

Pennsylvania and the American Civil War: An Annotated Guide to Online Resources

HISTORICAL NEWSPAPERS

Readex, America's Historical Newspapers. This database consists of digitized copies of many of the American Antiquarian Society's considerable newspaper holdings, including 102 Pennsylvania newspapers and 6 that span the war years. Among these are the Philadelphia *Public Ledger*, *Inquirer*, *Evening Post*, *North American*, and *Illustrated New Age*, as well as the Harrisburg *Patriot and Union*. The database is searchable by keyword, date of publication, and article type. **Subscription only.**

<http://www.newsbank.com/readex/index.cfm?content=96>

Gale, 19th Century US Newspapers. This extensive collection of historical newspapers features eight nineteenth-century Pennsylvania newspapers, including a complete collection of the Philadelphia *North American* for the years of the Civil War. The database is searchable by keyword, date of publication, and article type. **Subscription only.**

<http://mlr.com/DigitalCollections/products/usnewspapers/>

Penn State University, Pennsylvania Civil War Newspaper Collection. Consisting of over fifty Pennsylvania newspapers published between 1831 and 1877, this collection features publications from major cities like Philadelphia, Harrisburg, and Pittsburgh, as well as smaller communities throughout the state. The collection can be searched by keyword, date of publication, and article type. **Subscription only.**

<http://digitalnewspapers.libraries.psu.edu/Default/Skins/civilwar/Client.asp?skin=civilwar&AW=1274486845394&AppName=2>

Accessible Archives, African American Newspapers. A useful database of Civil War-era African American newspapers that includes the *Christian Recorder*, mouthpiece of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, published in Philadelphia. The database is searchable by keyword. **Subscription only.**

<http://www.accessible.com/accessible/>

Readex, African American Newspapers. Similar to the America's Historical Newspapers collection, this database encompasses the American Antiquarian Society's digitized holdings of African American newspapers, seven of which were published in Pennsylvania. None of these papers span the years of the Civil War, but the fifty-three issues of the *Harrisburg State Journal* cover the middle years of the 1880s. Holdings are searchable by keyword, date of publication, and article type. **Subscription only.**
<http://www.readex.com/readex/product.cfm?product=308>

State Library of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Historic Newspapers Collection. An impressive collection of historical newspapers from across the state, this database includes the Philadelphia *Sun* and *Christian Observer*, the Lancaster *Intelligencer*, and the Lewistown *Republican*. While none of the collected papers span the years of the Civil War, those listed above cover portions of the late antebellum period. The database can be sorted by newspaper name and publication date, and like other databases hosted by Access PA, offers an unwieldy keyword search function.
<http://www.accesspadr.org/cdm4/browse.php?CISOROOT=%2Fsstlp-newsp>

Pennsylvania Center for the Book, Digital Newspaper Collection. This impressive collection of Pennsylvania newspapers includes Civil War-era editions of Philadelphia's *Saturday Evening Post*. The contents of the database are keyword searchable and can be sorted by county of publication, article type, and date of publication. **Subscription only.**
<http://pabook.libraries.psu.edu/palitmap/panewsarticles.html>

Lancaster County, Lancaster Examiner & Herald. This database features a complete collection of one of Lancaster's leading weekly newspapers between 1855 and 1872. A sister collection offers issues of the same publication between 1834 and 1854. The database can be sorted by newspaper name and publication date, and, like others hosted by Access PA, offers an unwieldy keyword search function.
http://www.lancasterhistory.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1768:examiner-and-herald&catid=44:ourdigitalnewspapers&Itemid=154

PERIODICALS, PAMPHLETS, AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Gale, Sabin Americana. This collection includes a variety of published materials including wartime funeral orations and other sermons, publications of the Pennsylvania state government such as the *Journal of the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania*, and a variety of items published in Philadelphia, such as William C. Harris's 1862 *Prison-Life in the Tobacco Warehouse at Richmond*. Searches can be narrowed by publication date and location. **Subscription only.**
<http://gdc.gale.com/products/sabin-americana-1500-1926/>

ProQuest, American Periodicals Series Online. This collection includes more than 130 nineteenth-century Pennsylvania publications, of which 118 were published during the Civil War. Among these are such popular titles as Philadelphia's *Lippincott's Magazine*. The database features a top-notch search engine that allows users to search by keyword, date and place of publication, document and publication type, and author. **Subscription only.**
<http://www.proquest.com/en-US/catalogs/databases/detail/aps.shtml>

University of Pennsylvania, Department of History, The Crisis of the Union. Featuring a wide variety of sources specifically selected by the University of Pennsylvania's history faculty, this collection sheds light on the Civil War, its causes, and its aftermath in Pennsylvania and beyond. A keyword search for "Pennsylvania" yields a variety of pamphlets, books, prints, and other materials that users can view as high-resolution images. The database is keyword searchable; results can be narrowed or limited by date, subject, or graphic element.
<http://sceti.library.upenn.edu/sceti/abolitionism/>

State Library of Pennsylvania, United States Civil War Collection. This small database features a miscellaneous assortment of materials published by Pennsylvanians or related to the war in Pennsylvania. While many of the collection's published speeches and legislative proceedings are available elsewhere, the site includes a few obscure polemical gems, like *About the War: Plain Words to Plain People*, an 1863 pamphlet by "A Plain Man." Like other databases hosted by Access PA, the site offers a unwieldy keyword search function.
<http://www.accesspadr.org/cdm4/browse.php?CISOROOT=/sstlp-cw>

Dickinson College, House Divided: The Civil War Research Engine. This collection of Civil War-related materials provides ample rewards for those willing to master its unintuitive interface. Packed with exciting features, the site's largest trove of material can be found by going to "Enter House Divided" and clicking on "Documents" in the left-hand menu bar under "Collections." Here, users can explore more than 150 pages of digitized historical documents, many of which pertain to the experience of war in the Keystone State. Also interesting is Abraham Lincoln and Pennsylvania: A Virtual Field Trip via Google Earth, found under 'Teacher's Guide.' The database is keyword searchable, and can be sorted by date, publication type, and source.
<http://housedivided.dickinson.edu/>

Women's History Online, The Gerritsen Collection. Featuring a huge variety of nineteenth-century women's magazines as well as publications for and by women, this extensive database sheds light on the social context of the American Civil War and the role women played in shaping the war and its aftermath. A keyword search for "Pennsylvania" yields more than one thousand hits for the nineteenth century alone, and the database's collection of the *Women's Journal* is unmatched on the web. The database is keyword searchable and results can be sorted by publisher, place of publication, language, and date. **Subscription only.**
<http://gerritsen.chadwyck.com/marketing/index.jsp>

State Library of Pennsylvania, Abraham Lincoln Collection. This small database features material on Abraham Lincoln published in Pennsylvania or by Pennsylvanians. Much of the material will be familiar to those studied in Lincoln's life and career, but the collection also features a few more obscure pieces, including *A Workingman's Reasons for the Re-election of Abraham Lincoln*, and *God Bless Abraham Lincoln!* by a Philadelphia-area preacher. Like other Access PA databases, the collection's keyword search function is of limited value.
<http://www.accesspadr.org/cdm4/browse.php?CISOROOT=%2Fsstlp-linc>

MANUSCRIPT MATERIALS AND PERSONAL PAPERS

The American Civil War: Letters and Diaries. This immense collection of Civil War letters and diaries from Alexander Street Press features the writings of over two thousand correspondents and diarists and over one hundred thousand pages of material. It includes more than one thousand letters or diaries either written in, about, or sent to the state of Pennsylvania. The database is keyword searchable and can be browsed by author, date, battle, place, or life event. **Subscription only.**
<http://solomon.cwld.alexanderstreet.com/>

University of Virginia, The Valley of the Shadow. This project provides users with an opportunity to explore the impact of mounting sectional tension, the Civil War, and Reconstruction on two American communities: one Southern and one Northern. Focused on Augusta County, Virginia, and Franklin County, Pennsylvania, the archive provides users with access to a variety of primary source documents, including diaries and manuscript materials, newspapers, print sources, and vital records like census and tax returns. The project's materials are organized by both document type and time period. Most document collections can be browsed by author, title, or type, while nearly all can be searched by keyword. The collection will be of limited value to professional historians, many of whom will find its geographic scope too narrow for their own research. For undergraduates and other nonprofessionals, however, this archive provides a brilliant introduction to the range of materials available to historians. In fact, *The Valley of the Shadow* may be ideal for advanced undergraduate courses. Using the digital archive, students can explore the historian's craft in a manageable setting.
<http://valley.lib.virginia.edu/>

Library of Congress, American Memory, Abraham Lincoln Papers. This database consists of the correspondence of President Abraham Lincoln. While Lincoln's outgoing messages are largely absent from the collection, his incoming messages are scanned, organized by date, and, in many cases, transcribed. The president's correspondents include a number of important Pennsylvania political, military, and social figures, among them Governor Andrew G. Curtin, whose letters to Lincoln shed light on the governor's career and the war in the Keystone State.
<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/alhtml/malhome.html>

Library of Congress, American Memory, A Civil War Soldier in the Wild Cat Regiment. This small database features the papers of Civil War soldier and Pennsylvania native Captain Tilton C. Reynolds. The bulk of the papers consist of Reynolds's written correspondence, although the collection also features several photographic images and a cartoon drawn by Tilton. The database can be browsed by type of media, topic, or proper name.

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/tcreynolds/>

MAPS, MUSIC, IMAGES, AND EPHEMERA

Readex, American Broadsides and Ephemera. Featuring everything from broadsides and ballads to posters, programs, and puzzles, this extensive database is the definitive site for nineteenth-century ephemera. With holdings that include over 2,500 items from Pennsylvania alone, this collection is an indispensable tool for nineteenth-century American historians of any persuasion. **Subscription only.**

<http://www.newsbank.com/readex/product.cfm?product=2>

Library of Congress, American Memory, Civil War Treasures from The New-York Historical Society. One of the Library of Congress's two collections of Civil War-era images, this database offers a selection of broadsides, engravings, and photos second only to the American Broadsides and Ephemera collection. From wartime recruitment posters that lined city streets to hand-drawn cartoons depicting camp life, this database offer a variety of visual perspectives on life in the middle decades of the nineteenth century. Of particular relevance are the collection's extensive holdings pertaining to wartime Pennsylvania, which include materials from the state's smaller communities as well as its major cities. The database is keyword searchable and can be browsed by subject and proper name.

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/ndlpcoop/nhihtml/cwnyhshome.html>

Gettysburg College, Civil War Era Collection at Gettysburg College. Although this database also features pamphlets and letters, its greatest strength lies in its collection of images: lithographs, maps, paintings, and political cartoons. Collected from across the northern and southern United States throughout the mid-nineteenth century, these images shed light on everything from political and social life to the experience of warfare. One of the highlights of the database is its extensive collection of

Adalbert John Volck's Copperhead engravings, made in wartime Baltimore, although it also includes a variety of materials created in or pertaining to Pennsylvania. The database is keyword searchable.

http://www.gettysburg.edu/library/gettdigital/civil_war/civilwar.htm

The college's collection of photographs of nineteenth-century notables can be found at

<http://www.accesspadr.org/cdm4/browse.php?CISOROOT=%2Fagett19cent&CISOSTART=1,1>

Library of Congress, American Memory, Civil War Maps. This excellent and extensive collection includes maps from the nineteenth century, as well as latter-day maps of Civil War-related sites. Many, but not all, depict military units' positions and movements at critical moments throughout the war. Of particular interest, the database includes 111 maps pertaining to the state of Pennsylvania. The database is searchable by place, subject, creator, and title.

http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/civil_war_maps/

Library Company of Philadelphia, American Song Sheets, Slip Ballads, and Poetical Broadside Collection. Collected from a host of localities and ethnic communities, this database contains more than five thousand lyrics sheets and one thousand pieces of sheet music, featuring lyrics in languages as diverse as English and Japanese. Especially useful is the database's collection of songs connected with the city of Philadelphia, including songs for the 195th Pennsylvania Infantry and the city's journeymen cordwainers. The database's keyword search function is of limited use, but the collection is carefully categorized and easy to browse.

<http://lcpdams.librarycompany.org:8881/R?RN=950768167>

Library of Congress, American Memory, Band Music from the Civil War Era. This quirky collection of materials features over seven hundred musical compositions, as well as modern transcriptions and recordings of historical brass band music from the Civil War era. While the collection lacks paeans to Pennsylvania and its brave citizenry, the database's music and lyrics offer a one-of-a-kind insight into mid-nineteenth-century popular culture. The collection is keyword searchable and can be browsed by the subject and titles of songs and compositions.

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/cwmhtml/cwmhome.html>

Library of Congress, American Memory, Selected Civil War Photographs. This collection of historical images includes more than one thousand Civil War-era photographs, many from the studio of Mathew Brady. While most of the images portray individual figures or military units—among them, more than a dozen images of Pennsylvania units—the collection also includes many scenes of camp life, wartime communities, and the aftermath of battle. The database is keyword searchable and can be browsed by subject. <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/cwphtml/cwphome.html>

Library Company of Philadelphia, McAllister Collection of Civil War Era Printer Ephemera, Graphics and Manuscripts. Although this database is difficult to navigate, its considerable contents reward persistent users. Including everything from lithographic depictions of major battles to political cartoons and recruitment posters, the collection offers both familiar materials, like well-known Currier and Ives lithographs, and more obscure sources that users are unlikely to find elsewhere on the web. The images of Philadelphia's wartime refreshment saloons are well worth a visit to the collection. A keyword search function is available but of limited usefulness.

<http://www.librarycompany.org/mcallister/index.htm>

<http://lcpdams.librarycompany.org:8881/R?RN=833094369>

Lancaster County, City Directories 1843–1900 Collection. Spanning the years 1843 to 1900, this collection of digitized directories includes the names, addresses, and occupations of Lancaster's residents before, during, and after the Civil War. This site is a useful tool for social and local historians, as well as genealogical researchers, and the documents available here shed light on the changing face of a unique and important Pennsylvania community. Like other Access PA databases, this collection has an unwieldy keyword search function.

<http://www.accesspadr.org/cdm4/browse.php?CISOROOT=%2Fslchs-cd01>

MILITARY HISTORY

Cornell University Making of America Collection, The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies. Originally published by the War Department, this compilation of official reports, military correspondence, and other material is an indispensable starting point for understanding the Civil War's military

history. Information on the Battle of Gettysburg can be found in volume 27.
<http://digital.library.cornell.edu/m/moawar/waro.html>

Pennsylvania State Archives, Civil War Veterans' Card File, 1861–1866. This database provides a comprehensive index of the men who fought in Pennsylvania military units during the American Civil War. When available, the digitized index cards include vital statistics on Pennsylvania's soldiers, such as service history, age, rank, residence, occupation, and physical description. The collection is searchable by last name and keyword.
<http://www.digitalarchives.state.pa.us/archive.asp?view=ArchiveIndexes&ArchiveID=17>

Penn State University, The Pennsylvania Civil War Project/Pennsylvanians in the Civil War. This impressive project lists the names and service information of men serving in Pennsylvania regiments who were wounded, killed, captured, or went missing at a number of major Civil War battles and engagements. The database also lists Pennsylvania casualties associated with major Confederate prisons and allows users to search for soldiers' muster and burial locations.
<http://cairo.pop.psu.edu/cw/c.cfm>

State Library of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Regimental Histories Collection. This collection of more than thirty regimental histories sheds light on the service careers of some of the state's best-known military units. Like other Access PA databases, this collection offers a clumsy keyword search function.
<http://www.accesspadr.org/cdm4/browse.php?CISOROOT=%2Fsstlp-reg&CISOSTART=1,21>

SLAVERY

Although Pennsylvania passed a gradual emancipation law in 1780 and the US Congress outlawed the Atlantic slave trade in 1807, slavery remained an important, if peripheral, influence on the lives of Pennsylvanians before, during, and after the American Civil War. Indeed, Pennsylvania shared its border with three slave states, and several thousand of the state's sons and daughters perished in the bloody conflict over the fate of human bondage. The following digital resources may prove

useful in gaining a richer understanding of the history of slavery in Pennsylvania, the United States, and throughout the Atlantic world.

Gale, Slavery and Anti-Slavery: A Transnational Archive. Subscription only.

<http://mlr.com/DigitalCollections/products/slaveryantislavery/>

Emory University, The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database.

<http://www.slavevoyages.org/tast/index.faces>

OTHER GUIDES TO ONLINE AND DIGITAL RESOURCES

A number of other websites offer excellent guides to online resources related to Pennsylvania during the Civil War era.

Pennsylvania Civil War 150. The official website of the Keystone State's Civil War sesquicentennial commemorations, Pennsylvania Civil War 150 features a Resources For section that provides excellent guides to online material for visitors, teachers, scholars, enthusiasts, and genealogists.
<http://www.pacivilwar150.com/>

Access Pennsylvania. A repository of many of the state's most valuable digital assets, Access Pennsylvania hosts several of the sites featured above, as well as the web collections of many of the state's universities, museums, and research institutions. Although the repository's navigation and search functions are primitive by present-day standards, the site features an almost endlessly valuable trove of material.
<http://www.accesspadigital.org/>

The Civil War Collection at Penn State University. This excellent guide spotlights many of Pennsylvania's most important Civil War-era resources, with particular attention given to those materials housed in the Penn State library system.
<http://www.libraries.psu.edu/psul/digital/civilwar.html>

The People's Contest: A Civil War Era Digital Archiving Project through Penn State University and the Richards Civil War Era Center. The public face of an ongoing project, this website hosts an extensive cat-

alog of primary sources available at county historical societies as well as larger archives throughout the state of Pennsylvania. In upcoming years, the site will host its own body of digitized materials, gleaned from the archives listed in the catalog.

<http://peoplescontest.psu.edu/>

Pennsylvania Digitized Newspaper Directory. This website offers an incomplete but useful directory of digitized Pennsylvania newspapers and information on where to find them.

http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/colletions/8728/pennsylvania_digitized_newspapers_directory/524049

Pennsylvania State University

SEAN TRAINOR