

West Pittston Historical Society

Research Information

* *While our researchers are very experienced in both West Pittston and Luzerne County research, it should be noted that all research fees cover costs of the actual search and do not necessarily guarantee a specific result.*

Newspaper research - obituaries, news articles, etc.

Available newspapers:

Pittston Gazette - 1851 - 1965 (with some missing issues)

Wilkes-Barre Times - 1877 - 1922

Wilkes-Barre Sunday Independent - 1913 - 1946

Additional smaller Wilkes-Barre newspapers are available as well.

Newspaper Research Fees:

SPECIFIC DATE: \$15 - With a specific date, such as May 11, 1865

That date, plus the next three additional days will be searched.

In this example, May 11 through the 14th will be searched.

SPECIFIC MONTH: \$35/Pittston Gazette

\$50/ Wilkes-Barre Newspapers

A thirty day period will be searched. You specify the date range, such as May 11 through June 11, 1865.

SPECIFIC YEAR: \$75 - One entire year can be researched, *however this full year research is limited to the Pittston Gazette only.*

To begin a research request,

email us at info@westpittstonhistory.org with your request and we will confirm the availability. Our turn-around time is fairly quick - about two weeks.

Before you send payment, please contact us to make sure the papers you wish to be researched are available.

Census Records:

\$15 for each record - 1790 - 1930 excluding 1890 which is not available.

Hire a Researcher for a Day:

\$160 a day includes six hours of research, plus photocopying up to \$5.00.

The researcher would travel to the various county offices to gather records, interpret them and go to the next logical step. A typical day might be the client directing a retrieval of naturalization records, deeds and a will. The deed might include a date of death for the homeowner/ancestor's spouse. Next the researcher would view newspaper microfilm to obtain the obituaries. If the will included the marriage names of daughters, their marriage applications could be looked-up. The researcher would gather as many records in the six hour time frame as possible. The researcher would only travel to the three Luzerne County Courthouse locations, the Osterhout Library and the Luzerne County Historical Society.

Historical Research on Your West Pittston Home:

Option 1 - \$50 - Includes deed research of your home with the names of previous owners and a copy of the earliest deed showing a transfer from the land developer to the first homeowner.

Option 1 - \$160 - Includes deed research, census records for previous owners, Sanborn map images from available years, city directory references, vintage newspaper articles where available.

Research at the Luzerne County Courthouse

Items listed below are available at the Luzerne County Courthouse. For pricing, please contact us with your research needs.

Luzerne County Register of Wills

Birth and death records 1893-1905 - The county held these records until 1905. Residents were not required to register these events and subsequently, many did not.

Marriage records - applications are available from Oct. 1, 1885 to present. No copying is allow however information can be hand recorded by our researcher

Probate records - Including wills, letters of administration, estate proceedings, partion and sales docket, orphans court docket from March 1778.

Prothonotary's Office:

Naturalizations 1820-1906 are available, but the information is limited. Surnames beginning with A, B, or C were destroyed before microfilming and are not available.

Naturalizations 1906 to 1912, the Luzerne County Courthouse was being built. Aliens were directed to apply for admission at the federal courthouse in Lackawanna County therefore, these years are unavailable at the Luzerne County Courthouse.

Naturalizations November 1912 to August 1944 are available.

Recorder of Deeds Office:

Deeds from 1786 to present are available

In all cases: Please contact us at info@westpittstonhistory.org to begin the research process.