

## Topic                      Discussion Prompt

Colonial Courts: When  
the Good Stuff Isn't in  
Vital Records

Which type of court case would most likely mention  
your ancestor - debt, defamation, settlement, or  
something else?

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Your Ancestors Didn't  
Move - The County  
Line Did

What's the biggest boundary surprise you've  
encountered in Pennsylvania research?

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Orphans' Court Gold:  
Guardianships, Estates,  
and Family  
Reconstruction

What detail in an estate packet has most often  
solved your "which family is this?" problem?

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Civil War  
Pennsylvanians: Draft,  
Bounties, and Local  
Proof

What's the hardest part of your Civil War research -  
same-names, missing records, or tying service to  
the right hometown?

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Pennsylvania  
Technology in the  
Archives: Photos, City  
Directories, and  
Address Archaeology

If you had to prove a family's continuity using only  
addresses, what sources would you combine?

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Friends, Factions, and  
Paper Trails

What's the most useful non-vital-record clue you've  
pulled from a religious record in Pennsylvania?

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Women in Pennsylvania  
Records: Dower,  
Deeds, and  
Disappearing Names

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What's one record type that unexpectedly named a woman you couldn't otherwise identify?

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Railroads, Canals, and  
the Records of  
Movements

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What occupational record source do you think is underused in PA: union records, employer magazines, or accident reports?

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Chain Migration in Coal  
and Steel Towns

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If you're stuck on an immigrant's exact birthplace, what network clue would you chase first?

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Indigenous Presence  
and Responsible  
Research in PA  
Narratives

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How do you handle family stories that matter deeply but don't (yet) have documentation?

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"Same-Name"  
Problems: Proving  
Which John Smith Is  
Yours

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What's your favorite tie-breaker when two people share the same name in the same place?

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Newspapers Beyond  
Obituaries: The Social  
Column Strategy

What type of newspaper item has given you the biggest breakthrough besides an obituary?

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Anthracite Coal Region  
Lives: Accidents,  
Unions, and Company  
Towns

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If a miner left few vital records, which occupational or community record would you try first?

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Tax Lists: The Census  
Substitute PA  
Genealogists Forget

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What's one tax-list column you now consider essential evidence, and why?

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World War I  
Pennsylvanians: Draft  
Cards as Biography

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What single draft-card detail has been most valuable in your research?

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Church Records Across  
Denominations: Finding  
the Right Archive

What's been your biggest barrier to church records - language, access, time period, or knowing where to look?