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History

- Population growth
- Steerage Act of 1819
- Transportation innovations
- Civil War
- Industrial growth

Major Record Sets

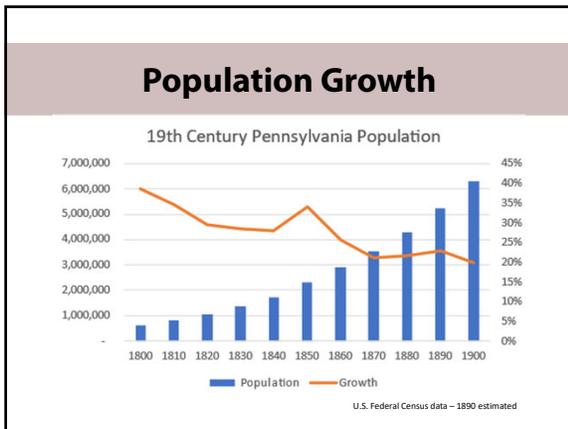
- Census and city directories
- Vital and Religious records
- Immigration and naturalization
- Newspaper
- Military and pension

Other

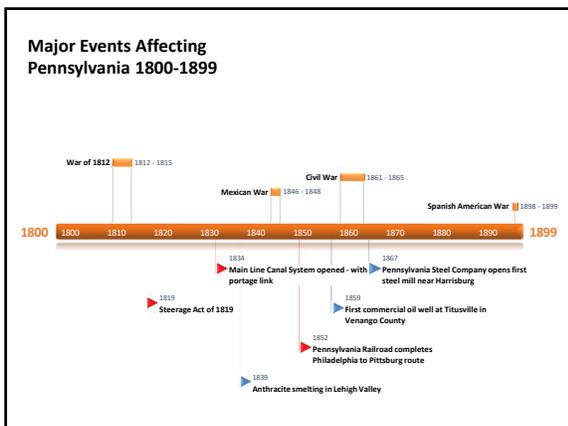
- County histories
- Manuscripts
- Common problems and their solutions

Voice of
Ann G. Lawthers

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Steerage Act of 1819

- Became effect in January 1820
- Regulated the conditions of transport for passengers
 - Limited number of passenger per tonnage of ship to prevent overcrowding
 - Minimum conditions for provisioning specified
- All captains required to submit a manifest of passengers to port authorities

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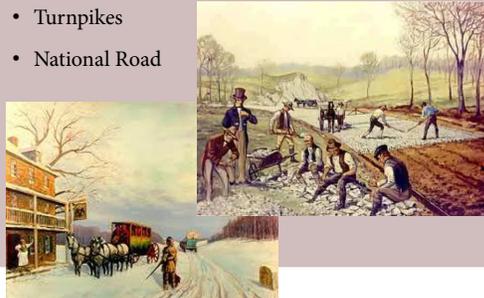
Immigration Patterns

- 1800-1830
 - Mostly from the British Isles and German-speaking regions
- 1830-1860
 - Increase in numbers of Roman Catholic Irish, especially during famine period
- 1860-1900
 - Eastern European

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Post Revolutionary War Transportation Innovations

- Turnpikes
- National Road



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National Road

- Built with Congressional Funds
- Begun in 1811 in Cumberland Maryland, to Wheeling, West Virginia by 1818 and Vandalia, Illinois by 1837 – money ran out
- Huge economic boon: one tavern every ten miles

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Pennsylvania Turnpikes by 1840

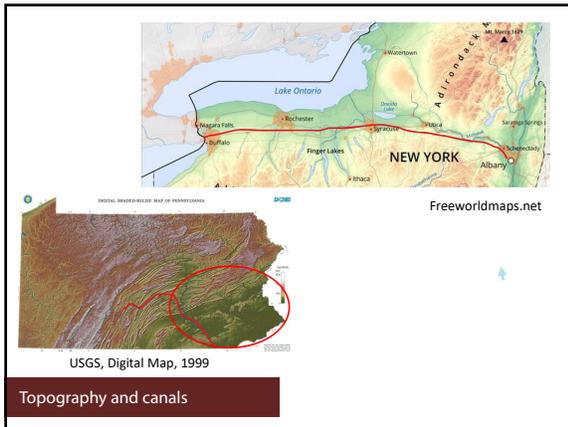
Miller and Pencack, *Pennsylvania: a History of the Commonwealth*, p. 179

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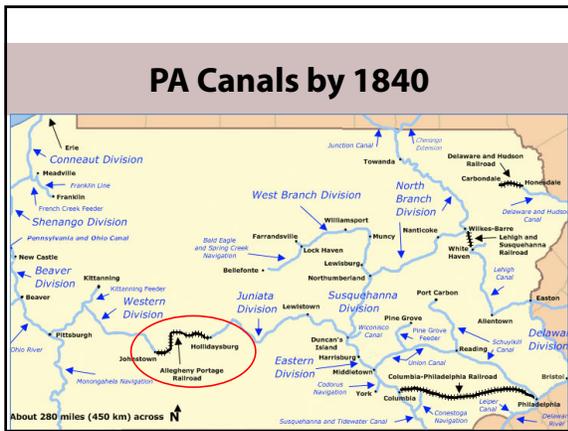
Main Line Public Works

- Debate: cross-state canal or cross-state railroad?
 - Philadelphia merchants feared loss of trade to New York due to Erie Canal
 - Growth of Pittsburgh and need to link the city with the east
 - Railroad technology still in its infancy in the 1820s so the canal model won approval
- Main Line of Public Works authorized in 1826, construction began in 1827
- Canal and portage opened in 1834

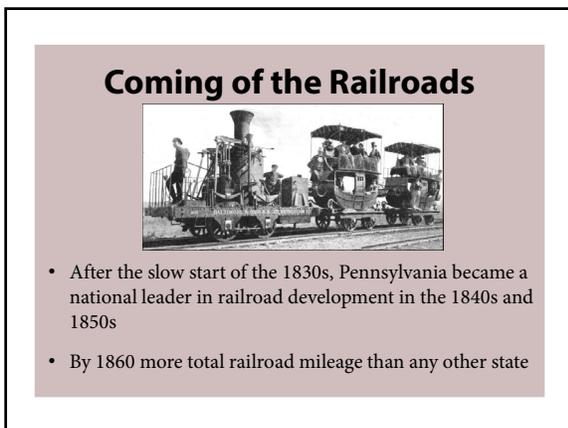
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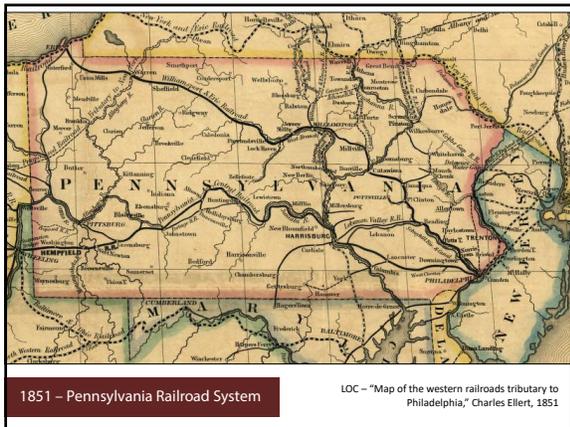
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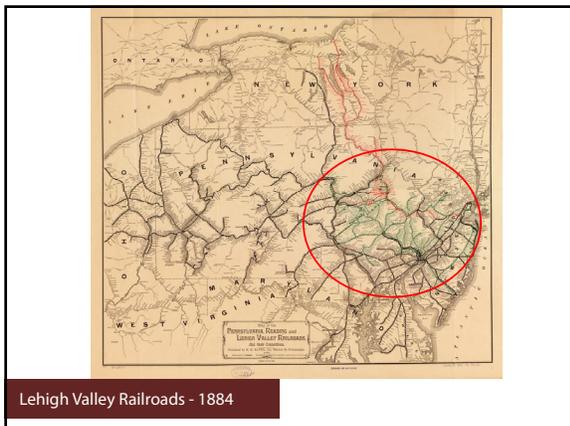


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Industrial Growth

- Manufacturing
 - Silk, hosiery, wool
 - Carpet making
 - Philadelphia a leader
- Coal and Oil
 - Anthracite east of Allegheny mountains
 - Bituminous west side
 - 1859 Oil well at Titusville
- Iron and Steel
 - 1867 First steel mill in Steelton on banks of Susquehanna and Pennsylvania canal

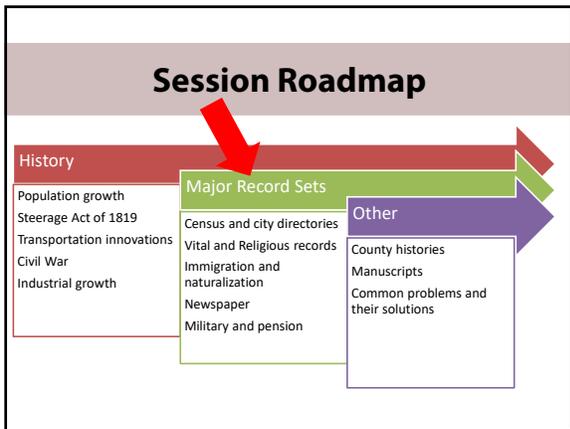
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U.S. Federal Census

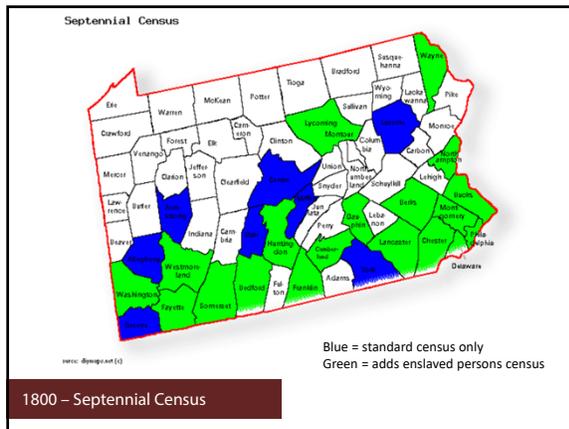
- 1800-1840
 - Only head of household named
 - Valuable information about household size and composition provided by tick marks
- 1850-1870
 - All members of household named with ages, occupation, and place of birth
 - Generally, can assume relationships, but use caution
 - Valuable for following migration of families through the birthplaces of their children
- 1880
 - Relationship to head of household
 - Birthplace of parents of each member of household

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PA Septennial Census

- No state censuses were ever conducted in Pennsylvania
- Taxpayers were enumerated every seven years for the purpose of determining representation in the General Assembly
- Years 1779-1863
- For some counties, enslaved individuals named

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1800 – Septennial Census

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Franklin Township 1800			Washington Township 1800		
No.	Name	Age	No.	Name	Age
209	William Smith	27	16	James Schickel	27
210	William Smith	25	17	James Schickel	25
211	William Smith	23	18	James Schickel	23
212	William Smith	21	19	James Schickel	21
213	William Smith	19	20	James Schickel	19
214	William Smith	17	21	James Schickel	17
215	William Smith	15	22	James Schickel	15
216	William Smith	13	23	James Schickel	13
217	William Smith	11	24	James Schickel	11
218	William Smith	9	25	James Schickel	9
219	William Smith	7	26	James Schickel	7
220	William Smith	5	27	James Schickel	5

Census 1800 – Franklin County

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Why Use Directories?

- Census substitutes
- Offers an alphabetical list of names
- Pins your ancestors to a specific time and place
- May include family information and occupation
- May provide clues around death and marriage dates

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Pennsylvania Directories

- Philadelphia – starting 1785, 1791, 1793 forward
- Pittsburgh – starting in 1861
- Available at
 - *FamilySearch.org*
 - *Ancestry.com* (\$)
 - *Fold3.com* (\$)
 - *City Directories of the United States* - www.uscitydirectories.com

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Church Records

- Premier vital record substitute
- May contain births/baptisms, marriages, deaths/burials, membership lists, and more
- Sometimes the journal or notebook of the minister exists even if congregational records do not
- First challenge is determining the denomination of your ancestor

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Which Church?

- Consult family members for religious history
- Consider ethnic group and traditional religious leanings
- Check county histories for churches in your ancestor's community
- Important Pennsylvania religious groups

Society of Friends (Quakers)	Episcopal / Anglican / Church of England
German Lutheran / German Reformed	Baptist
Presbyterian	Roman Catholic
German Pietist groups, including the Brethren (Dunkard), Mennonites, and Moravians.	

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19th Century Pennsylvania Church Records

- *FamilySearch.org*
– Search by place – Pennsylvania, [County], [Town]
- *Ancestry.com* (\$)
 - Pennsylvania, Church and Town Records, 1708-1985
 - Pennsylvania, Published Archives Series (series 2 and 6)
- *Idreamof.com*
– By county databases

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Shaffer's St. James Church, Nescopeck Twp., Luzerne County, PA

BAPTISMS 1836 - 1888

Parents - Johannes Nuss and Catharina
Child - Elisabeth
Born - Nov 4, 1836
Bap. - Feb 19, 1837
Sponsors - Jacob Herzel and Elisabeth

Parents - Samuel Miller and Elisabeth nee Harter
Child - Catarina Elisabeth
Born - Dec 6, 1836
Bap. - Feb 19, 1837
Sponsors - Adam Miller and Elisabeth

Parents - Conrad Nuss and Maria
Child - Mahaly
Born - -----
Bap. - Mar 12, 1837
Sponsors - Christian Nuss and Hanna

Parents - Samuel Herzel and Maria Anna
Child - Hiram
Born - Dec 31, 1836
Bap. - Mar 19, 1837
Sponsors - Jacob Schucker and Maria

Parents - David Herzel
Child - Margareta Anna
Born - Jan 22, 1837
Bap. - Apr 16, 1837
Sponsors - Jacob Herter and Margreda

<http://files.usgwarchives.net/pa/luzerne/church/stjabp01.txt>

Baptisms - St. James Church, Nescopeck

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Why Use Cemetery Records

- Vital records substitute
- Find other family members
- May find maiden names or places of birth

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Cemetery Records

- FamilySearch.org
 - Pennsylvania Cemetery Records – 1700-1950 (collection)
 - Cemetery Records of Pennsylvania (digital book – 9 volumes)
 - Pennsylvania Cemetery Records Inventory (wiki)
- FindAGrave.com
- Ancestry.com
 - Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, U.S., Gettysburg National Cemetery, 1863-2009
 - Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, U.S., Philadelphia National Cemetery, 1862-2010

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Fred L. Homer
 BIRTH: 28 Aug 1865, West Salem Township, Mercer County, Pennsylvania, USA
 DEATH: 31 Jan 1903 (aged 37), Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, Ohio, USA
 BURIAL: Shenango Valley Cemetery, Mercer County, Pennsylvania, USA
 PLOT: Section G, Lot 119
 MEMORIAL: 96243165 - [View Source](#)

See more Homer memorials

- Shenango Valley Cemetery
- Kentucky
- North Carolina
- Pennsylvania
- USA
- Find a Grave

Family Members

Parents: Josiah Lane Homer (1823-1897), Sarah Catherine Walker Homer (1809-1906)

Siblings: Frank Edward Homer (1864-1937), Joseph H. Homer (1859-1933)

Using FindAGrave for clues

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Name	Birth-Death	Plot Info
Jennie W. Stinson Homer	11 Jul 1867 – 6 Jan 1917	Section G Lot 119
Joseph H. Homer	1859 – 19 May 1933	Section H Lot 68
Josiah Lane Homer	26 Jul 1821 – 23 Apr 1907	Section H Lot 68
Mary Jane Wier Homer	1834 – 1874	Section A Lot 195
Mary L. Bright Homer	1875 – 29 Mar 1929	Section C Lot 89

Other Homer's in Shenango Valley Cemetery

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Federal Requirements

- Steerage Act of 1819
 - Required ship captains to report names, ages, sex, and occupations of passengers to U.S. Customs
- Carriage of Passengers Act of 1855
 - Repealed the Act of 1819
 - Continued the passenger list obligation, but also required that the part of the vessel in which the passenger traveled be reported
- Immigration Acts of 1891 and 1893
 - Expanded requirements for passenger information

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Port of Philadelphia

- Low volume compared to New York City
- Pre-1820
 - Michael Tepper, ed., *Passenger Arrivals at the Port of Philadelphia, 1800-1819* (Baltimore : Genealogical Pub. Co., 1986)
- 1820 forward – National Archives Microfilm Publications
 - M425 – *Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at Philadelphia 1800-1882*
 - T840 - *Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, January 1, 1883–December 31, 1945*

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Access to Archival Databases (ADD)

- National Archives
 - Created by the Center for Immigration Research at the Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies

Database	Number of Records
Immigration of Russians to the United States – 1834-1897	566,865
Immigration of Germans to the United States – 1850-1897	4,108,378
Immigration of Italians to the United States – 1855-1900	884,839

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Additional Search Fields

Show More Fields
File name: Italians to America Passenger Data File, 1855 - 1900
 is the Series: Case Files Relating to the Immigration of Italians to the United States, created ca. 1977 - 2002, documenting the period 1855 - 1900 - Collection CIR [\[info\]](#)

Default Fields Submit

Select	Field Title	Code List	Notes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Last Name		Y/N/U
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	First Name		Y/N/U
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Age	Y/N/U	Y/N/U
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sex	Y/N/U	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Occupation	Y/N/U	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Literacy	Y/N/U	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Country of Origin	Y/N/U	Y/N/U
<input type="checkbox"/>	City/Town of Last Residence		Y/N/U
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Destination City/Country		Y/N/U
<input type="checkbox"/>	Travels and/or Travel Compartment	Y/N/U	Y/N/U
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Manifest Identification Number		Y/N/U

Default Fields Submit

50

View Record	Last Name	First Name	Age	Sex	Occupation	Country of Origin	City/Town of Last Residence	Destination City/Country	Manifest Identification Number
	GRUBER	JOSEPH	33	MALE	UNKNOWN	GERMANY	UNKNOWN	PITTSBURG	15184
	GRUBER	MARGA	25	FEMALE	UNKNOWN	GERMANY	UNKNOWN	PITTSBURG	15184
	GRUBER	THERESE	03	FEMALE	CHLD. YOUNGSTER	GERMANY	UNKNOWN	PITTSBURG	15184
	GRUBER	BALT.	18	MALE	LABORER	GERMANY	COLOGNE	PITTSBURG	40229
	GRUBER	KATHE	40	FEMALE	UNKNOWN	GERMANY	DETROIT	PITTSBURG	44294
	GRUBER	ALFRED	14	MALE	BUTCHER	GERMANY	WOLFFENBUSHOF	PITTSBURG	60046
	GRUBER	JOHANN	35	MALE	MILLER	BAVARIA	U	PHILADELPHIA	9676
	GRUBER	BARBARA	37	FEMALE	FARMER	PHILADELPHIA	U	PHILADELPHIA	10496
	GRUBER	CARL	21	FEMALE	SERVANT, GENTLEMAN'S SERVANT	GERMANY	U	PHILADELPHIA	37441
	GRUBER	GOODHARD	15	MALE	MERCHANT	HAMBURG	U	PHILADELPHIA	40396

ADD – Germans to America

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Naturalization

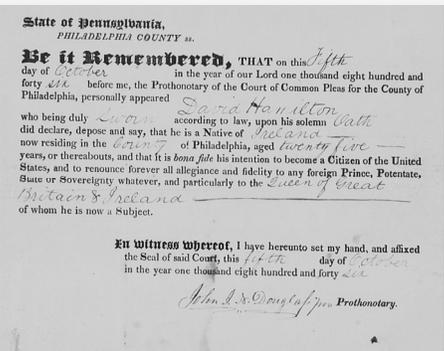
- Multi-step process generates paper
 - Declaration of intent
 - Petition
 - Final Oath and Certificate
- Early records contain less information; pre-1890 may only refer to country of birth
- Amount of information captured varies by state and court

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Typical Data on Forms

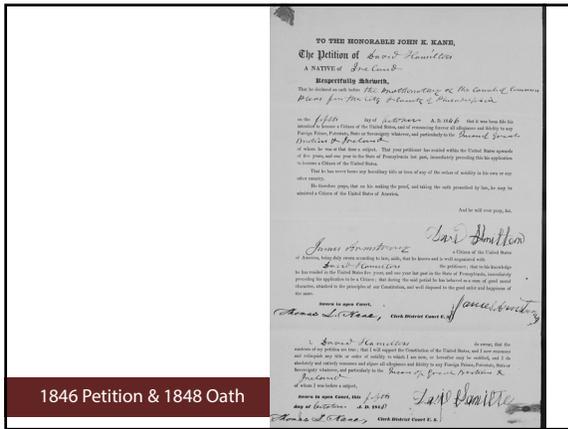
Declaration	Petition
• Name	• Name
• Date of intention	• Current residence
• Date of document	• Occupation
• Place of birth	• Place of birth
• Port of entry	• Date of birth or age
• Date of entry	• Port of entry
• Signature	• Date of entry

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1846 Declaration of Intent

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Finding Naturalizations

- Family Search
 - Immigrants filed in a variety of city, county, state, or federal courts, but most often in a county court
 - Check the catalog for the county
- Ancestry (\$)
 - Pennsylvania, U.S., Federal Naturalization Records, 1795-1931
 - Pennsylvania, U.S., Naturalization Records from Supreme and District Courts, 1794-1908

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Newspapers

- *The American Weekly Mercury* (1719) and the *Pennsylvania Gazette* (1728) were Pennsylvania's first newspapers
- Growth of newspapers exploded in the 19th century
- Many online repositories
 - Library of Congress – Chronicling America
 - Newspapers.com (\$)
 - Genealogybank.com (\$)

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Free Online Sites

- Pennsylvania Newspaper Archive
- Pennsylvania Civil War Era Newspapers
- State Library of Pennsylvania
- Ancestor Hunt
- Elephind
- Google News Newspaper Archive
- Library of Congress – Chronicling America (1789-1963)

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Pennsylvania Newspaper Archive
Significant historical Pennsylvania newspapers

Home Browse by Title Browse by Date Help About All Cities Search words Query Advanced Search

All Titles

Browse by Title

Title	City	County	Browse Issues	No. of Issues	Earliest Issue	Latest Issue
The compiler.	Gettysburg	Adams	[i]	470	1807-05-18	1866-05-21
Gettysburg compiler.	Gettysburg	Adams	[i]	135	1808-05-28	1808-12-25
The Republican compiler.	Gettysburg	Adams	[i]	140	1854-09-11	1857-05-11
Star and banner.	Gettysburg	Adams	[i]	516	1847-05-28	1857-05-08
The Star and Republican banner.	Gettysburg	Adams	[i]	465	1831-12-23	1847-05-21
The star and sentinel.	Gettysburg	Adams	[i]	197	1807-05-29	1871-03-17
The star, and Adams County Republican banner.	Gettysburg	Adams	[i]	27	1821-10-04	1832-08-03
The star.	Gettysburg	Adams	[i]	31	1831-02-28	1831-09-27
The daily morning post.	Pittsburgh	Allegheny	[i]	2414	1848-08-17	1855-11-24
Daily morning post.	Pittsburgh	Allegheny	[i]	271	1842-09-10	1843-07-28

County sort for PA Newspaper Archive

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Civil War

- Draft Registration
 - Ancestry (\$)
- Muster Rolls and Rosters
 - FamilySearch.org and Ancestry.com (\$)
 - Pennsylvania Volunteers of the Civil War
 - Army Registers of Enlistment (Ancestry \$)
- Service Records
 - FamilySearch.org and Ancestry.com (\$)
- Pensions
 - Indexes at FamilySearch.org and Ancestry.com (\$)
 - Some records at Fold3.com (\$)

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REGISTER OF ENLISTMENTS,

No.	NAME	RELATION				REG'T	COMPANY	RANK	DATE	PLACE	REMARKS
		By Whom	Place	Date of Enlist.	Rank						
1	John P. ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

UNITED STATES ARMY.

...

Sample Civil War Period Enlistment Ancestry.com, U.S., Army, Register of Enlistments, 1798-1914

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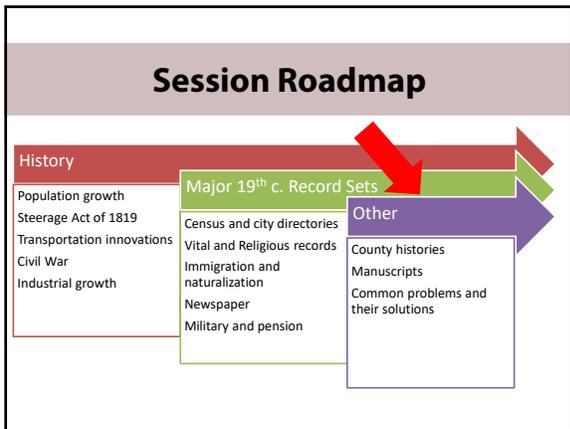
Mexican and Spanish Wars

- Mexican War caused by annexation of Texas in 1845
 - 1846-1848
 - Indexes online; actual pension records at National Archives
- Spanish American War
 - 1898
 - Indexes online; files at National Archives

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Value of County and Town Histories

- Details of the early settlement of a county
 - Names of first settlers
 - Names of first churches
 - Descriptions of economic growth
- Information often not found elsewhere
- Included biographical data serves as excellent finding aids for ancestors

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General Considerations and Suggestions

- You may not find one “smoking-gun” record; you may need to build a case with multiple records
- Essential Strategy: Research the ancestors associates and neighbors (Cluster Research or FAN Club Research)
- Some records may be less reliable than others; seek originals if you can
- May need to have, and exhaust, several working theories

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Use Vital Records Substitutes

- Church and cemetery records
- Newspapers
- Military records
- Census
- City directories
- Family papers

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Strategy for Sorting Common Names

- What makes each person unique?
 - Dates of vital events
 - Names of wife and children
 - Specific plot of land occupied
- Timeline valuable in common names situations

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Flexible Spelling

- Consider how the name would have sounded
- Consider impact of regional accents
- Use wildcards when searching

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Finding Ancestral Origins

- Learn all you can about the immigrant
 - Spouse and children
 - Siblings
 - Associates
 - Neighbors
- Who traveled with them to America?

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Summary

- 19th century ushered in massive changes in transportation and industry
- 19th century record keeping continued 18th century records and introduced new sources such as federal passenger lists
- Unique Pennsylvania sources include the Septennial census and collections at Penn State and the Historical Society of Pennsylvania

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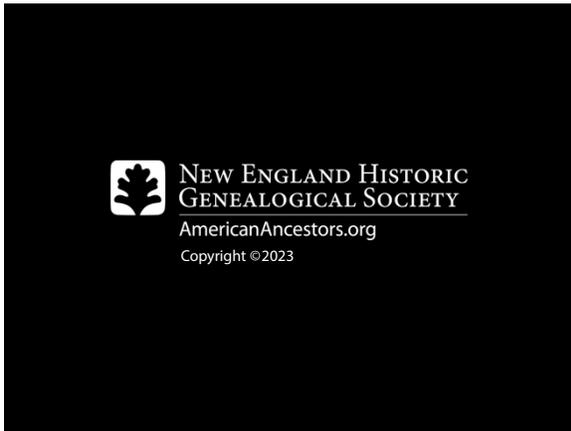
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