Online American History Resources

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(* indicates a paid service)
Digital Libraries and eBooks

Cornell Open:
https://www.cornellpress.cornell.edu/cornell-open/

Digital Public Library of America:
https://dp.la/

Free Library of Philadelphia (all PA residents are eligible for a digital library card):
https://www.freelibrary.org/

Google Books:
https://books.google.com/

HathiTrust Digital Library:
www.hathitrust.org

OpenAccess on ProjectMuse:
https://about.muse.jhu.edu/muse/open-access-overview/

Project Gutenberg:
https://www.gutenberg.org/

Digital Collections and Archives

100 Milestone Documents:
https://www.archives.gov/milestone-documents/list

Accessible Archives* (some resources require a paid subscription):
https://www.accessible-archives.com/

The American Antiquarian Society Digital Collections:
https://www.americanantiquarian.org/aasdigitalcollections

The Avalon Project: Documents in Law, History, and Diplomacy – Yale Law School
https://avalon.law.yale.edu/default.asp

Digital Newberry:
https://newberry.org/digital-newberry

Digital Research Tools from the Winterthur Museum and Library:
https://www.winterthur.org/research-and-scholars/digital-research-tools/
Directory of Online Resources from the National Archives:
https://www.archives.gov/nhprc/projects/digital-resources

The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History:
https://www.gilderlehrman.org/history-resources

The Huntington Digital Library:
https://hdl.huntington.org/

Internet Archive:
www.archive.org

The Library Company of Philadelphia Digital Collections:
https://digital.librarycompany.org/islandora/object/islandora%3Aroot

Library of Congress Digital Collections:
https://www.loc.gov/collections/

Making of America (pre-Civil War through Reconstruction):
https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/moagrp/

National Women’s History Museum Online Exhibits:
https://www.womenshistory.org/womens-history/online-exhibits

New York Public Library Digital Collections:
https://digitalcollections.nypl.org/

Papers of the War Department 1784-1800:
https://wardepartmentpapers.org/s/home/page/home

Smithsonian Digital Library:
https://library.si.edu/digital-library

Temple University Libraries Digital Collection:
https://digital.library.temple.edu/

World Digital Library (Library of Congress):
https://www.loc.gov/collections/world-digital-library/about-this-collection/

Yale Digital Collections:
https://collections.library.yale.edu/
Pennsylvania History Resources

Digital Paxton:
http://digitalpaxton.org/works/digital-paxton/index


The Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia:
https://philadelphiaencyclopedia.org/

Ghost River: The Rise and Fall of the Conestoga:
https://ghostriver.org/book/

Goin’ North – Stories from the First Great Migration to Philadelphia:
https://goinnorth.org/

Hispanic/Latinx Collections at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania:
https://hsp.libguides.com/c.php?g=1166708

Historical Society of Pennsylvania Digital Library:
https://hsp.org/node/235

“The History of Puerto Ricans, Latinos, & Mennonites in Central PA’s Dutch County”:

Pennsylvania’s Power Library:
https://digitalarchives.powerlibrary.org/papd/

Pennsylvania Session Laws Preservation Project from the Legislative Bureau of Pennsylvania:
https://www.palrb.gov/Preservation

Pennsylvania State Archives Digital Collections:

Philadelphia City Archives:

Philadelphia Jewish Archives:
https://digital.library.temple.edu/digital/collection/p15037coll15

Pittsburgh Jewish Newspaper Project:
https://digitalcollections.library.cmu.edu/cmu-collection/pittsburgh-jewish-newspapers
“Tomateros to Dutchiricans: Local professors tell a Latinx history of Central Pennsylvania”:

William Chester Ruth Online Exhibit
https://www.landisvalleymuseum.org/explore/collections/william-chevron-ruth-exhibit/

**Lancaster County Resources**

Biographical Annals of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania – 1903
https://archive.org/details/cu31924028852998/page/n5 mode/2up?view=theater

Lancaster County Archives Historical Indexes
https://www.co.lancaster.pa.us/193/Historical-Indexes

**Historical Newspapers**

Chronicling America:
chroniclingamerica.loc.gov

Google News Archive:
https://news.google.com/newspapers

Harper’s Weekly Civil War Newspapers:
http://www.sonofthesouth.net/leefoundation/the-civil-war.htm

Newspaper Navigator:
http://news-navigator.labs.loc.gov/search

Newspapers.com*
https://www.newspapers.com/

**Property and House Histories**

Lancaster City: Researching the History of a House:
https://cityoflancasterpa.com/researching-the-history-of-a-house/

Lancaster County Archives: House History Guide to Resources:

Lancaster County Recorder of Deeds Office: Online IQS Infodex and Public Records Search
https://www.lancasterdeeds.com/
Land Records Overview from the State Archives of Pennsylvania:
https://www.phmc.pa.gov/Archives/Research-Online/Pages/Land-Records-Overview.aspx

**Historical Maps**

Atlas of Historical County Boundaries:
digital.newberry.org/ahcb/

Atlas of the Historical Geography of the United States:
dsl.richmond.edu/historicalatlas

Digitized Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps from the Library of Congress:
https://www.loc.gov/rr/geomap/sanborn/

Greater Philadelphia GeoHistory Network:
https://www.philageohistory.org/geohistory/

Historic Map Works:
www.historicmapworks.com

Library of Congress Maps:
https://www.loc.gov/maps/index/location/?sp=1

Mapping Inequality: Redlining in New Deal America:
https://dsl.richmond.edu/panorama/redlining/#loc=5/39.1/-94.58

Pennsylvania Warrant Maps:
http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/bah/dam/rg/di/r17-522WarranteeTwpMaps/r17-522WarranteeTwpMapMainInterface.htm

US Geological Survey:
www.usgs.gov

Visualizing Emancipation:
https://dsl.richmond.edu/emancipation/

**Material Culture and Historic Preservation**

Black Craftspeople Digital Archive:
https://blackcraftspeople.org/

Boston Furniture Archive:
http://bfa.winterthur.org/
Center for Knit and Crochet Digital Collection:
https://digital.centerforknitandcrochet.org/items/browse

The Dominy Collections at Winterthur:
http://dominycollections.winterthur.org/

Dominy Craftsmen Collection at University of Wisconsin-Madison:
https://search.library.wisc.edu/digital/ADominy

Getty Provenance Index (best for Fine Arts):
https://www.getty.edu/research/tools/provenance/search.html

Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History from the Metropolitan Museum of Art:
https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/

Historic American Buildings Survey:
http://www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/hh/

Kovels Dictionary of Maker’s Marks:
https://www.kovels.com/articles-on-marks

List of Lancaster County Photographers – LancasterHistory:

A Manual of Marks on Pottery and Porcelain (MacMillan, 1894):

The Marks Project – Dictionary of American Ceramics after 1945:
https://www.themarksproject.org/

Online Digital Archive of Documents on Weaving and Related Topics:
https://www2.cs.arizona.edu/patterns/weaving/weavedocs.html

Philadelphia Architects and Buildings:
https://www.philadelphiabuildings.org/pab/

Rhode Island Furniture Archive:
https://artgallery.yale.edu/online-feature/rhode-island-furniture-archive

Thomas J. Watson Library at the Met Museum – Digital Collections:
https://www.metmuseum.org/art/libraries-and-research-centers/watson-digital-collections

Understanding Paper: Structures, Watermarks, and a Conservator’s Passion
https://harvardartmuseums.org/article/understanding-paper-structures-watermarks-and-a-conservator-s-passion
**Medicine and Disability History**

College of Physicians of Philadelphia Historic Medical Library (Online Collections and Exhibitions):
https://collegeofphysicians.org/our-work/historical-medical-library

Consortium for History, Science, Technology, and Medicine Digital Resources Hub:
https://www.chstm.org/consortium-special-collections-search-hub

The Disability History Hub:
https://americanhistory.si.edu/topics/disability-history

Medicine in the Americas 1610-1920:

Mutter Museum:
https://muttermuseum.org/

Nineteenth Century Disability – Cultures and Contexts:
https://www.nineteenthcenturydisability.org/

**Native American History**

Center for Native American and Indigenous Research at the American Philosophical Society:
https://www.amphilsoc.org/library/CNAIR

Circle Legacy Center: Preserving Native American Culture (Lancaster)
http://circlelegacycenter.com/

Digital Paxton:
http://digitalpaxton.org/works/digital-paxton/index

Edward S. Curtis’s The North American Indian:
https://dc.library.northwestern.edu/collections/55ff2504-dd53-4943-b2cb-aeea46e77bc3

Ghost River: The Rise and Fall of the Conestoga:
https://ghostriver.org/book/

National Museum of the American Indian:
https://americanindian.si.edu/

Native American History Resources at the Library of Congress:
https://www.archives.gov/news/topics/native-american-heritage-month

Native American History Timeline:
https://www.history.com/topics/native-american-history/native-american-timeline
Native Knowledge 360:
https://americanindian.si.edu/nk360/lessons-resources/search-resources

Native Northeast Portal:
https://nativenortheastportal.com/

The Original People and Their Land: The Lenape, Pre-History to the 18th Century:
https://collaborativehistory.gse.upenn.edu/stories/original-people-and-their-land-lenape-pre-history-18th-century

**Black History**

African American AIDS Activism Oral History Project:
https://afamaidsoralhistory.wordpress.com/

African American Perspectives: Materials Selected from the Rare Book Collection
https://www.loc.gov/collections/african-american-perspectives-rare-books/about-this-collection/

Black Craftspeople Digital Archive:
https://blackcraftspeople.org/

The Black Panthers Digital Collections at MSU Libraries:
https://lib.msu.edu/branches/dmc/collectionbrowse/?coll=20&par=1

The Black Panther Party Research Guide – Tufts University
https://researchguides.library.tufts.edu/c.php?g=248898&p=1657745

BlackPast:
https://www.blackpast.org/

The Black Power Movement – Digital Public Library of America
https://dp.la/primary-source-sets/the-black-power-movement

Born in Slavery: Slave Narratives from the Federal Writer’s Project 1936 to 1938:

The Colored Conventions Project and Digital Archive:
https://coloredconventions.org/
https://omeka.coloredconventions.org/

Digital Resources from the National Museum of African American History and Culture:
https://nmaahc.si.edu/explore/collection/lgbtq
Enslaved: Peoples of the Historical Slave Trade:  
https://enslaved.org/

Escaping Slavery, Building Diverse Communities: Stories of the Search for Freedom in the Capital Region Since the Civil War:  
https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/98843655e3474b9ab19a2afe250f0f22

Frederick Douglass Papers at the Library of Congress:  
https://www.loc.gov/collections/frederick-douglass-papers/about-this-collection/

Freedom on the Move – Rediscovering Stories of Self-Liberating People:  
https://freedomonthemove.org/

Gladstone Collection of African American Photographs:  
https://www.loc.gov/collections/gladstone-african-american-photographs/about-this-collection/

Goin’ North – Stories from the First Great Migration to Philadelphia:  
https://goinnorth.org/

International African American Museum – Family Heritage Center  
https://cfh.iaamuseum.org/

National Archives – African-American Heritage:  
https://www.archives.gov/research/african-americans

Primary Sources in African American History – Black Lives Matter  
https://guides.canadacollege.edu/africanamericanprimary/BlackLivesMatter

Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division:  
https://digitalcollections.nypl.org/divisions/schomburg-center-for-research-in-black-culture-manuscripts-archives-and-rare

Slavery and Remembrance – a Guide to Sites, Museums, and Memory:  
http://slaveryandremembrance.org/

Slavery Images – A Visual Record of the African Slave Trade and Slave Life in the Early African Diaspora:  
http://www.slaveryimages.org/s/slaveryimages/page/welcome

Umbra Search  
https://www.umbrasearch.org/

William Chester Ruth Online Exhibit  
https://www.landisvalleymuseum.org/explore/collections/william-chester-ruth-exhibit/
Hispanic and Latinx History


Hispanic/Latinx Collections at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania:
https://hsp.libguides.com/c.php?g=1166708

The Hispanic Museum and Library:
https://hispanicsociety.org/data-base/

“The History of Puerto Ricans, Latinos, & Mennonites in Central PA's Dutch County”:

Latinx Studies Research Guides from the Library of Congress:
https://guides.loc.gov/latinx-studies/collections

National Hispanic Cultural Center:
https://www.nhccnm.org/learn/nhcc-library-archive/

National Museum of the American Latino:
https://latino.si.edu/

“Tomateros to Dutchiricans: Local professors tell a Latinx history of Central Pennsylvania”:

Jewish History

American Jewish Historical Society:
https://ajhs.org/

Arnold and Dean Kaplan Collection of Early American Judaica at Penn Libraries
https://kaplan.exhibits.library.upenn.edu/thecollection

Electronic Resources on Jewish Studies from the New York Public Library:
https://libguides.nypl.org/eresources-dorot-nypl/americanjewishhistory

Jewish American History Resources from PBS:
https://www.pbs.org/jewishamericans/resources/index.html
Jewish Virtual Library:
https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/

Leo Baeck Institute for the Study of German-Jewish History and Culture
https://www.lbi.org/

Online Resources in American Jewish History from the American Jewish Archives:
https://sites.americanjewisharchives.org/education/resources.php

Philadelphia Jewish Archives:
https://digital.library.temple.edu/digital/collection/p15037coll15

Pittsburgh Jewish Newspaper Project:
https://digitalcollections.library.cmu.edu/cmu-collection/pittsburgh-jewish-newspapers

Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History:
https://theweitzman.org/virtual-museum/

Asian American History

The Asian American Education Project:
https://asianamericanedu.org/

Asia at the Smithsonian:
https://www.si.edu/feature/celebrate-asia

Asian Nation:
http://www.asian-nation.org/

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Resources from the National Archives:

Asian Week Database Project:

Chinese Historical and Cultural Project – Virtual Library:
https://chcp.org/Virtual-Library

“A Chinese soldier in the Civil War” from the Journal of the Lancaster County Historical Society:
https://collections.lancasterhistory.org/en/permalink/lhdo4003

A history of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Philadelphia:
https://whyy.org/articles/history-asian-americans-pacific-islanders-philadelphia/
Japanese American National Museum:
https://www.janm.org/research

Japanese American Relocation Centers Records: A Student Digital Exhibition:
https://blogs.cornell.edu/japaneseamericanrelocationrecordsarchive/

Pacific Citizen Newspaper Digital Archives:
https://www.pacificcitizen.org/digital-archives/

South Asian American Digital Archive:
https://www.saada.org/

The Southeast Asian Archive at UC-Irvine:
https://seaa.lib.uci.edu/

UCLA’s Asian American Studies Center:
https://www.aasc.ucla.edu/

The Vietnam Center and Sam Johnson Vietnam Archive at Texas Tech University:
https://www.vietnam.ttu.edu/vahp/

The Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience – Collections:
http://db.wingluke.org/?_ga=2.36326624.1371207035.1661459472-88620577.1661459472

**LGBTQ+ History**

ACT UP Oral History Project:
https://actuporalhistory.org/

African American AIDS Activism Oral History Project:
https://afamoidsoralhistory.wordpress.com/

“Bringing History Out of the Closet” – Pennsylvania Heritage:
https://paheritage.wpengine.com/article/bringing-history-out-closet/

Digital Transgender Archive:
https://www.digitaltransgenderarchive.net/

In Plain Sight: York’s Hidden LGBT History:
https://www.yorkhistorycenter.org/york-pa-museums/in-plain-sight

GLBT Historical Society – Online Resources:
https://www.glbthistory.org/online-resources
Lavender Legacies Guide to Resources in Pennsylvania – Society of American Archivists:  
https://www2.archivists.org/groups/diverse-sexuality-and-gender-section/lavender-legacies-guide-united-states-pennsylvania

Lesbian HerStory Archive – Digital Resources:  
https://lesbianherstoryarchives.org/digital-resources/

LGBT Center of Central PA History Project -- Collections at Dickinson College:  
https://libguides.dickinson.edu/lgbthistory

LGBT Center of Central PA History Project – Digital Exhibitions:  
https://www.centralpalgbthistory.org/

LGBT History in Philadelphia:  
https://www.theconstitutional.com/blog/2018/08/15/lgbt-history-philadelphia

LGBTQ+ Collections at the National Museum of African American History and Culture  
https://nmaahc.si.edu/explore/collection/lgbtq

LGBTQ Heritage Theme Study – National Park Service:  
https://www.nps.gov/subjects/tellingallamericansstories/lgbtqthemestudy.htm

LGBTQ History in Government Documents – A Timeline from UC San Diego:  
https://ucsd.libguides.com/lgbtdocs/timeline

LGBTQ Pride Month Resources from the Library of Congress:  
https://www.loc.gov/lgbt-pride-month/resources/

ONE Archives at the USC Libraries:  
https://one.usc.edu/

Out History  
https://www.outhistory.org/

Pennsylvania Pride Resources – Historical Society of Pennsylvania:  
https://hsp.org/LGBTLegacies

Pittsburgh Queer History Project:  
http://pittsburghqueerhistory.com/

Stonewall 50: Guide to Digital Collections at the New York Public Library  
https://libguides.nypl.org/stonewall50research/digitalcollections

Story Corps – Out Loud:  
https://storycorps.org/discover/outloud/
Queer Digital History Project:
http://queerdigital.com/

That’s So Gay: Outing Early America – Virtual Exhibit from the Library Company of Philadelphia:
https://www.librarycompany.org/gayatlcp/index.html

Village Voice Archives:
https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=KEtq3P1Vf8oC&dat=19551026&b_mode=2&hl=en

The Walt Whitman Archive:
https://whitmanarchive.org/

“Welcome to LGBT History Month” – Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Office Blog:
https://pahistoricpreservation.com/welcome-lgbt-history-month/

William Way Community Center – Digital Collections and Online Exhibits:
https://digital.wilcoxarchives.org/

**Colonial America**

The American Colonist’s Library:
https://freerepublic.com/focus/f-news/1294965/posts

The American Revolution Institute Collections Online:
https://www.americanrevolutioninstitute.org/discover-the-collections/

Colonial North America at Harvard Library:
https://colonialnorthamerica.library.harvard.edu/spotlight/cna

Digital Paxton:
http://digitalpaxton.org/works/digital-paxton/index

Documents from the Continental Congress and Constitutional Convention:

Founders’ Archive (National Archives):
https://founders.archives.gov/

Ghost River: The Rise and Fall of the Conestoga:
https://ghostriver.org/book/
Omohundro Institute (William and Mary and Colonial Williamsburg) – Digital Projects:  
https://oieahc.wm.edu/digital-projects/

The Papers of Benjamin Franklin:  
https://franklinpapers.org/

Theodor de Bry’s America – Engravings of the New World 1590-98:  
https://digitalcollections.lib.uh.edu/collections/r494vm244?locale=en

**Thaddeus Stevens**

The Selected Papers of Thaddeus Stevens:  
https://digital.library.pitt.edu/islandora/object/pitt%3A31735060482134

Thaddeus Stevens Papers at the Library of Congress:  
https://www.loc.gov/collections/thaddeus-stevens-papers/about-this-collection/

**James Buchanan**

“The 175-Year History of Speculating About President James Buchanan’s Bachelorhood” – Smithsonian Magazine:  

Biographies of the Secretaries of State – James Buchanan:  
https://history.state.gov/departmenthistory/people/buchanan-james

James Buchanan – American Battlefield Trust:  
https://www.battlefields.org/learn/biographies/james-buchanan

James Buchanan – The American Presidency Project:  
https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/people/president/james-buchanan

James Buchanan – Britannica:  
https://www.britannica.com/biography/James-Buchanan-president-of-United-States

James Buchanan and Harriet Lane Johnson Papers – Library of Congress:  

James Buchanan – Miller Center, University of Virginia:  
https://millercenter.org/president/buchanan
James Buchanan Online Presidential Library – LancasterHistory:  
https://www.lancasterhistory.org/research/james-buchanan-presidential-library/

James Buchanan Resource Center – Dickinson University:  
http://deila.dickinson.edu/buchanan/

“James Buchanan’s Troubled Legacy as President” – National Constitution Center  
https://constitutioncenter.org/blog/james-buchanan-why-is-he-considered-americas-worst-president/

James Buchanan – White House.Gov  
https://www.whitehouse.gov/about-the-white-house/presidents/james-buchanan/

Timeline: President James Buchanan – LancasterHistory:  
https://www.lancasterhistory.org/learn/learning-tools/timeline-president-buchanan/

Wheatland – National Park Service:  
https://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/presidents/james_buchanan_wheatland.html

The Civil War

Abraham Lincoln Papers at the Library of Congress:  
https://www.loc.gov/collections/abraham-lincoln-papers/about-this-collection/

The American Civil War – Online Resources – American College and Research Libraries  

The American Civil War Sesquicentennial Web Archive  
https://www.loc.gov/collections/american-civil-war-sesquicentennial-web-archive/about-this-collection/

Civil War and Reconstruction – Library of Congress Primary Source Timeline:  
https://www.loc.gov/classroom-materials/united-states-history-primary-source-timeline/civil-war-and-reconstruction-1861-1877/

Civil War Online Resources – Judith J. Carrier Library  
https://libguides.tccd.edu/secivilwar150

Civil War Online Resources – The National Park Service:  
https://www.nps.gov/civilwar/onlineresources.htm

Discovering the Civil War – National Archives  
https://www.archives.gov/exhibits/civil-war/
Frederick Douglass Papers at the Library of Congress:
https://www.loc.gov/collections/frederick-douglass-papers/about-this-collection/

Online Archival Resource Guide – The Civil War (UT Austin):
https://libguides.uta.edu/oar/civilwar

Online Resources – National Museum of Civil War Medicine
https://www.civilwarmed.org/online-resources/

U.S. Civil War Selected Resources – Library of Congress:
https://guides.loc.gov/us-civil-war-selected-resources/external-websites

**Slavery and the Underground Railroad**

The Abolition of the Slave Trade:

Born in Slavery: Slave Narratives from the Federal Writer’s Project 1936 to 1938:

Educational Resources for Through Darkness to Light: Photographs Along the Underground Railroad:
https://www.evanstonhistorycenter.org/education/educational-resources-for-through-darkness-to-light-photographs-along-the-underground-railroad/

Enslaved: Peoples of the Historical Slave Trade:
https://enslaved.org/

Escaping Slavery, Building Diverse Communities: Stories of the Search for Freedom in the Capital Region Since the Civil War:
https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/98843655e3474b9ab19a2afe250f0f22

Freedom on the Move – Rediscovering Stories of Self-Liberating People:
https://freedomonthemove.org/

“How Peter Oliver Freed Himself” – LancasterHistory:
https://www.lancasterhistory.org/peter-oliver-freed/

Maryland State Archives Presents Legacy of Slavery in Maryland:

National Underground Railroad Freedom Center – Online Resources:
https://freedomcenter.org/learn/online-learning-resources/
Slavery and Remembrance – a Guide to Sites, Museums, and Memory:
http://slaveryandremembrance.org/

Slavery Images – A Visual Record of the African Slave Trade and Slave Life in the Early African Diaspora:
http://www.slaveryimages.org/s/slaveryimages/page/welcome

Underground Railroad Journey to Freedom – National Parks Service:
https://www.nps.gov/subjects/undergroundrailroad/learn.htm

Wilbur H. Siebert Underground Railroad Index of Participants:
https://secure.in.gov/dnr/historic-preservation/learn-about-topics/underground-railroad/underground-railroad-index/