

RESEARCH IN PENNSYLVANIA with variety of examples

Marsha Gold Allen, January 2017

WILLIAM PENN – Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Charter in 1681 for 28 million acres of land.

One of 13 original colonies. He recognized the Indian claim to the land, and they had to acquire the land from the Indians. Arizona is 2.4 times larger than PA. PA has 12.7 million vs AZ with 6.4 million people.

MAPS: 1) Topography 2) Advancing Frontier 3) Purchase Boundary

COUNTY CREATIONS : 1740=4 counties 1790=21 counties 1820=50 counties 1855=67 counties

An early settler might have never moved, yet lived in 10-12 different counties.

Which court house had the land records? What is difference of 1) Town, 2) Borough, 3) Township, 4) County

INTERNET RESEARCH: 1) PGenWeb.org 2) Ancestry.com 3) FamilySearch.org 4) Google 5) more!

LIBRARIES - 1) Local: City, County, 2) Regional, 3) Family History Library in SLC.

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, Free Library of Philadelphia, Library Company of Philadelphia (German-Americans), and more listed on www.FamilySearch.wiki.

PRINTED HISTORIES – many written through out years

1) Places: Local / Towns / Boroughs / Counties; 2) People: Families / Generations

COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY – repositories for many areas of history!

1) Churches, 2) Cemeteries, 3) Newspapers/Obituaries, 4) Family Files/Photos, 5) Maps, 6) Directories

IMMIGRATION – EMIGRATION – NATURALIZATIONS

Pennsylvania State Archives - What are they? Where available? www.digitalarchives.state.pa.us

Ex: Hans Peter GRUBER 1733; Swear oath of loyalty too British King;

CHURCH RECORDS

Ex: Elizabeth BEST – her marriage, Baby, death, burial

TAX RECORDS - LAND RECORDS –

Ex: 1775 Taxes - Peter GRUBER and Solomon GRUBER, Bucks County

GOVERNMENT RECORDS –

FIRST by towns and churches; then counties

Birth & Death - 1906 by State

Ex: Thelma GRUBER born 1905 in Clarion county

Statewide Death records on Ancestry.com after 70 years

County Court House – 1) Marriages, 2) Divorce, 3) Land, 4) Court Actions, 5) Wills, 6) Estate Settlements

Ex: 1841 Estate Settlement of Johannes Gruber, Clarion Co

Ex: land purchases and what year and which township

CENSUSES –

First by Counties, 1790 Federal Censuses and forward - all on www.Ancestry.com

Schedules : 1) Population, 2) Mortality, 3) Agriculture, 4) Veterans, 5) Manufacturing, 6) Social Statistics

Ex: 1790 population – to see what some were living; occupations in general categories

Ex: 1800 population - GRUBERS in Northampton Co.

Ex: 1880 Mortality – Maggie LIKINS, Crawford Co

Ex: 1880 Mortality - brothers Wm and John BEST, Clarion Co.

Ex: 1890 Veterans – George GRUBER

Ex: 1850-1900 Agriculture - Clarion Co. Follow families over the decades and generations

LINEAGE SOCIETIES - DAR, SAR, First Families, etc.

DAR: Daughters of the American Revolution - huge records repository

REVOLUTIONARY WAR - What records available? Where available?

Ex: John Paul NELEIGH 1759-1843

WAR of 1812 – What records available? Where available?

Ex: Henry H. NEELY 1779-1864

CIVIL WAR – What records available? Where available?

Ex: Jacob CAMPBELL 1835-1862

Ex: Soldiers' Orphan Schools

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

AGRICULTURE - clearing lands for farms, towns, roads, etc.

1) Animals, Barns 2) Crops 3) Implements development 4) Barter System 5) Grange

TRANSPORTATION AND TRADE –

1) Indian Paths 2) Canals 3) Roads; Conestoga Wagon; Cumberland Gap 4) Railroad Systems

NATURAL RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT:

LAND and FOREST

1) Family Farms, 2) Commercial Farms, 3) Lumber, 4) Minerals – quartz, etc.

COAL -

1) Bituminous - 1741 western counties; Pick and Shovel method; 1914 Peak year

Canal system, then Railway system developed

1890 United Mine Workers of America

2) Anthracite - 1769 eastern counties

Twice as expensive to mine; Deep Pit mining

PETROLEUM –

1) 1859 Drake Well, Venango County; whole new industry

INDUSTRIES -

Banking, Iron & Steel, Publishing, Glassware, Shipping, Construction, Cement Manufacturing, Electricity, Petroleum, Meat Packing, Ceramic Insulators, Food Manufacturing, Electronics, Agricultural Supplies, etc.

BIBLIOGRAPHY of books I have used in my research

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