

# Pennsylvania Research Plan

*Exclusive Bonus for Pennsylvania Vital Records Research*

**Directions:**

1. Complete the Research Question section by filling in the specific ancestor being researched. Create one plan per ancestor.
2. Make some guesses about possible answers to the research question in section two. Making a guess, or hypothesis, helps test the research results.
3. Read down the list of Record Types. Put a mark in the first column if the source dates match your research question. Ex. if searching for a marriage in 1854, marriages license applications won't help because those start in 1885. But religious records and probate records might provide spouses name and/or dates.
4. Go through the marked records and do a search. Note the search results under the blank column.

## RESEARCH QUESTION

*Who is the focus ancestor? When and where did he or she live? What do I want to know about him or her?*

## POSSIBLE ANSWER(S)

*What is my best guess right now? What is most likely?*

## RECORDS TO RESEARCH

Record Type	Source Location	Search Result
DNA results	Current most specific PA communities <a href="https://www.ancestry.com/dna">ancestry.com/dna</a>	
Death certificates, 1906–50 yrs ago (publicly available)	Indexed images <a href="https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/5164/">ancestry.com/search/collections/5164/</a>	
Death certificates, 50 yrs ago – today (private, need ID)	Order by mail <a href="https://www.health.pa.gov">health.pa.gov</a>	
Death registrations, 1893–1905	County Register of Wills, <a href="https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog">familysearch.org/search/catalog</a>	

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Death registrations, cities *	Philadelphia, 1860–1915 <a href="https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/1320976">familysearch.org/search/catalog/1320976</a> Reading, 1873–1905 <a href="https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/495609">familysearch.org/search/catalog/495609</a> Pittsburgh, 1870–1905 <a href="https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/138022">familysearch.org/search/catalog/138022</a> Scranton, 1878–1905 <a href="https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/707274">www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/707274</a>	
Birth certificates, 1906–105 yrs ago (publicly available)	Indexed images <a href="https://ancestry.com/search/collections/60484/">ancestry.com/search/collections/60484/</a>	
Birth certificates, 50 yrs ago – today (private, need ID)	Order by mail <a href="https://health.pa.gov">health.pa.gov</a>	
Birth registrations, 1893–1905	County Register of Wills, <a href="https://familysearch.org/search/catalog">familysearch.org/search/catalog</a>	
Birth registrations, cities*	Philadelphia, 1860–1915 <a href="https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/1951739">familysearch.org/search/catalog/1951739</a> Reading, 1876–1905 <a href="https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/495539">familysearch.org/search/catalog/495539</a> Pittsburgh, 1870–1905 <a href="https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/137583">familysearch.org/search/catalog/137583</a> Scranton, 1878–1905 <a href="https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/707157">familysearch.org/search/catalog/707157</a>	
Delayed birth certificates, 1941-1975*	County Orphans Court, <a href="https://familysearch.org/search/catalog">familysearch.org/search/catalog</a> , enter “Pennsylvania” and county name	
Marriage licenses, 1885–today*	County Register of Wills or Orphans Court, <a href="https://familysearch.org/search/catalog">familysearch.org/search/catalog</a> , enter “Pennsylvania” and county name Indexed images (some), <a href="https://ancestry.com/search/collections/61381/">ancestry.com/search/collections/61381/</a>	
Birth, Marriage, & Death Registrations, 1852–1855	Indexed images births, <a href="https://ancestry.com/search/collections/2349/">ancestry.com/search/collections/2349/</a> Indexed images marriages, <a href="https://ancestry.com/search/collections/2486/">ancestry.com/search/collections/2486/</a> Indexed images deaths, <a href="https://ancestry.com/search/collections/2487/">ancestry.com/search/collections/2487/</a>	
Colonial birth, marriage, & death registrations	Searchable <a href="https://fold3.com/browse/h9Y02Zdgu">fold3.com/browse/h9Y02Zdgu</a>	

\*No complete collection is online for these records. Contact the county courthouse directly if not online.

PA State Archive Birth and Death Certificate original indexes <https://www.phmc.pa.gov/Archives/Research-Online/Pages/Vital-Statistics.aspx>