Montgomery County Genealogy Resources

Vital Records:
Civil Vital Records kept at county level until 1906
  - Birth 1852-1855, 1893-1906, 1893-1915 birth records are also held by the Register of Wills, post 1906 held by the Pennsylvania Department of Health
  - Marriage 1852-1855, 1885-present (post 1989 has searchable online index) held through Montgomery County Records Department
  - Death 1852-1855, 1893-1906, post 1906 held by PA Department of Health
  - Pennsylvania State Archives Birth Records 1906-1909 and Death Records 1906-1964 are digitized and searchable free to Pennsylvania residents at: http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/research_topics/3162/ancestry_com_pennsylvania/1575348

Religious vital records come from various churches around the county. In some cases, these are consolidated into a single print/electronic index, in others they are state, region, town, or institutionally specific. This is where a researcher may find Colonial or 19th Century records in periods when civil records were not kept. Two useful books at Montgomery County Norristown Library might be:
1. Baptisms and Burials from the Records of Christ Church Philadelphia 1709-1760 (L.H.C. 929.3748 B222b)
2. Marriages and Deaths in Montgomery County Pennsylvania 1685-1800 (L.H.C. 929.3748 M519m)

Electronic Resources:
  - PA Church Records on USGen Web: http://usgwarchives.net/pa/montgomery/church.htm
  - Montgomery County Historical Society: http://www.hsmcpa.org/
  - PA Vital Records: http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS_0_0_0_0_0_0_0_43/http;/pubcontent.stat e.pa.us/publishedcontent/publish/cop_hhs/health/content/internet/birth___death_certificates/bhsr/birth_and_deat h_certificates_home_header/birth_and_death_certificates_home_header.htm

Cemetery Records:
  - Find a Grave (searchable by the deceased person’s name): http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi
  - Find a Grave also has a listing of Montgomery County Cemeteries, with each individual cemetery searchable by decedent’s name: http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=csr&CScnty=2286
  - Montgomery County Records Department has a browsable (NOT searchable) Register of Veteran’s Burials: http://www.montcopa.org/DocumentCenter/View/749

Court Records:
  - Office of the Prothonotary has microfilmed copies of Court of Common Pleas cases: http://www.montcopa.org/index.aspx?nid=97 (Historical Society of Montgomery County has originals)

Deed Records:
  - Montgomery County Historical Society has Deed Records 1784-1893 on microfilm: http://www.hsmcpa.org/library.html
Recorder of Deeds holds all Montgomery County Deeds from 1850-present. There is a searchable index:
https://rodviewer.montcopa.org/countyweb/login.do?countyname=Montgomery

Book at Norristown Library: Early Pennsylvania Land Records 1685-1793 (L.H.C. 929.3748 E31e)

There are also several PA land collections that can be found via Ancestry.com (this is an in-library resource only). In general these cover 1733-19th or 20th Century.

Probate Records:
- Register of Wills and Clerk of Orphan’s Court, which hold the original records:
- Family Search has a browsable (NOT searchable—there is no search screen) online collection of Wills and administrative original documents 1683-1994:
  https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/231938?availability=Family%20History%20Library
- US Gen Web has a searchable Will Abstracts and Administrations collection 1784-1821 (other individual probate records are also included in the collection):
  http://usgwarchives.net/pa/montgomery/wills.htm

Military Records:
- Family Search has an overview of Pennsylvania Military Service:
- Most military pension records (the most likely place to find personal and family information about a soldier) are available through the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA):
  http://www.archives.gov/research/military/
- Subscription Websites such as HeritageQuest (www.heritagequestonline.com) and Fold3(www.fold3.com) have digitized copies of pension application materials for Revolutionary War. (Norristown Library does not subscribe to either of these sites.)
- Pennsylvania did issue some State-level pensions for Revolutionary War Service, and a searchable index is available:
  http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/revolutionary_war/3852/revolutionary_war_pension_records_,_pt__1/387374

Naturalizations:
- County-level Naturalizations are held by the Office of the Prothonotary:
- Any pre-1906 (local, municipal, state, or federal) Naturalizations are held by the Pennsylvania State Archives:
  http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/naturalization_and_immigration/3851
- Federal Naturalizations post 1906 are held at the NARA regional facility in Philadelphia:
  http://www.archives.gov/frc/philadelphia/

Newspapers:

City Directories:
- Norristown Library has copies of city directories for Norristown and Bridgeport 1860-1861 and for Norristown, East Norriton, West Norriton, Bridgeport, and Plymouth Meeting 1902-1978
- Historical Society of Montgomery County holds city directories for Norristown, Pottstown, and Bridgeport from 1860-1978
• Ancestry.com also has searchable city directories (Note: this is a subscription web site, available for in house use)

**Useful Links:**
• Norristown Library Genealogical Resources: [http://mnl.mclinc.org/library-resources-available](http://mnl.mclinc.org/library-resources-available)
• PA State Archives Holdings for Montgomery County: [http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/bah/dam/rg/rg47m.htm](http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/bah/dam/rg/rg47m.htm)
• Genealogical Society of Montgomery County Info on Montco Historical Records: [https://genpa.org/sites/default/files/ResearchTip-MontCo.pdf](https://genpa.org/sites/default/files/ResearchTip-MontCo.pdf)
• PA State Archives Genealogy: [http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/genealogy/3183](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/genealogy/3183)

**Montgomery County Genealogy Resources**
*(Note: Many of these agencies allow you to order records online)*

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Record</th>
<th>Who Has It?</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
<th>Website</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Open Access PA Birth and Death records</td>
<td>Ancestry.com Pennsylvania (Free to PA residents)</td>
<td>Pennsylvania State Archives PH: 717-783-3281</td>
<td>Please <a href="http://www.montcopa.org/index.aspx?NID=418">Click Here</a> and read instructions carefully.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cemetery Records</td>
<td>Find a Grave.com</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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| County Naturalization Records pre-1906 | Prothonotary’s Office                    | Office of the Prothonotary  
P.O. BOX 311  
Norristown, PA  
19404-0311  
| Naturalization Records post-1906  | NARA Philadelphia Regional Facility     | 14700 Townsend Road  
Philadelphia, PA  
19154-1096  
| Local Newspapers                | Montgomery County Norristown Public Library | 1001 Powell St.  
Norristown, PA 19401  
PH: 610-278-5100  
X201                                                      | [http://mnl.mclinc.org/library-resources-available/](http://mnl.mclinc.org/library-resources-available/) |
| City Directories                | Norristown Library or Historical Society of Montgomery County | Library: 610-278-5100  
x201  
Historical Society:  
| Deed Records 1850-present       | Recorder of Deeds                       | One Montgomery Plaza  
3rd Floor  
Swede and Airy Streets  
P.O. Box 311  
Norristown, PA  
19404-0311  
| Naturalization Records pre-1906 | PA State Archives                       | Pennsylvania State Archives  
350 North Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17120  
PH: 717-783-3281                                                 | [Click Here](http://www.montcopa.org/index.aspx?NID=353) |

Questions? Please contact the Reference Department at (610) 278-5100 x201