

# Genealogical Records at the New Jersey State Archives

*www.archives.nj.gov*

## Vital Records:

### **New Jersey Vital Records (May 1, 1848 – December 31, 1920)**

- 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. 1901-1920 will be microfilmed in the future.

### **New Jersey Vital Records (after December 31, 1920)**

- 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, 1961

### **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](http://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](http://www.heritagequestonline.com), [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) and [www.familysearch.com](http://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](http://www.ancestry.com).
- The indexes to 1885, 1905 and 1915 State Censuses are available on [www.familysearch.com](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.archives.nj.gov), for more information.