

Refer to this handy roster of source types to ensure you've checked all ancestral records.

Business and Employment Records

- apprentice and indenture records
- doctors' and midwives' journals
- insurance records
- merchants' account books
- professional licenses
- railroad, mining and factory records
- records of professional organizations and associations

Cemetery and Funeral Home Records

- burial records
- grave-relocation records
- tombstone inscriptions

Censuses

- agriculture schedules (1850 to 1880)
- American Indian (special censuses)
- Civil War veterans schedules (1890)
- defective, dependent and delinquent schedules (1880)
- federal population schedules (1790 to 1930)
- manufacturing/industry schedules (1810, 1820, 1850 to 1880)
- mortality schedules (1850 to 1880)
- school censuses
- slave schedules (1850, 1860)
- social statistics schedules (1850 to 1880)
- state and local censuses

Church Records

- baptism and christening records
- confirmation records
- congregational histories
- meeting minutes
- membership, admission and removal records
- ministers' journals

Court Records

- adoption records
- bastardy cases
- civil records
- coroners' files
- criminal records
- custody papers
- estate inventories
- guardianship papers
- insanity/commitment orders
- licenses and permits
- marriage bonds, licenses and certificates

- military discharges
- minute books
- name changes
- naturalizations
- property foreclosures
- voter registrations
- wills
- wolf-scalp bounties

Directories

- biographical
- city
- professional/occupational
- telephone

Home Sources

- baptism and confirmation certificates
- birth certificates and baby books
- checkbooks and bank statements
- death records and prayer cards
- diaries and journals
- family Bibles
- funeral/memorial cards
- heirlooms and artifacts
- letters and postcards
- marriage certificates and wedding albums
- medical records
- photographs
- recipe books
- school report cards, yearbooks and scrapbooks
- wills

Immigration Records

- alien registration cards
- citizenship papers
- passenger lists
- passports

Institutional Records

- almshouse
- hospital
- orphanage
- police
- prison
- school
- work-farm

Land and Property Records

- deeds
- grants and patents
- homestead records

- mortgages and leases
- plat maps
- surveys
- tax rolls
- warrants

Military Records

- Colonial wars
- Revolutionary War and frontier conflicts (War of 1812, Indian wars and Mexican War)
- Civil War
- Spanish-American War
- World War I
- World War II
- Korean War
- Vietnam War
- draft records
- pension applications
- records of relocations and internment camps for Japanese-Americans, German-Americans and Italian-Americans during World War II

Newspapers

- birth announcements
- classified advertisements
- engagement, marriage and anniversary announcements
- ethnic newspapers
- family reunion announcements
- gossip and advice columns
- legal notices
- local news
- obituaries
- runaway notices (slaves, indentured servants, wives)
- unclaimed-mail notices

Published Sources

- compiled genealogies
- genealogical periodicals
- local and county histories
- record abstracts and transcriptions

Vital Records

- birth
- death
- divorce/annulment
- marriage