

Genealogical Records at the New Jersey State Archives

www.archives.nj.gov

Vital Records:

New Jersey Vital Records (May 1, 1848 – December 31, 1918)

- State Archives owns these records and will conduct mail research on them
- All marriages from 1848-1878 are indexed on-line on our website.
- Vital Records from May 1848 to May 1878 are recorded in large ledger books. NO certificates. We estimate them to be about 60% complete.
- Certificates start June 1, 1878
- Deaths from June 1878 – June 1899 have been indexed and are available for searching on our website. More years are being added.
- Birth Corrections (1848 – 1900 & 1901-1903) are filed to correct an error on the original filed record. Corrections from 1904 forward are filed with the original records.
- Delayed Birth Certificates (1848 – 1900) are filed many years after the birth when an individual discovers no record was filed when the birth took place. Records from 1901 – 1918 are being microfilmed.
- Stillbirths are filed when a child is born dead. June 1878 – December 1900 have been microfilmed. 1901-1918 will be microfilmed in the future.

New Jersey Vital Records (after December 31, 1918)

- Owned by New Jersey Department of Health
- State Archives has microfilm copies of the Department of Health records for the public to come and search themselves. Specifically:
 - Births: January 1, 1918 – December 31, 1923
 - Marriages: January 1, 1918 – December 31, 1948 (with Bride's index)
 - Deaths: January 1, 1918 – December 31, 1957

Pre-1848 Birth Records

- Not filed on any governmental record except Records of Births of Slave Children that were filed with each County Clerk beginning in 1804.

Pre-1848 Marriage Records

- Required to be filed with the County Clerk starting in 1795 (or the year the county was formed). Filing continued past 1848 (generally no later than 1875).
- Marriage Officiant submitted record of marriages to Clerk to be recorded into volumes. Information primarily consisted of parties being married, officiant, and date of marriage.
- Most of the County Clerk marriages have been published. Also available in digital form on www.familysearch.com
- State Archives owns and provides mail reference for the original books or returns kept by the Clerks of Atlantic, Burlington, Cumberland, Essex, Mercer, Somerset, Sussex and Union Counties.

Colonial Marriage Bonds (1711 – 1795)

- Small number of colonial marriages had bonds filed, but do give an approximate date of marriage.
- Abstracted in William Nelson's *New Jersey Marriage Records, 1665-1800*
- Searchable database available on our web site. Database also includes a few very early (1600s) marriages recorded in early deed books.

Divorces (1743 – 1948)

- Divorces were granted by an act of the legislature (1778 – 1844).
- Chancery Court also granted divorces. The State Archives owns Chancery Court cases from 1743 to 1948. Many of these records are available in-house, however, some are stored off-site and may require several days for retrieval.
- Indexes to Chancery Court Case Files are available on microfilm from 1825-1948. There is a printed guide for cases from 1743-1850.
- Matrimonial indexes (dealing specifically with divorce cases) are available on microfilm from 1939-1948

Census Records:

Federal Censuses (1830 – 1880 & 1900 – 1940) [1890 Census has been destroyed]

- State Archives has on microfilm New Jersey Censuses from 1830-1930 and book indexes for 1830 – 1870
- On-line indexes for 1840 – 1940 [www.heritagequestonline.com, www.ancestry.com and www.familysearch.com]

State Censuses (1855 – 1915)

- Taken every 10 years on years that ended with a 5 [1855, 1865, and 1875 are incomplete]
- Certain individual counties have been indexed: Hunterdon County in 1875; Monmouth County in 1875 [available on-line at the Monmouth County Archives web site]; and 1885 Camden (excluding city)
- Searchable database for Atlantic and Passaic Counties in 1885 available on our web site. These counties are the only ones we search through the mail.
- Complete 1895 State Census is available on www.ancestry.com.
- The indexes to 1885, 1905 and 1915 State Censuses are available on www.familysearch.com.

Tax Ratables:

Duplicate Tax Ratables (1768 – 1822)

- Duplicate tax records filed with the New Jersey Assembly
- Very incomplete – only a small percentage of tax records collected in the period
- Most Ratables are indexed in *New Jersey Tax Lists, 1772-1822*. Bergen and Hunterdon Ratables have been indexed separately.
- We do not search or copy the records through the mail.

Land Records:

West Jersey Proprietors (1685 – present)

- State Archives has surveys, minutes, and other records on microfilm (1685-1951)
- Records deposited at the State Archives
- We do not search these records through the mail, but will copy specific transactions with a complete citation.

East Jersey Proprietors (1685 – 1998)

- Sold property rights to the State of New Jersey in 1998
- Records at the State Archives
- We do not search these records through the mail, but will copy specific transactions with a complete citation.

Early Land Records (c. 1650 – 1856)

- Grantors and grantees are indexed in a searchable database on our website (mostly pre-1785). We will send copies through the mail.
- Includes original East and West Jersey deed volumes transferred to the Provincial Secretary's Office in the 1740s

- Some early land records are searchable on our website.

County Loan Offices Mortgage Records (1724 – 1799)

- State Archives has original County Loan Office Records for Burlington, Cumberland, Gloucester, Hunterdon, and Somerset Counties
- Indexed in Card file in Manuscript Search Room and in collection guides [excluding Hunterdon County]

Deeds (1660s – 1900)

- State Archives has microfilm copies of all county deeds up to 1900 (original records still owned by each county)
- Most deeds date from ca. 1785, Bergen and Monmouth Counties have deeds recorded before that date
- All deeds have indexes on microfilm, many indexes continue past 1900

Mortgages (1766 – 1850)

- State Archives has microfilm copies of all county mortgages up to 1850

Estate Records:

Original Wills and Inventories (1670 – 1952)

- State Archives holds all original wills and inventories for the state of New Jersey from 1670 – 1900
- From 1901 – 1952 the records are on microfilm only and do not always contain inventories

County Surrogate Offices (c.1785 – 1900)

- State Archives has microfilm copies of most County Surrogate Office's records up to 1900 [Morris County's records were not microfilmed]

Prerogative Court (1830s – 1948)

- State Archives holds original Prerogative Court cases to 1948
- Prerogative Court had jurisdiction over cases from county orphan's courts and estates where the property was in two counties

Military Records:

Colonial Wars (1639 – c. 1775)

- Transcripts and original manuscripts
- Some commissions of Colonial Militia officers are found in Colonial Commissions in the early deed collection

Revolutionary War (1776 – 1783)

- Compiled Service Cards
- Abstracts of Service [Slips]
- Numbered Manuscripts
- Loyalist muster rolls and transcribed records
- Inventories of damages by British and American soldiers (1776 – 1782). Searchable database to this collection on our web site

War of 1812 (1812 – 1814)

- *Records of Officers and Men of New Jersey in Wars 1791 – 1815*

Civil War (1861 – 1865)

- *Roster of Officers and Men in the Civil War.* Searchable database available on our website.
- Regimental records

- Payment Vouchers (State Treasurer). Searchable database available on our website.
- Photographs (cartes-de-visites). All have been digitized and are available on our web site.

Punitive Expedition to Mexico, 1916

- Muster Rolls

World War I (1917 – 1918)

- Unofficial Service Cards alphabetical by soldier's name
- Information Cards and Photographs of New Jersey Men who died in Service. All have been digitized and are available on our web site

Court Records:

Supreme Court Case Files (1704 – 1844)

- Supreme Court heard all types of cases.
- Indexed by Plaintiff and Defendant on our web site

Chancery Court (1740s – 1948)

- New Jersey State Archives owns case files until 1948. Some items are stored offsite and may take several days to retrieve. Please contact us at njarchives@sos.nj.gov to request Chancery Court materials
- Chancery Court was charged with hearing cases of equity (concern for fairness and judgment)
- Indexed by complainant
- Indexes from 1825-1948 on microfilm. Printed guide for cases from 1743-1854.

County Records:

Original County Records

- Varies by county. Including Justice of the Peace Dockets, Naturalizations, Tavern Licenses, and Marriage Records.
- Original County Court of Common Pleas Naturalizations include: Burlington (1790 – 1956), Camden (1844 – 1932), Essex (1792 – 1934), Hudson County (pre-1948), Mercer (1838 – 1940), Ocean (1850 – 1966), Sussex (1817 – 1948) and Union Counties (1857 – 1931)

Miscellaneous Collections:

Inquisitions on the Dead (1688 – 1798)

- Name index.

Newspapers (1776 – 1900s)

- Over 8,000 reels of newspapers from different areas of New Jersey

Name Change Judgments (1876 – 1947)

- Duplicate filings of legal name changes granted by county courts
- Name index by new name and by original name

The New Jersey State Archives is open Monday through Friday.
(excluding State holidays)

Manuscript Hours: 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm Microfilm Hours: 8:30 am to 4:15 pm

Visit our website, www.archives.nj.gov, for more information.