

INTRODUCTION TO THE BUCKS COUNTY ARCHIVES

Resources Available at the Spruance Library

1. Information about the collection

Special Indexes to Records in the Bucks County Archives / This document includes a glossary of terms in various types of documents, a list of the types of documents, information available in various types of documents, uses for documents, and minimal information about the indexing system for the documents. This index is most valuable for a basic understanding of some of the types of documents available in the collection.

Bucks County Government Archives: What are they? Where are they? How do I use them? / This is the transcript of a talk given by librarian Betsy Smith. It includes a basic history of Bucks County government, an introduction to county government in Pennsylvania, an overview of positions within the county government, the history of the transfer of the documents from the Court House to BCHS, a discussion of the importance of these documents in local history, uses for these documents, and examples of indexes from the Newsletter of the Bucks County Genealogical Society. This folder is a great resource for getting a basic understanding of Bucks County government and the functions of the Courthouse Archives in providing a detailed sense of daily life in Bucks County.

2. Bucks County Indexes – Court Papers

Court of Common Pleas – Papers – 1711-1726 (Index Court Records #1) / This file is an index of appearance papers. Each photocopied card contains the plaintiff, the defendant, the type of claim, the file number, and the date. Some cards expand this format with information about the court proceedings, the outcome of the case, the lawyer(s) involved, the residencies and occupations of the people involved, and notes about the case. Most cards contain limited information; the most detailed cards give information about the money owed as a result of the case and the date the debt was paid. Most of these cases are debt negotiations. *Indexed alphabetically by last name of the defendant.*

Bucks County Court of Quarter Sessions 1715-1753 and 1754-1774 (Index Court Records #2) / This index lists the names of people mentioned in Quarter Sessions dockets. Each person is listed with a series of numbers, presumably the dockets in which they are mentioned. The numbering system is unreliable but is a good starting point for investigation. There is a list of page numbers, but only unnumbered pages starting after page 407, so any number in the list below 407 is not explained in the index. *Indexed alphabetically by last name.*

Bucks County Indigent Soldiers Tombstones 1885-1908 (Index Court Records #3, crossed out on the box) / This is an index of the tombstones of honorably discharged soldiers as a result of an act passed on May 12, 1885, requiring county commissioners to appoint employees to find burial places for honorably discharged soldiers. The file contains the text of the act that required this effort by the county and a listing of indigent soldiers. The index contains the name, age, date of death, rank, date of discharge, residence, occupation, and place of burial of each soldier. Most listings contain all of this information, but some listings are missing age, residence, and/or occupation information. *Indexed alphabetically by the last name of the indigent soldier.*

Execution Papers [3:35] 1745-1787 (Index Court Records #4) / This file is empty.

Militia Exemptions 1800-1814 (Index Court Records #5, crossed out on the box) / This file is not in the box.

Tax Exonerations 1937-1970 (Index Court Records #6, crossed out on the box) / This file is not in the box.

Fishery Bonds [3:38] 1809-1922 (Index Court Records #7) / This file contains (1) an index of fishery bonds indexed by bond number, (2) an index of names associated with fishing in Bucks County, and (3) an index of Bucks County Fishery names giving the municipality and the earliest date recorded on bonds. The first index includes the fishery bond number, the body of water associated with the bond, the location of the body of water (usually the township), and the date of issue of the fishery bond. *Indexed by bond number.* The second index includes the name of the person associated with fishing, the township of their body of water, the body of water, and the bond number associated with that body of water. *Indexed alphabetically by last name.* The third index includes the body of water, the township location, and the earliest date recorded on the bond. *Indexed alphabetically by body of water.*

Noxious Animal Bounty (Index Court Records #8, crossed out on the box) / This file is not in the box.

Bucks County Slave Register 1783-1830 (Index Court Records #9) / This file is a transcription of the Office of the Prothonotary's register of slaves. The first page of the index includes a table with the owners' names, occupation, township, names of slaves, the sex of the slaves, and age of the slaves in years and months. *No apparent organizational system.* This format applies to pages 1-2 and 10-26. On pages 2-9, the table includes the owner's name, occupation, township, names of slaves, the sex of the slaves, the date of birth of the slaves, and the date entered. *Indexed by date entered, last column.* The final table in the file (p. 1-11 at the end of the folder) includes a listing of slaves' full names and ages. The names are indexed by last name with a listing of first names beneath each last name. As is to be expected, there is a large group of slaves with unknown last names listed under "Unknown." *Indexed alphabetically by last name.* This file is also available in book form in the stacks: Bucks County Slaves, 1783-1830 (974.821 Sla).

3. Finding Aids

Desk Reference – Bucks County Archives, PHMC Bucks County Records Survey (1987), Manuscript Collections, Microfilm Collection, Lower Level Location Guide (section 1 pertains to Bucks County Archives) / This is an outdated summary of record groups (RGs) within the Bucks County Archives collection produced in 1996. The first section details RG 1: Tax Records, RG 2: Clerk of the Court of Quarter Sessions, RG 3: Prothonotary, RG 4: County Commissioners, and RG 5: Clerk of Orphans' Court. Each record group is described and outlined by section. RG 1 contains 1 section, RG 2 contains 14 sections, RG 3 contains 49 sections, RG 4 contains 17 sections, and RG 5 contains 4 sections. The number of sections listed in the index is not consistent with the actual number of sections in the collection. There is also a list of materials not on inventory sheets but contained in the archives. For each record group, there is a minimal (or non-existent) description of the types of documents produced by that particular office and a listing of sections by number (or letter). Each section is listed with information about its contents and date range. Some record groups contain notes about the limitations of the information, but others have no additional information. The file also contains a handwritten list of archives about World War II, but this list contains very little information about the nature of the archives. Finally, the file contains

introductory information about birth and death records and introductory information about naturalization records in Bucks County. This file is not organized in any specific way and its scope is very limited. The lists in this file are not comprehensive and they do not represent the collection in its current state.

Bucks County Courthouse Archives, Record Group 4: Commissioners Bills, 1700s-1900s – Frances W. Waite, 2005 / This file is a comprehensive index of RG 4 compiled over 15 years (1990-2005). It includes an excellent introduction that details the history of the collection and its eventual acquisition by the BCHS. The file contains a detailed outline of the contents of RG 4 broken down by record group, section number, and box number. Each box is dated and named. The file contains introductory information about each file, broken down by topic and moving from RG 1:1, box 1, to RG 4:51, box 1. Each section description includes information about the context of the topic, the type of information found in the documents in each section, the history of that element of local government, and information about indexes available for that section of the archives. The most minimally described sections only include basic information about the contents of the box(es), and the most detailed descriptions include chronological histories of the papers included in each section as well as descriptions of the indexes of that part of the collection. This file is an excellent introduction and reference for RG 4: Commissioners Bills and is a relatively recent guide to that section of the archives. *Indexed by record group number.*

Execution Papers, Court of Common Pleas, Series 3:35, 1745-1787 / The first section of this file includes a listing of the Court of Common Pleas execution papers 1745-1787 with the year, case number, plaintiff(s), and defendant(s). *Indexed chronologically by year and numerically by case number.* This list is complemented by an index that includes people involved with the Court of Common Pleas with (presumably) the page numbers in which they are mentioned listed after their names. *Indexed alphabetically by last name.* The second section of the file contains the Court of Common Pleas execution papers from March term 1787 to December term 1788. This section is a hand-copied listing of the information found in the execution papers from March term 1787, June term 1787, September term 1787, December term 1787, March term 1788 series I, March term 1788 series II, June term 1788, September term 1788, and December term 1788. Within each term, listings include the file number, term, defendant, defendant's municipality, plaintiff, plaintiff's municipality, type of action, and other names. The "other names" category usually includes the names of the lawyer(s) or sheriff(s) who worked on the case. *Indexed by file number.* This section of the file also includes information about the language in the documents, a glossary of commonly used legal terms, a list of the attorneys and/or esquires mentioned in the documents, and a list of the sheriffs mentioned in the papers. This file is very useful for gaining information about the execution papers, but it does not include all of the execution papers on file and it contains minimal information about the content of the papers.

Court of Common Pleas, Original Papers, 1766-1799, Record Group 3:33, Files #8006-#15014 / This file contains a listing of the contents of the original papers of the Court of Common Pleas, listed by file number. Each listing contains the file number, the term, the defendant, the defendant's municipality, the plaintiff, the plaintiff's municipality, the type of action, and other names associated with the case. This is a handwritten transcription of the original papers divided into sections separated by green paper. Each section contains (approximately) one year of listings, from December term of one year to December term of the next year. Sometimes a few stray listings appear at the beginning and end of each section, but for the most part the green pieces of paper divide the file by year, December 1766 to November 1799. This file is a complete index of the

information in the Court of Common Pleas Original Papers, but it is difficult to navigate because it is only organized by date and the script is sometimes unreadable. Each listing provides a basic overview of the nature of the case and the people involved. *Indexed chronologically by date and file number.*

4. Indexes and Abstracts of the Courthouse Archives in the Stacks (974.821)

Bucks County Coroner's Views and Inquisitions 1700s-1900s Index (974.821 Court) / This index lists the views and inquests of the Bucks County Coroner's office. Each listing contains the name of the deceased, the date, the place, and the file number. This is a comprehensive list of the contents of the Coroner's Office archives and, while it offers little information about the findings of the inquest, it is an excellent reference guide for the archives. As is to be expected, there are many unknown names in this list, but many "unknown" listings contain footnotes with additional information. *Indexed alphabetically by last name of the deceased.*

Index to Bucks County Declaration and Naturalization Papers 1802-1906 (974.821 Court) / The first section of this index is a list of declarations and naturalizations by file number and in chronological order. Each listing includes the file number, last name, first name, date, place (of birth/original citizenship), and type (N or D). *Indexed by file number and chronologically.* The second section of the index contains the same information, organized by last name. Each listing contains the file number, last name, first name, date, place (of birth/original citizenship), and type (N or D). *Indexed alphabetically by last name.* This is a complete list of the contents of the Declaration and Naturalization Papers 1802-1906 at the time of the index's publication.

Bucks County Divorces 1806-1948: An Index to Petitions and Divorces Included in the Original Papers and Appearance Documents of the Bucks County Court of Common Pleas, Volumes I and II (974.821 Court) / This index is divided into two volumes: Volume I contains documents from September 1806 to December 1922 and Volume II contains documents from January 1923 to January 1948. Each volume contains two sections. The first section is a chronological list of divorce cases. Each listing contains the term, docket file and page, and a description of the case, including the people involved and, in many cases, the date of the divorce decree. *Indexed chronologically by date.* The second section of each volume is an index of divorces listed by surname with the page number of the first section in which to find information about the person listed. *Indexed alphabetically by surname.* This is a complete list of the contents of the divorces and petitions in the Original Papers and Appearance Documents 1806-1948 at the time of the index's publication.

Bucks County Criminal Papers 1697-1786 (974.821 Court) / This two-volume index is a complete listing of the contents of the Criminal Papers in the archives 1697-1786. The larger volume contains a glossary of abbreviations and terms commonly used in the papers. It also contains an index of the Criminal Papers including number, date, and a brief description of the proceedings at court, the people involved, and the crimes allegedly committed. This index is an overview of the contents of the papers. *Indexed chronologically by date.* The smaller volume is an index for the larger volume, and it contains an alphabetical surname index with listings by last name. Each person's name is followed by a list of numbers that correspond to the cases in which they are mentioned in the first volume. *Indexed alphabetically by last name.* This is a complete list of the contents of the Criminal Papers 1697-1786 at the time of the index's publication.

Indexes to Bucks County Court of Quarter Sessions, Docket 1715-1753 and Docket 1754-1774 (974.821 Court) / This index is divided into two sections based on the two sections of dockets. The

listings contain a name and several numbers. The numbers correspond to the page numbers of the documents included in both the Dockets of the Quarter Sessions and the microfilms of the Dockets of the Quarter Sessions. These page numbers are unreliable (sometimes pages are skipped, blank pages are sometimes numbered and sometimes not numbered) and the lists of page numbers included in the indexes are sometimes incomplete. This index corresponds to the docket books, not the original papers. *Indexed alphabetically by last name.*

Index: Bucks County Court of Quarter Sessions Miscellaneous Papers, 1729-1840 (974.821 Court) / This file is an index of the miscellaneous court papers contained in the archives. The index includes a lengthy and useful introduction that describes the context of the papers, the need for an index, and explains the abbreviations for the types of documents included in the index (crime, liquor, bastardy, etc.). Each listing includes the name of a person mentioned in the document, the document number, the date, and the type of document. After the name of the person mentioned in the document there is often information in parentheses regarding the person's occupation, family, relationship to the document, or township of residence. This index provides useful introductory information and is a comprehensive list of the contents of the Court of Quarter Sessions Miscellaneous Papers 1729-1840 at the time of the index's publication. *Indexed by last name, then first name, then document number.*

Record of the Courts of Quarter Sessions and Common Pleas of Bucks County, 1684-1700 (974.821 Court) (the library has two copies of this book, numbers 32 and 146) / This book contains excerpts and typed transcriptions of the minutes of the Court of Quarter Sessions. The book contains a general index of information contained in the documents. *Indexed alphabetically by keyword.* The book also contains an index of people mentioned in the documents. *Indexed alphabetically by last name.* The book contains an excellent introduction that includes a history of the county, contextual information about the documents, and a detailed history of the county court system and the recordkeeping system of the courts.

Minutes of the Bucks County Court of Quarter Sessions, June 1777 through December 1782 (974.821 Court) / This index contains excerpts and transcriptions of the minutes of the Quarter Sessions, designed to include information about the people involved in the cases, including jurors, attorneys, judges, defendants, and plaintiffs. *Organized chronologically by date and by document number.*

Records of the Courts of Quarter Sessions and Common Pleas of Bucks County, Pennsylvania, 1700-1730 (974.821 Court) / This volume is designed to expand on the Record of the Courts of Quarter Sessions and Common Pleas of Bucks County, 1684-1700, housed on the same shelf. The page numbers begin where the page numbers of the previous volume end, and the introduction notes the difficulty of transcribing the court documents due to damage and indecipherable penmanship. This volume contains transcriptions and excerpts from the records of the Courts of Quarter Sessions, as well as an index of the second volume. *Indexed alphabetically by last name.* A more recent editor has used pencil to correct spelling errors and to indicate alternate spellings of the same name in the index.

Bucks Co., Pennsylvania, Deed Records 1684-1763 (974.821 Dav) / This volume contains abstracts of deed records from the county clerk's office from 1684 to 1763. The volume is intended to be useful for genealogical research and only includes information about the people involved in the deed, and less information about the deed itself. This volume is very useful for learning the names of people involved in the deeds, but less useful for information about the deeds themselves. *Indexed by page number.* The volume contains an index of people mentioned in the deeds *indexed by last name.*

Bucks County Orphan's Court, 1685-1852 and 1852-1900 (974.821 Mye) / This series of two volumes contains abstracts of most of the Orphan's Court records in the Bucks County Courthouse Archives. *Indexed by file number, not chronologically.* These volumes also include indexes of names that appear in the court records *indexed alphabetically by last name.* These books do not contain abstracts of all of the Orphan's Court records and are meant for genealogical purposes, so they have very little information about the actual proceedings of the court. These volumes are most useful for finding names.

Bucks County, Pennsylvania Miscellaneous Deeds, 1687-1910 (974.821 Mye) / This volume contains abstracts of most of the transactions contained in the County Recorder of Deeds' office Miscellaneous Docket files. These transactions were considered deeds but fell outside the standard transfers of real estate that most commonly occurred in the County Recorder of Deeds' office. Most of the deeds in this volume are dower releases, releases of a portion of a husband's property to his widow upon his death. Because this book is intended for genealogical purposes, it focuses on the people involved in the deeds rather than the actual content of the deeds. *Indexed by file number, not chronologically.* The book contains an index of people mentioned in the deeds. *Indexed alphabetically by last name.*

Bucks County, Pennsylvania Miscellaneous Deed Dockets, 1785-1857 and 1857-1900 (974.821 Mye) / These volumes accompany the 1687-1910 volume in providing abstracts of deeds for genealogical purposes. They contain abstracts of the deeds *indexed by box and file number, not chronologically.* They also contain indexes of the people involved in the deeds and transactions. *Indexed alphabetically by last name.*

Bucks County, Pennsylvania Will Abstracts, 1825-1870 and 1870-1900 (974.821 Mye) / These volumes contain abstracts of wills for genealogical purposes, focusing on names rather than on the information in the wills. *Indexed by file number, not chronologically.* They also contain indexes of people mentioned in the wills *indexed alphabetically by last name.* These books (and all of those in Thomas Myers' series) are not complete representations of this information and are intended for genealogical purposes rather than overall scholarship. A larger copy of the second volume, Bucks County, Pennsylvania Will Abstracts, 1870-1900 can be found at 974.821 Wil.

Petitions for Roads, 1721-1800 (974.821 Roa) / This book is not very readable, but it appears to contain copies of road petitions processed by the Bucks County courts from 1721 to 1800. It is followed by a handwritten index of townships and the page numbers on which they are mentioned. *Indexed alphabetically by township.*

Bucks County Tavern Licenses, 1742-1868 and 1869-1923, Volumes I and II (974.821 Tav) / This series indexes the tavern license petitions contained in the Courthouse Archives. Both books contain a listing of the tavern license petitions processed organized chronologically. *Indexed chronologically by year and file number.* The second index in each book is a listing of the tavern licenses *indexed alphabetically by last name of the petitioner within each township.* These indexes are followed by a surname index of people mentioned in the tavern petitions *indexed alphabetically by last name.*

Bucks County Tavern Signs, 1742-1923, Volume III (974.821 Tav) / This book is an index to tavern sign names and is a companion to the tavern license petitions in the Courthouse Archives. The index contains the file name, year, petitioner's name, and the name of the tavern or tavern sign. The list is organized in two separate volumes within the book, but the name of the petitioner and then by the name of the tavern. *Indexed alphabetically by last name of petitioner and by name of the tavern.*

Bucks County Poor School Children, 1810-1841 (974.821 Tax) / This volume contains lists of poor school children in each township of Pennsylvania during every year in which that information was recorded, 1810-1841. The book also contains several lists from 1843. The index lists people contained in all of the lists of the book *indexed alphabetically by last name*. This book is an excellent companion to the poor school children records in the Courthouse Archives but it cannot be considered to be completely accurate and up-to-date.

Bucks County Tax Records, 1693-1778 (974.821 Tax) / This book begins with an introduction to the Bucks County tax system and contains maps of and information about each Bucks County township. The book contains an exact transcription of the tax records from various townships in various years, including lists of the people who paid their taxes and how much they owed. The book also contains later, more complete tax records listing taxpayers and the items on which they paid tax (horses, land, cows, etc.) as well as their total tax rate. The volume also contains an index of people mentioned in the tax records. *Indexed alphabetically by last name*.

Bucks County Tax List, 1779 (974.821 Tax) / This volume records the results of the 1779 transcript tax in Bucks County. The list is an exact transcription of the results of the transcript tax, but it is rearranged alphabetically. The index lists the people who paid the taxes, their townships of residence, and their acres of land, horses, cattle, and servants. *Indexed alphabetically by last name*. This index is useful both for interpreting the tax records and gaining an understanding of the land and cattle holdings of the tax-paying men of Bucks County in 1779.

Index of Bucks County Wills, 1684-1850 (974.821 Wil) / This book serves as an index of Bucks County wills and administration records. It offers a list of wills with the year, the name of the person associated with the will, the township or town of residency, the type of document, and the file number. *Indexed alphabetically by last name*. This index is useful for genealogical purposes, but it contains no information about the actual content of the wills.

Bucks County, Pennsylvania Abstracts of Wills, 1685-1795 and 1796-1825, Volumes I and II (974.821 Wil) / Both volumes contain handwritten abstracts of wills with information about family members, items being willed, and the testators of the wills. The abstracts section is *indexed by page number*. Each volume also contains a lengthy index of every person mentioned in the wills *indexed alphabetically by last name*. These abstracts offer a fuller picture of the Bucks County wills and can be used in conjunction with the Bucks County Archives. These volumes may not contain every will in the collection nor should they be considered completely accurate representations of the wills in the archives.

Abstracts of Wills, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, 1685-1793 and 1794-1825, Volumes I and II (974.821 Wil) / These volumes contain abstracts transcribed from the Pennsylvania Archives in 1935, so they are not consistent with the information found in the Bucks County Archives. Each volume contains abstracts of wills, focusing on the people involved in the wills and the transfer of property outlined in the documents, *indexed by file number, not chronologically*. Each volume also contains an index of people mentioned in the wills *indexed alphabetically by last name*. These volumes give a somewhat accurate sense of the wills in the Bucks County Archives, but were not necessarily transcribed and abstracted from the same documents.

Bucks County Deaths, 1917-1927, Parts 1 and 2 (927.841 Wil) / The first volume contains an exact transcription of the statement of the Auditor General, Charles A. Snyder, as a part of the Report of the Register of Wills. It also contains three separate lists (from March 1919, September 1919, and

October 1920) that include the names of decedents, the names of domiciles, the date of death, the age at death, and other remarks pertaining to the decedent's estate. *Indexed alphabetically by last name.* The remainder of the first volume and the entirety of the second volume are comprised of photocopies of cards containing information about a person's death and the appraisal and taxation of their estate. These cards are *indexed alphabetically by last name of the decedent.* This index is an excellent resource for understanding the financial standing of various decedents from 1917 to 1927 and can be used in conjunction with the Bucks County Archives. This index may not be entirely accurate, but it represents the full archive as it existed in 1995.

Other Helpful Resources

1. Resources in the Stacks at the Spruance Library

Bucks County Court Rules 1886, 1873, and 1916 (three separate volumes) (974.821 Court) / These three volumes are various versions of the Court Rules of Bucks County. Each volume contains the complete text of the court rules as they were written and practiced in each particular year: 1886, 1873, and 1916. The 1886 edition contains an index to the rules *indexed alphabetically by keyword*; a schedule of the Sessions of the Courts; a complete listing of the rules; notes; an Index to Rules of the Supreme Court and to the Notes *indexed alphabetically by keyword*; Rules of Equity Practice; and an Index to the Rules of Equity Practice *indexed alphabetically by keyword.* The 1873 edition contains the table of contents of the volume; a full list of the Rules of the Court of Common Pleas; a List of Judges, Attorneys, and Officers of the Courts of Bucks County; the Rules of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania; the Rules of Equity Practice; and an Index to the Rules of Equity Practice *indexed alphabetically by keyword.* The 1916 edition contains an Index to Rules *indexed alphabetically by keyword*; the Rules of the Courts of Bucks County including Common Pleas Rules, Quarter Sessions Rules, Orphan's Court Rules, the Equity Fee Bill, and the Power to Make Rules; and a List of Judges, Attorneys, and Officers of the Courts of Bucks County with information about their careers. These three volumes effectively document the history of the Bucks County court system from 1886 to 1916 and are excellent resources for understanding the court documents in the archives.

Bucks County Intelligencer Deaths (974.821 Intel) (covers 1804 to 1934) / This series of 11 volumes covers deaths reported in the *Intelligencer* from 1804 to 1934, missing 1900-1920 and 1925. The 1804-1834 volume contains a list of deaths with the issue date, date of death, age, and name and residence of the deceased. This volume also contains an index of other surnames found in the obituaries. *Indexed alphabetically by last name.* The 1835-1860 volume contains a list of deaths with the date of issue, date of death, age, and name and residence of the deceased as well as a full index. *Indexed alphabetically by last name.* The 1861-1865 volume contains a list of deaths with the date of issue, date of death, age, and name and residence of the deceased. According to notes on the front page, this issue omits all deaths from the year 1879. *Indexed alphabetically by last name.* The 1886-1890 volume contains a list of deaths with the date of issue, date of death, age, and name and residence of the deceased *indexed chronologically by date issued.* This volume also contains photocopies of the obituaries referenced in the list *indexed chronologically by date issued* and an index of names mentioned in the lists and obituaries *indexed alphabetically by last name.* The 1897-1899 volume contains copies of the obituaries *indexed in chronological order* with an index of names mentioned in the obituaries *indexed alphabetically by last name.* The 1921-1924 and 1926-1929 volumes contain a list of deaths with the date of issue, date of death, age, and name and residence of the deceased *indexed alphabetically by last name.* The 1930 volume contains a list of deaths with the date of issue, date of death, age, and name and residence of the deceased *indexed chronologically by date of issue* and an index of people mentioned in the obituaries *indexed alphabetically by last name.* The 1931, 1932, and 1933-1934 volumes contain a list of

deaths with the date of issue, date of death, age, and the complete text of the obituary and headlines *indexed chronologically by date of issue*. These volumes also contain an index of people mentioned in the obituaries *indexed alphabetically by last name*. The information in this series may not be consistent with the information found in the Bucks County Archives or in the Doylestown Democrat Deaths, so these three sources should be used together and cross-referenced.

Doylestown Democrat Deaths (974.821 Dem) (covers 1816 to 1902) / This series of 12 volumes covers deaths reported in the *Doylestown Democrat* newspaper from 1816 to 1902. The first ten volumes contain lists of deaths including the issue date of the obituary, the date of death, the name of the deceased, and other information about the decedent. *Indexed alphabetically by last name*. The last two volumes contain much more detailed information, with the obituaries more fully transcribed and listed by issue date. *Indexed by issue date*. Every volume contains an index with the names of the decedents and the page numbers on which they are mentioned. *Indexed alphabetically by last name*.

Record of Deaths in Bucks County, Pennsylvania (974.821 Obi) (covers 1934 to 1969) / This series of 25 volumes covers death records in Bucks County from June 1, 1934 to 1969. The foreword explains that the records were taken from newspapers, so the data in the volumes may not be consistent with the data in the Bucks County Archives. The first 22 volumes contain brief paragraphs about each decedent, containing information about how and where they died, the hospitals at which they were treated, and their next of kin. These volumes also contain an index of the decedents with the page number on which their entry can be found. *Indexed alphabetically by last name*. The last three volumes contain a list of decedents with their names, next of kin, and issue. The issue column of the list contains the newspaper and issue date of the death information, normally in obituary form. *Indexed alphabetically by last name*. This index is a useful tool and should be cross-referenced with the death records in the Bucks County Archives as well as the Bucks County Intelligencer Deaths.

Bucks County Vendue Lists, 1784-1884 (974.821 Ven) / This index lists the vendues that occurred in Bucks County from 1784 to 1884. The index contains the name of the vendor, the location, the date of sales, the date filed, the file number, and any other information. *Indexed alphabetically by last name*. The list pertains to files housed by the Mennonite Historians of Eastern Pennsylvania (MHEP), but the information is helpful in understanding the vendue lists in the Bucks County Archives.

An Analysis and Transcription of Eighteen Bucks County, PA, Inventories 1800-1809 (974.821 Cook) / This book is the analysis of eighteen Bucks County homes with information about their structure and contents gathered from various documents, including deeds and wills, not included in the Bucks County Archives. The book includes a list of the owners of the houses with their townships of residence, occupations, household values, estate values, and family information from the 1800 census. The book includes comparative room analyses of entries, parlor furniture, kitchen furniture, best chambers, garrets, and cellars. The book also includes furniture type analyses of various objects: pier tables, sideboards, knife cases, card tables, dining tables, breakfast tables, tea tables and stands, other tables, desks, clocks, clothes presses, bureaus, cases and chests of drawers, chests and trunks, beds and bedsteads, chairs, rush bottom chairs, Windsor chairs, arm chairs, and other types of chairs. The author analyzes window treatments and decorations in the eighteen homes as well as lighting, upholstery, and heating systems. The conclusion offers an analysis of upper class life and gives a detailed sense of the contents of these homes. The appendices offer a detailed look at each homestead with maps, biographies, floor plans, inventories of goods, and lists of cattle. This

book offers a detailed, minute list of how affluent Bucks County farmers and their families lived in the early 19th century.

2. Bucks County History in the Spruance Library

Bucks County Studies, 1975, Volume I (974.821 Ros) / This volume is a collection of essays completed as a part of two courses at Bucks County Community College during the spring semester of 1975. The book contains 60 essays about diverse aspects of Bucks County's history, and they can be used as introductions to a variety of topics. The book contains a table of contents *indexed alphabetically by title* and two indexes *indexed alphabetically by author's last name and by subject*.

Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Area Key (974.821 Clint) / This book is intended to be a basic volume to help beginners conduct genealogical research, specifically in Bucks County. The book contains an introduction and a brief history of Bucks County as well as a textbook chapter about Bucks County history, lists of townships, information about courthouse records, an introduction to indexes, information about how to interpret birth and death records, lists of Bucks County newspapers, and examples of records kept by the Salt Lake Genealogical Library. The book is meant to be an introduction to genealogical research, specifically in Bucks County, and it offers a very basic approach to interpreting and using courthouse records.

Online Resources

The legal jargon used in both naming and writing the docketts and records included in the Bucks County Archives can be difficult to decipher. In most cases, terms have been defined as thoroughly impossible within this catalogue, but some researchers may require further clarification.

For legal terms, see the legal dictionary at dictionary.law.com or legal-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com. In addition, uscourts.gov has a useful legal glossary.

For information about the current county court system, see the Bucks County website at buckscounty.org or the City of Philadelphia website at phila.gov.

For historical information about Pennsylvania, see the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission website.

For historical and current court information about the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, see the Philadelphia Courts website at www.courts.phila.gov.

For information about judges, and for a useful overview of courts in Pennsylvania, visit pacourts.us.