

Pennsylvania Death Certificates are on Ancestry for the years 1906 – 1964. Key "Pennsylvania Death" into the Card Catalog to access directly. Search for your ancestor, plus brothers and sisters (find their married names), plus children of your ancestor. You can also search using ancestor's father's name as parent, mother's first name.

You can access them free from home. <http://www.phmc.pa.gov/Archives/Research-Online/Pages/Ancestry-PA.aspx>

If you use that link and have an Ancestry (free) account, these other data sets are also available to search.

Pennsylvania, Veterans Burial Cards, 1777-2012  
Pennsylvania, Births, 1852-1854  
Pennsylvania, Land Warrants and Applications, 1733-1952  
Pennsylvania, Oyer and Terminer Court Papers, 1757-1787  
Pennsylvania, Spanish War Compensation, 1898-1934  
Pennsylvania, Naturalization Records from Supreme and District Courts, 1794-1908  
Pennsylvania, War of 1812 Pensions, 1866-1879  
Pennsylvania, Land Warrants, 1733-1987  
Pennsylvania, Civil War Border Claims, 1868-1879  
Pennsylvania, Marriages, 1852-1854  
Pennsylvania, Deaths, 1852-1854  
Pennsylvania, Records of Marriages, 1885-1889  
Pennsylvania, Tax and Exoneration, 1768-1801  
Pennsylvania, Septennial Census, 1779-1863  
Pennsylvania, WPA Church Archives, 1937-1940  
Pennsylvania, Veteran Compensation Application Files, WWII, 1950-1966  
Pennsylvania, Death Certificates, 1906-1964  
Pennsylvania, Civil War Muster Rolls, 1860-1869  
Pennsylvania, Birth Records, 1906-1908  
Pennsylvania, WWI Veterans Service and Compensation Files, 1917-1919, 1934-1948  
Pennsylvania, Prison, Reformatory, and Workhouse Records, 1829-1971  
Pennsylvania, County Marriages, 1845-1963

Create a free account here: <http://home.rootsweb.ancestry.com/> Use the "Sign in" text the top right.

Pittsburgh city death records 1870-1905, including Allegheny City <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1810412>

Death records/certificates in adjoining states if Mom or one of her children moved there.

Ohio

1908 – 1953 With certificate images <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1307272>

1854 – 1997 Most don't have parents <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1681000>

West Virginia

1804 – 1999 Many with parents and images [http://www.wvculture.org/vrr/va\\_dcsearch.aspx](http://www.wvculture.org/vrr/va_dcsearch.aspx)

1854 - 1932 Some with parents <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1708700>

Findagrave - [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com) Search first for the husband, then children and siblings. There may be bios or obits on the page that show her maiden name.

## Census Records

Find your married ancestor in **every census**. Look to see if there's an older women living with them with a different last name. That's almost certainly her mother with her married name. After 1880 relationship to head of household is listed. But she might have a second last name from a later marriage. Look for her in earlier censuses and there may be children (even your ancestor) living with her who kept their last name. Use those earlier censuses and find the names, ages and birth locations of siblings. Do the same census search for all of them to see if the mother moved in with one of the siblings. There maybe a male with a different last name listed as brother in law. He'll have retained your ancestor's last name.

Both Ancestry and FamilySearch have census records. I generally prefer Ancestry, but sometimes you'll find an ancestor on FamilySearch that you didn't on Ancestry due to different transcriptions and search engines.

Obituaries – How to save \$8.00 a month (If you're only looking in Western PA)

Search first in the Post-Gazette Archives. <https://archives.post-gazette.com/> to find the newspaper, date and page.

Then go to the Google Newspaper Archives <https://news.google.com/newspapers> The Press and Post-Gazette are the best bets.

Google County History Books - Google "history of county-name state", then search last name in text. I prefer the PDF version. Use the Find command to locate text with that name.

Archive.org is best, sometimes [books.google.com](https://books.google.com), sometimes others. Google finds lots more. Put the name in quotes and city/county, state.

## Marriage records

West Virginia – Most counties, most years mid/late 1800's to 1969 [http://www.wvculture.org/vrr/va\\_mcsearch.aspx](http://www.wvculture.org/vrr/va_mcsearch.aspx) 2,900,000 marriages

Pennsylvania - <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1589502> <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/2466357> 2,800,000 marriages on both

Ohio: <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1681001> 430,000 marriages

Submitted genealogies - Only trust the ones with lots of sources, and even then they are sometimes very wrong. Ancestry has many, also World Connect - <http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/>

In Windows, the Snipping Tool is useful to extract just the part of a page you want. You can increase the size of the image before you snip it to make it more readable. On a MAC, the equivalent is Command, Shift and the 4 key held down at the same time.