

REGIONAL WORK

Delaware Genealogical Research Guide, 3d ed.

By Thomas P. Doherty. Published by Delaware Genealogical Society; 505 North Main Street; Wilmington, DE 19801-3091; <http://delgensoc.org/>; 2002. 52 pp. Charts, illustrations, index, maps. Paperback. \$14.00 (shipping: \$1.50).

That the third edition of this guide was issued only five years after the second (compared with eight years between its first publication in 1989 and the second edition) reflects rapid changes—and consequently needed updates—even for our nation's second smallest state. The number of pages in the work is also small but Mr. Doherty has packaged a large amount of useful information into the guide, with little white space among its double-column pages.

For researchers with Delaware roots or other genealogical interests there, this is *the* guide, not only with which to start, but also to return to throughout the research process. It covers all the main categories of genealogical sources—including cemetery, census, church, immigration, land, military, naturalization, probate, tax, and vital records, as well as directories and newspapers—and the important repositories from local to federal level. It mentions resources and collections

in Pennsylvania and Maryland, not only because they border Delaware but also because Delaware was originally part of Pennsylvania, and Maryland continued to vie for control of the area until the late 1700s. The author provides a brief chronology of the state, a list of Delaware's hundreds (a geographical division unique in the United States to Delaware), and a list of towns and other places. A useful Delaware records timeline helps researchers quickly see what kinds of records are available for what time periods.

In addition to the excellent explanation of records needed for Delaware research, the *Guide* notes sources on microfilm and online. It describes repository holdings and provides Web, e-mail, and postal addresses, telephone numbers, hours of operation, driving directions, and copying charges. Descriptive paragraphs are brief, but cited works and collections are detailed in numerous footnotes. Updates to this edition of *Delaware Genealogical Research Guide* will be found on the Delaware Genealogical Society's Web page.

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