

The speaker for our meeting was Marilyn Cocchiola Holt and her topic was Resources in the Pennsylvania Department of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh in Oakland.

Marilyn led us through a tour of the resources in the Pennsylvania Department, including newspapers, city directories, birth, marriage and death records, vertical files of miscellaneous items organized by topic, picture files, and much more. Marilyn and her staff will search their archives via requests that fit into the categories and year ranges at the prices shown in this link. The associated form can be printed and mailed or send as an attachment in an email.

<http://www.carnegielibrary.org/research-overview/genealogy/research-requests/>

Allegheny County birth and death records for the described periods can be gotten using this form and send via mail or email.

<http://www.carnegielibrary.org/research-overview/genealogy/allegheny-county-birth-and-death-records/>

The Pennsylvania Department has online resources, some of which can also be accessed at your local library. Some require you to be in the Pennsylvania Department or using a library card from the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. Those online resources are listed here:

<http://www.carnegielibrary.org/research/?subject-id=88>

Marilyn advised that a better (and free) source for the Sanborn Fire Insurance maps is the Penn State library. These are for the City of Pittsburgh (plus a few other local towns and many towns across Pennsylvania) and give detailed information about structures in Pittsburgh for the years 1884 to 1910.

<https://libraries.psu.edu/about/collections/sanborn-fire-insurance-maps>

The Pennsylvania Department is an affiliate Family History Center so you can order films and go there to view them if that's a closer location than the Family History Center at 44 School Street in Green Tree.

Co-located with the Pennsylvania Department is the Western Pennsylvania Genealogy Society, so when you go there you have access to both collections. WPGS volunteers will do research in their collection as described in this link.

<http://wpgs.org/cpage.php?pt=10>

Marilyn and her staff are available to assist anyone doing genealogy research. Feel free to email them at padept@carnegielibrary.org or call [412-622-3154](tel:412-622-3154). You can also make a reservation to meet with Marilyn personally using either of those means of contact.