

Genealogy Research at the Pennsylvania State Archives

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Reference Archivist
Pennsylvania State Archives



The New Archives Building



[2018]



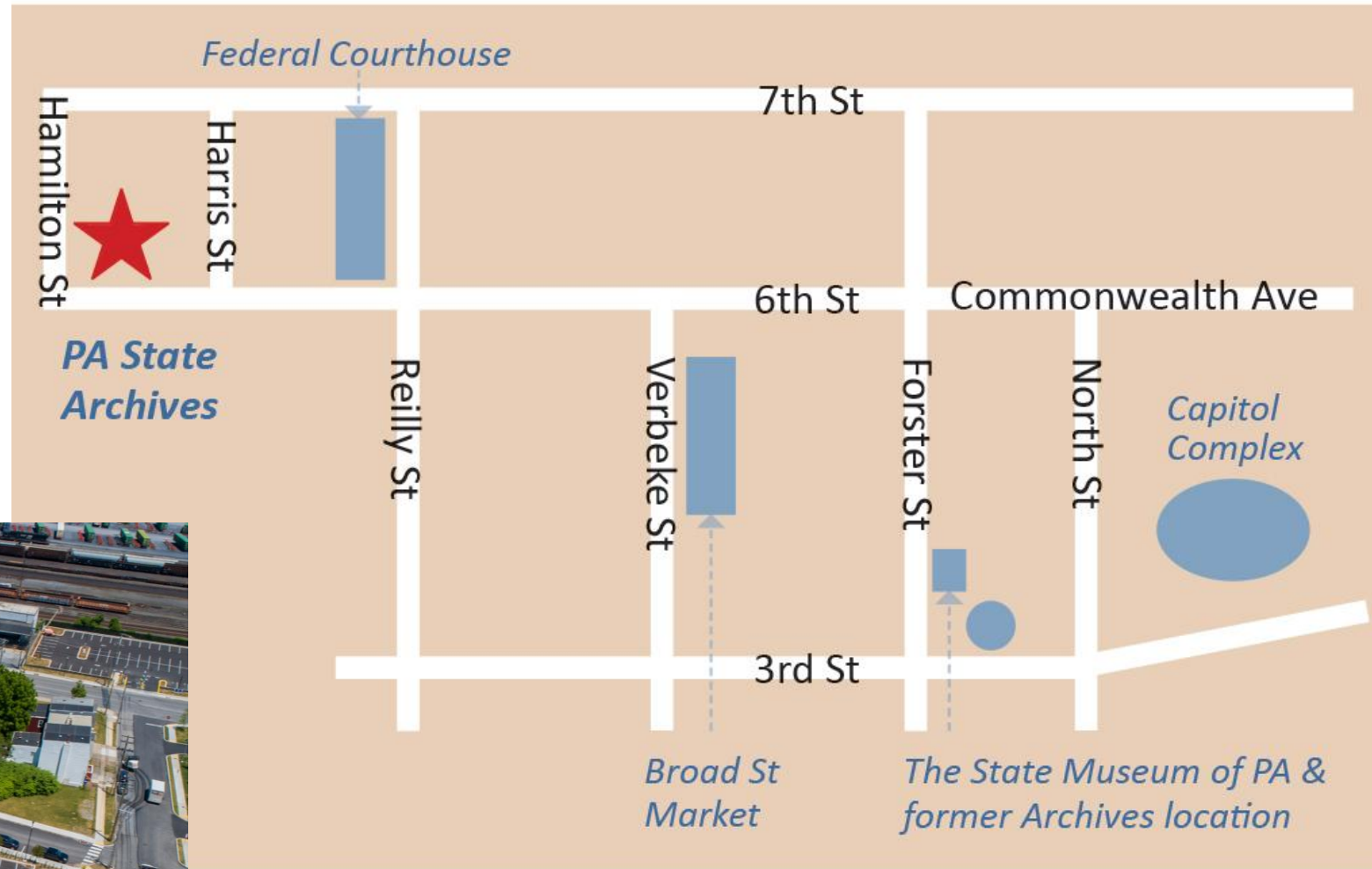
[2022]



[2023]

Location

Pennsylvania State Archives
1681 North Sixth Street
Harrisburg, PA 17102



**FREE PATRON PARKING! – Off street,
gated lot, street parking near the
building as well**

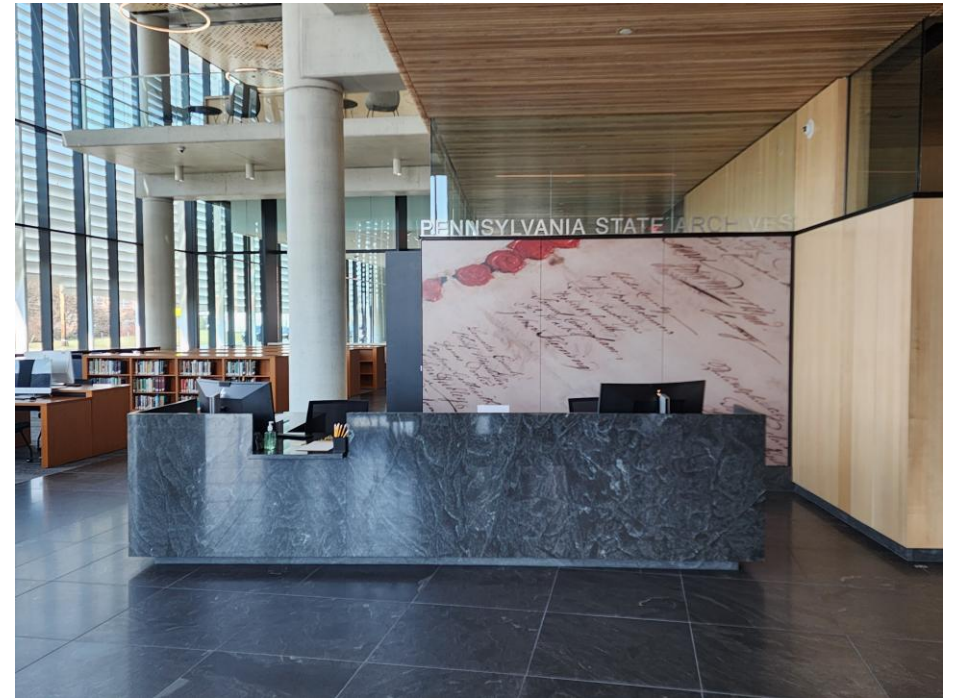
Building FAQs

- Land Purchased in 2016
 - Construction began May 2020
 - Completed July 2023
 - 4 floors (including basement level)
 - Free Patron Parking
-
- 7 Storage Rooms
 - 164,280 cu. ft. of storage
 - 12ft. tall, mobile shelving units
 - 54,000 individual shelves (180,000 linear ft.)
 - Stable 60°F, 39% RH



When You Arrive at the Archives

- Sign in/Register at the Front Desk
- Lock up belongings – includes coats, hats, bags, personal belongings
 - CAN bring your own notes, notepads, phone, writing utensils into research area
- Store lunch/beverages in the patron break area - refrigerator, microwave and sink are available there
- Discuss your research topic with the archivist stationed at the front desk
- Either use the PCs in the Public Access area to conduct your research or enter the Original Records Room if the records have not been digitized
- If using original records, you will need to show photo ID and fill out our registration form – you only need to fill out the form if you are using original records



Public Access Area



Public Access Area – What's New

- Sixteen brand new computers for researchers to use, all have a large touch-screen
- Reference library consisting of books relative to Pennsylvania history
- Self-service scanners where patrons can scan images from our library
- No more microfilm! All of it has been digitized and is available for viewing in the search room

Original Records Room

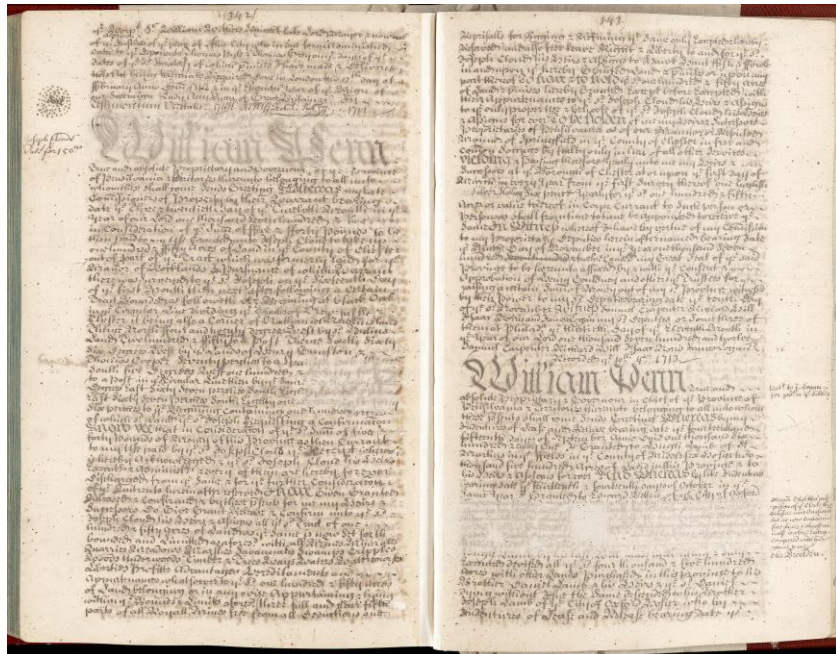


Original Records Room – What's New

- Self-service scanners where patrons can scan our original documents
- No more paper page slips, requests are all digital, boxes are scanned to the patron via container barcode and barcode scanners
- No more paper finding aids, patrons use new PCs to review and identify collection items to be requested for paging – can do this both onsite and in advance of a patron visit:
 - Navigate to the item level of a container
 - Click on the Request Button on the top banner of the screen
 - Fill out form and submit your request, the archivist on duty will contact a page to have your records pulled – will show an example

Two Types of Records Housed at the Archives

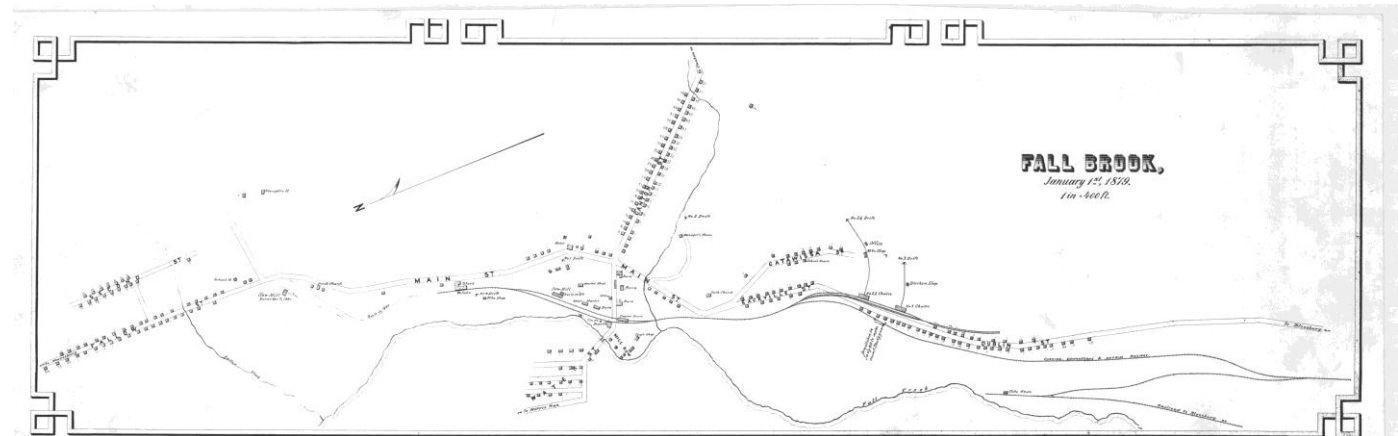
- Record Groups (RGs)
- Manuscript Groups (MGs)



Record Group 17 – Patent Book A4



Manuscript Group 404 –
Dick Thornburgh Papers



Manuscript Group 48 – Fall Brook Coal and Railway Company Records

State Archives Main Webpage and Finding Aid

- **State Archives Main Webpage** [\(link\)](#)
- **ARCH – State Archives Finding Aid** [\(link\)](#)



State Hospital Records

- Currently our most popular remote patron requested search
- **Research requests for patient records will only be processed if the patient has been deceased for at least 50 years or if a record is at least 75 years old**
- List of hospitals available for research:
 - Allentown State Hospital
 - Clarks Summit State Hospital
 - Danville State Hospital
 - Dixmont State Hospital
 - Eastern State School and Hospital
 - Farview State Hospital
 - Harrisburg State Hospital
 - Haverford State Hospital
 - Hollidaysburg State Hospital
 - Marcy State Hospital
 - Mayview State Hospital
 - Norristown State Hospital
 - Philadelphia State Hospital
 - Retreat State Hospital
 - Somerset State Hospital
 - Torrance State Hospital
 - Warren State Hospital
 - Wernersville State Hospital
 - Woodville State Hospital

Vital Statistics Records

- Birth Certificates, 1906-1918 (1906-1914 on Ancestry)
- Death Certificates, 1906-1973 (1906-1970 on Ancestry)
 - All other birth (post-1918) or death certificates (post-1973) – PA Department of Vital Records ([link](#))
- Birth and Death records for Pennsylvania counties back to 1852 are digitized and available at the State Archives and also on FamilySearch
- Marriage records from 1885-1889 can be viewed on Ancestry
 - Marriage licenses have been issued by the counties since 1885, contact the courthouse for a search, the Archives cannot search them
 - Marriage records for some Pennsylvania counties can be found onsite in our county records...

67915-629

67-631

4109

5

RG-11, Department of Health, Death Certificate

HVS-20144 REV. 4/60 LOCAL REG. NO. 24 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH VITAL STATISTICS 09408070

PRIMARY DIST. NO. 67915-629 CORONER'S CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

1. DEATH OCCURRED IN: a. County YORK b. City or borough THOMASVILLE

2. DECEASED'S MAILING ADDRESS: a. Street address, R.D., or Box Number ROUTE 1 b. Post Office, Zone, and State THOMASVILLE-PA 17364

3. VETERAN Yes ☐ No ☒ a. Which War b. Serial No.

4. NAME OF DECEASED (Type or print) a. (First) MILTON b. (Middle) O. c. (Last) McFADDEN

5. DATE OF DEATH 9/24/70

6. WHERE DID DECEASED ACTUALLY LIVE? a. State PA b. County YORK

7. SEX M 8. COLOR OR RACE W 9. MARRIED ☒ NEVER MARRIED ☐ WIDOWED ☐ DIVORCED ☐ 10. DATE OF BIRTH July 2 1924

11. AGE (In years and months) 46

12. USUAL OCCUPATION (even if retired) KNOTTER 13. SOCIAL SECURITY NO. 193-18-6905 14. BIRTHPLACE (State or foreign country) YORK CO-PA 15. CITIZEN OF WHAT COUNTRY? U.S.A.

16. FULL NAME OF SPOUSE MARGARET A McFADDEN 17. MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME EDITH ROMAINE VAUGHN

18. FATHER'S NAME WILLIAM O McFADDEN 19. INFORMANT'S NAME AND ADDRESS MARGARET A McFADDEN ROUTE 1 THOMASVILLE PA 17364

20. CAUSE OF DEATH: Enter only one cause per line for (a), (b) & (c).

PART I. Death was caused by: IMMEDIATE CAUSE (a) Acute myocardial failure

Conditions, if any, which gave rise to above cause (a) stating the underlying cause last. DUE TO (b) Myocardial infarction

DUE TO (c) Arteriosclerotic coronary thrombosis

PART II. OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONDITIONS: contributing to death but not related to the terminal disease given in Part I (a). Previous myocardial infarction coronary atherosclerosis

21. WAS AUTOPSY PERFORMED? Yes ☐ No ☒ 22. c. TIME OF INJURY Hour Month Day Year

23. I hereby certify that investigation of the death of the above named deceased resulted in the findings here stated, and that time of death is estimated as 11 P.M. E.S.T. on the date stated above 1840 C. Memorial Park PA 17402

24. a. Signature of coroner b. DATE SEPT-28-70 c. NAME OF CEMETERY OR CREMATORY HOLY SAVIOUR CEM d. DATE SIGNED 9/25/70

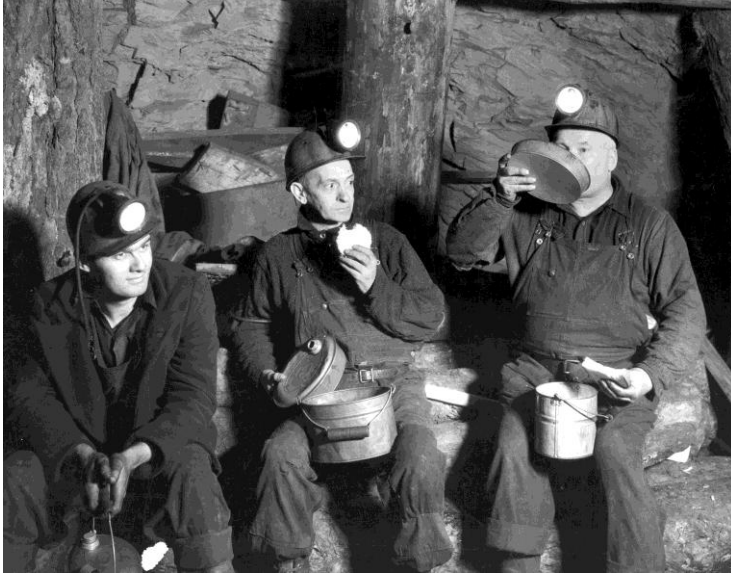
25. DATE REC'D BY REG. 9/27/70 26. REGISTRAR'S SIGNATURE Mrs. Edna Baughman 27. SIGNATURE AND ADDRESS OF GENERAL DIRECTOR Richard H. Keeley YORK-PA.

RG-11, Department of Health, Death Certificate

County and Municipal Records

- Records from all 67 counties
- Amount and type of records available differ from county to county
- Roughly 20,000 digitized rolls – NO MORE MICROFILM
- Also selected original records acquired from the counties [\(link\)](#)
- The Archives does not search county records, **patrons need to be onsite to view them**
 - LDS did a lot of microfilming of our county records in the 1970s and 1980s
 - The Archives had a security microfilm project in the 1990s for municipal records
- FamilySearch has a some of our county records online [\(link\)](#)

Photographs/Graphics



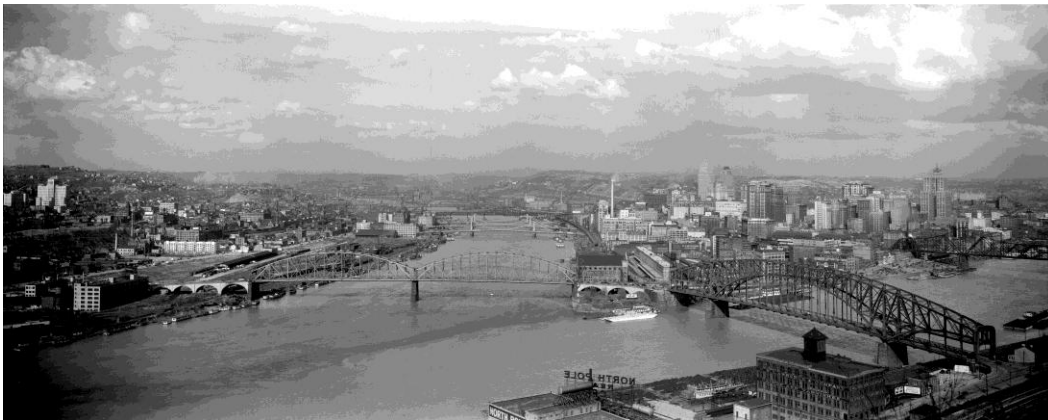
MG-219: Philadelphia Commercial Museum Collection



MG-152: S. Emerson Bolton Collection



MG-145: Daniel H. Hastings Papers



RG-39: Records of the PA Game Commission



RG-20: Department of General Services

- Linda Ries Photograph Guide, 1993 ([link](#))
- Full gamut of image types
- Postcards and posters and online via PA Power Library

Scanning/Use Fees

- The Archives has purchased all new, state-of-the-art scanning equipment, including an oversized METIS scanner that is capable of scanning oversized items of any length
- We generally cannot do day-of scan orders, patrons would have to place an order and then have it sent to them after their visit
- We have our schedule of scanning fees and also use fees posted online ([link](#))
- Patron self-service scanners are also available for scanning images out of bound volumes or records pulled for patron use
- Fragile documents, in terms of scanning, are at the discretion of the head of the reference section



- Records related to all major US conflicts, PA National Guard, veteran's burial cards, some pension records ([link](#))

Record Group 19: Military and Veterans Affairs

Dates of Birth: 5/3/1928 11/11/98
 Record Ref: 1455
 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
VETERAN'S COMPENSATION APPLICATION
 CLAIM APPROVED: 1455 CR
 NUMBER: 235242
 Read Instructions and then type or print answers to the following questions striking out words that do not apply. Numerals in parenthesis refer to corresponding-numerals in the Instructions.
 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
 COUNTY OF MERCER Julie B. Packard nee Black, the
UNKNOWN MARRIED WIDOW of DANIEL B. PACKARD
 being duly sworn, deposes and says: that the veteran named in the following descriptive information; I served in the military or naval forces of the United States from JANUARY 28 1898 to NOV. 11 1898; I claim veteran's compensation as authorized by Act No. 53, approved January 5, 1924; I was a resident of Pennsylvania at time of entry into service; I make this claim with full knowledge of the penalty for making a false statement relative to a material fact concerning this claim and the answers to the following questions and descriptive information are true:
 (1) PACKARD DANIEL PRESCOTT WHITE
 (Last name) (First and middle name) (Serial number) (White or colored)
 (3) Legal residence at entry into service #48 SHENANDO ST. GREENVILLE, MERCER CO., PA
 (Street and number, City, County and State)
 (4) Present residence: DECEASED
 (Street and number, City, County and State)
 (5) Enlisted, commissioned or inducted in PA; ARMY; NAVY; AIR; COAST; INF.; ART.; ENGINEER; PA; Vol.; US; Army; at
GREENVILLE, MERCER CO., PA on APRIL 28 1898
 (6) On active duty in Navy or in Reserve from ✓ to ✓
 (7) Place and date of birth GREENVILLE, PA DECEMBER 5 1856 (Dec 5 1856)
 (8) Names and addresses of dependents: Wife (full name) JULIE B. PACKARD #20 CHAMBERS AVE
GREENVILLE, PA
 Minor children NONE
 Mother (full name) CELESTIA COTTON PACKARD DECEASED
 Father DANIEL B. PACKARD, DECEASED
 (9) Service in organizations, at stations or on vessels in the order named as follows:
CO. H, 15th REG. PA. VOL from APR 28 1898 to NOV 11 1898
 from to
 from to
 (10) Grades or ratings with dates of appointments or promotions: FIRST LIEUT. & Adj. Dates UNKNOWN
 (11) Engagements: NONE
 (12) Wounds or other injuries received with dates: NONE
 (13) Served overseas from NO to NO
 (14) Honorably discharged on NOV 11 1898 at CAMP MEADE, PA
 (15) Did you ever apply for or receive a bonus or veteran's compensation from any other State? NO
 (16) Did you ever refuse on conscientious, political or other grounds to perform full military duty or to render unqualified service? NO
 Subscribed and sworn to before me this 7th day of MARCH 1924.
 (17) D. B. Packard (18) Julie B. Packard
 (Signature of person certifying to oath) (Signature of Applicant)
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES UNMARRIED WIDOW
 First Monday in January, 1936 CERTIFICATE OF IDENTIFICATION 3/1/34
 (Date)
 (19) I, JOHN PATTON ADJUTANT, do hereby certify that I am Adjutant PA
Brans Camp No. 15; that Julie B. Packard (Title of officer)
U.S.A. (Name of applicant)
 applying for Veteran's
 Compensation is known to me to be the applicant named in the application; that he is mentally competent; that the signature of the affidavit is the signature of the applicant.
 Signature and impression of seal or stamp indicating office or position held.
 Read Instructions (79) before signing.
 (1) 6 Months at \$10.00 per month. Total 60.00
 (1) Computed by Edward Brown Reviewed by Edward Brown
 (1) Checked and approved by Edward Brown
 For the Adjutant General.

Industrial and Labor

- Numerous collections related to labor and industry in Pennsylvania
- PRR by far the largest
- Collections relative to specific industrial firms
- Coal Miner's page ([link](#))
- PA Dept. of Labor and Industry and additional industry-related series in various collections
- Molly Maguires pardon documents

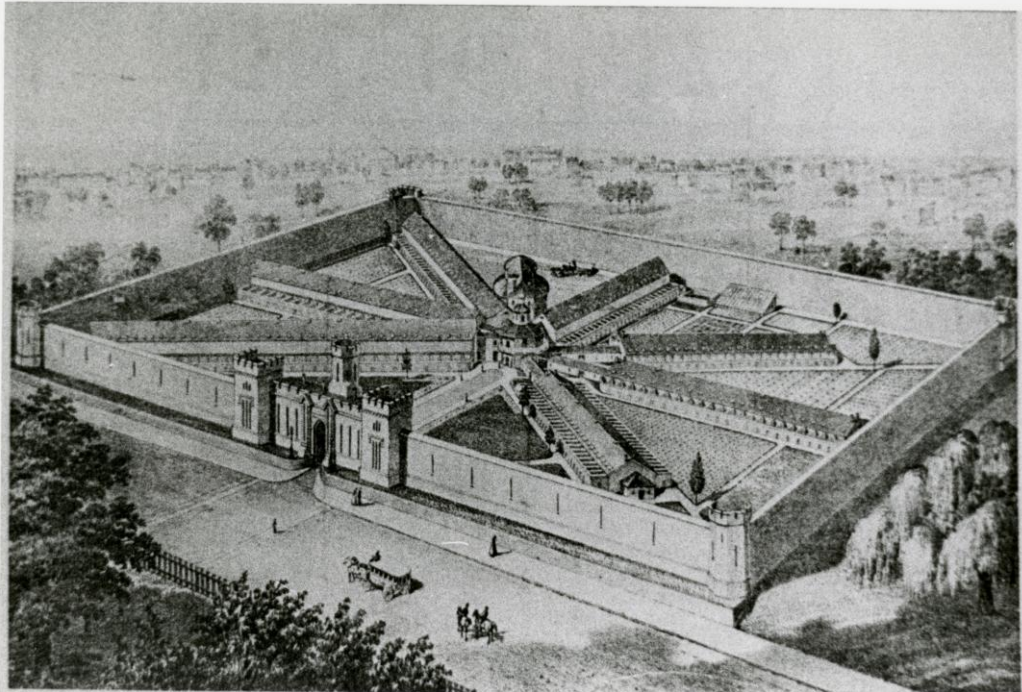
MG-273: Charles H. Burg Photographs



MG-218: General Photograph Collection, Robesonia Iron Company Employees

Prison Records

- Allegheny Count Workhouse
- Eastern State Penitentiary
- Pennsylvania Industrial Reformatory at Huntingdon
- Western State Penitentiary ([link](#))



Height,	1 m 60.5	Head, length	19.8	L. Foot,	25.1	Color of LEFT EYE	Circle, <i>Chest</i>	Age, <i>45</i> years	
Eng. Hght.	5 ft 3 1/8 in	" width	15.1	L. Mid. F.	10.1		Periph. Z. <i>Slate</i>		
Outs, A,	1 m 60	Cheek,	14.2	L. Lit. F.	8		<i>Blue</i>		Born in
Trunk,	84.9	Rgt. Ear { length	7	L. Fore A.	43.4		Pecul. <i>Irony</i>		
Curv.,	—	" width							

REMARKS RELATIVE TO MEASUREMENTS

DESCRIPTIVE.

Forehead,	Incl.	<i>Vert</i>	Nose,	Profile	Ridge	<i>Root</i>	Rgt. Ear	Border,	<i>Reg</i>	Complexion,	<i>Med dark</i>				
	Hght.	<i>Med</i>		Base	<i>Hor</i>	Root		<i>Med</i>	Lobe,		<i>Eq sq</i>	Mous.	<i>Grey</i>	Beard,	<i>Grey</i>
	Width,	<i>Med</i>		DIMENSIONS.				Teeth,	<i>Full reg</i>		Weight,	<i>152</i>			
	Pecul.	<i>—</i>		Length	<i>Med</i>	Projection		<i>Med</i>	Breadth		<i>Med</i>	Built,	<i>Med stout</i>		
				Pecul.	<i>Lip pointed</i>		Chin,	<i>Pro</i>	Hair,	<i>Dark Brown</i>					

Measured at Eastern State Penitentiary, PHILADELPHIA { Date *May 18th 1905*
By *Jos. M. Morgan*

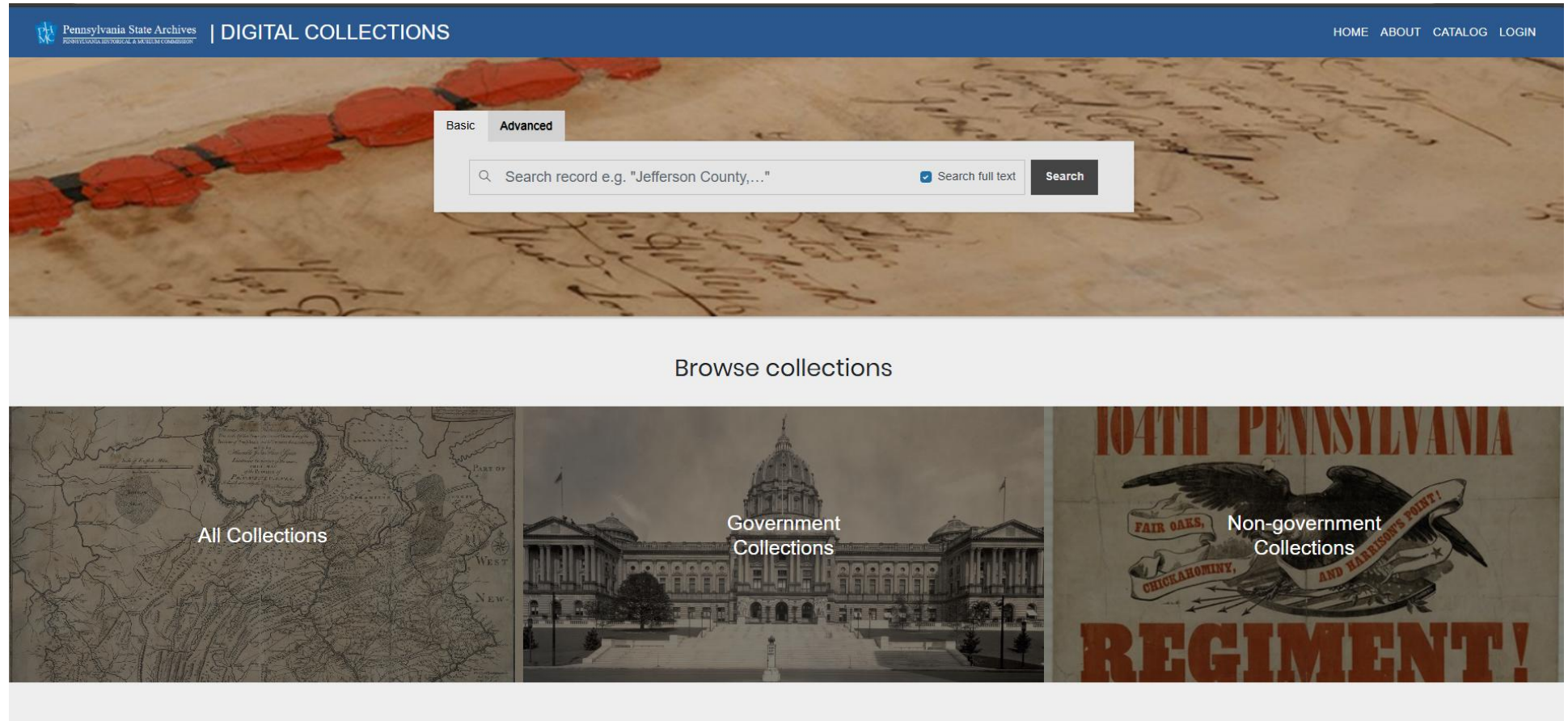
LIBRARY BUREAU C3010

Remote Research Requests

- Online record order forms [\(link\)](#)
- Reference Requests: \$20.00 per name or indexed record(s) searched
- We will **NOT** search county records or non-indexed records
- Have a new point-of-sale service that makes online and in-person payment by credit card much easier
- 6-8 weeks for completion of orders

Open Access – new online way to utilize our digital collections

- All-In-One Digital Repository
 - Digital Record Center
 - Digital Archives Repository
- Replaces PA Power Library and eventually other online collection access points
- Expand public access to our Digital Collections
- A portion is now up and running, mostly the collections that used to be on PA Power Library



Archives' Online Resources

- Archives' Website
- ARCH
- Open Access
- Legacy Pages [\(link\)](#)
- Ancestry [\(link\)](#)
- AncestryPA.com [\(link\)](#)
- Family Search [\(link\)](#)

Questions?

