

**GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH AT THE NEW JERSEY STATE ARCHIVES**

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***New Jersey State Archives******225 West State Street******P.O. Box 307******Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0307******Phone: 609 -292-6260******Public Hours:******Monday through Thursday – Manuscript Room: 1:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.******Monday through Friday – Microfilm Room: 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 NOON; 1:00 P.M. -  
4:00 P.M.******Closed on all State Holidays******<https://www.nj.gov/state/archives/index.html>******New Jersey State Vital Records******May 1848 to May 1878***

New Jersey State Vital Records begin in May 1848.

Original Records held by the New Jersey State Archives.

Microfilm copies open to the public.

Ledger book entry style. No individual certificates.

Seldom provides a mother's maiden name.

Online databases Indexes to Marriages and Deaths at the NJ State Archives website.

[https://wwwnet-dos.state.nj.us/DOS\\_ArchivesDBPortal/index.aspx](https://wwwnet-dos.state.nj.us/DOS_ArchivesDBPortal/index.aspx)

Online databases and images of records at ancestry.com

*New Jersey, U.S. Birth, Marriage and Death Records, 1711-1878*

<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/62483/>

*New Jersey, U.S., Birth Index, 1848-1878, 1901-1929*

<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/61252/>

*New Jersey, U.S., Death Index, 1848-1878, 1901-2017*

<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/61260/>

*New Jersey State Vital Records*

*June 1878 to December 1900*

Original Records held by the New Jersey State Archives.

Microfilm copies open to the public

Individual certificates.

Birth Records. Separate filings of Birth Corrections, and Delayed Birth filings.

Only Indexes online. Original Vital Records are not online.

Online databases Indexes to Marriages and Deaths at the NJ State Archives website.

[https://wwwnet-dos.state.nj.us/DOS\\_ArchivesDBPortal/index.aspx](https://wwwnet-dos.state.nj.us/DOS_ArchivesDBPortal/index.aspx)

Online Indexes to Vital Records, and other types of records, at ancestry.com.

These databases include, but are not limited to NJ State Vital Records. Some transcription errors as to the year of the event on ancestry.com and familysearch.org

*New Jersey, U.S., Births and Christenings Index, 1660-1931*

<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/2539/>

*New Jersey, U.S., Marriage Records, 1670-1976*

<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/61376/>

*New Jersey, U.S., Deaths and Burials Index, 1798-1971*

<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/2540/>

Online indexes to Vital Records at: <https://www.familysearch.org/search/>

*New Jersey State Vital Records*

*1901+*

Originals held by the New Jersey State Archives as mentioned below.

Microfilm copies open to the public at NJ State Archives.

New Jersey State Archives provides Mail Reference Service for:

**Births: May 1, 1848 to December 31, 1923**

**Marriages: May 1, 1848 – December 31, 1940**

**Deaths: May 1, 1848 – December 31, 1940**

See NJ State Archives online “Records Request Forms.”

[https://wwwnet-dos.state.nj.us/DOS\\_ArchivesDBPortal/index.aspx](https://wwwnet-dos.state.nj.us/DOS_ArchivesDBPortal/index.aspx)

The NJ State Archives has microfilm copies open to the public, but does not provide mail Reference Service for:

Marriages: 1941 – 1950

Deaths: 1941 – 1964

Online indexes at “reclaimtherecords.org”

New Jersey Geographical Birth Index and Delayed Birth Index, 1901-1929

<https://www.reclaimtherecords.org/records-request/29/>

New Jersey Marriage Index, 1901 – 2016

<https://www.reclaimtherecords.org/records-request/16/>

New Jersey Death Index, 1901-2017 (with some gaps)

<https://www.reclaimtherecords.org/records-request/21/>

Online indexes at ancestry.com

*New Jersey, U.S. birth Index, 1848-1878, 1901-1929* (includes delayed birth filings)

<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/61252/>

*New Jersey, U.S. Marriage Index, 1901-2016* (No grooms index, 1920-1929)

<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/61253/>

*New Jersey U.S. Death Index 1848-1878, 1901-2017 (NO death index for 1904-1915, & 1930-1948)*

<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/catalog/?title=new%20jersey%20death>

### **New Jersey Vital Records NOT at the New Jersey State Archives**

**Contact: N.J. Dept. of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics**

**P.O. Box 370**

**Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0370**

**<https://www.nj.gov/health/vital/>**

The following New Jersey Vital Records are considered a “Genealogical Records” and you can order copies from the Dept. of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics.

Births: 1924 to 1944 (more than 80 years ago)

Marriages: 1941 to 1974 (more than 50 years ago)

Deaths: 1941 to 1984 (more than 40 years ago)

See: Forms for Ordering a Vital Record – REG-28A

<https://www.nj.gov/health/vital/order-vital/genealogical-records/>

More current New Jersey Vital Records are considered “NON- Genealogical Records.” You must provide more information to obtain a copy, including ‘proof of relationship.’ You must be a direct descendant. (Not a cousin, aunt, uncle, etc.)

<https://www.nj.gov/health/vital/order-vital/non-genealogical-records/>

Births: 1945+ (within the last 80 years)

Marriages: 1975+ (within the last 50 years)

Deaths: 1985+ (within the last 40 years)

### **Divorce Records – N.J. Chancery Court**

New Jersey State Archives has N.J. Chancery Court Records up to 1948.

These court records include divorce records, and foreclosures on mortgages.

The State Archives will undertake up to a five-year search.

Copies of case files is \$1.00 per page. Case files can be large.

### **U.S. Census Records**

1850 – 1880, and 1900- 1940.

All members of the household are named.

1900+ gives relationship to the head-of-household

Pay attention to additional columns on each census: Place of birth, parents’ place of birth; year of immigration, year of naturalization, ownership of property, occupation, education, military service, etc.

Special Schedules, 1850 – 1880 for Industry, Agriculture, & Mortality (Originals also at NJ State Archives.)

1890 Schedule for Civil War Veterans and Widows

Online indexes at [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com) and [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org)

On microfilm at NJ State Archives.

## **New Jersey State Census Records**

New Jersey State Archives owns the original State census records.

1855, 1865, & 1875 incomplete.

1885, 1895, 1905, & 1915 complete.

Online indexes at ancestry.com (except for parts of 1875). Use their “Search” and then “card catalog” function to find specific indexes for each census.

NJ State Archives has copies of 1875 for Essex, Hunterdon, & Monmouth counties, which are not at ancestry.com. Hunterdon County and Monmouth counties are indexed.

## **Naturalization Records prior to 1906**

### County Clerk's Offices

Mostly filed with each County Clerk's Office.

See database index and images at familysearch.org. (New Jersey County Naturalization Records, 1749-1986)

Very little information in naturalizations prior to 1894. Usually, the name of the individual and country of origin.

1894 to 1906 records have more information. Such as: date and place of birth; date of place of immigration; occupation.

NJ State Archives has microfilm copies for most counties.

N.J. State Archives has original County Naturalization records for: Burlington: 1795-1956; Camden: 1844-1932; Essex: 1792-1931; Mercer: 1838-1930; Ocean: 1857-1951; Sussex: 1817-1952; Union: 1857-1948. (State Archives provides mail reference service for these counties, since they own the original records.)

NJ State Archives has two small collections of Naturalizations in the NJ Supreme Court and NJ Chancery Court. See their in-house card file index.

*U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey*

There are some filed with the U.S. District Courts for New Jersey: Camden, Newark, Trenton.

See database and images at familysearch.org (New Jersey Naturalization Records, 1796 – 1991)

See database for U.S. District Court Naturalizations at italiangen.org.

For U.S. District Court for New Jersey, Newark: see ancestry.com database and images – “New Jersey U.S. Naturalization Records, 1878 – 1945.”

**Naturalization Records for post 1907**

More extensive information. Name, date and place of birth; date & port of entry; Names of wife and children; children’s dates and place of birth; Date and place of marriage; may include a photograph; Could change your name when being naturalized.

*County Clerk’s Office*

N.J. State Archives has original County Naturalization records for: Burlington: 1795-1956; Camden: 1844-1932; Essex: 1792-1931; Mercer: 1838-1930; Ocean: 1857-1951; Sussex: 1817-1952; Union: 1857-1948. (State Archives provides mail reference service for these counties, since they own the original records.)

N.J. State Archives has Microfilm County Naturalization records for: Atlantic: 1837-1929; Bergen: 1804-1989; Cape May: 1805-1929; Cumberland: 1802-1931; Gloucester: 1808-1957; Hunterdon: 1803-1966; Salem: 1800-1929. (Since the State Archives does not own the original records, they do not provide mail reference service for these records.)

*U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey*

There are also Naturalization Records with the U.S. District Court for New Jersey.

Three district courts: Camden, Newark, Trenton.

See database and images at familysearch.org (New Jersey Naturalization Records, 1796 – 1991)

See database index for U.S. District Court Naturalizations at [italiangen.org](http://italiangen.org).

For U.S. District Court for New Jersey, Newark, index and documents, see [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com) database "New Jersey U.S. Naturalization Records, 1878 – 1945."

### **Probate Records**

NJ State Archives has wills and inventories, 1670 to 1900. Published index: New Jersey, Index of Wills, Inventories, etc. vols. I, II, & III. See databases at [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com).

NJ State Archives has wills, 1901 to 1952. There is a card file index.

NJ State Archives has N.J. Prerogative Court Files, when the property was located in more than one county. Two card file indexes. Records are manuscripts.

#### *County Surrogate's Office*

NJ State Archives has microfilm copies of many County Surrogate's Office records up to 1900. There are early 20<sup>th</sup> century records for some counties. See the NJ State Archives online catalog.

Holdings vary for each county.

Most estate papers were filed with the County Surrogate's Offices beginning in 1785.

Copies of wills beginning in 1804.

Division of Estates; Guardianships for minor children; Administrations of intestate estates (no will).

At [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org) see "Search" and then "Catalog" under each county for original Surrogate's Estate Indexes and files.

At [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com) see "Search" and then "Card Catalog" for "New Jersey, U.S. Wills and Probate Records, 1739-1991."



## Military Records

NJ State Archives maintains NJ Military Records from the Civil War through World War I.

Civil War                      Spanish American War                      Philippine Insurrection

New Jersey National Guard (pre- World War I)

World War I

Some are manuscript collections, and not on microfilm. (Especially for the Civil War)

Military records can provide: age, date & place of birth, names of relatives.

NJ State Archives online databases:

    Index to published Officers and Men of New Jersey in the Civil War

    Civil War Vouchers

    World War I Deaths (descriptive cards & photographs)

NJ State Archives see “Imaged Collections”

<https://www.nj.gov/state/archives/searchimgcollections.html>

- [Civil War Cartes de Visite](#) – 401 portraits of New Jersey Civil War soldiers, mostly officers, 1861-1890s
- [United States Colored Troops Service Files](#) – 286 images of service records for New Jersey’s black soldiers in the Civil War, 1862-1870s
- [United States Navy – Volunteer/Enlistment Certificates, 1864-1865](#) – 609 images of volunteer/enlistment certificates, 1864-1865
- [Spanish-American War Infantry Officers](#) – 40 portraits collected to honor those who served, 1898-1904
- [Spanish-American War Naval Officers](#) – 25 officers’ portraits in the Battalions of the East and West, 1898-1905
- [Spanish-American War Miscellaneous Naval Photographs](#)- 9 maritime and group photographs, 1898

- [New Jersey National Guard](#) – 1,039 photographs collected by the New Jersey National Guard, including a Mexican Border War scrapbook.
- [World War I Casualties: Descriptive Cards and Photographs](#) – 5,353 images of information cards and photographs of soldiers and sailors who died in World War I. Also includes 3,957 images of 10correspondence from those soldiers' families.

### **Name Change Judgments**

Names could be changed at the time of naturalization. (See Naturalization Records)

NJ State Archives has Name Change Judgments, 1847 – 1947, which were filed with the Secretary of State's Office. See online database.

Name Change Judgments were also filed with each County Clerk's Office.

NJ State Archives has Essex County Clerk's Office, Name Change Papers, 1877 – 1922, on microfilm.

### **Trenton State Prison – Inmate Records**

Inmate Registers, circa 1900 – 1975

Descriptive Lists, circa 1900 - 1956

Records of deaths and burials, 1941-1968.

### **County Clerk's Records**

Through the Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints microfilming project, the NJ State Archives has extensive holdings of County Records prior to 1900 on microfilm.

We have already discussed County Surrogate's Records under Probate Records.

Collections may include:

Deeds, 1785-1900 (Some deed indexes go past 1900)

Mortgages, 1765 – 1850s

County Clerk's Marriages, 1795 – 1870s

County Coroner (Burlington, Cape May, Cumberland, Hudson, Hunterdon, Middlesex, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, and Union)

Court of Common Pleas

Court of Oyer and Terminer (criminal court)

Some Counties had transferred some of their original records to the NJ State Archives.

See the NJ State Archives online catalog under each county. (Reels = microfilms; Boxes = manuscripts)

### **Newspapers**

NJ State Archives has over 6,000 reels of New Jersey newspapers.

“Trenton V. S. Card File” – Index to marriages and deaths in the Trenton newspapers, 1776 – 1900

See on microfilm “Clipping files of the Newark Evening News.”

### **FamilySearch and Ancestry**

NJ State Archives is an affiliated Family History Center Library.

NJ State Archives has an Institutional membership for Ancestry.com,

Which the public can use.

### **New Jersey State Archives – General Information**

Web site: <https://www.nj.gov/state/archives/index.html>

See: Online appointment page.

## Planning Your visit

Contact: [nj.archives@sos.nj.gov](mailto:nj.archives@sos.nj.gov)

<https://www.nj.gov/state/archives/search.html>

See: Searchable Databases and Records Request Forms

Catalog – “searchable catalog”

Imaged Collections