Planning a Visit?

* Take some time to get familiar with our holdings in advance by perusing our website at www.butlerlibrary.info/genealogy
* Free parking is available for library visitors in our lot on the north side of the library, at the corner of McKean and E. Brady Streets
* If you anticipate needing assistance in locating materials & using equipment, call ahead to make sure someone is available to help you.
* What to bring:
  - Materials to help guide your search
  - Quarters / Change for Copies
  - A Laptop
  - Notebooks
  - USB Drive

Find Us!

218 N. McKean Street, Butler, PA 16001
www.butlerlibrary.info/

Weir Room Hours

Monday
9:00 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Tuesday - Thursday
10:00 a.m. - 6:45 p.m.

Friday
9:00 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Saturday
8:30 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.

Sunday
Closed

Contact Us!

email: baplreference@bcfls.org
phone: 724-287-1715

While our staff are not able to perform genealogical research, we have created a variety of tools for self-directed research. For details, contact Information Services or check out our website at www.butlerlibrary.info/genealogy

BUTLER AREA PUBLIC Library
information education possibilities

LOCAL COLLECTIONS

onsite

Onsite Local Collections & Resources

Family Histories Collection

The library has a large collection of family histories donated by researchers. There are currently over 800 family histories included in the collection.

Butler County Histories Collection

Four county histories were written and published in 1883, 1895, 1909, and 1927. Each contains a history of each township including information about churches, schools, and other social organizations. These histories contain a wealth of biographical information.

Microfilm Collections

Our microfilm collections includes newspapers, probate files, Census records, Sanborn insurance maps, County Poor Farm records, and select early county records like tax lists and election rolls. We also have 5 microfilm readers with printing capabilities and 2 digital readers allowing users to email articles or save to a USB drive.

Vertical File Collections

The vertical files contain smaller collections of family histories and records of local interest such as newspaper clippings related to churches, schools, organizations, businesses, events, and more. Currently, there are approximately 1,300 family-specific vertical files and approximately 3,200 local interest vertical files.

Cemetery Inventory & Index

Completed in the 1970s, the five-volume Butler County Cemetery inventory and accompanying index is the most comprehensive list for county burials. The inventory includes names, dates, and any inscriptions were noted from the stones themselves, as well as a general order of graves in relation to others within each cemetery.

Polk City Directories

The City Directories provide business and personal address information within the city. The city directories include the capability to perform a reverse look up using an address to identify the individual who lived there at a specific point in time, which can be useful for researching the history of a property.

Maps

Two maps often used for research are the 1858 and 1874 maps of Butler County. Each indicates the names of landowners in each township, with the 1874 map also including the names of landowners for select towns. A copy of the 1858 map hangs on the wall in the Weir Room and is available in book form with an index. The 1874 atlas is only available as a bound volume. Other miscellaneous county maps are also available.

Ancestry Library Edition

Ancestry Library Edition is a research tool offering a wide range of international genealogical information available online, with more than 5 billion names in thousands of collections. Ancestry Library Edition is available for in-library use at the Butler Area Public Library. Use the link: www.butlerlibrary.info/ancestry-library-edition

Family Search

The Butler Area Public Library is a Family Search Affiliate Library, with exclusive in-library access to thousands of newly digitized records available through the Family Search archive of historical documents. Use the link: www.butlerlibrary.info/other-useful-genealogy-websites

Butler High School Magnets

This collection from Butler Area Senior High School includes yearbooks from the past six decades. Older Magnets may be available upon request, but are fragile and require special protocols for access.

Weir Room

In 1987, the Edgar Weir family provided for the creation of a resource room where family and local history could be researched.

Located on the second floor of the Butler Area Public Library, the room is available by elevator or stairs. Here you will find the largest genealogical collection in Butler County.

The Weir Room is open to the public for self-directed research during the following hours:

Monday - Thursday: 9:00 a.m. to 7:45 p.m.
Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.
Saturday: 9:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.
Sunday: Closed

If you anticipate needing staff assistance during your visit, please call or email ahead to confirm Information Services staff availability.

Guides for local resources are available inside the Weir Room, including a diagram of the room itself, to help in locating materials.

Special Collections

The Special Collections Room has been created for the safety and preservation of unique, fragile, and rare paper-based materials. Materials may be available upon request. Special protocols and advance arrangements are required for access to these materials.