

Research Resources in Hackettstown, Warren County and More

A Little Geography

Warren County was created in 1824 from Sussex County.

Sussex County was created in 1753 from Morris, which was created in 1738/9 from Hunterdon.

Hunterdon County was created in 1713/14 from Burlington, which was created between 1692 and 1710 within the province of West Jersey.

Theoretically, it would have been possible for a family to live in Hackettstown for 250 years and leave records in five counties - but Hackettstown was only settled in 1720.

What You'll Find Where

County Courthouses

In the Deed Registry (County clerk's office)

Deeds and their grantee (buyer) and grantor (seller) indexes Mortgages and their mortgagor [borrower-owner] indexes (sometimes also mortgagee [lender] indexes)

Marriages up to about 1900

Plat maps (about land, not buildings)

In the surrogate's office

Wills and related papers, with indexes Court cases - usually not indexed

Municipal Assessor's offices

Tax history of properties (perhaps only recent)

County and local historical Societies OR county or local libraries

Historic maps, showing house locations with owners' names Sanborn insurance maps (for urban areas)

Published county and local histories

Street directories (in town areas)

Old newspapers on film, indexed if you're lucky Photograph collections

Vertical files of local history and local families

Genealogical material: federal and state censuses and indexes, early tax lists, compiled genealogies and mug books, statewide will abstracts to the 1820s Staff and gurus to consult with.

NJ State Library, Trenton

State and county history books; Atlases and NJ geography books; Published genealogies

Printed census indexes but not Soundex

Street directories (but better to look for them locally)

NJ State Archives, Trenton

Deeds for all counties on film, with indexes Censuses, tax lists, military records

Wills and packets before 1804

A small reference collection of books Many, many manuscripts

Delightful, new, spacious working conditions, very helpful staff

Places to Go

County Courthouses

Warren Co.: Belvidere

The courthouse entrance is on Hardwick St. plentiful street parking - security = walkthrough gate and visual inspection of bags (no x-ray) - Mon.-Fri. 8:30-4:30

Surrogate's office to left at entry - early wills begin 1824 - indexed in book by decedent's surname, then by 1st letter of first name supposedly don't have to look at document packet, as everything has been filmed onto fiche (better look anyway)

County clerk's office to right of entry - deeds and mortgages begin

1825 - everything before 1912 is in a separate room downstairs - mortgage indexes by groups of surname 1st letters, then by 1st name (1st letter, next consonant)

Also downstairs: marriages ~1825~1875, indexed by groom only; divisions in separate books (these have been printed - see below under Brown); plat maps

Sussex Co.: Newton

Hall of Records, 4 Park Pl. (at top of the green) difficult street parking - Mon.-Fri. 8:30-4:30

Deed registry - 1st floor - old deeds and marriages downstairs

Surrogate's office - 2nd floor

Morris Co.: Morristown

Use the annex, with entrance on the east side of Court St. opposite the old jail (now demolished) - rare parking at meters, or in garage on Schuyler Pl. (in block behind the annex - you may walk through the annex garage and take elevator) - security by x-ray - Mon.-Fri. 8:30-4:30

Deed room open Wed. to 8:00 pm. (plentiful parking beginning 4:30)

Surrogate's office on 5th floor - old indexes in books, later ones on machines (not computers) - all info is on fiche in self-access packets sometimes pre-1804 bits remain

Deed registry on 1st floor, to the right - old indexes in back of room, toward the windows - old deeds are in lower sections below working spaces throughout rear part of room on window side

Marriages -1787- -1890s - on rear shelves near old grantor indexes, away from windows - earlier ones published in Gen. Mag. of NJ, later ones being published in newsletter of Morris Area Gen. Soc.

Hunterdon Co.: Flemington

Street parking within a couple of blocks County clerk- 71 Main St. - 8:30-4:30

Deed registry and all indexes on 1st floor, old deeds on rear balcony; on front balcony, a card index of all names occurring in court cases (unique in the world)

Surrogate's office - cor. Capner St. & Park Ave., ~ block west of Main St. - Mon.-Fri. 7:45-5:15 (and they'll stay a little later if you're having fun)

Historical Societies and Libraries

Hackettstown

Hackettstown Historical Society

106 Church Street.

Open Wed., Fri., Sun. 2:00-4:00

Historic district inventory by Dennis Bertland, 1988 - many omissions. Birdseye view map of Hackettstown 1883 (copies for sale)

Vertical family files

DAR cemetery records

67 photo books - #s 34, 35, 36 have house photos Scrapbooks

Card file of name mentions in many sources

Belvidere

Warren County Public Library

199 Hardwick St. across from courthouse

Open Mon.-Thurs. 9:00-8:30, Fri. 9:00-6:00, Sat. 10:00-3:00

Street parking; New Jersey room open whenever library is

Early newspapers on film

Federal census for Warren Co. 1830-1930

State census for Warren Co. 1865-1875-1885-1895-1905-1915 (not indexed)

Sanborn insurance maps for all of NJ Genealogical Magazine of NJ, and indexes

Morristown

Joint Free Public Library of Morristown and Morris Township

1 Miller Rd. (not the county library on Hanover Ave.)

Open Mon.-Thurs. 9:00-9:00

Friday 9:00-6:00, Sat. 9:00-5:00 (2:00 in summer), Sun. 1:00-5:00

Local History department upstairs - small parking lot in back

Acroterion countywide surveys of historic buildings, by municipality

Historic maps and atlases

Vertical family files for northwestern NJ

Vertical local history files for entire county, sorted by town and topic Federal censuses for all of NJ, with printed indexes and

Soundex State censuses for all of NJ (unindexed)

Tax lists for all of NJ

Photograph collection (mostly Morristown)

Free use of subscription genealogy web sites

Numerous helpful and knowledgeable staff, many gurus

Newton

Sussex County Historical Society

82 Main St.

Open Fri. 10:00-5:00, Sat. 9:00-12:00 - parking lot

Vertical family files

Collection of printed Sussex Co. material

Flemington

Hunterdon County Historical Society

114 Main St.

Open Thurs. 1:00-3:00 and 7:00-9:00

Card file of name references Vertical family files

Very extensive collection of Hunterdon Co. material, incl. manuscripts Censuses, tax lists, newspaper on film

Expert assistance