

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

• 1654 DeKalb Street • Norristown, PA 19401-5415 •
610-272-0297
www.hsmcpa.org

Guide to the Library

Hours:

Monday and Thursday: 9 am to 5 pm
Tuesday and Wednesday: 1 pm to 9 pm

Welcome to the Research Library at the Historical Society of Montgomery County. The Library has been open to the public since October 30, 1901. The Collection specializes in the history and genealogy of Montgomery County.

What to expect when you arrive:

1. We will ask you to lock your personal items in the lockers located in the lobby next to the coat rack. You are permitted to bring into the Library a notepad, pencils, and a limited amount of research materials at the Librarian's discretion.
2. If you are researching family history, ask the Librarian to check for a family file for the last names you are researching. A family file is a collection of correspondence and research done by other researchers, primarily staff from the HSMC. You are permitted access to one family file at a time to ensure they are kept organized and you will need to sign for access to it.
3. Check the card catalogue for your topic. The card catalogue is divided into three sections: Author/Title has red labels, Name has white labels, and Subject has blue labels. If you find a card that interests you, pull it and ask the librarian to pull the source.
4. Copies are made by the Librarian, with the following fees: \$0.25 per standard copies, \$0.50 per microfilm copies or larger size copies. Members received discounts on standard copies. The Society staff has the right to refuse copy requests at their discretion.

Highlighted Resources:

<p>Open Stacks: <i>library shelves</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Pennsylvania Archives▪ Montgomery County histories and biographies▪ Census Indices 1790-1860▪ Indices and abstracts of wills of Montgomery, Philadelphia and some neighboring counties▪ Sketches and Bulletins of the HSMC▪ Publications of the Pennsylvania German Society▪ Pennsylvania Gazette 1729-1789▪ Maps and Atlases of Montgomery County▪ Revolutionary War Pension Indices▪ Church Histories▪ DAR Indices and publications: Vol. 1-165▪ City Directories: Norristown, Bridgeport, Conshohocken, Pottstown, and Philadelphia	<p>Microfilm Collection: <i>gray/green cabinets</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 1798 Window Pane Tax▪ Marriage License Dockets: 1885-1943▪ Norristown Newspapers (Herald and Register)▪ Township Tax Records from 1785-1860▪ Birth Registrations: 1893-1915▪ Veterans Affairs Burial Applications: 1865-1943▪ Death Registrations: 1893-1915▪ Montgomery County Tax Books: 1785- 1846▪ Deed Indices: 1784-1919▪ Church and Cemetery records▪ Sheriff Dockets, Prothonotary Dockets▪ Montgomery County Will Books 1 – 10▪ Ambler Gazette 1898 – 1995▪ US Census for Mont. County 1800 – 1930
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Special Collections: *ask librarian*

- Church and Cemetery Records
- Scrapbooks of Hocker and Matthews
- Montgomery County Mortgage Books 1–31
- Naturalization Papers
- Civil War Regimental Histories
- Montgomery County Deed Book 1 – 299
- Court of Quarter Sessions Records
- County Sheriff's Deed Poll Books A-S
- Family, Township and County Histories
- Local Marriages & Deaths from the Herald
- Obituaries from local Newspapers
- CD-ROMs: US Census Indices, Social Security Death Index, and other records

Technology Guidelines:

1. Cell phones are strictly prohibited in the Library. If you must keep your phone with you, please turn the ringer off.
2. Laptops may be brought into the Library. Outlets are limited.
3. The personal use of digital cameras or scanners is not allowed. Society staff will do imaging on a limited basis, as time is available. Terms of usage and fees will be discussed at time of reproduction. Requests should be made in advance.
4. The Society staff maintains the right to refuse any items of a technological nature not specifically detailed above.

Membership:

If you are not already, we encourage you to become a member of the Society. Annual dues are \$30 for a single membership and \$40 for a family. Corporate membership is \$100. Life membership is \$500. Membership gives you access to the library for free during normal operating hours and discounts on photocopying. Members receive a quarterly newsletter, the annually published *Bulletin* containing articles of historical and genealogical interest about Montgomery County, and special discounts on items throughout the year. Membership runs on a calendar year. The Society also hosts various other activities throughout the year.