LancasterHistory

Tax Records at LancasterHistory

Local tax records are available from 1750-1939 (with gaps). Indexes are available for pre-1729, 1750, 1770 and 1780. LancasterHistory also has the 1798 window tax on microfilm and the 1815 direct tax in bound volumes.

Local Tax Records

Local authorities collected taxes each year and the information provided in these records can be invaluable for house historians. Unfortunately not all of these tax assessment lists are still extant. Your tax assessment office or local historical society may have these old records.

Information on tax lists varies throughout the centuries. Early tax records contain the name of the landowner and the amount of his assessment. Later records may include more details such as the occupation of the owner, value of the real estate and amount of livestock. One of the main reasons to check tax records is to note if there is a substantial increase in taxes at a certain point. If this increase is not similarly seen in the assessment of neighboring properties it can be inferred that a building was constructed and the new assessment reflects that addition to the real estate. Such information can help to establish a construction date for a building.

Federal Tax Records

A federal tax was imposed in 1798 to finance a war between the United States and France. The war never actually took place but we are fortunate to have the records resulting from this tax. The original records are housed in the National Archives. Microfilm copies are available at many academic libraries and historical repositories. Of specific interest to house historians are pertinent details such as number of buildings on the property, type of construction material, number of stories and the valuation. This is sometimes referred to as the "glass tax" since the tax was based on the number of windows in the building.

Another federal tax was levied in 1815 to pay for the war of 1812. These tax records exist for some areas and should be examined also. Buildings are mentioned in this tax as well as property assessments. LancasterHistory has copies of this tax bound by township.

Local Tax Records at LancasterHistory

MICROFILM HOLDINGS

- **Bart Township**: 1750, 1754, 1756-1759, 1763, 1769-1773, 1775-1783, 1785-1794, 1797, 1799-1803, 1805-1811, 1813-1822, 1824, 1833- 181837, 1841, 1843-1845.
- **Brecknock Township:** 1750-1751, 1754, 1756-1759, 1763, 1769-1770, 1772-1773, 1775-1783, 1785-1793, 1799-1803, 1805-1823, 1825-1834, 1836, 1838- 1839, 1841-1846.

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- **Caernarvon Township:** 1754, 1756-1759, 1769-1770, 1772-1773, 1775, 1777-1783, 1785-1793, 1797-1798, 1800-1803, 1806-1816, 1818-1822, 1824-1828, 1830-1832, 1834, 1836, 1839-1841, 1844, 1845
- **Cocalico Township:** 1751, 1756-1759, 1763, 1769-1773, 1775, 1777-1783, 1785-1789, 791-1793, 1796-1803, 1805-1814, 1816-1827, 1829-1830, 1832-836, 1838.
- **Colerain Township:** 1751, 1756-1759, 1763, 1769-1773, 1775, 1777-1783, 1785-1788, 1790-1793, 1797-1798, 1800-1803, 1805-1814, 1817-1822, 1824-1827, 1829-1833, 1835, 1837, 1839-1846
- **Conestoga Township:** 1751, 1754, 1756-1757, 1759, 1769-1773, 1775-1783, 1785, 1787-1793, 1797-1803, 1806-1810, 1812, 1815-1826 -1829, 1831, 1833-1843, 1845, 1855.
- **Donegal Township:** 1750-1751, 1756-1759, 1769-1771, 1773, 1775, 1777-1783, 1785-1790, 1792-1793, 1800-1803, 1806-1809, 1811-1822, 1824
- **Drumore Township:** 1751, 1756-1757, 1759, 1763, 1769-1773, 1775, 1777-1783, 1785-1794, 1796-1803, 1805-1808, 1810, 1812-1823, 1828, 1830-1846
- **Conoy Township:** 1844-1847
- **Earl Township:** 1750-1751, 1754, 1756-1759, 1763, 1769-1773, 1775, 1777-1783, 1785-1793, 1797, 1799-1803, 1805-1808, 1811-18227, 1831-1837, 1839-1842, 1845-1846
- **East Donegal:** 1829-1832, 1834-1837, 1839-1843, 1845-1846
- **East Hempfield:** 1819-1828, 1830-1842, 1844-1846
- **East Lampeter:** 18223, 1841-1846
- **Elizabeth Township:** 1757-1759, 1763, 1769-1773, 1775, 1777-1783, 1785, 1787-1789, 1792-1793, 1797-1798, 1800-1803, 1805-1814, 1816-1823, 1825-1827, 1829-1831, 1834-1846
- **Fulton Township:** 1845-1846, 1866
- **Hempfield Township:** 1751, 1756-1759, 1763, 1769-1773, 1775-1781, 1783, 1785-1790, 1792-1793, 1796-1803, 1805-1807, 1809-1811, 1813-1818, (undated)
- **Lampeter Township:** 1751, 1754, 1756-1759, 1763, 1769-1773, 1776-1783, 1785-1790, 1792-1793, 1796-1803, 1805-1808, 1810-1817, 1821, 1822, 1824-1825, 1828-1829, 1831-1832, 1834, 1836-1841, (undated)
- **Lancaster Borough:** 1750-1751, 1754, 1756-1759, 1763, 1769-1773, 1775, 1777-1783, 1785-1793, 1797-1803, 1805-1817
- **Lancaster City:** 1819-1825, 1829-1840
- **Lancaster Township:** 1750-1751, 1756-1759, 1763, 1769-1773, 1776-1777, 1779-1783, 1785-1792, 1797-1803, 1805-1808, 1810-1819, 1821-1823, 1825-1829, 1831-1836, 1838-1844, 1846
- **Leacock Township:** 1757-1759, 1770, 1775-1783, 1785-1793, 1796-1803, 1805-1828, 1830, 1832-1836, 1838-1846
- **Little Britain Township:** 1754, 1756-1759, 1763, 1769-1777, 1779-1783, 1785-1789, 1791-1793, 1797-1803, 1805-1825, 1827, 1831, 1835, 1837-1846, (undated)
- **Manheim Township:** 1751, 1756-1759, 1761, 1763, 1766, 1768-1773, 1775, 1777-1783, 1785-1793, 1797-1803, 1805-1813, 1815-1817, 1819-1844, 1846
- **Manor Township:** 1751, 1754, 1756-1759, 1763, 1765, 1769-1773, 1775, 1777, 1779-783, 1785-1793, 1797-1803, 1805-1811, 1813-1816, 1818, 1820-1827, 1830, 1832-1836, 1839, 1841-1843, 1845-1846, (undated)

- **Martic Township:** 1751, 1754, 1756-1759, 1769-1773, 1775-1783, 1785-1790, 1792-1793, 1796-1803, 1805, 1807-1837, 1839-1846
- **Mount Joy Township:** 1759, 1769-1770, 1772-1773, 1776-1778, 1780-1782, 1785-1790, 1792-1794, 1797-1803, 1805-1811, 1813-1816, 1818, 1820-1822, 1824-1835, 1837-1846
- **Rapho Township:** 1751, 1756-1759, 1769-1773, 1775, 1777-1783, 1786-1793, 1797-1798, 1800-1803, 1805-1807, 1810-1812, 1818, 1820-1825, 1831, 1836, 1838-1846
- **Sadsbury Township:** 1750, 1754, 1756-1759, 1763, 1769-1770, 1772, 1775, 1777-1783, 1785-1793, 1797-1803, 1805-1822, 1824-1828, 1830, 1836, 1839-1840-1846, and undated
- **Salisbury Township:** 1750-1751, 1753-1759, 1766, 1768-1773, 1776-1783, 1785-1793, 1797-1803, 1805, 1807-1819, 1821-1822, 1825, 1828, and undated
- **Strasburg Township:** 1751, 1753-1754, 1756-1759, 1769-171783, 1785-1794, 1796-1803, 1805, 1807-1822-1834, 1836-1837, 1839, and 1841-1845
- **Upper Leacock:** 1844-1846
- **Warwick Township:** 1751, 1754, 1756-1759, 1769-1775, 1777-1783, 1785-1793, 1797, 1799-1801, 1803, 1805-1823,1825, 1829-1835, 1840-1842, 1844, and 1846
- **West Donegal Township:** 1823, 1825, 1829-1832, 1834-1835, and 1837-1846
- **West Earl Township:** 1829, 1835-1838, and 1841-1846
- **West Hempfield Township:** 1820-1823
- **Undated Townships Now In Other Counties**
    - **Bethel Township:** 1751-1783
    - **Derry Township:** 1754-1781
    - **Hanover Township:** 1750-1783
    - **Heidelberg Township:** 1751-1788
    - **Lebanon Township:** 1750-1751, 1756-1759, 1769-1772, and 1779-1783
    - **Londonderry Township:** 1769-1783
    - **Paxton Township:** 1750-1782
    - **Upper Paxton Township:** 1769-1783

BOUND TAX RECORDS

- **Adamstown:** 1851-1939
- **Akron:** 1896-1939
- **Bart Township:** 1847-1939
- **Brecknock Township:** 1847-1892, 1894-1939
- **Caernarvon Township:** 1847-1898, 1900-1939
- **Christiana:** 1895-1939
- **Clay Township:** 1873-1939
- **Colerain Township:** 1848-1896, 1898-1939
- **Columbia:** 1847-1890
    - 1st Ward 1894-1939, 2nd Ward 1873-1939, 3rd Ward 1873-1939, 4th Ward 1904-1939, 5th Ward 1905-1939, 6th Ward 1905-1939, 7th Ward 1905-1939, 8th Ward 1905-1939, and 9th Ward 1905-1939

- **Conestoga Township:** 1847-1939
- **Conoy Township:** 1847-1872, 1879-1939
- **Denver:** 1901, 1903-1939
- **Drumore Township:** 1847-1897, 1901-1939
- **Earl Township:** 1847-1939
- **East Cocalico Township:** 1847-1892, 1894-1939
- **East Donegal Township:** 1847-1939
- **East Drumore Township:** 1887-1896, 1898, and 1900-1939
- **East Earl Township:** 1853-1939
- **East Hempfield Township:** 1847-1939
- **East Lampeter Township:** 1848-1897, 1900-1939
- **Eden Township:** 1853-1939
- **Elizabeth Township:** 1847-1939
- **Elizabethtown:** 1854, 1938
    - 1st Ward and 2nd Ward 1939
- **Ephrata Borough:** 1894-1939
    - 1st Ward, 2nd Ward, 3rd Ward, and 4th Ward 1914-1939
- **Ephrata Township:** 1847-1939
- **Fulton Township:** 1847-1939
- **Lancaster City:**
    - 1st Ward 1868-1939, 2nd Ward 1868-1939, 3rd Ward 1868-1939, 4th Ward 1868-1939, 5th Ward 1868-1939, 6th Ward 1868-1939, 7th Ward 1868-1939, 8th Ward 1868-1939, and 9th Ward 1868-1939
- **Lancaster Township:** 1849-1939
- **Leacock Township:** 1847-1939
- **Lititz:** 1889-1916
    - 1st Ward and 2nd Ward 1917-1939
- **Little Britain Township:** 1847-1939
- **Manheim Borough:** 1854-1886
    - 1st Ward 1887-1939, 2nd Ward 1896-1939, and 3rd Ward 1887-1893 and 1896-1939
- **Manheim Township:** 1847-1898 and 1900-1939
- **Manor Township:** 1847-1939
- **Marietta Borough:** 1854-893
    - 1st Ward 1894-1900 and 1902-1939, 2nd Ward 1894-1939, and 3rd Ward 1894-1939
- **Martic Township:** 1847-1897 and 1899-1939
- **Millersville:** 1934-1939
- **Mount Joy Borough:** 1853-1896, 1898
    - East Ward: 1899-1939, West Ward 1899-1939
- **Mount Joy Township:** 1847-1939
- **Mountville:** 1907-1939
- **New Holland:** 1894-1939

- **Paradise Township:** 1849-1939
- **Penn Township:** 1847-1939
- **Pequea Township:** 1854-1939
- **Providence Township:** 1854-1939
- **Quarryville:** 1894-1900, 1902-1939
- **Rapho Township:** 1847-1939
- **Sadsbury Township:** 1847-1939
- **Salisbury Township:** 1847-1939
- **Strasburg Borough:** 1847-1893
    - 1st Ward, 2nd Ward, and 3rd Ward 1894-1939
- **Strasburg Township:** 1847-1939
- **Terre Hill:** 1909-1939
- **Upper Leacock Township:** 1847-1939
- **Warwick Township:** 1847-1920, 1922-1939
- **Washington Boro:** 1861-1876
    - Upper Ward 1877-1939, Lower Ward 1877-1898, 1900-1939
- **West Cocalico Township:** 1847-1939
- **West Donegal Township:** 1847-1939
- **West Earl Township:** 1847-1939
- **West Hempfield Township:** 1847-1939
- **West Lampeter Township:** 1847-1939