



CENTRE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CENTRE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL RECORDS AND RESOURCES

The Centre County Historical Society is headquartered in the Centre Furnace Mansion in State College, PA, an historic house museum on the National Register of Historic Places. The mission of the Society is to help people understand, experience, appreciate and preserve our county's cultural and natural heritage. Our programming and preservation efforts support this mission. The Society has a limited collection of genealogy resources, but we do have some. We have a small staff, so it is helpful if you can call ahead and make an appointment so that we know you are coming and can collect any applicable information before you arrive. Contact us at 814-234-4779 or info@centrecountyhistory.org. Other Centre County research resources are listed below.

Small county historical societies and local history museums are often good places to begin researching your genealogy. They will generally have, to varying degrees, genealogical resources in their collections. But just as important, they often have collaborative working relationships with other local and state organizations that support genealogy research and can refer you to them.

SPECIAL NOTES: Please remember to email or call before you visit, preferably a few days in advance and especially if you are visiting from out of town. With small organizations, you may need to leave a message. Information found on internet search engines may not always be accurate, and is never complete when it comes to office hours versus research protocol or tour hours. When looking online, it is important to go directly to a site's website, but also wise to call or email the site. Better yet, email ahead with detailed information about what you are looking for so a volunteer or staff member can prepare for your visit.

Genealogical collections are most often maintained by small non-profit organizations that rely on membership and donations to operate. They may be managed by volunteers, or only have one or two paid staff, often limited hours, and only be open seasonally. Assume that an appointment is needed to do research, or at least appreciated, and will help the staff members or volunteers trying to help you. Some sites charge research fees if they are doing more than a quick search; ask what their policy is. Donations are always welcome and appreciated at small non-profit organizations.

Centre County Historical Society

1001 East College Avenue, State College, PA 16801
(814) 234-4779, centrehistory.org

The Centre County Historical Society has some genealogical records in its archives and library, but it is not a primary focus in our collections. A listing of surnames for whom some information may be found in the CCHS archives is at: <http://www.centrehistory.org/genealogy>. Staff and volunteers can help with limited research. Research fees may apply.

CENTRE FURNACE MANSION

1001 East College Avenue • State College, Pennsylvania 16801 • 814-234-4779 • centrehistory.org

Centre County Library & Historical Museum, Pennsylvania Room

http://www.centrecountylibrary.org/pa_room.htm

203 N. Allegheny Street, Bellefonte, PA 16823

Erin Hicks, PA Room Assistant: ehicks@centrecountylibrary.org

(814) 355-1516 x214, general email: paroom@centrecountylibrary.org

The Pennsylvania Room focuses on Centre County and Pennsylvania history and genealogy and has a specialized collection of genealogies, county histories, church and cemetery records, original Centre County records, newspapers, vertical files containing items of historical and genealogical interest, historical and genealogical periodicals and the massive Spangler Collection of data on the families of central Pennsylvania. The staff can assist in brief lookups and limited research. Research fees may apply.

Centre County Genealogical Society

<http://www.centrecountygenealogy.org>

PO Box 1135, State College, PA 16804

The Centre County Genealogical Society maintains an active surname file with names of researchers. Membership is open to anyone with an interest in Centre County genealogical research. The Society has published a series of Centre County cemetery books and is committed to inventorying every cemetery in Centre County. A comprehensive index to Centre County marriages (1764-2005) is available on CD. Membership includes a quarterly newsletter with topics of interest for researchers and a discount on the Society's publications. The Centre County Genealogical Society does not have a physical location, and they do not currently provide a research service – for more information:

<http://centrecountygenealogy.org/research-assistance>.

List of Centre County Cemeteries (with link to corresponding CCGS books)

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~pacentre/graves.htm>

State College Family History Center

842 Whitehall Rd., State College, PA 16801

(814) 238-4560

Family History Centers are branch facilities of the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. Centers provide access to most of the microfilms and microfiche in the Family History Library to help patrons identify their ancestors. Call for hours and research fees.

Centre County Government Offices in Bellefonte, PA

<http://www.co.centre.pa.us>

- **Prothonotary and Clerk of Courts**
Centre County Courthouse, Bellefonte (814) 355-6796
- **Register of Wills**
Willowbank Building, Bellefonte (814) 355-6724
- **Recorder of Deeds**
Willowbank Building, Bellefonte (814) 355-6801

The Pennsylvania Newspaper Archive

<https://panewsarchive.psu.edu/>

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The Centre County PGenWeb Project

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~pacentre/centre.htm>

The Centre County PGenWeb Project contains helpful information such as Centre County query boards, cemeteries, census records, research facilities, family reunions, township/borough histories, and so much more.

Penn State University Libraries

<https://www.libraries.psu.edu/psul/speccolls/psua/genealogy.html>

Special Collections Library 1st floor Paterno Library |
Jackie Esposito (814) 865-7931, jxe2@psu.edu

Penn State Genealogy and Family History

<https://guides.libraries.psu.edu/genealogy>

Eric Novonty (814) 865-1014, ecn1@psu.edu

The Special Collections Library includes a wide variety of Centre County-related publications and primary source materials. There are reference books, printed histories, maps and other published resources, as well as a wide variety of archival materials including correspondence, diaries, business and industrial records, photographs, and institutional records of various types. The University Archives is part of PSU Libraries Special Collections and has a very large collection of materials documenting the history of the University. Most of these materials can be found in The Cat, the Libraries' on-line catalog and many have more extensive descriptions available through the Special Collections website. Research fees may apply.

Penns Valley Area Historical Museum

<http://pennsvalleymuseum.org/>

244 W Aaron Square, Aaronsburg, PA 16820
(814) 349-4811

The Penns Valley Area Historical Museum Association is a nonprofit educational organization whose mission is to discover, collect, preserve, interpret and present the pre-historical, historical and cultural heritage of the people of the Penns Valley and Brush Valley regions. The association maintains a collection of artifacts, providing a research and genealogical library, developing and presenting educational programs, and publishing supportive literature. Research Fees may apply.

Pennsylvania Military Museum

<https://www.pamilmuseum.org/>

51 Boal Ave.
Boalsburg, PA 16827
(814) 466-6263

The PA Military Museum is a 20th century artifact repository. While they do not maintain any individual service records or detailed unit histories, such information may be available from the resource list on their website at: <https://www.pamilmuseum.org/research-references>

Milesburg Museum and Historical Society

<http://milesburgmuseum.weebly.com/about-the-museum.html>

Sandy Hoy (814) 355-5670
205 Market Street, Milesburg, PA 16853

The Milesburg Museum collects artifacts related to the Milesburg, PA area. They do have some genealogy resources for that area. Research fees may apply.