Genealogy Research @ Mechanicsburg Public Library
HIGHLIGHTS OF RESEARCH @ THE LIBRARY

SURNAME FILES: These files contain information on families from the Mechanicsburg area and contain research done by library staff over the years along with miscellaneous family information.

FAMILY NOTEBOOKS: These notebooks contain research on families from the Mechanicsburg, Champaign County area that are too large for the surname files.

EVENT FILE: These 3 x 5 file cards contain mostly death notices/obituaries from Mechanicsburg newspapers and various sources. There are also other miscellaneous events in these files.

OBITUARY FILE FROM THE DAILY TELEGRAM AND THE TELEGRAM: This file is different than the file referred to above. This file contains notations of obituaries from the newspapers that we own.

The cards are in order by the first 3 letters of the surname. This is followed by the surname then given name used in the obituary, then the date of the obituary/memorial/funeral report/estates. Also included in some cases are notations of accidents/illness that lead to the death of the person. Abbreviations: Killed in action is KIA; Memorial is MEM; Estate is EST; MIA is missing in action. EXAMPLE: Newman, Marvin 14 Feb, 1939 (The obit is for Marvin Newman and is in the paper of Feb. 14, 1939)
Also on this is card: Newland, Harry Eugene 17 Feb, 1944
All surnames starting with NEW are on one card / cards. Smith and Jones have cards all by themselves. THIS FILE IS NOT COMPLETE.

NEWSPAPERS: We have some early miscellaneous Mechanicsburg newspapers. From 1936 to 1956 The Daily Telegram was printed 5-6 days of the week. From 1957 onward it became a weekly newspaper.
Obituaries in the early newspapers are not in a column like we have now. Many are scattered throughout the newspapers. Obituaries are not always listed in a

column since there was a cost for placing the obituary they might have listed it in the news brief section of the paper.

MAPLE GROVE CEMETERY: This cemetery was started in 1869 with interments starting in about 1871. The DAR in the 1960's did a list of interments from both the interment book and old records that appear to no longer survive. These list some of the very early interments for the cemetery that were behind 2$_{nd}$ Baptist and included where S. Locust St. is now. In the DAR book these records are at the very beginning of the letter of the alphabet under 'Early Burials'.

Again, very early records for the in town cemetery do not exist outside of what the DAR did and what is listed in the first interment book as 'removed from old graveyard.'

We have the first interment book for Maple Grove and some records from later interments-these are not current and only go to 2007.

The first interment book is arranged by alphabetical order then by interment. We also have some of the old account books from the cemetery.

We do have some old maps of the cemetery.

There is also a book that the library staff compiled that contains quite a bit of information on the cemetery and the mausoleum.

SCRAPBOOKS: We have many scrapbooks that have been compiled by people who lived in Mechanicsburg and cover quite a few years. Some of these contain clippings from early newspapers in Mechanicsburg and the surrounding area. The dates are <u>roughly</u> from the late 1870's through the early 1900's and have been indexed by library staff and volunteers.

We also have the scrapbooks of Andrew Wing, Frank Hunt, Nellie Shepherd, and a scrapbook of South Vienna, Ohio. These have not been indexed as of 2015.

MECHANICSBURG SCHOOL INFORMATION:

GRADUATES OF MECHANICSBURG HIGH SCHOOL: These can be found on the library staff computer in two ways: one by year of graduation and the other by name. This list is not current. The information contained is from the Alumni Association and does not contain current addresses. For female graduates there is a listing of the last married name that the association had.

SCHOOL YEARBOOKS: The library does have quite a few year books from the school. There are a few that have been scanned to disc and are with the hard copy year books. We also have some histories of classes that have been donated by class members.

OTHER SCHOOL INFORMATION: We have a lot of information on the Mechanicsburg school system: history, pictures and graduates. Most of this is catalogued, and newspapers are also a great resource for information for those looking for graduates and attendees.
We also have information from Dohron Wilson on the school and other information that he collected about Mechanicsburg and Champaign County.

DATABASES:
ANCESTRYLIBRARYEDITION: This website is available only in house and does work on the wireless connection.

FINDAGRAVE.COM: This web site is good for finding where a person is buried but has so much more information. This data base does include Maple Grove Cemetery in Mechanicsburg.

FAMILYSEARCH.COM: This database has quite a bit of information on it: death certificates (downloadable, printable and free), census, marriage records and much more. The web site is free, but you have to create an account in order to view some of the images.

SANBORN FIRE MAPS: This website is free through the library and contains maps of cities and towns. It has maps for various years showing the water system, what the buildings were made of, sewer and electric. These were done for insurance companies so that they would be able to insure businesses. Mechanicsburg is covered from 1892 through March, 1946.