

A Look Between the Covers

The Delaware Genealogical Research Guide

Irene Heffran Monley and Constance Nelmes Beattie

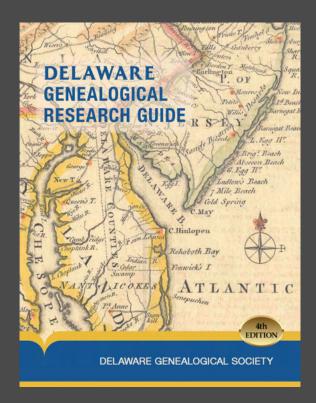
October 24, 2020

Today's program

- Part I Background
- Part II Peek at each chapter
- Part III Where to find the guide

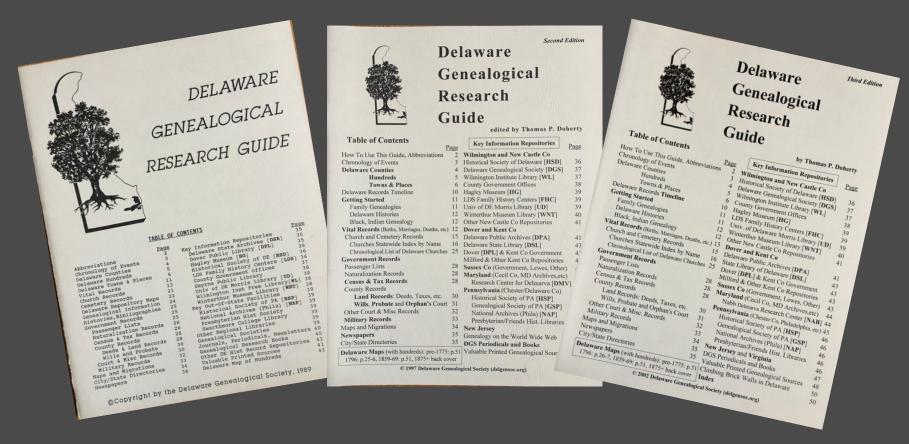
Where to find the guide:

- Amazon.com
- Members section of DGS website: delgensoc.org
- Local and national libraries



Part I Background

History of the guide



Fourth edition



- January 2018 to January 2020
- Research Guide Committee:
 - Joan Adams
 - Connie Beattie
 - Marge McNinch
 - Irene Monley
 - Robbie Snowden
 - Ellen Roberts, copy editor
- Written and designed by committee, with support of DGS board of governors and Ed Adams. Cover was outsourced.

Goal #1 – User-friendly

- Organization
 - Logical
 - Table of Contents and Index
- Readable and engaging
 - White space and bullets plus images
 - References at the end of every major section and/or chapter
 - No footnotes
 - Intentional resource repetition instead of a consolidated bibliography
- Consistent
 - Chicago Manual of Style
 - Thorough copy editing

"It is organized in a thoughtful way, presenting enough Delaware history to assist the researcher in looking in the right places. During our research for the book, we were surprised many times. It was not unusual to hear, "I didn't know that!" at the committee meetings. We hope you will be similarly surprised."

Joan Adams

"Readers may be surprised to find references following each chapter or section and may even be repeated after other chapters. This was done purposefully. We felt that the researcher would appreciate the ready access to the information, rather than having to search through a long list of things that were not pertinent to the researcher's current focus in the chapter."

Joan Adams

Goal #2 - Comprehensive & Accurate

- Extensively updated
- New material added
 - Websites
 - Digitized books
 - Archival materials
 - Indexes
 - Blogs and newsletters
- Research and fact-checking

Caution! Things change!

Dedicated to Donn Devine, JD, CG®, FNGS (1929-2019)



Donn Devine with Judy Russell, Wilmington, Delaware, December 2018

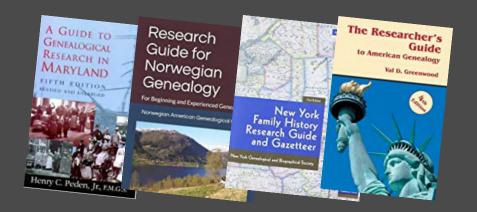
- Past President of the Delaware Genealogical Society (DGS), who assisted in laying the foundations of DGS from its earliest days.
- Donn advanced the study of genealogy, both locally and nationally, with wisdom, scholarship, generosity, and good humor.

What is a research guide?

- "At its core, a research guide is an organized collection of resources related to a certain topic." *
- Provides context
- Is a guide for finding records

"It doesn't do the work for you, but it helps get you the answers."

Patty Curlett, past DGS secretary and newsletter editor

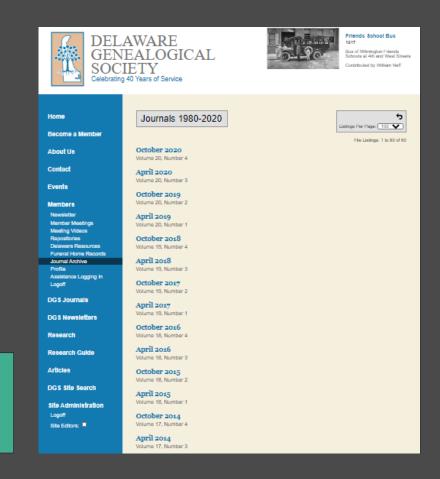


*AKHS Media Center. "What is a research guide?" akmedia.weebly.com/what-is-a-research-guide.html

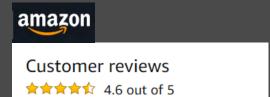
Resources galore!

- Books digitized, online, in print
- Websites and blogs
- Repositories & genealogical societies
- Many mentions of the *Delaware* Genealogical Society Journal

"This book gives me many more ideas of avenues to pursue, rather than just Ancestry.com and Family Search." Rosemary Bell, member of DGS board of governors



Reviews



Bobbi King, *Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter*, July 23, 2020

"This society publication is one of the best-looking and well-crafted state research guides to come across my desk...I particularly liked the plentiful images of old drawings, maps, photos, and the like, of Delaware historical places and people. The pictorials add human interest and appeal to the guidebook. This reference guide is exceptionally well designed and crafted for easy reading, and the information contained therein is comprehensive, relevant, and wide-ranging."

Amanda Gonzalez, CG®, **NGS Quarterly** 108, no. 3 (September 2020)

"While this book is geared toward Delaware research, much general, non-specific genealogical references on all topics are woven into the chapters. Although written for beginner and intermediate researchers, advanced researchers will likewise find the quide informative and helpful."

More comments

"...My ancestry in Delaware only begins in 1920 with the arrival of my Italian immigrant maternal grandparents to Wilmington from Camden, NJ... My father was born and raised in Virginia [and moved] to New Castle about 1942. So, as a Delaware native myself, my first thoughts about the Research Guide were that it would not be of much use to me. However, when I was asked to review it for errors, I was very much surprised and delighted that there were several pieces of information that could, and did, help with my own research!"

Rosemary Bell, current member of the DGS board of governors

"Although I have no genealogical connections to Delaware, I have found the Guide's chapters on military and land records to be particularly useful in researching family in other parts of the United States."

Connie Beattie, member of the Delaware Genealogical Research Guide Committee and past member of the DGS board of governors

Part II

Peek at each chapter

What's between the covers?

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Illustrations: Figures and Tables

23 Figures – maps, drawings, and photos

Illustrations

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13 Tables timelines, lists, indexes, and references

Before you start

- Read this first!
 - Basics
 - Website addresses
 - Archival Record Groups
 - Corrections and Updates

In chapters 1-12, references are provided at the end of every major section and every chapter.

Read this first!

About This Guide

This guide offers a road map of how and where to find records about your Delaware ancestors. It is designed to complement other online and print genealogical resources. Many chapters include historical information, provide context, and offer suggestions for additional research.

While this guide focuses on records located in Delaware, it also includes information on relevant out-of-state and national repositories.

Lists of references we used to compile this guide, plus additional resources you may find helpful, appear after the topics covered in each chapter. We believe consolidating references like this makes them more accessible and user-friendly than using footnotes or including a lengthy bibliography at the end of the guide. Accordingly, some references appear multiple times and in more than one chapter.

DNA analysis is a powerful tool used in genealogy that is beyond the scope of this guide. Many resources and experts are readily available to help you navigate using DNA in your research.

A Few Basics

As a general rule, we refer to repositories by names that were current at the time this guide was published. For example, references to the Delaware Historical Society by definition include its earlier name, the Historical Society of Delaware.

The Delmarva Peninsula refers to the entire state of Delaware, Maryland's Eastern Shore, and the two Virginia counties on the southern tip of the peninsula.

Many of the repositories we list are open to the public on a limited basis and/or are run by volunteers. Check before visiting; contact information is in Chapter 12, Record Repositories.

The US Census has been conducted every 10 years since 1790, and is an essential source of information for genealogists. Throughout this guide, we refer to the census as "US Census." When a specific census is mentioned, the year of the census precedes or follows US Census.

Records exist in a variety of formats: they may be transcribed; they may be available on microfiche (flat sheets) or microfilm (reels); or they may be digitized. While digitized records are viewable on a computer, they may or may not be available online; they may be viewable only at a repository. An index may be available online, but the records it references may not be, and you may need to visit a repository to view the actual record.

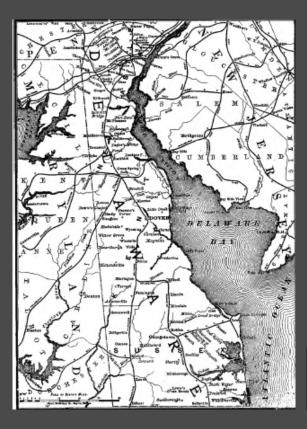
1. Delaware History

Table 1.1. Delaware History Timeline			
Date	Event		
1609	The English explorer, Henry Hudson, discovers the Delaware Bay en route to the Hudson River. Delaware Bay is named for Lord De La Warr.		
1614-29	In 1629 the Dutch West India Company purchases land from the Ciconccin Indians, and establishes a trading post which they call Zwaanendael (now known as Lewes).		
1631	The Zwaanendael trading post is destroyed by Native Americans.		
1638	Peter Minuit, captain of the Kalmar Nyckel, establishes the Swedish settlement of Fort Christina, the first permanent European settlement in Delaware.		
1651	Fort Casimir, a Dutch settlement founded by Peter Stuyvesant on the Delaware River, a.k.a. South River, is built at what is today New Castle.		
1655-56	After two battles with the Swedes, the Dutch seize Fort Christina, displacing the Swedes, and Fort Casimir, which is renamed New Amstel.		
1657	The Dutch Reformed Church is founded in New Amstel.		
1662	The first Mennonite colony is started at the Zwaanendael site.		
1664	English forces sent by the Duke of York capture New Amstel, which is renamed New Castle. Settlers from Virginia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, and Europe make their homes among the Swedes and Dutch in Delaware.		
1667	Crane Hook Swedish Lutheran Church is founded.		
1673	The Dutch regain control of the Delaware settlements from 8 August 1673 to 19 February 1674.		

Excerpt from Table 1.1. Delaware History Timeline

- 1609-2019
- History affects availability of records
- Histories of Delaware and References

2. Geography



- Delaware maps
- Online map repositories
- Counties
- Hundreds
- Towns and places

Frontispiece. Map of Delaware showing towns, county seats, and railroads. Rand McNally, 1891. Reprinted by permission of the Delaware Historical Society.

Hundreds

- Each county in Delaware is subdivided into unincorporated areas called hundreds
- 1682 William Penn directed that Delaware be divided into townships with 100 families
- 1690 these townships were called hundreds
- Still appear on real estate transactions
- List of 2 ½ pages of past and present hundred names

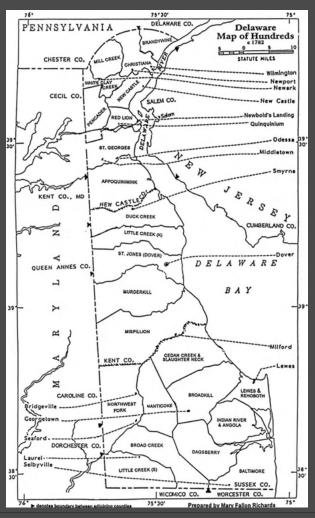


Fig. 2.3. *Delaware Map of the Hundreds c. 1782*, prepared by Mary Fallon Richards for the Delaware Genealogical Society, 1994. Reprinted by permission of the Delaware Genealogical Society.

Towns and places

Place Name	Hundred (1833-55)	County	Type/ Established	Brief History
Cooch's Bridge	Pencader	New Castle	Post Office 1822	
Cool Spring	Lewes & Rehoboth	Sussex	Post Office 1871	
Corner Ketch	Mill Creek	New Castle		Post office called Union
Coverdale Crossroads	Nanticoke	Sussex		
Cow Marsh	Murderkill	Kent		Also called Mount Moriah
Cuckoldstown	Mill Creek	New Castle		Now Stanton
Cullen Town	Milford	Kent		
Dagsboro(ugh) (Dagsbo)	Dagsborough	Sussex	Post Office 1793	Was Blackfoot Town ca. 1785
Deakyneville	Appoquinimink	New Castle	1862	Now in Blackbird Hundred
Delaware City	Red Lion	New Castle	Post Office 1826	Was Newbold's Landing until ca. 1826
Delmar	Little Creek	Sussex	Post Office 1863	Partly in Wicomico County, MD
Dewey Beach	Lewes & Rehoboth	Sussex		
Dog's Ear Corner	Baltimore	Sussex		Now Roxana

Excerpt of Table 2.4. Towns and Places, Hundreds, Counties, and a Brief History

- Changes over time
- Same name for two places
- Helps to define property, identify wills and probate settlements, and track census entries
- Combined with maps and gazetteers, can help properly identify your ancestor
- 16 pages of towns and place names

3. Ethnic Groups

African Americans

- Black Anthony, first enslaved person to arrive in Delaware in 1638
- Eve of the Civil War, free blacks represented 92% of African Americans in Delaware-18% of the population
- How and where to find records over three (3) full pages of websites, books, and record sets
- New research included

American Indians

- Earliest inhabitants
- Forced removal and migration west
- Guidance on how and where to find records, both in Delaware and around the US
- Delaware specific resources including The Moors of Delaware website with genealogical records of descendants of colonial Moor in Delaware

"With my DNA also showing African ancestry, I was interested in...the new online references on Page 41. Using "Unknown No Longer", I was able to find an 1867 Poll Book for the 4th District of Amherst County, Virginia, listing my 4th great grandfather, William W. Cooper, under the heading of 'colored'. This was the first election in which African Americans were allowed to vote in Virginia."

Rosemary Bell

3. Ethnic Groups (cont'd)

- Europeans
 - 17th century Dutch, Swedes, British
 - 18th 20th centuries Irish, Italian, Polish, and Jewish
- Immigration laws
- Cultural and religious centers

4. Immigration and Migration

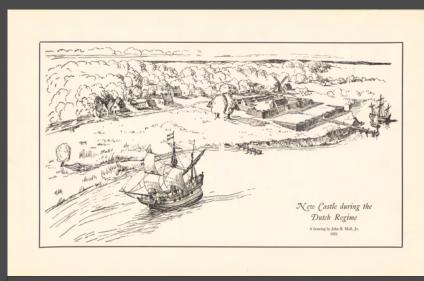


Fig. i. New Castle during the Dutch Regime, by John B. Moll, Jr., 1951. Reprinted by permission of the Delaware Historical Society.

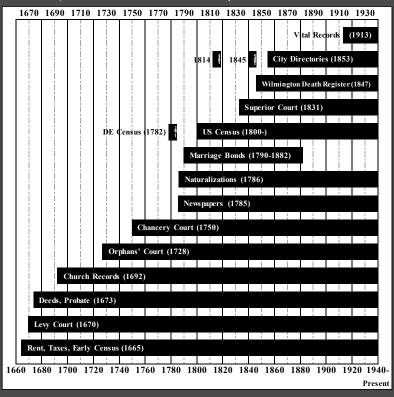
- "A jewel among states"
- Movement between neighboring states
- Land grants attracted people to migrate from Delaware
- Naturalization

"Immigration and Migration are of interest to me, particularly the References for Revolutionary War bounty-land grants, especially for those Virginia ancestors. The Ship Passenger List subheading may be useful to finding my Virginia immigrant ancestors, something many of my co-researchers have been unable to determine. I am also researching my husband's ancestry and plan to use the Filby reference."

Rosemary Bell

5. Overview of Records

Table 5.2. Record Availability Timeline



6. Vital Records

- Births, marriages, deaths
 - Pre- and post-1913
 - County and state
- Divorce
- Adoptions and orphanages
- Guidance to books, transcriptions, legislation

Table 6.2. Orphanages and Children's Homes				
Name	Location	Date established	Remarks	
	Todds Lane, Wilmington	1938	Ownership transferred to Catholic Charities in 1995. Closed in 2004.	
	Green Street, Claymont	1948		
Delaware Orphans' Home and Industrial School (for Colored Children)		1899	Private corporation; later located at Hare's Corner, New Castle, DE.	

Excerpt from Table 6.2. Orphanages and Children's Homes

7. Churches and Religious Organizations

Church	Denomination (Legend on p. 91)	Date of Origin or Dissolution ca.	Town/Place (County)
Milton	Presby	1833-65	Milton
Mispillion	Baptist	1783-1865	Milford (Kent)
Mispillion	Presby	1826-1924	Farmington
Motherkill Friends (Murderkiln or Murderkill) (see Camden)	Quaker	1712-1830	Dover
Mother Union	AUMP	1812-	Wilmington
Mt. Calvary	AfMethEp	1861-	Concord (Sussex)
Mt. Calvary	MethEpis	1900-	Portsville
Mt. Enon	Baptist	1897-	Milford (Kent)
Mt. Enon	Baptist	1899-	Wilmington
Mt. Hermon	MethProt	1877-	Columbia
Mt. Joy	MethEpis	1870-	Wilmington
Mt. Lebanon	MethEpis	1833-	Rockland

Excerpt from Table 7.1 Index of Churches Statewide by Name

- Important for births and marriages before 1913
- Supplemental to probate death records
- Over 500 churches formed or in existence before 1900!
- Books, online resources, records repositories (chapter 12)

"Without the list of churches, I would not have discovered that my ancestors and my husband's ancestors attended the same church in Wilmington 100 years before my husband and I met. They probably knew one another."

Patty Curlett

8. Cemeteries

- No central resource for Delaware cemeteries
- Guidance and a sampling of resources



Fig. 8.1. Old Swedes Church and Burial Grounds, Wilmington, Delaware. Reprinted by permission of Edward R. Adams.

9. Census and Tax Records

- Invaluable to locating families and individuals at a specific time
- Delaware State Censuses
- US Census
- Substitutes for the 1790 and 1890 Federal Censuses
- Other Federal Census
- Tax Lists as Substitutes
- 3 pages of references

Dates	Description	References and Indexes (References at the end of this chapter)
1671	1671 census	Craig, 1671 Census
1671, 1680	1671 and 1680 censuses	PDF at New Netherland Institute website; see Gehring in References.
1681-1713	Early tax lists and censuses	Bendler
1682-1750	Warrants and surveys of the	Weinherg

Table 9.1. Selected Census and Tax References and Indexes, 1671-1890

Province of Pennsylvania including the Three Lower Counties on the Delaware

Excerpt from Table 9.1. Selected Census and Tax References and Indexes, 1671-1890

10. State and County Records

- State and county from mid-1600s on
- Court records beginning in the 17th century
- Wills and probate
- Land records fugitive records
- Road records, legislative records, and executive records

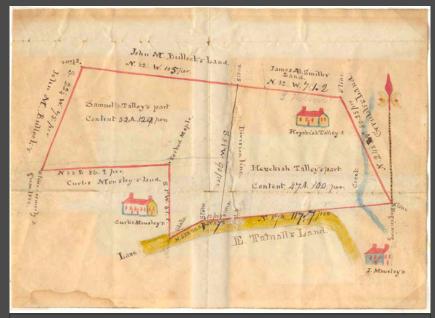


Fig. 10.1. Samuel Talley's Land. Drawn by Samuel Talley, ca. 1850s. An example of an early land record. Reprinted by permission of the Delaware Historical Society.

11. Military Records



Fig. 11.1. Recruiting Poster for Battery B, 5th U.S. Artillery, 1863 . Reprinted by permission of the Hagley Museum and Library.

- Primarily national sources
- Some local
- Every war
- Highlight of du Pont papers

"...includes a wealth of information that I can use for research, not only for my husband's Delaware family, but also for my Virginia kin."

Rosemary Bell

12. Record Repositories

- 103 repositories of original records
- Libraries, museums, archives, churches government, universities call before you visit!
- Including African American, Jewish, Native American
- Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Virginia, national, and online



Fig. 5.2. Delaware Public Archives, Dover, Delaware. Reprinted by permission of the Delaware Public Archives.



Fig. 12.2. The Delaware Historical Society, Wilmington, Delaware. Photograph reprinted by permission of Edward R. Adams.

13. Genealogical Societies

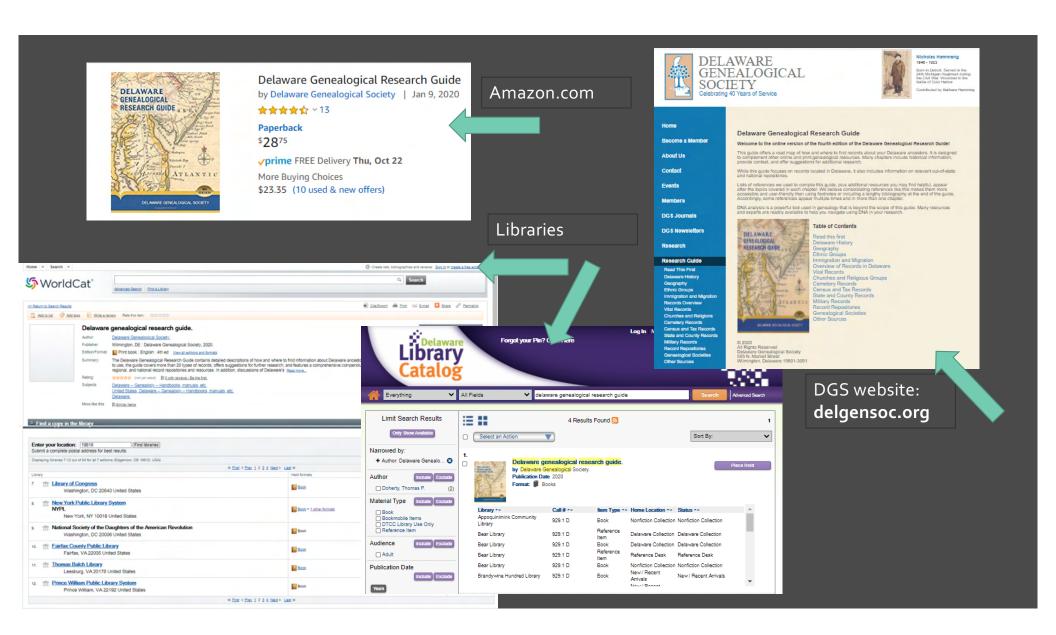
- Delaware, surrounding states, and national
- Programs, websites, newsletters & publications, journals, transcriptions, and collegiality

14. Other Sources

- Newspapers
- City and state directories
- Books, blogs, journals, and newsletters

Part III

Where to find the guide



Thank you!

