylvania County pages
Rootsweb https://home.rootsweb.com/	Quick link to <i>Red Book: American State, County, and Town Sources</i> https://wiki.rootsweb.com/wiki/index.php/Red Book: American State, County, and Town Sources Links to all states, including Pennsylvania https://wiki.rootsweb.com/wiki/index.php/Pennsylvania Family History Research
The Family History Guide https://www.thefhguide.com/	Countries> United States> Pennsylvania https://www.thefhguide.com/project-9-us-pennsylvania.html
You Tube Allen County Public Library	Pennsylvania Genealogy: Doing Research in the Keystone State, by John D. Beatty, CG, 22 February 2021
You Tube Ancestry Channel	Pennsylvania Family History Research By Crista Cowan, 11 November 2014 (applies to other states as well)
You Tube	Search Pennsylvania Genealogy
STATUTES	
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Legislative Reference Bureau	http://www.palrb.us/ Project to preserve and provide public access to Pennsylvania Province and Commonwealth laws from 1682 to the present Statutes at Large completed (through the early nineteenth century). See also Smith's Laws (1700-1829) and Pamphlet laws (1801-present).
Cyndi's List https://www.cyndislist.com/us/pa/laws/	United States> Pennsylvania> Laws and Statutes 10 links as of 3 June 2022
The Legal Genealogist Blog Judy Russell, JD, CG, CGL "Keystone Statutes" 13 Sept. 2019	https://www.legalgenealogist.com/2019/09/13/keystone-statutes/

RESOURCE	NOTES
The Advancing Genealogist Debbie Mieszla, CG Law Library Index http://advancinggenealogist.com/laws-and-statutes-index/	Pennsylvania http://advancinggenealogist.com/law-pennsylvania/
ARCHIVES, SOCIETIES, LIBRARIES	
National Archives Philadelphia	https://www.archives.gov/philadelphia Genealogy and Historical Research at Philadelphia https://www.archives.gov/philadelphia/research
Pennsylvania State Archives (Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission)	https://www.phmc.pa.gov/Archives/Pages/default.aspx
Pennsylvania State Library	Genealogy and Local History https://www.statelibrary.pa.gov/GeneralPublic/Learn/Genealogy-and-Local-History/Pages/default.aspx
Historical Society of Pennsylvania	https://www.portal.hsp.org/ https://www.portal.hsp.org/for-genealogy
Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania	https://genpa.org/ Pennsylvania Resources https://genpa.org/public-collections/pennsylvania-resources/
Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh Pennsylvania Department	https://www.carnegielibrary.org/research-overview/genealogy/
Lancaster History (formerly Lancaster County Historical Society) https://www.lancasterhistory.org/	Research Center https://www.lancasterhistory.org/research/
North Hills Genealogists https://northhillsgenealogists.org/	“Bringing the World of Genealogy to Pittsburgh’s North Hills”

RESOURCE	NOTES
Berks County Genealogical Society https://berksgenes.org/	Library open 7 days a week, noon to 4:00 Library includes unique books created by members (including cemeteries and church record indexes)
Tulpehocken Settlement Historical Society https://tulpehockenroots.org/	Stephen Brecht Genealogical Library "over 10,000 books and papers" Library Inventory https://tulpehockenroots.org/library-inventory/
BOOKS	
Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center https://acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy	> Pathfinders > Snapshots States "A handy List of selected research guides and record indexes to help you get started in any state." Pennsylvania https://acpl.lib.in.us/images/Documents/Gendocs/States/pennsylvania-sg.pdf
Family Search > Books https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/	Family Search Digital Library Search term "Pennsylvania" 232, 743 results as of 3 June 2022
Family Search > Catalog	United States, Pennsylvania
Google Books	https://books.google.com/
Hathi Trust Digital Library	https://www.hathitrust.org/
World Cat https://www.worldcat.org/	"World's Largest Library Catalog"
County Histories	Blog - Empty Branches on the Family Tree Linda Stufflebean https://emptybranchesonthefamilytree.com/county-histories/ Links to digitized county histories for 50 states
PUBLISHED PENNSYLVANIA ARCHIVES	
Ancestry.com	118 of 138 Volumes - Pennsylvania, Published Archives Series, 1664 - 1902

RESOURCE	NOTES
Fold3.com https://www.fold3.com/publication/450/pennsylvania-archives	99% of 138 Volumes - Free access with basic free registration Description of Pennsylvania Archives set - article by Elissa Scalise Powell https://www.fold3.com/publication/450/pennsylvania-archives/description
Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission> Archives> Research Online> Research Guides	Published Pennsylvania Archives https://www.phmc.pa.gov/Archives/Research-Online/Pages/Published-PA-Archives.aspx
BIRTH, DEATH, AND MARRIAGES	
<p> Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Vital Statistics Records https://www.phmc.pa.gov/Archives/Research-Online/Pages/Vital-Statistics.aspx </p> <p> PA attempted requiring birth, death and marriage registration in 1852. Compliance was poor but some state records were kept between 1852 and 1854. </p> <p> State birth and death records start in 1906. Cities and Counties may have kept records earlier. Example - Pittsburgh began keeping birth, death, and marriage returns 1870. </p> <p> 1893 - Counties (Clerk of Orphans Court) began keeping birth and death records. </p> <p> PA State Birth certificates now available 105 years after birth. Original birth certificates, 1906-1916, available at Pennsylvania State Archives. Digital copies available on Ancestry Pennsylvania, U.S., Birth Certificates, 1906-1913 https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/60484/ </p> <p> PA State Death certificates now available 50 years after death. Original death certificates, 1906-1971, available at Pennsylvania State Archives. Digital copies available on Ancestry Pennsylvania, U.S., Death Certificates, 1906-1968 https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/5164/ </p> <p> Note - Pennsylvania State Archives and Ancestry have a partnership for digitizing records and making them available free of charge for PA residents. Ancestry.com Pennsylvania includes the birth and death databases. Directions for opening a free account can be found on the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission website. https://www.phmc.pa.gov/Archives/Research-Online/Pages/Ancestry-PA.aspx </p> <p> Marriage License Applications - County Records (Clerk of Orphans Court) started in 1885. </p> <p> Pennsylvania, U.S., Marriages, 1852-1968. https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/61381/ </p>	

RESOURCE	NOTES
Family Search Guided Research	https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/GuidedResearch:Pennsylvania Part of the Research Wiki, "indexes for birth, marriage, and death information"
CHURCH RECORDS	
Church Records can also be found at Ancestry.com, Family Search, My Heritage, etc.	
Catholic	Records held by individual churches and/or Dioceses
Philadelphia	Catholic Historical Research Center of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia https://chrc-phila.org/ See also Catholic databases at Findmypast.com.
Pittsburgh	Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh> Offices> Archives and Records Center https://diopitt.org/archives
Episcopal Church	The Archives of the Episcopal Church (Austin, Texas) Genealogical Research https://www.episcopalarchives.org/resources/genealogical-research
Mennonite	Family Search> Research Wiki> Mennonite Church in the United States https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Mennonite_Church_in_the_United_States
Methodist	General Commission on Archives and History, The United Methodist Church "Baptism and local church membership records are kept at the local church." http://www.gcah.org/research/local-church-records
Presbyterian	Presbyterian Historical Society https://www.history.pcusa.org/
Quakers and Friends	Haverford College Library Quaker Collection https://www.haverford.edu/library/quaker-special-collections Swarthmore College Friends Historical Library https://www.swarthmore.edu/friends-historical-library

RESOURCE	NOTES
ETHNIC GROUPS	
African American Genealogy Group (Philadelphia)	Resources https://aagg.org/gene-resources/
American Swedish Historical Museum (Philadelphia)	https://www.americanswedish.org/education/adult Page describes Genealogy Sessions
Pennsylvania German Cultural Heritage Center Library	Kutztown University, Kutztown, Pennsylvania https://www.kutztown.edu/about-ku/administrative-offices/pennsylvania-german-cultural-heritage-center/heritage-center-library.html
The German Society of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia)	Joseph P. Horner Memorial Library http://www.germansociety.org/horner-library/ https://www.germansociety.org/
Polish American Cultural Center (Philadelphia)	http://www.polishamericancenter.org/
LAND RECORDS	
Land grant state - land records started 1682 (Wm. Penn grant 1681). First purchase - warrant, then deeds (County Records)	
Ancestor Tracks	Pennsylvania Land Ownership Maps https://ancestortracks.com/wp/
Family Search> Search> Research Wiki	Pennsylvania Land and Property https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Pennsylvania_Land_and_Property
Pennsylvania Agricultural History Project	https://www.phmc.pa.gov/Preservation/Pennsylvania-Agricultural-History-Project/Pages/default.aspx
<u>Pennsylvania Land Records, a History and Guide for Research</u> , Donna Bingham Munger Scholarly Resources Inc., Wilmington, Delaware (1991)	
MAPS	
AncestorTracks	Web site to help track PA ancestors through their land, includes free resources and links https://ancestortracks.com/

RESOURCE	NOTES
Map of Us	Historical Atlases and Maps of U.S. and States https://www.mapofus.org/pennsylvania/
Newberry Library	Atlas of Historical County Boundaries https://www.newberry.org/atlas-historical-county-boundaries
Penn State University Libraries Maps Collections	“[L]argest map collection in Pennsylvania” https://guides.libraries.psu.edu/maps
RandyMajors.com	https://www.randymajors.org/tag/genealogy Includes Historical U.S. County Boundary Maps and World Boundary Maps
US GenWeb	US Gen Web Archives Digital Map Library - Pennsylvania http://www.usgwarchives.net/maps/pa/
MILITARY RECORDS	
Family Search> Search> Research Wiki	Pennsylvania Military Records https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Pennsylvania_Military_Records
Grand Army of the Republic War Museum and Library (Philadelphia)	https://garmuslib.org/ Research Archives
Cyndis' List	United States> Pennsylvania> Military 118 Links as of 4 June 2022 https://www.cyndislist.com/us/pa/military/
Published Pennsylvania Archives	
NEWSPAPERS	
Pennsylvania State Library	https://pa-gov.libguides.com/pennsylvania_newspapers
Penn State's Pennsylvania Newspaper Archive (free)	https://libraries.psu.edu/about/collections/digital-newspapers/pennsylvania-newspaper-archive

RESOURCE	NOTES
Ancestor Hunt Kenneth Marks https://theancestorhunt.com/	24 Resource Categories, All US newspapers/ states Newspaper Links Pennsylvania Online Historical Newspaper Summary https://theancestorhunt.com/newspaper-research-links.html
Chronicling America	Library of Congress http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/
Elephind Search engine for digitized newspaper collections https://www.elephind.com/	Described in The Advancing Genealogist, "Advancing Your Reach: Finding Free Digitized Newspapers" 3 Jan. 2022 http://advancinggenealogist.com/2022/01/advancing-your-reach-finding-free-digitized-newspapers/
PROBATE	
County Records	
Family Search > Records	Pennsylvania Probate Records, 1683-1994 (not indexed) https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1999196 Browse 3,200,560 images Divided by County and by Record Type, Date, Volume or Surname range
PHILADELPHIA	
Ancestry.com	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, U.S., Death Certificates Index, 1803-1915 https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/2535
Greater Philadelphia GeoHistory Network	https://www.philageohistory.org/geohistory/index.cfm "The purpose of the Greater Philadelphia GeoHistory Network is to gather geographic materials useful for the study of historic Philadelphia and its region."
Philadelphia City Archives	https://www.phila.gov/departments/department-of-records/city-archives/
PITTSBURGH	
Historic Pittsburgh Hosted by the University of	"Historic Pittsburgh comprises primary and secondary sources about the greater Pittsburgh region, including a wide range of

RESOURCE	NOTES
Pittsburgh Library System https://historicpittsburgh.org/	publications, maps, manuscripts, visual images, and audio-video materials that support personal and scholarly research.”
Heinz History Center Detre Library and Archives	Western Pennsylvania History https://www.heinzhistorycenter.org/detre-library-archives
BLOGS/ PODCASTS	
PA Ancestors (Denys Allen)	https://paancestors.com/ Blog, Podcast
Alice Childs	Utah professional researcher, writes about accreditation and Pennsylvania research “Research Like a Pro Study Group: Locality Research” Blog post about creating a Pennsylvania Locality Guide 13 May 2019 https://alicechilds.com/research-like-a-pro-study-group-locality-research/
FACEBOOK	
Pennsylvania Genealogy Network	
Allegheny County PA Genealogy	

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