Getting Started: Researching Jefferson County, Pennsylvania

1. Learn the County Basics

- Formed 1804 from Lycoming County; organized 1830.
- Attached to Westmoreland (1804–1806) and Indiana (1806–1830) for early records.
- County seat: Brookville.
- Boundaries stable since formation.

2. Identify What You Need

- Birth, marriage, or death record
- Land or deed record
- Probate or guardianship
- Census or tax record
- Military or pension file
- Church or cemetery record

3. Know Where to Search

Record Type	Start Year	Repository / Website
Deeds & Land	1828	Recorder of Deeds, Brookville
Wills & Probate	1830	Register of Wills & Orphans' Court
Marriages	1885	Register of Wills
Births/Deaths	1893–1906 (county) 1906+ (State)	Orphans' Court / PA Dept. of Health
Census	1800–1950	FamilySearch, Ancestry
Tax Lists	Pre-1830	Indiana & Lycoming County Archives
Military	Various	PA State Archives, USGenWeb War Records

4. Visit Local Repositories

- Jefferson County Historical Society – 172 Main St, Brookville (family files, manuscripts, photos)
- Punxsutawney Memorial Library – genealogy room & newspapers
- Brookville FamilySearch Center – microfilms & digital access

5. Use Online Resources

- FamilySearch Catalog – Jefferson County
- PA GenWeb Archives – Jefferson County
- Pennsylvania State Archives
- Pennsylvania Newspaper Archive

6. Read the County Histories

- Kate M. Scott, *History of Jefferson County* (1888)
- W. J. McKnight, *Jefferson County: Her Pioneers and People* (1917)

7. Check Township & Church Anniversary Books

■ Founding families, school rosters, and congregation lists appear in centennial booklets.

8. Verify Place Names

■ Ghost or renamed towns include Eleanora, Walston, Ellmont, and Panic.

9. Keep a Research Log

■ Record sources, dates, and results (including 'no record found').

10. Connect & Contribute

■ Jefferson County PAGenWeb – volunteer-run genealogy resource.
■ Jefferson County Historical Society – membership & archives.