



Expertise from NEHGS and American Ancestors on Pennsylvania Genealogy is Free for One Week

From May 16–23, All Pennsylvania Resources are FREE on AmericanAncestors.org

May 15, 2017—Boston, Massachusetts—As one of the original thirteen colonies, Pennsylvania has a long history and many records available for tracing ancestors who lived there. Its size and central location on the Atlantic seaboard have made it an important player in the documenting of American family history. Prominent groups of immigrants who settled in Pennsylvania include Germans, Irish, African-Americans, Italians, Swiss, Dutch, and Chinese.

Starting at midnight (EDST) on Tuesday, May 16, through midnight (EDST) Tuesday, May 23, New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS) and American Ancestors will offer free access to many Pennsylvania genealogical resources on AmericanAncestors.org. For one week, family historians may search databases for Pennsylvanian ancestors and register for a free webinar on Pennsylvania genealogical research methods. Additional educational resources and features provided by NEHGS on Pennsylvania genealogy will all be free for one week with registration as a free Guest Member on [AmericanAncestors.org/Pennsylvania](https://www.americanancestors.org/Pennsylvania).

NEHGS genealogist, Pennsylvania expert, and author Ann Lawthers points out that “By 1790 Pennsylvania was the most populous state in the country”—with Philadelphia being the largest and busiest port in British North America. With its prominence as an important immigration destination from many points in Europe and beyond, the state is a significant point of consideration for many Americans who are researching family history.

Among the many features available during this week-long promotion is a free webinar by Lawthers on “Resources for Pennsylvania Genealogy.” Lawthers’s webinar starts with a description of Pennsylvania settlement patterns and how those patterns and changing county borders influenced the surviving genealogical resources. Special attention is given to early German, Scots-Irish, Welsh, Quaker, and Mennonite immigration. A discussion of standard and unique genealogical resources for researchers is included in Lawthers’s online presentation.

The free webinar and other valuable Pennsylvania research resources may be accessed free at [AmericanAncestors.org/Pennsylvania](https://www.americanancestors.org/Pennsylvania). Registration at AmericanAncestors.org is required as a free Guest Member to gain access to these valuable resources. Guest Member accounts allow web visitors to use a limited suite of AmericanAncestors.org databases and access featured web content. Unlimited access to all 1.4 billion records and other benefits is through membership at NEHGS.

About American Ancestors and New England Historic Genealogical Society

New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS) is America’s founding genealogical organization and the most respected name in family history. Established in 1845, it is the nation’s leading resource for family history research. NEHGS provides comprehensive family history services through an expert staff, original scholarship, educational opportunities, world-class research center, and award-winning website, AmericanAncestors.org, to help family historians of all levels explore their past and understand their families’ unique place in history.

A member-based, nonprofit institution serving more than 220,000 members, NEHGS is dedicated to advancing the study of family history in America and beyond, by educating, inspiring, and connecting people through our scholarship, collections, and expertise.

NEHGS’s resources, expertise, and service are unmatched in the field and its leading staff of onsite and online genealogists includes experts in early American, Irish, English, Scottish, Italian, Atlantic and French Canadian, African American, Native American, Chinese, and Jewish research. AmericanAncestors.org, the most-used genealogical society website in the world, offers more than 1.3 billion searchable family history records spanning twenty-two countries covering the United States, the British

Isles, continental Europe, and beyond. The NEHGS library and archive, located at 99-101 Newbury Street in downtown Boston, is home to the largest collection of original family history research materials in the country with more than 28 million items dating from the fourteenth century to the present, including diaries, letters, photographs, books, and microfilm.

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