

Washington County genealogy and local history resources useful to title searchers and others

Links lead to locations for the information;
some locations are online and some are old-fashioned bricks and mortar sites.



Books and newspapers	Maps & land records	US Census	Washington County libraries
Military records	Immigration & Naturalizations	Vital & church records	Cemeteries
Key to resources (Explains location codes)			
See also separate publication Public Records for Genealogists .			

Books and newspapers

- Beers Company. *Commemorative Biographical Record of Washington County, PA* c. 1892. Biographies of prominent citizens. [LL](#), [CH](#), [CIT](#)
- Creigh, Alfred. *History of Washington County, PA* c. 1870. First history of Washington County, PA. [LL](#), [HP](#), [DL](#), [HQ](#), [AN](#), [CIT](#)
- Crumrine, Boyd. *Courts of Justice: Bench & Bar, Washington County, PA* c. 1902. [LL](#), [HP](#), [HQ](#), [CIT](#)
- Crumrine, Boyd. *History of Washington County, PA with biographical sketches*. c. 1882. [LL](#), [HP](#), [CH](#), [CIT](#)
- Forrest, Earle R.. *History of Washington County, PA* [3 volume set]. Vol. 1: Historical accounts. Vol. 2 & 3: Biographical accounts. 1926. [LL](#), [HQ](#), [AN](#), [CIT](#)
- McFarland, Joseph F. *20th Century History of the City of Washington & Washington County & Representative Citizens*. c. 1910. [LL](#), [HQ](#), [AN](#), [CIT](#)

- Washington County newspapers including:
 - [Observer-Reporter](#) 1967-2008
 - [The Reporter](#) 1808-1825
 - [Washington Daily News](#) 1918-1919
 - [Washington Daily Reporter](#) 1884-1896
 - [Washington Reporter](#) 1845-1985
 - [Washington Semi-Weekly Reporter](#) 1889-1891
 - [Washington Weekly Reporter](#) 1883-1888
 Browse issues at [Google News Archive Search](#) or search a particular newspaper at [Google News Archive Search Advanced Options](#). Microfilm at [CIT](#).

Maps and land records

- Washington County Recorder of Deeds land records. 1781-present. Some data and images are available online (some fees may apply) —check with [Recorder of Deeds](#) and vendor [Landex](#) for details.
- [Commonwealth Land Office records](#): records of “transactions between the Penns or the post-revolutionary Commonwealth and the first purchaser(s) of each tract of land.” Website includes patent indexes, warrant registers, survey images, patent tract name indexes, warrantee township maps, and Melish-Whiteside maps.
- Early Virginia records of land which eventually became part of Pennsylvania are in [Out-of-State Records](#) at the Virginia State Archives. Website includes indexes and images. See also Crumrine’s transcription of early Virginia court records ([Minute book of the Virginia court held for Yohogania County](#) and [Minute book of the Virginia Court held at Fort Dunmore \(Pittsburgh\) for the District of West Augusta](#)).
- Warrantee township maps (showing Washington County’s original land purchases). View or buy on net: [PHMC-LA](#); buy locally: [WCPI](#).
- Horn, W. F. *The Horn papers: early westward movement on the Monongahela and upper Ohio 1865-1795*, volume III, c. 1945. Warrantee township maps for Washington, Greene and Fayette counties. [LL](#) (no photocopying), [CIT](#)
- MacInnes, Sharon. *Early Landowners of Pennsylvania: Land Tracts Transferred from Virginia to Pennsylvania Jurisdiction 1779-1780, 2nd Edition*. Closson Press, c. 2007. Author adds location information, indexing, and other helps to original record of transfers of properties from VA to PA jurisdiction ca. 1779-1784. [LL](#)
- MacInnes, Sharon. *Early Landowners of Pennsylvania: Atlas of Township Warrantee Maps of Washington County, PA, 2nd Edition*. Closson Press, c. 2008.

Reprints township warrantee maps with extensive indexing, additional land office data, and references to other information. [LL](#)

- [1817 Jonathan Knight / Whiteside map](#) of Washington County: Includes some businesses, churches, township lines, place names. No hard copy at Law Library.
- [1856 Barker's map of Washington County, Pennsylvania](#). Originally issued in 1856 “from actual surveys”. Law Library’s copy is a reproduction. [LL](#)
- [1861 Washington County Pennsylvania Map](#) published by A. Pomeroy & S.W. Treat. “From actual surveys.” Library owns photocopies. Includes detail maps of cities and towns, and business directories. [LL](#)
- Caldwell, J. A., [Caldwell's illustrated combination centennial atlas of Washington Co., Pennsylvania](#) (c. 1876; reprinted 1976.) “From actual surveys.” Includes maps of cities and towns, and business directories. [LL](#), [WCGW](#) , [CIT](#)
- [1911 Quadrangle Map](#) – photocopy of Hutchinson and McCrary’s maps showing Washington County farm ownership in 1911. The property tracts often match shapes of the original land patents. [LL](#), [WCPI](#)
- [Washington County Pennsylvania Plat Books](#) - 1969, 1974, 1980, 1989, 1996, 2005. Issued periodically and sold at the [Washington County Extension Office](#) (next edition expected in 2011). [LL](#).
- [Washington County municipalities’ incorporation dates](#).
- [Greene County municipalities’ incorporation dates](#).

US Census 1790-1930

Coverage varies by site. [AN](#), [HQ](#), [FT](#), [CIT](#)

Washington County Libraries

[Citizens Library](#) and District Center, Washington, PA. Website has online catalog and links to other public libraries in the county . Citizens Library’s in-library users can access the genealogy databases Ancestry Library Edition and Heritage Quest. Cardholders of any Washington County library can access [Heritage Quest](#) remotely using their library card number.

Military records

- Cemetery Maps of Soldiers' Graves Registration of the Washington County Veterans Affairs Office, undated, and Veterans Grave Registration Record of the Washington County Office of Veterans Affairs, 1932-1982. [LL](#). [VB](#).
- [Archives Records Information Access System](#) (ARIAS), Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission website. Includes personal information about Pennsylvania veterans of Revolutionary War , Civil War, National Guard, Spanish American War, Mexican Border Campaign, and WWI.

Immigration & naturalization Records

- Washington County naturalization records: Prothonotary holds 1802 -1905 and 1918 - 1964. Note: Declarations of Intention and to Petitions for Naturalizations indexed separately. [WCPro](#), [FT](#).
- For naturalization records in years other than those above, and for other nearby counties, see directory at [USF](#) . See also [US Citizenship and Immigration Services](#).
- Immigration records (not limited to Washington County) online: [SM](#), [ISTG](#).

Vital & church records

- [Pennsylvania birth and death records](#), 1906-present.
- Washington Co. birth and death registrations, 1893-1906. [RW](#)
- Washington Co. delayed registrations of birth, recorded 1941-present. [RW](#)
- Washington Co. marriage licenses, 1885-present. [RW](#)
- Index to Washington Co. birth, marriage, death records, 1852-1853. [LL](#)
- Western PA Roman Catholic sacramental records (baptismal, marriage, death, etc.) and orphanage records. [RC](#)
- Social security death records, reported deaths 1936- present. [SM](#), [SSA](#)

Cemeteries

Selected Washington County cemetery records: [Genealogy in Washington County Pennsylvania](#) , [Beallsville Cemetery and other miscellaneous cemetery listings](#), [Find a Grave](#), and [Cemetery Records Online](#) . See also [WCGWA](#).

Key to resources

- **AN** [Ancestry.com](#). Fee-based website. A version can be accessed in-house at [Citizens Library](#).
- **CH** [Chartiers.com: Washington County PA Genealogy](#)
- **CIT** [Citizens Library and District Center](#)
- **DE** [University of Pittsburgh Press Digital Editions](#) provides a number of full-text titles on Western Pennsylvania.

- **DL** [Penn State University: Digital Library Collections](#) ; for Pennsylvania county histories, atlases, and Civil War regimental histories, see [Penn State Digital Bookshelf](#).
- **FT** [Footnote](#). Digitized historical documents. Some content free, additional content is fee-based.
- **HP** [Historic Pittsburgh](#) “...local resources that support[s] personal & scholarly research of the western Pennsylvania area.”
- **HQ** [HeritageQuest](#). Available to local library cardholders via Washington County public libraries’ websites.
- **ISTG** [Immigrant Ships Transcribers Guild](#)
- **Landex** Vendor provides access to a growing number of Washington County Recorder of Deeds documents. Some fees may apply. For information about use within county buildings, check with Recorder of Deeds. Offsite use available at Landex Webstore.
- **LL** [Washington County Law Library](#).
- **PHMC** [Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission](#) website.
- **PHMC-LA** [Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission](#) land records table of contents.
- **PV** [Pennsylvania Division of Vital Records](#).
- **RC** [Roman Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh](#) (includes Washington)
- **SM** [One-step webpages by Stephen P. Morse](#)
- **SSA** [Social Security Administration's Death Master File](#)
- **USF** [US Federal Court, Pennsylvania Western Dist.](#) naturalization information.
- **VB** [Veteran burials for Washington County, PA](#)
- **WCGW** [The Washington County PGenWeb Project](#). Has site-wide search feature.
- **WCGWA** The [Washington County PGenWeb Archives](#). Provides transcriptions of selected public domain records including cemeteries. Has site-wide search feature.
- **WCHS** [Washington County Historical Society](#). Offers a “contracted research service [which] taps into all available Washington County resources, including registered deeds and wills and orphan's court records back to 1781.”
- **WCPI** [Washington County Planning Department](#).
- **WCPro** [Washington County Prothonotary](#).
- **WCRec** [Washington County Recorder of Deeds](#).
- **WCReg** [Washington County Register of Wills & Clerk of the Orphans Court](#).

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