Watch a Tutorial

Discover new resources by watching a tutorial. Bring your own earbuds or purchase a set for $2 at the Information Services desk. Ask a librarian for details.

Some useful tutorials include:

- Top 5 Tips for Beginners - Library YouTube Channel
- Beginner's Guide to Family Search - Library YouTube Channel
- Online Resources for Card Holders - Library YouTube Channel
- Ancestry.com Tools - Library YouTube Channel
- Using Sanborn Maps - Library YouTube Channel
- Learn how to use the MyHeritage Library Edition - MyHeritage Website
- FindAGrave 101 - Ancestry.com YouTube Channel
- Genealogy Jargon Defined - Ancestry.com YouTube Channel

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!

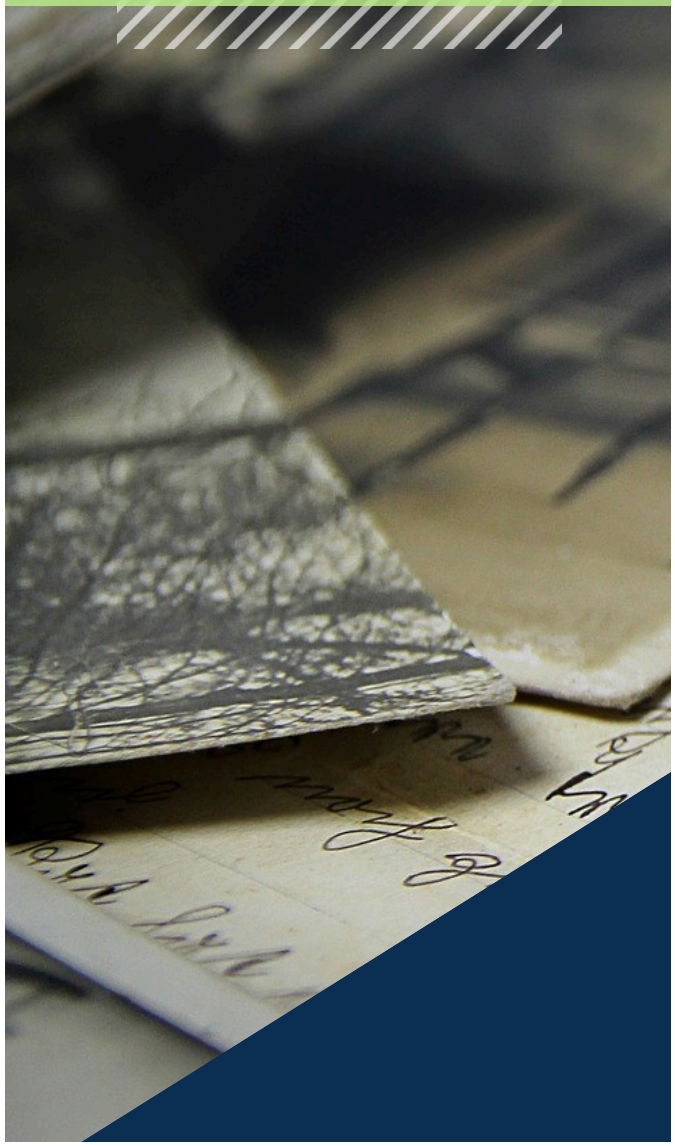
email: baplreference@bcfls.org
phone: 724-287-1715

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

GETTING STARTED

Weir Room & Genealogy Discovery Guide



Weir Room Discovery Guide

Getting Started with Family History

> Utilize Pedigree Charts and Family Group Sheets to keep information organized. These helpful worksheets can be found online.

> Preserve notes in a notebook and/or in Word or Google Docs. Back up everything as you work digitally.

> Write down and keep lists of all surname spellings and variations.

> Talk to relatives, beginning with the oldest. Be sure to take written notes or record your interviews. Ask for dates and milestones, Bible records, and if family histories or ancestors' photographs exist.

> Document family birth, marriage, death, and burial records (vital records) in your Pedigree Chart and Family Group Sheet.

> Document your findings so you will know the exact sources later.

> Get to know your local library, reference librarian, and especially its collections and digital resources for genealogy research.

> Don't forget to network! Join a local genealogy and/or historical society.

> Learn how to search the large primary databases—Ancestry, Family Search, and MyHeritage —and get to know their resources.

Getting Started in the Weir Room

> Use the library's website to guide your discovery process - www.butlerlibrary.info/genealogy

> Search the library catalog by entering a surname + the word "family"

> Search the library's Newspaper Index for local obits which may be accessed in the microfilm collection.

> Search the other indexes on the library's website: Servicemen, Poor Farm & Photo indexes. These indexes are in PDF format using alphabetical listings by surname.

> Use the Weir Room (floorplan) Map to locate items in the room. Maps are available at the Information Services Desk & at the the Weir Room entrance.

> Connect with Ancestry Library Edition, MyHeritage Library Edition, or Family Search from within the library for access to many records & genealogy resources. With a library card or a photo ID, you may use a public computer in the computer lab. Ask a librarian about using a laptop in the Weir Room. Photo ID is required for a laptop.

> Schedule a one-on-one session for an orientation to the Weir Room collections and library resources. To schedule an appointment, talk to a librarian at the Information Services/Reference desk.

When You Need Research Help

When you hit a brick wall or just can't do the research yourself, it may be worthwhile to consider hiring a professional genealogist. The Association of Professional Genealogists website has information on "How to Hire a Professional Genealogist" and a directory of Association members that is searchable based on their research specialization. Find them at www.apgen.org/

Find Your Tribe

Network for Ideas, Tips & Support

Join a local Genealogy group or Historical Society. Look for these groups online:

* Butler County Historical Society
* Cranberry Genealogy Club
* North Hills Genealogists
* Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society
* Zelienople Historical Society
* Beaver County Genealogy & History Center
* Cranberry Township Historical Society
* Armstrong County Genealogy Club
* SocialMediaGenealogy.com/genealogy-on-facebook-list

Check out Online Forums & Message Boards

* Ancestry Message Boards
* GenForum
* MyHeritage Message Boards
* CuriousFox Message Boards
* CyndisList.com

Find Additional Resources Online

* Find a Grave Database - findagrave.com
* Detre Library & Archives - Heinz History Center
* Three Rivers Archivists
* Historic Pittsburgh - historicpittsburgh.org
* Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society
* Archives.gov/research/alic/reference/ethnic-heritage
* Genealogical Society of PA - African American Resources
* AccessGenealogy.com/black-genealogy
* The Jewish Genealogy Society of Pittsburgh
* Rauh Jewish Archives - Heinz History Center
* JewishGen.org
* Genealogical Society of Hispanic America
* HispanicGS.com
* Norwegian-American Genealogical Association
* Polish Genealogical Society of America
* Densho - Japanese American History & Genealogy
* Society of Australian Genealogists
* GENUKI - UK & Ireland Genealogy
* GenealogyLinks.net/Europe/