

BUCKS COUNTY, PA LOCALITY GUIDE

(Concentrating on pre-1850 records)

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Visit www.MyFamilyPattern for additional research. Version: 27 February 2023

History & County Background

Quick Facts

County Seat: Doylestown

Organized: 11/10/1682

Parent County: Original county

Online Research Guides

Bucks County [FamilySearch wiki page](#)

Bucks County [Genealogical Society](#)

Bucks County [PAGenWeb](#)

Bucks County Archives [Mercer Museum](#)

Bucks County government website BucksCounty.org

Geography and Maps

Pennsylvania County Formation

Clickable by Date [Map & Timeline](#)

Adjacent counties

Lehigh County, PA (northwest)

Northampton County, PA (north)

Warren County, NJ (northeast)

Hunterdon County, NJ (northeast)

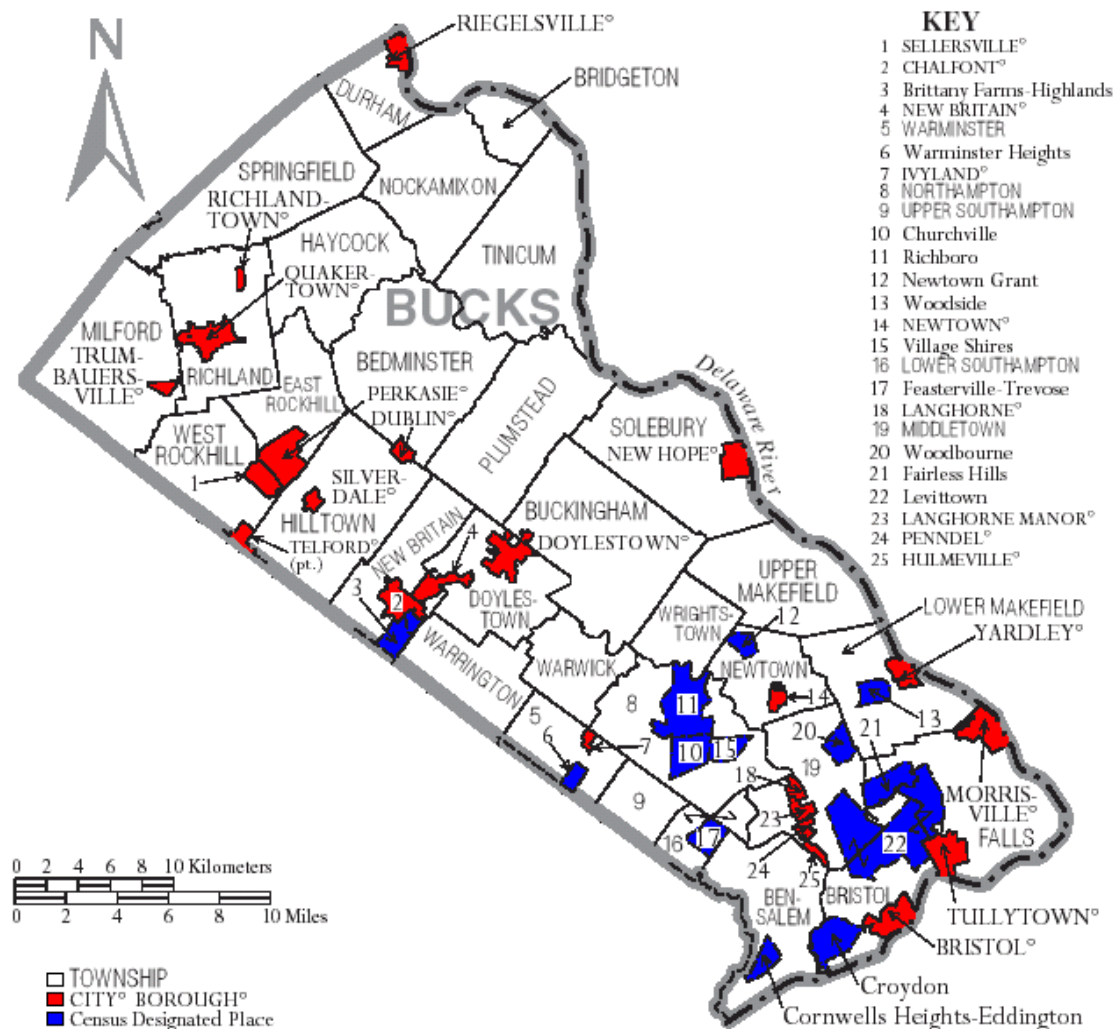
Mercer County, NJ (east)

Burlington County, NJ (southeast)

Philadelphia County, PA (south)

Montgomery County, PA (west)





Source: [Wikipedia](#)

Timeline of Major Events

Bucks County Timeline 1600-1900 from [Mercer Museum](#)

History

Bucks County is one of the three original counties created by colonial proprietor William Penn in 1682. Penn named the county after Buckinghamshire, the county in which he lived in England. He built a country estate, Pennsbury Manor, in Falls Township, Bucks County.

Some places in Bucks County were named after locations in Buckinghamshire, including Buckingham and Buckingham Township, named after the former county town of Buckinghamshire; Chalfont, named after Chalfont St Giles, the parish home of William Penn's first wife and the location of the Jordans Quaker Meeting House, where Penn is buried; Solebury Township, named after Soulbury, England; and Wycombe, named after the town of High Wycombe.

Bucks County was originally much larger than it is today. Northampton County was formed in 1752 from part of Bucks County, and Lehigh County was formed in 1812 from part of Northampton County. Source: [Wikipedia](#)

Migration Routes

- Main Indian paths and [migration trails](#)
- FamilySearch [migration routes](#)

Libraries and Archives

- Bucks County Archives at the Mercer Museum: Search the [Catalog](#)
- Pennsylvania State Archives [website](#)

Genealogical Societies and Publications

- Bucks County [Genealogical Society](#)
- Bucks County [PAGenWeb](#)

Record Loss

There are no known history of courthouse disasters in this county (FamilySearch Wiki)

Local History

- The [History of Bucks County](#), Pennsylvania from the Discovery of the Delaware to the Present Time (alternative [entry](#))
 - Davis, W.W.H. (1876), *The History of Bucks County, Pennsylvania: From the Discovery of the Delaware to the Present Time*. Doylestown, PA: Democrat Book and Job Office Printers, p. 326-327.
- [History of Bucks County, Pennsylvania](#): Including an Account of Its Original Exploration, Its Relation to the Settlements of New Jersey and Delaware, Its Erection Into a Separate County, Also Its Subsequent Growth and Development, with Sketches of Its Historic and Interesting Localities, and Biographies of Many of Its Representative Citizens
 - Battle, J.H. (1887), *History of Bucks County, Pennsylvania*. Philadelphia: A Warner & Co. Publishers, p. 282.
- A [Genealogical and Personal History of Bucks County](#), Pennsylvania
- Marshall, J.L. (1990), *Early History of Upper Makefield Township, Bucks Co., PA*. New Hope, PA: Dodel Graphics, p. 11.

Township Maps

- Ely, Warren S. (n.d.), Buckingham and Solebury, Map Collection, SC-27, from the Collection of the Mercer Museum Research Library of the Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, PA.
- Historic Maps for Bucks County (search for Bucks) at <https://historicmapworks.com>

Record Collections

Known Beginning Dates for Major County Records (FamilySearch Wiki)						
Birth*	Marriage	Death*	Court	Land	Probate	Census
1893	1885	1893	1682	1684	1684	1790

*Statewide registration for births and deaths began in 1906. General compliance by 1915.

General Collections

- FamilySearch [Catalog](#) for Bucks County, PA

Church Records

- A history of the Newtown Presbyterian Church, 1734-1900, Newtown, Bucks County, Pennsylvania; including all gravestones-names and epitaphs, also, lists of ministers and elders / Elinor Slack Campbell. Book at Dallas Public Library: [285.17482 C187H 1994](#)
- Turner, D.K. (1876), *History of Neshaminy Presbyterian Church of Warwick, Hartsville, Bucks County, PA, 1726-1876*. Philadelphia: Culbertson & Bache Printers, p.312.
- Roberts, Clarence V. (1925), *Early Friends Families of Upper Bucks with Some Account of their Descendants*, Philadelphia, PA: Clearfield.

Court Records

- Records of the courts of Quarter sessions and Common pleas of Bucks County, Pennsylvania, 1684-1700. Published by the Colonial society of Pennsylvania. Book at Dallas Public Library: [974.8 P415R 1943](#).
- Bucks County Criminal Papers, 1697 - 1786, Terry A. Nealy, Frank Lancaster Lore, Frances Wise Waite, 974821 Court. Book at Bucks County Archives / Mercer Museum.

Land Records

- FamilySearch [Land Record Deed Index 1684-1866](#)
- FamilySearch [Miscellaneous Records 1786-1868](#)
- Pennsylvania State Archives [Warrant Registers](#), [Survey Images](#), and [Patent Indexes](#).
- Abstracts of Bucks County, Pennsylvania land records, 1711-1749 / June D. Brown. Book at Dallas Public Library: [929.37482 B878A 1998](#)
- Abstracts of Bucks County, Pennsylvania land records, 1684-1723 / Charlotte D. Meldrum. Book at Dallas Public Library: [929.37482 M518A 1995](#)
- Bucks County, Pennsylvania deed records, 1684-1763 / John David Davis. Book at Dallas Public Library: [929.37482 D262B 1997](#)
- Bucks County, Pennsylvania miscellaneous deeds, 1687-1910 / Thomas G. Myers. Book at Dallas Public Library: [929.37482 M996B 2008](#)
- Bucks County, Pennsylvania miscellaneous deed docketts, 1785-1857 / Thomas G. Myers. Book at Dallas Public Library: [929.37482 M996B 2004](#)
- History of Neshaminy Presbyterian Church of Warwick, Hartsville, Bucks County, Pa., 1726-1876 / by D.K. Turner. Book at Dallas Public Library: [285.17482 T945H 1994](#)

Military Records

- Bucks County Civil War Museum [website](#)
- Pennsylvania Civil War Volunteers: [Bucks County](#)
- Pennsylvania in the war of the revolution: associated battalions and militia, 1775-1783 / edited by William H. Egle. Book at Dallas Public Library: [974.8 P415 1887](#)

Newspapers and Directories

- Index to Bucks County references in the Pennsylvania gazette, 1728-1789 / compiled by Terry A. McNealy. Book in Dallas Public Library: [929.374821 M169I 1990](#)

Probate Records

- Register of Wills & Clerk of Orphans' Court. Online Services [portal](#)
- Bucks County Probate Records on [FamilySearch](#)
- Bucks County PAMGenWeb [Will Abstracts](#)

Vital Records (Birth, Marriage, Death)

- Marriage, birth and death records from the dockets of John Chapman, John Wilson, John Pugh, Josiah Y Shaw and William Fenton, Esquires Justices of the peace of Bucks County, Pennsylvania, from the diaries of William Fenton and George M. Childs. Book at Mercer Museum: [974.821 Chu 38](#), Book at Dallas Public Library: [929.37482 B926 1986](#) (v.1. 1804-1834 -- v.2. 1835-1860. A to Law -- v.3. 1835-1860, Lay to Z)
- Bucks County Intelligencer deaths, 1804-1834, transcribed from the several newspapers which preceded the Bucks County Intelligencer as well as the Bucks County Intelligencer. Book at Mercer Museum: [974.821 Int](#)
- Death notices copied from the Bucks County Intelligencer Doylestown, Pa. : 1835-1860 / alphabetically arranged and typewritten by C. Arthur Smith, Wycombe, Pa. Book at Mercer Museum: [974.821 Intel 1835-1860](#)
- Doylestown Democrat marriage notices, 1816-1845 / transcribed by Polly Bromm, David McFadden, Lynn Lamborn, Elaine Matthews, Phil Provost, Linda Ruf-Caimi, Rose Sedam, and Priscilla F. Weir ; typed and indexed by Barbara Meneely and Larry Meneely. Book at Mercer Museum: [974.821 Dem](#)

Tax Records

- 1784 Bucks County, Pa. transcript: dwelling houses & out houses, white & black inhabitants, return of land; transcribed and arranged alphabetically by surnames / Janet Brittingham and Mildred C. Williams. Book at Dallas Public Library: [929.37482 W725S 1987](#)

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