PA Room Collection

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PA Room Collection



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The Pennsylvania Room has a specialized collection of more than 3,000 volumes on state, local, and family history, as well as original Centre County records, newspapers, patron-provided manuscript genealogies, vital record indexes, and database and paper indexes to Centre County marriages and newspaper obituaries. Unique to this library is the massive Spangler Collection of data on families of central Pennsylvania, and the files of local genealogist J. Marvin Lee. The Pennsylvania Room is located in the historic 1814 Miles-Humes home, which also houses a historical museum featuring documents, photographs, family memorabilia, and other items of interest to family and local historians.

Items on the shelves of the Pa. Room are cataloged in the main database of the Centre County Library (searchable from the homepage of this website).

Some fees apply to research done by the staff: contact paroom@centrecountylibrary.org [4] to inquire about services and costs. Patrons on-site pay only for any photocopies that they make. Laptops and scanning devices are permitted; WiFi is available in the building.

Spangler Collection:

This massive collection of data on central Pennsylvania families was compiled over a period of many years by Adella Fink Spangler (1871-1964). It was largely assembled from primary documents, some of which no longer exist. The collection consists of 176 typed notebooks, 20 scrapbooks, and 116 composition books of research notes on specific families. The typed notebooks and scrapbooks are fully indexed on about 250,000 cards, with many cards containing multiple names. The 116 manuscript composition books contain Mrs. Spangler's compilations of various Centre County families based on on data from early tax records, Bible records, estate files, newspaper articles, vital records, etc. There is a surname index to the composition books and most individual volumes also have a brief index. Among the contents of the fully indexed notebooks and scrapbooks are:

- Tombstone inscriptions for 113 county cemeteries [updated in a set of modern books by the Centre County Genealogical Society]
- Newspaper obituaries (1826-1854 and 1926-1942)
- Marriage records [updated by a compact disk, indexing Centre County marriages 1764-2005]
- Bible transcriptions
- · Church records
- · Family records
- Tax lists
- Other miscellaneous information

J. Marvin Lee Genealogical Collection:

A good adjunct to the Spangler Collection for the early to mid-twentieth century, this grouping contains approximately 20

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notebooks compiled by a longtime Centre County genealogist/historian. Mr. Lee's work, which includes family group sheets with some documentation, is primarily from the 1940s to the 1970s.

Original Centre County Archives:

- Civil and criminal court papers 1800-1875
- Marriage license applications 1885-1987
- Tax assessment records 1802-1956
- Will and intestate files 1800-1990
- Orphans court dockets
- Road petitions

Local Newspapers:

- Bellefonte Patriot
- Bellefonte Republican
- Centre Daily Times
- Centre Democrat
- Centre Reporter
- Democratic Watchman
- Democratic Whig
- Keystone Gazette
- Millheim Journal
- Philipsburg Journal (10 years)

Indexes (Partial Listing):

- Index to Centre County Death Notices and Obituaries 1821-1949
- Centre County, Pennsylvania Marriage Index 1764-2005
- Filby and Meyer: Passenger and Immigration Lists Index, Vol. I, II, III, and supplements 1982-1986
- Centre County, PA: Index to the CCGS Cemetery Series
- Centre County Births 1893-1905
- Centre County Death Records 1893-1905

County Information:

The Pennsylvania Room collection is conveniently organized in county groupings, so that all information for each county is located together: histories, cemetery and church inforomatoin, etc.

Family Histories:

700 publications and growing, as researchers provide a copy of their published work for the Pa. Room collection. The family histories are listed in the main Centre County Library, searchable from the homepage of this website.

General Reference Works (Representative Partial Listing):

- Allison: Marriage Records of Clearfield County, Prior to October 1, 1885
- Bates: History of Pennsylvania Volunteers 1861-1865
- Bates: 4 volume index to History of Pennsylvania Volunteers 1861-1865
- Beers: Commemorative Biographical Record of Central PA
- DAR: Clinton County Will Book A, Abstracts
- DAR: DAR Patriot Index Centennial Edition, Parts I, II, and III



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- DAR: Lineage Books
- DAR: Lycoming County Probate Records 1795-1850
- Egle: Notes and Queries Relating to Interior PA, 12 volumes and indexes
- Eleventh Census of the Population of the United States, 1890 Centre County with Business Directory
- Fisher: Early Wills and Administrations of Northumberland County
- Fisher: Abstracts of Snyder County Probate Records 1771-1885
- Genealogies of Pennsylvania Families from the Pennsylvania Magazine of History & Biography, 4 volumes
- Glazier/Tepper (eds.): The Famine Immigrants, 7 volumes
- Linn: History of Centre and Clinton Counties, PA, 1883
- Pennsylvania German Society: Pennsylvania German Church Records, Vols. I, II, III
- Pennsylvania Vital Records from the Pennsylvania Magazine of History & Biog., 4 volumes
- Pennsylvania Archives —complete set
- Strassburger and Hinke: Pennsylvania German Pioneers, Vols. I, II, III
- White: Genealogical Abstracts of Revolutionary War Pension Files, 4 vols., indexed
- White: Index to War of 1812 Pension Files

Published Church and Vital Record Transcriptions for:

- Adams County
- Bedford County (some)
- Berks County
- Blair County
- Chester County
- Clinton County
- Dauphin County
- Philadelphia County
- Lancaster County
- Lebanon County
- Lehigh County
- Lycoming County
- Northampton County
- Schuylkill County
- Somerset County (some)
- York County
- A few from Elk and Cameron Counties
- PA Room
- <u>All</u>

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