

HERITAGEQUEST ONLINE

This genealogy database, available through the Chester County Library System's website, has images of federal census schedules from 1790 to 1920 (1930 is being added), over 8,000 books of family histories and over 12,000 books of local histories. It has almost two million citations to periodical articles on genealogy and local history from PERSI (see below). Additional categories of records are Revolutionary War Era Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files, the Freedman's Bank and The U.S. Serials Set which consists of Memorials, Petitions and Private Relief Actions of the U.S. Congress. **For help getting started, click Census>What's New**, then scan down to the bottom left side of the page >Getting Started.

Find It

Online, go to www.ccls.org>Databases>if asked, type the 14 digits of your Chester County Library System library card>HeritageQuest.

Browse It

Click Census. Click Browse. Browse censuses from different states and from different centuries. Go to the **Books** section. Enter a search term to browse people, places or publications. Browse citations of articles available from **PERSI**. Enter a term in any of the other three categories and browse the results. There are links to helpful information within each section.

Search It

Notice the Help link in the upper right hand corner. What you read in Help is tailored to each category. There are six categories to search.

CENSUS

The database is searching Head of Household. To find another person, search surname only. You cannot use Boolean terms in Census searches.

In Basic Search, enter **any** of the following: Surname, Given Name, Census Year, State.

In Advanced Search, enter any of the following: Surname, Given Name, Census Year, State, County, Location, Age, Sex, Race, Birthplace. Find by Page Number is another feature.

To learn **details** about each Census, click Browse>select a year>What you should know about the Census. For example, the 1870 Census was the first to identify former slaves as householders in their own right. The 1890 Census was almost totally destroyed in a fire.

BOOKS

The family and local histories have been digitized and are searchable. There are two histories of special interest in the database: *History of Chester County, Pennsylvania* by Futhey & Cope published in 1881 and *History of Delaware County, Pennsylvania* by Henry Graham Ashmead published in 1884. To read either of them, click Publications>enter History of Chester C or History of Delaware>select the ones published by Everts>click the arrow to the left of the book's title. To search them, **click People or Places** and enter search terms.

Use wildcards with search terms. ? for one letter, * for 0 or more letters. Use quotation marks for phrases. Use **and**, **or** and **and not** to link terms. Use parentheses to prioritize searching. Ex. (Union Army or Union soldiers) and Gettysburg.

PERSI (PERIODICAL SOURCE INDEX)

This is the world's largest subject index to genealogical and historical periodical articles in English and French published since 1800. The fee for full-text articles is \$7.50 for six articles plus 20¢ per page copied. Articles on the methods of doing genealogy are also available. Search People, Places, How to's and Periodicals.

FREEDMAN'S

Freedman's Savings and Trust was incorporated by Congress in 1865 to assist former slaves and African American soldiers with their new financial responsibilities. It operated until 1874. The database has 480,000 depositors' applications to the bank that include names, and such information as, place of birth, residence, occupations, parents, siblings, spouses, children, and in some cases, the names of former slave owners. Search by Surname, Given Name, Application Year or Bank Location.

REV WAR

See images of documents naming more than 80,000 American Army, Navy and Marine officers and enlisted men on the pension benefit rolls either because they had been disabled (the initial reason for pension payments) or, later, because they had served during the Revolutionary War. Bounty-Land Warrant rights were granted to soldiers and officers as an inducement to enter, to stay in the military or as a reward for completed service. **Click Read more about Rev War** for a complete description of the records. Search by Surname, Given Name, State or Service.

Serial Set

Access 150,000 documents from the American State Papers and the United States Congressional Serial Set dating from 1789-1969. This set has documents, reports and special investigations from Congress, from the executive branch (President's) and from non-governmental organizations. Search by Person Name, Place Name, Keywords or Document Date Range.

Display It

View and download or print scanned images.

Save It

Save to your hard drive, CD or flash drive. For each session there is an option to save selected results to a personal electronic notebook. It's possible to type notes about what you've found and include them with your results. There are no accounts, so information cannot be saved beyond the current session.

Take It

Save as above or print.

Cite It

Full citations are available.

Call us for additional help.



Reference Department

450 Exton Square Parkway • Exton, PA 19341

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