

# Franklin County Archives & Records Management

From the area's beginnings as the first frontier of the American colonies to the battleground for many wars and onto today, Franklin County has a rich and varied history. Franklin County Archives & Records Management is dedicated to safeguarding and preserving its history and heritage as well as providing the public with access to the documents and records pertaining to the history, administration and operation of the county.



## "Miles of Files"

Franklin County's Archives & Records Management preserves county memories in accordance with guidelines and rules set forth by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC), the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania's Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Court (AOPC), county laws, rules and regulations, and industry standards and best practices.

It's important to note that not all files and records are universally accessible, depending on state- or county-established laws and policies. There also may be specific forms to complete and/or procedures to follow prior to accessing some records. Finally, Franklin County Archives & Records Management adheres to Pennsylvania's policies on records retention; that means a particular file may no longer be available if it falls outside of its retention period.

7

miles of records  
processed since  
2021  
and counting!

## Getting Started

Begin your research journey using Archives' online catalog or by visiting our online repository to search an assortment of select digitized records. **Please note:** This is not a complete listing of the 7 miles of records in our Records Center, and we add newly digitized records and images to our catalog every day.

On the reverse of this sheet, you will find additional information about the public's most requested types of documents for genealogists and local historians. More detailed descriptions of where to find records, how to request them and other helpful information is outlined on the Archives & Records Management department page online at [www.franklincountypa.gov](http://www.franklincountypa.gov).

Archives Catalog



## Contact Information



### Franklin County Archives & Records Management

340 N. Second St.  
Chambersburg, PA 17201  
Phone: (717) 261-3154

[archives@franklincountypa.gov](mailto:archives@franklincountypa.gov)  
[www.franklincountypa.gov](http://www.franklincountypa.gov)

#### Office hours:

Monday, Wednesday,  
Thursday, Friday,  
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

To better assist you,  
we recommend making  
an appointment

**Outside business hours:**  
please email or call

*Closed weekends and all  
county-observed holidays*

# Digging Deeper Into Your Research

## Just A Click Away...

This is a brief and convenient guide for anyone looking to research their family roots in Franklin County. The information here covers the most requested documents and questions from genealogists and local historians.

Contact Archives staff to discuss your research needs. We would love to help you find what you need! If you prefer online research, visit our website to start your journey: [www.franklincountypa.gov/departments/archives-records-management](http://www.franklincountypa.gov/departments/archives-records-management)



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& Records Management

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What genealogical records are online?

Franklin County's birth registers, marriage docket, naturalization records, death registers, cemetery plans, will books and probate papers are popular resources for genealogists, and we have made many of these records available online. Please note we cannot provide certified copies of these records; please contact the appropriate county department(s) to obtain certification.



Will Books  
1784-1905



Birth & Death  
Registers, Marriage  
Dockets,  
Naturalization  
Records, Probate  
Papers, Estate  
Papers (1784-1998)

### Why aren't all records available online?

Digitizing records takes time, so we've prioritized making our most historic and most requested records available. We add to our digital holdings every day. If you can't find what you need from our website and catalogs, let us know and we will do our best to connect you with the records that you need. Additionally, privacy laws sometimes restrict us from sharing records. Find more information on restricted records at [www.franklincountypa.gov/government/open-records-information](http://www.franklincountypa.gov/government/open-records-information).

### How can I find land records?

Many early land records are available online. Use these QR codes for quick access to deed books and indexes, warrants, surveys and more.



Deed Books Vols.  
1-70 (1784-1883) &  
Indices (1784-1963)



Early Land Records:  
1750 - 1850

### Do you have adoption papers?

Adoption records are restricted by Pennsylvania law. For more information, contact the Franklin County Clerk of Courts' Office: [www.franklincountypa.gov/departments/clerk-of-courts](http://www.franklincountypa.gov/departments/clerk-of-courts).

### Do you have tax records?

We house Franklin County real estate tax and personal property tax records from 1785 to present. Use this QR code to access the historic valuations and assessment books that have been digitized and made available online.



Tax Assessments  
1785-1912

### Do you have a copy of my DD214?

Archives has access to military discharge records from 62 or more years ago. For more recent discharge records, contact the Franklin County Register & Recorder's Office: [www.franklincountypa.gov/departments/register-recorder](http://www.franklincountypa.gov/departments/register-recorder).

### How can I get copies of records?

If a record has already been digitized and made available online, you can download and save or print the record directly from our catalogs. If you need higher resolution copies, let us know. We will email your copies at no charge; printed copies are \$0.25 per page. For certified copies, you will be directed to the office that created the record originally.

### Can you do research for me?

Although we do not offer research services, we will look up records for you if you provide a description of what you need. At a minimum, please provide a name or case number, an approximate year, the type of document that you need and the name of the municipality in which an event occurred.