Genealogy Research at the Pennsylvania State Archives

> Brett Reigh Reference Archivist Pennsylvania State Archives



# The New Archives Building

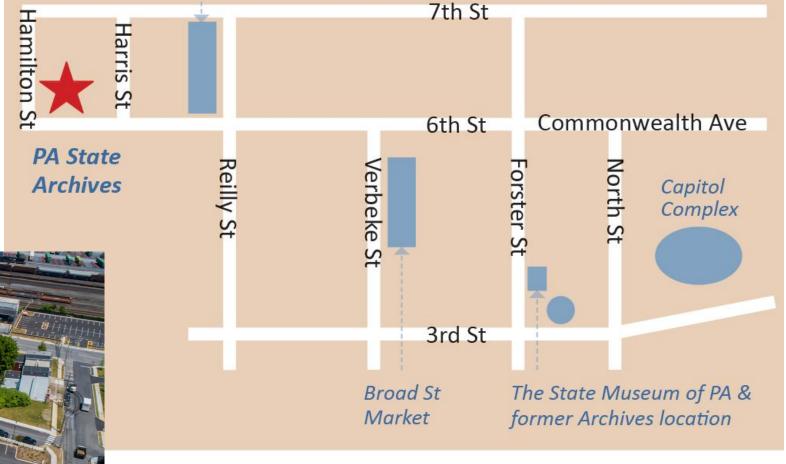






#### Location

Pennsylvania State Archives 1681 North Sixth Street Harrisburg, PA 17102



Federal Courthouse



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

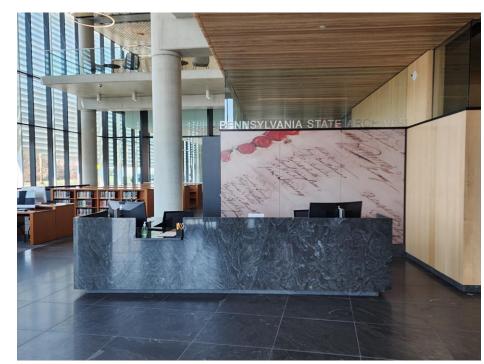
#### Building FAQs

- 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

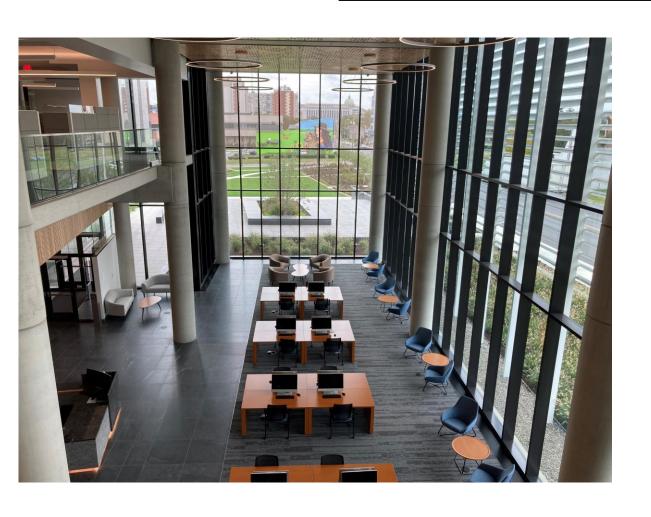


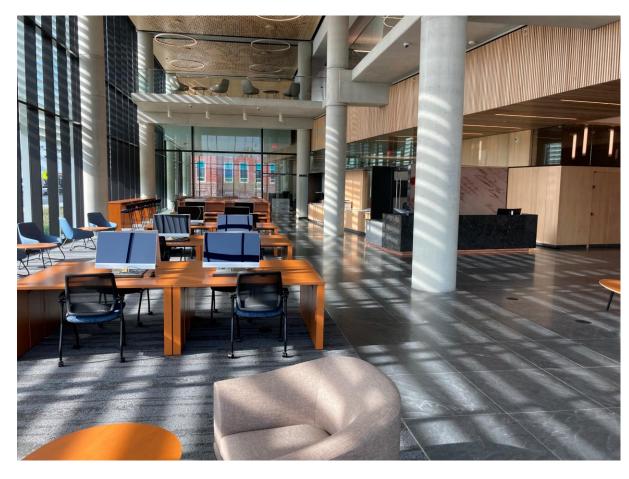
#### When You Arrive at the Archives

- 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

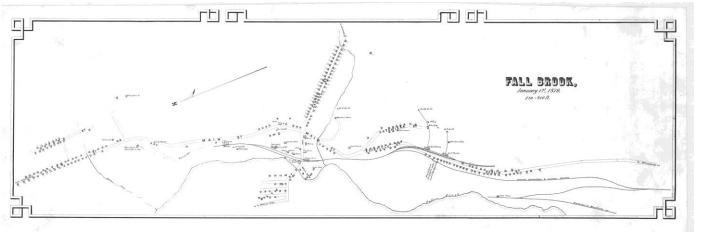
- Record Groups (RGs)
- Manuscript Groups (MGs)



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
- ARCH State Archives Finding Aid (link)



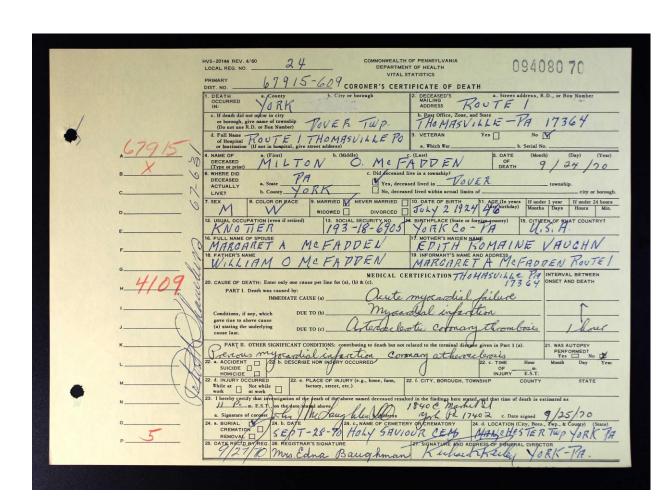
## State Hospital Records

- 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 a 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...

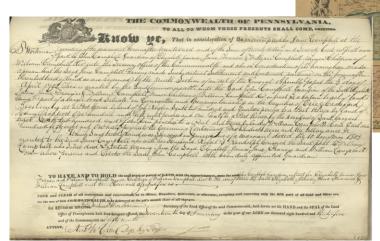


## County and Municipal Records

- 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)

## Land Records and Maps

- Land Records (link)
  - Land Office files
    - Applications -> Warrants -> Surveys
      - -> Return of Survey -> Patents
    - Related land correspondence and files
  - Deed Books in the County Records
- Maps (<u>link</u>)
  - Land Office Map Collection
  - Warrantee Township Maps
  - County Maps
  - Fowler Birdseye Maps
  - Melish-Whiteside Maps
  - Connected Drafts
  - Canal Maps
  - USGS Topographic Maps
  - State Highway Maps



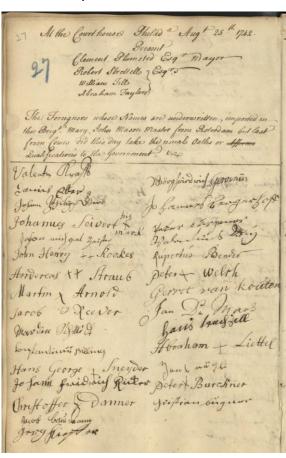
1855 Erie County Map

Jane Campbell Patent

## Immigration and Naturalization

- Ships Lists of German Passengers, 1727-1806 (<u>link</u>)
- Naturalization Lists of the Supreme Court and Courts of Nisi Prius, 1740-1773
- Supreme Court of Pennsylvania Naturalization Records, 1794-1906
- County Court Naturalizations

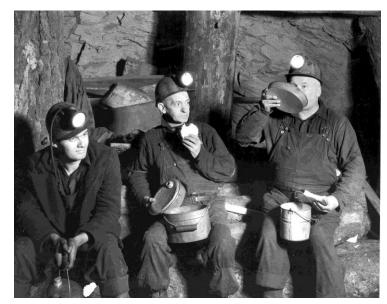
TO THE HONORABLE THE JUDGES	
OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF THE COUNTY OF Jellerson	
At a Court holden in and for said County, the 2nd day of May	
A. D. 1894, the petition of Mike Berkhols a native of	
Germany now residing in frunt a Fronkifthe Country of	
Sufferdore, and State of Pennsylvania, respectfully showeth that	
uguer petitioner arrived in the United States of America, to-wit: At the port of	
newyork , in the State of newyork on or about	
the 12th day of Diceicon, A. D. 18 55, and that in pursuance of	
an Act of Congress entitled "An Act to establish an uniform rule of naturalization,"	
made a declaration of his intention to become a citizen of the United States, con-	
County of Scott McClelland & County in the State of	
Penna on the 6" day of May - 1 D 1899	
Vide certificate	
; that he has resided within the limits	
and jurisdiction of the United States for five years last past, and for one year last	
past within the State of Pennsylvania; that he has never borne any hereditary title,	
or been of any of the orders of nobility in the came, from whence he came. He therefore prays that he may become a citizen of the United States, and	
1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	
Witness ) Maik Birkholn	
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA.	
Jefferson COUNTY, SS:	
1/ (/ D) '42' /	
We, , , citizens of the United States, being duly sworn according to law, do depose and say that we are	
well acquainted with Mike Berkhols , the above named	
petitioner, and that to our knowledge and belief he has resided within the limits of	
the United States for five years last past, and for one year last past within the limits	
of the State of Pennsylvania; that during the same period he has behaved himself as	
a man of good moral character, attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States, and well disposed to the good order and happiness of the same.	
Sworn and subscribed in open Court this	
2 day of May - A. D. V. Shillife	
1892 MAON	
1.V. Redic	
Prothonotary.	



Record Group 26 – Dept. of State

To the Honorable the Justices of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.
The Detition of Thomas McKenna
Respectfully Sheneth:  That he declared on eath before the Prothenotary of said Court, on the declared on eath before the Prothenotary of said Court, on the first the said arrived in the port of the Prothenotary of the Prothenotary of said Court, on the first the said in the year. The said is the time to be said arrived in the prot of the said in the said in the said of the said in the said in the said in the said of the said in the s
That your Petitioner has resided within the United States upwards of five years, and one year in the State of Pennsylvania hast past, immediately preceding this his application to become a Citi-
zen of the United States. That he has nover borne any hereditary title, or been of any of the or- ders of nobility in his own or any other country.
He therefore prays, that on his making the proof, and taking the oath prescribed by law, he may be admitted a Citizen of the United States of America. And he will ever pray, &c.
Thomas off offerme
Thomas of herme
Dohn Riley a Citizen of the United
States of a stories, being doly swam specializate law, saith, that he known and is well acquainted with the property of the property of the Petitioner; that to his knowledge he has resided in the United States for gazars, and one year bat past in the State of Pennsylvanis, immediately preceding his application to be a Citizen; that during the said period he has beluved as a man of good more character, stateded to the principles of the Constitution of the United States, and well disposed to the good order and happiness of the same.
Soura in open Court, } John Rilling.
J. P. Ch on the
1 Thinas McKenna do sweet
that the contents of my petition are true; that I will support the Constitution of the United States and I now renounce and relinquish any title or order of nobility to which I am now or hereafter may be entitled; and I old absolutely and entirely renounce and allyzing can all flegiones and flegibly to any foreign Frice, Potenpier, State or Sovereignty whatever, and particularly to the Access of whom I was before a subject.  Soften in open Court, this 30  day of Fig. A. D. 180
day of Soft A. D. 1867 \ Thours all terms
O. R. Shounder
PROTHONOTARY.

## Photographs/Graphics



MG-219: Philadelphia Commercial Museum Collection



MG-152: S. Emerson Bolton Collection



**RG-20: Department of General Services** 



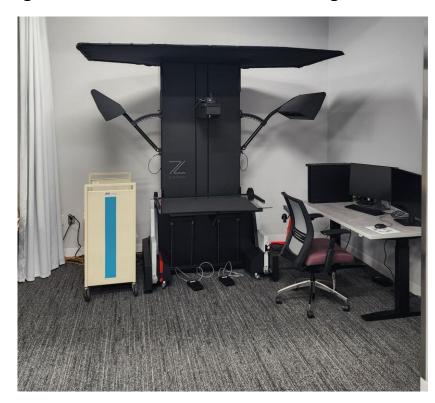
MG-145: Daniel H. Hastings Papers

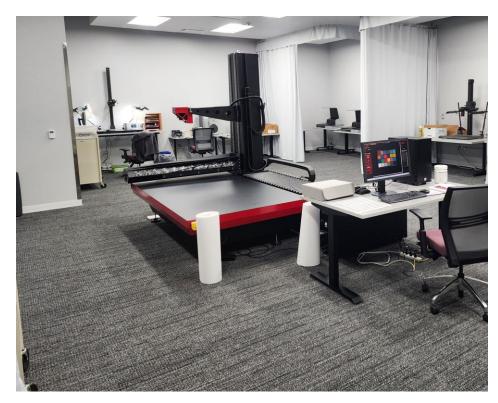
- Linda Ries Photograph Guide, 1993 (link)
- Full gamut of image types
- Postcards and posters and online via PA Power Library

RG-39: Records of the PA Game Commission

## 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 (<u>link</u>)
- 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





## Military Records

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

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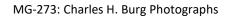
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Record Group 19: Military and Veterans Affairs

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or nav as aut make claim	duly sworn, deposes and says: Lear the veteran named I al forces of the United States from April 25 PAF the Norized by Act No. 53, approved January 5, 1934; Hewa this claim with full knowledge of the penalty for mak and the answers to the following questions and descrip	to Nov. 11" 1898 s a resident of Pennsylvania ing a false statement relative tive information are true:	; I claim veteran's compensation a at time of entry into service; I e to a material fact concerning this
V (2)	PACKALU DANIE PESC (Last name) (First and middle na	011	WhITE
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(4)	Present residence: DECEASEd		
	(Stree	t and number, City, County and Sta-	
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(6)	On active duty in Navy or in Reserve from	V 10	· .
	Place and date of birth & Greenville, P.	A DECEMBER	6" 1856 (PACE" 1856)
	Names and addresses of dependents: Wife (full name)		23 Chambers AVE
	Minor children None	CHEE	NVIIIE, PA
	Mother (full name) CELESTIA Cotton PACKALD	DECEASED	,
	Father PANIE! B. PACKALD, PECE	ASEA	,
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(	COK, 15th REG PA. VOI trom	Apr 28 1898	to NOV 11" 1898
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(10)	God from	Gud Lind	ADI. DATES UNKNOWN
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(12)	Wounds or other injuries received with dates:	ONE	
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V (14)	Honorably discharged on Nov " 1898	at CAMP MEADE,	<i>7A</i>
(15)	Did you ever apply for or receive a bonus or veteran's c		
(16)	Did you ever refuse on conscientious, political or other	grounds to perform full mili	tary duty or to render unqualified
Subscr	ibed and sworn to before me this 2th day	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	-
	MArch, 108,4.	(18) Julie B. A	arkard
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	MY COMMISSION EXPIRES  CERTIFICATE OF		0/4/04
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and posit	tion) U.S. %. Ve nsation is known to me to be the applicant named in the	(Name of applicant)	applying for Veteran's
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Read i	nstructions (y9) before signing.	(Signature of per	son identifying applicant)
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#### 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



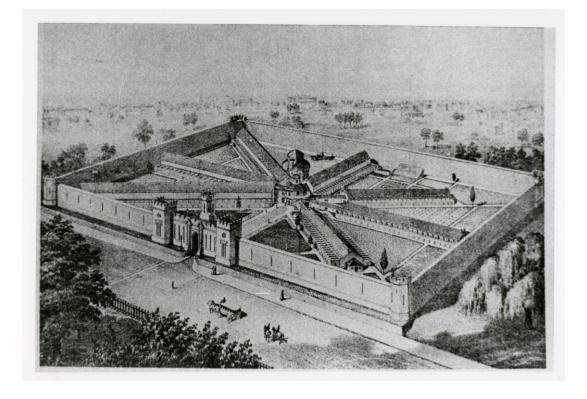


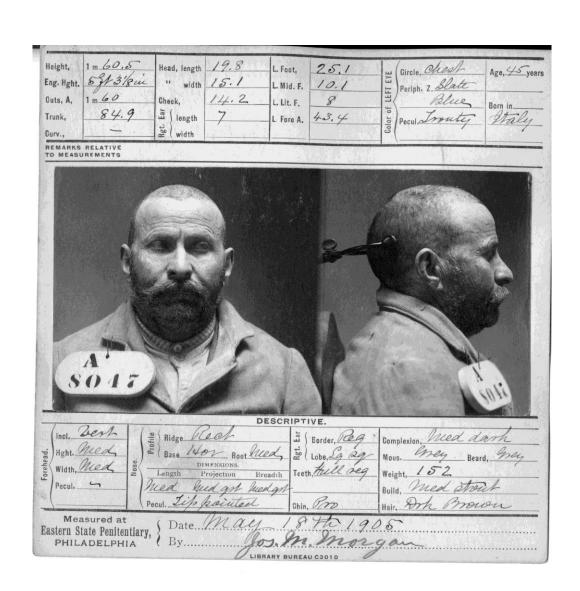


MG-218: General Photograph Collection, Robesonia Iron Company Employees

#### Prison Records

- Allegheny Count Workhouse
- Eastern State Penitentiary
- Pennsylvania Industrial Reformatory at Huntingdon
- Western State Penitentiary (<u>link</u>)



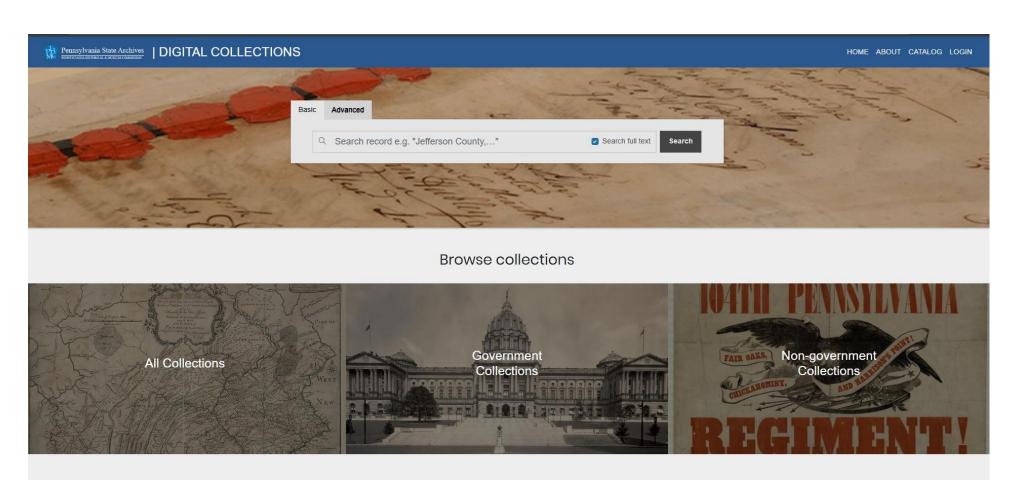


## Remote Research Requests

- 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?

