

An Archivist's Guide to Genealogical Research at the Heinz History Center

Mt. Lebanon Genealogy Society
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INTRODUCTION

- History of Detre Library & Archives, Heinz History Center
- An Introduction to our Collections
 - Key: Western Pennsylvania-focused
- Library in Detre Library & Archives
- Archival Collections Defined

SOURCES

-Local Government Records

- Example Local Government Records:
 - Allegheny County Recorder of Deeds Records, MSS 256
 - Records of Pittsburgh Board of Health, Marriage Returns, MSS 458
 - Allegheny County Recorder of Deeds, Manumission and Indenture Records, MSS 494
 - Online Resource: <http://www.library.pitt.edu/freetlast/index.html>
 - Allegheny County Recorder of Deeds, Feme Sole Trader/Separate Earnings Act Records, MSS 564
 - Allegheny County Veterans and Widows Burial and Death Records, MSS 1159
 - Pittsburgh Select and Common Council Records, MSS 205
 - Beaver County Records, MSS 142
- Example Records:
 - Marriage Returns
 - Indenture Papers, Freedom Papers, Certificates of Freedom
 - Title Abstracts, Mortgage Certificates, Tax Liens, and Certificates of Land Conveyance

-Church & Synagogue Records

- Example Churches & Synagogues:
 - Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church Records, MSS 552
 - Alleghenytown Methodist Episcopal Church Records, MSS 324
 - Beth Israel Congregation (Latrobe, Pa.) Records, MSS 1067
 - Online Resource: <http://www.jewishfamilieshistory.org/>
 - Bethany Lutheran Church (Braddock, Pa.) Records, MSS 562
 - Beulah United Presbyterian Church Records, MSS 83
 - Birmingham United Church of Christ Records, MSS 1153
 - Online Resource: <https://historicpittsburgh.org/collection/birmingham-united-church-christ-records>
 - First Unitarian Church of Pittsburgh Records, MSS 550
 - Homestead Hebrew Congregation Records, MSS 107
- Example Records:

- Rites of Passage Records
- Burial Records
- Meeting Minutes
- Correspondence
- Photographs
- Financial Records

-Beneficial & Civic Organization Records

- Example Organizations:
 - Ancient Order of the Hibernians, Allegheny County Board Records, MSS 391
 - Ancient Order of the Hibernians, Homestead Chapter Records, MSS 351
 - Aurora Reading Club Records, MSS 378
 - Ateleta Beneficial Society Records, MSS 354
 - Beaver Valley United Jewish Community Records, MSS 447
 - Beneficial Society of North Italy Records, MSS 356
 - Irene Kaufmann Settlement House Records, MSS 78
 - Pittsburgh Foundrymen's Association Records, MSS 76
- Example Records:
 - Correspondence
 - Meeting Minutes
 - Individual Membership Applications
 - Internal Newsletters
 - Death Benefit Applications
 - Photographs

-Funeral Home Records

- Example Funeral Homes:
 - H. Samson, Inc. Records, MSS 260
 - Newcomer Funeral Parlor Records, MSS 363
 - T. B. Moreland Company Funeral Home Scrapbooks, MSS 687
 - Pappert Funeral Home Records, 2017.0040
- Example Records:
 - Funeral transfer files
 - Order books
 - Burial records

-Records of Genealogists Past

- Example Genealogists Past:
 - Eunice E. Elliott Genealogical Papers, MSS 761
 - Josiah V. Thompson Papers, MSS 201
- Example Records:
 - Genealogical diaries
 - Original family photographs and documents
 - Genealogical research files

- Business & Industry Records

- Example Businesses and Industries:
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 - ALCOA Records, MSS 282
 - Carnegie Steel Company Records, MSS 315

- H. J. Heinz Company Records, MSS 57
- Kaufmann's Department Store Records, MSS 391
- Jones & Laughlin Steel Corporation Records
- Joseph Horne Company Records, MSS 398
- PPG Industries Records, MSS 667
- Westinghouse Electric & Westinghouse Airbrake (limited) Corporation Records, MSS 424, MSS 920
- United States Steel Corporation, Duquesne Steel Works & Homestead Steel Works, MSS 42, MSS 418
- Example Records:
 - Individual employee files
 - Internal newsletters & publications
 - Photographs
 - Production records
 - Training materials

-Other Assorted Resources:

- Archives:
 - Family Papers
 - Employee Newsletters
 - Industrial:
 - *Men and Steel* (1947-1952)
 - *Westinghouse News* (1914-1917, 1919-1927)
 - *WABCO News* (1924, 1927)
 - *ALCOA News* (1930-1983)
 - *ALCOA Aluminum* (1934-1980)
 - *PPG Live Shots* (1918-1929, 1938-1940)
 - *Dravo News* (1978-1987)
 - *Dravo Review* (1948-1974)
 - *Dravo Slant* (1943-1944)
 - *Pickles* (1897-1904)
 - *The 57* (1905-1908)
 - *57 News* (1918-1970)
 - *Snap Shots* (1934-1962)
 - *Spotlight* (1948-1965)
 - *News Beat* (1971-1980)
 - *Orange Disk* (1959-1983)
 - *Gulf Oilmaniac* (1978-1980, 1982, 1984)
 - *Copperwelder* (1947-1977)
 - *J&L Steel Employees Journal* (1935-1937)
 - Department Stores:
 - *Storagram* (Kaufmann's) (1920-1922, 1924-1929, 1935, 1937-2002)
 - *Horne-Pipe* (1919-1993)
 - *Gimbelite* (1958, 1960-1963, 1965-1968, 1972, 1974)

FINDING YOUR ANCESTORS IN THE ARCHIVES

-Thinking Like an Archivist to Get the Most Out of Archival Collections:

- Pack up your Ancestor's FAN Club and bring them to the Archives
 - Which **areas/neighborhoods** did they call home?
 - Which **churches/synagogues** were they likely to have attended?
 - Which **corporations and/or businesses** benefitted from their labor?
 - Which **beneficial and/or civic organizations** might have had their membership?
- Search using *these names*, rather than just ancestors' names

-Finding Your Ancestors in the Archives: Tips & Tricks

- Embrace uniqueness of collection; let *it* tell *you* its strengths
- Using your Ancestor's FAN Club, devise list:
 - Businesses, Organizations, other affiliations
 - Use local histories, city directories, maps to uncover names
 - **Date Range**
 - **Geographic Boundaries**
 - Acknowledge limitations of list; revise over time
- Plug names and keywords into catalogs
- **Consult with Archivists & Librarians**

-The Work We Archivists Do

- ArchiveGrid: <https://beta.worldcat.org/archivegrid/>
- Google: "[Organization, Person, Etc.] Records in Archives"

PORTALS TO OUR COLLECTIONS

- **Online Catalog**
 - Link: <http://www.heinzhistorycenter.org/detre-library-archives>
- **Finding Aids** (just to search archival collections)
 - Link: <http://www.historicpittsburgh.org/findingaids>
- **Historic Pittsburgh**
 - Link: <http://www.historicpittsburgh.org/>

PLANNING YOUR VISIT

- **Address:**
 - 1212 Smallman St.
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15222
- **Hours:**
 - Wednesday-Saturday, 10am-5pm
- **Admission**
 - FREE for researchers
- **Contact Us:**
 - library@heinzhistorycenter.org or 412-454-6364