

[We All Need Records of our Ancestors for Accurate Genealogical Accountability](#)

Without any hesitation, vital and church records can fill in gaps in tracking our ancestors with more accountability. Knowing how to ascertain them is the magical ingredient in pursuing our ancestors. Unfortunately, ancestral record availability will vary significantly but once found, the swiss-cheese blanks in your family tree can be filled in and you will experience much joy and happiness. FamilySearch.org offers a wealth of information but finding the sources for these records can be quite a maze to go through without some training. Unfortunately, certificated vital records have become quite expensive these days. When I began genealogy 50 years ago, vital birth, marriage and death records were \$2.00 each. And if you were unsure of what year(s) the record occurred, the standing rate for an expanded search beyond the year projected was \$.50 per year which was still very affordable even if a decade off. Today for example, their starting rates vary from Wyoming at \$8.00 to Michigan at \$34.50 per record. But having the original documents can be invaluable but also expensive if your family roots in the USA consist of several generations or more with the average cost being between \$15 to \$25 for each record and multiple those fees by the number of ancestors of yours who have lived in the USA!

Vital Records

Vital records consist of a variety of documents ranging from birth, marriage and death to adoption, immigration, cemetery, divorce, wills, land ownership, obituaries and many others. The most useful ones at the beginning of conducting original family research are birth, marriage and death records. Birth records tend to be the most accurate while marriage records are generally the second most accurate records and death records the least accurate often with surname misspellings. But when you have copies of all three types of records of an individual, you have a clearer picture of that individual. For me, it gave me clearer options of where my Eastern European ancestors originated from even if the villages had different spellings on each record type. Then I could go to a gazetteer to figure out the correct geographical origins. Here is an excellent website for locate contact information for all 50 state offices of Vital Records in the USA by clicking [here](#). It provides a good overall of the power of the Internet for conducting original genealogical research within your home. This web site provides vital office addresses, phone numbers, land other points of clarification such as the years of records available. For example, Massachusetts has records from the 1600's and Pennsylvania from 1909 on. Note: even with digitized records, surname spellings may be irregular making paid requests more difficult to be successful. So you really need to do your preparation to learn the possible variations of surname spellings at the onset of initiating original vital record paid requests. Usually, you can provide multiple spelling options of surnames to aid the clerks in conducting your search more accurately the first time requesting a record and you'll be more successful.

Church Records

Church records may not be as easy to obtain as vital records because in most cities, towns and villages, there tends to have multiple churches of the same denomination which makes the researching time more consuming and challenging whereas state vital records are centralized and digitized for easier identification if available. While there might not be specific fee involved for obtaining church records, donations are widely expected and ministers may not respond at all or not in a timely manner because their records are not digitized and have to be searched by hand which means you really have to have accurate information with specific dates for them to even begin a search. Be sure to enclosed a self-address return mailing envelope with postage as a courtesy. There are also sources of free records outside of vital and church records and they will be covered in a subsequent posting.

Where to Begin Your Search for Records: The Family History Guide with Great Step-By-Step Tutorials

FamilySearch.org offers a wealth of information but finding the sources for these records can be quite a maze to go through. **The Family History Guide** offers a phenomenal curriculum of hands-on tutorials that

will skillfully guide you on how to obtain these insightful documents using **FamilySearch.org** with simple, well-thought-out suggestions along with other resources. The starting place is <https://www.thefhguide.com/project-9-united-statesb1.html>. Below is a breakdown of their on-line courseware in 12+ levels of step-by-step tutorials that include video clips as well.

A: U.S. RECORDS 1: Records 2: Location & Geo. 3: Regions / States | B: VITAL RECORDS 1: **Vital Rec.** 2: Birth 3: Adoption 4: Marriage 5: Death, Obits 6: Cemetery | C: CENSUS 1: Records 2: By Decades | D: IMMIGRATION 1: Records 2: Nat. / Passenger 3: Other | E: MILITARY 1: Records 2: By Conflict | F: OTHER RECORDS 1: Religious, Misc. 2: Property 3: Court 4: News. 5: Arch. / Lib. 6: Help

Consider Using Online Records

Which United States birth, marriage, and death certificates are available online? The answer is that it varies by state and date. In many states, clerks began registering marriages a century or more before they recorded births and deaths. Births and deaths were recorded in most states by the early 1900s. In some states, they go much earlier. Massachusetts vital records begin in the 1600s. Online United States vital records are found on a number of websites, such as [FamilySearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org), [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com), or state government sites. Some states have not placed their records online and it is necessary for near kin to fill out forms and order copies of certificates. What's a quick way to determine if your state's records are online?

FamilySearch.org at Its Best!

One of the most-current and up-to-date ways to determine if birth, marriage, and death records are online is to check the **FamilySearch Research Wiki** at https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Main_Page in its help search box in the top right corner. Below is what I searched in this box in that Wiki for "New Jersey Vital Records." This single URL for this page on FamilySearch.org is https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/New_Jersey_Vital_Records and it has a plethora of resources to explore and use as all the links are "hot." You can repeat this FamilySearch Research Wiki for each of the 50 states and you'll instantly have the most comprehensive resources for each and every state. Again, **The Family History Guide** will best prepare you on how to most effectively use **FamilySearch** to best find the necessary documents for your ancestors. Below is but one example of how good FamilySearch is for finding the best resources for all 50 states!

New Jersey Vital Records

[New Jersey Wiki Topics](#)



Beginning Research

- [Guided Research](#)
- [Research Strategies](#)
- [Record Finder](#)

Record Types

- [Bible Records](#)
- [Cemeteries](#)
- [Census](#)
- [Church Records](#)
- [Court Records](#)
- [Directories](#)
- [Emigration & Immigration](#)
- [Genealogies](#)
- [Land & Property](#)
- [Military Records](#)
- [Naturalization & Citizenship](#)
- [Newspapers](#)
- [Online Records](#)
- [Periodicals](#)
- [Probate Records](#)
- [Public Records](#)
- [Taxation](#)
- [Town Records](#)
- Vital Records

New Jersey Background

- [Biography](#)
- [Gazetteers](#)
- [History](#)
- [Maps](#)
- [Migration](#)
- [For Further Reading](#)

Ethnicity

- [African Americans](#)
- [American Indians](#)
- [Swedish Americans](#)

Local Research Resources

- [Archives and Libraries](#)
- [Societies](#)
- [Family History Centers](#)

[United States](#)

[U.S. Vital Records](#)

[New Jersey](#)

Vital Records

Introduction to Vital Records

[Vital Records](#) consist of [births](#), adoptions, [marriages](#), divorces, and [deaths](#) recorded on registers, certificates, and documents. [United States Vital Records](#) has additional research guidance on researching and using vital records. A copy or an extract of most original records can be purchased from the [New Jersey Vital Records State Department of Health](#) or the County Clerk's office of the county where the event occurred.



Contents

1 Vital Records

Reference Dates

2 New Jersey Birth, Marriage and Death Records Online

3 Birth and Death Records

- 3.1 Indexes

- 3.2 Records

4 Marriage Records

- 4.1 Indexes

- 4.2 Records

5 Death Records

- 5.1 Other Vital Records Sources and Indexes

- 5.2 Obituaries

6 Divorce Records

7 Adoption Records

8 Additional Help

- 8.1 Tips

- 8.2 Research Guides

- 8.3 Substitute Records

- 8.4 More Online Links

9 References

Vital Records Reference Dates

New Jersey's vital records start the following years:

	Births	Marriages	Deaths
Earliest	1675 - low compliance	1728	1675 - low compliance
Statewide Registration	1848	1848	1848
General Compliance	1920	--	1920

New Jersey Birth, Marriage and Death Records Online

The following is a list of online resources useful for locating New Jersey Vital Records which consist of [births](#), adoptions, [marriages](#), divorces, and [deaths](#). Check New Jersey Vital Records Online for more information about the resources listed below. Most online resources for New Jersey Vital Records are indexes. After locating a person in an index always consult the original record to [confirm the information](#) in the index.

- Search for New Jersey Collections on [FamilySearch.org](#) under [New Jersey](#) - Free
- Search the [New Jersey Birth, Marriage & Death](#) Records at Ancestry.com - \$
- Search for New Jersey Collections on [A-Z of Record Sets](#) - (\$)
- Order [New Jersey Certificates](#) online - \$

Wiki articles describing online collections are found at:

- [New Jersey Births and Christenings - FamilySearch Historical Records](#)

- [New Jersey County Marriage Records - FamilySearch Historical Records](#)
- [New Jersey Deaths and Burials - FamilySearch Historical Records](#)
- [New Jersey Marriages - FamilySearch Historical Records](#)

Birth and Death Records

The first laws requiring town clerks to register vital records were made in 1675 and 1682, but few clerks complied. In 1848 New Jersey became the second state (after Massachusetts) to require statewide registration, but the early registration was not complete. At least 100,000 births in the period before 1920 were not recorded.

Indexes

1660-1980. [New Jersey, Births and Christenings, 1660-1980](#) Name index to birth, baptism and christening records from the state of New Jersey on FamilySearch Historical Record Collection. Microfilm copies of these records are available at the Family History Library and some FamilySearch Centers.

1848-1878. Statewide indexes to births and deaths from 1848 to 1878 at the state archives have been microfilmed. Birth indexes ^[1]and death indexes. ^[2]Births from 1848 through 1867 are indexed in the International Genealogical Index (IGI) online at FamilySearch.org. The death index between 1878- 1896 is; online at the [New Jersey Department of State](#) website.

1665-1799. [New Jersey Department of Archives and Records](#) have a Statewide Index to Colonial Marriages 1665 to 1799, searchable by any combination of Bride and Groom's first and last name. All references are to records held at the New Jersey State Archives.

1878-1900. Alphabetical statewide birth indexes, 1 June 1878 to 30 June 1890 and 1 July 1890 to 31 December 1900 are on microfilm at the state archives (not available at the Family History Library). However, death records for 1878-1900 are on microfilm at the Family History Library (see below). No index exists for deaths from 1878 to 1900.

1901–. Annual indexes to births and deaths, 1901 to 1903, are on microfilm at the state archives (not available at the Family History Library). From 1904 to 1940, the statewide records are arranged alphabetically by year.

1901-1903 - [New Jersey, Death Index, 1901-1903](#) at [FamilySearch](#) — index

Records

1848-1878. Original birth and death returns from 1 May 1848 to 31 May 1878 are at the state archives, and microfilm copies are there and at the Family History Library. ^[3]

1878-1900. Two sets of records were kept of births and deaths: the original certificates and copies in registers. The state archives has microfilms of both sets; the Family History Library only has microfilms of the registers. ^[4]The registers are arranged according to a July-to-June calendar year by county, then by city, then by the first letter of the surname, and then by the date of filing.

1901-1940. Microfilm copies of birth records, 1901 to 1923, and death records, 1901 to 1940, are at the state archives (not available at the Family History Library).

- **1901-1903** - [New Jersey, Reclaim the Records, New Jersey Birth Index, 1901-1903](#) at [FamilySearch](#) — index

The contents of the records vary. The birth certificates, 1878 to 1900, give the name of the child, gender, date and place of birth, full names of parents, parents' ages, father's occupation, and the birth number of the child. The birth registers give most of the same information, although the mother's maiden surname sometimes is not shown.

Death returns from 1848 to 1878 show the names of parents, the exact date of death, and the age at death. Death certificates from 1878 to 1900 may show the names of the parents, but the death registers do not. The registers do provide the month and year of death, the age at death in months and years, and the country of birth of each parent.

Copies of birth and death records from 1 May 1848 to 31 May 1878 can be obtained for a fee from the state archives. Birth and death records from 1 June 1878 to the present can be obtained from:

Bureau of Vital Statistics

P.O. Box 370

Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Telephone: 609-292-4087 (information)

Telephone: 609-633-2860 (to order records)

Fax: 609-392-4292

Internet: [New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services](#)

Be sure to request the "long form." If the exact date is unknown, there is an additional fee for each year searched.

The fees for obtaining copies of the state's records from the Bureau of Vital Statistics are listed in:

Marriage Records

Provincial Marriage Licenses. The earliest law requiring town clerks to keep marriage records was made in 1673, but few clerks complied. Marriages were performed either by a clergyman or, more commonly, by a justice of the peace. After 1719 a marriage license was required unless banns were published at least three weeks before the marriage. In the colonial period, it has been estimated that only about 25 percent of New Jersey marriages were by license. Usually the more affluent persons obtained licenses. Marriage by license gradually became more popular than banns by the mid-eighteenth century. However, by about 1790, marriage by license had again declined in popularity. Legislation in 1795 repealed the requirement for marriage licenses.

About 10,000 original marriage bonds and licenses, 1711 to 1795 ^[5] Filmed at the state archives. Most date between 1728 and 1790. They are arranged chronologically in volumes by the first letter of the groom's surname. Some documents were filmed out of focus, so you may need to check a previous filming. ^[6] Some licenses issued between 1665 and 1711 and other marriage records to the 1760s can be found in the deed books and are indexed by the Index to Powers of Attorney. ^[7] mentioned in the "[Land and Property](#)" page.

- The best index to licenses is *New Jersey Marriage Bonds, W.P.A. 1670-1900*. This is a bride's and groom's card index at the state archives ^[8]The index shows where the original bonds and licenses are found by listing the volume and page references.

For a published index, refer to:

- *Documents Relating to the Colonial History of the State of New Jersey. Marriage Records, 1665-1800*. ^[9]This book indexes the bonds but does not list the names of bondsmen, prior marriage indication, parent's consent for a minor, nor the volume and page references. The last third of the book lists additional marriages from church records and Middlesex County marriage returns, 1795 to 1799.
- Charles Carroll Gardner found numerous transcription errors, and his revised lists for the years 1727 to 1751 were published in *The Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey*, 14-23 (1939-1948). See the "[Periodicals](#)" page.

Another card index to New Jersey marriage bonds for about 1730 to 1791 was filmed at the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania. ^[10]These typed cards give the names of the brides and grooms, their residences, and sometimes the occupation of the groom. Also listed are the names of the bondsmen and witnesses and their residences.

County Marriage Records. Marriage certificates were recorded by the county courts of common pleas beginning in 1795. County marriage records rarely provide the names of parents. The original county marriages are usually found at the offices of the county clerks. The state archives has microfilm copies from 1795 to about 1848. The Family History Library has microfilm copies from 1795 to about 1900 (Monmouth County to 1843) for all counties except for Hudson (created in 1840) and Camden (created in 1844). Some marriages for Bergen, Essex, Morris, and Passaic counties are indexed in the 1988 edition of the International Genealogical Index.

The early county marriages for most counties, often with supplementary marriages from church records, have been transcribed and published and are available at the Family History Library. Justice of the peace records may or may not have been filed with the county and tend to be scattered. Some are in various collections at the state archives; some are available at the county courthouses; and some, such as those for Bergen, are at county historical archives. A large collection of Essex County dockets arranged by the name of the justice of the peace, 1782 to 1911, was filmed at the Essex County courthouse and is available at the state archives. ^[11]The state archives has the original justice of the peace dockets for some counties.

State Records of Marriage. Statewide registration of marriages began in May 1848. Original marriage records, 1848 to 1878, and microfilm copies, 1848 to 1940, are at the state archives.

1682-1956 [New Jersey, Marriages, 1682-1956](#) Index and images to marriage records from selected counties in the state of New Jersey on FamilySearch Historical Record Collection. Microfilm copies of these records are available at the Family History Library and Family History Centers. Counties not available to view: Atlantic, Burlington, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Middlesex, Monmouth, Passaic, Salem, Somerset, Union, and Warren.

The marriage returns before 1878 give the names of the bride's and groom's parents. The registers after 1878 do not have parents' names, but the marriage certificates do. Marriage returns since 1886 and marriage affidavits have not been microfilmed. The Family History Library has some of the following records, which are also available at the state archives.

Indexes

- **1670-1980** - [New Jersey, Marriages, 1670-1980](#) at [FamilySearch](#) — index and images
- **1678-1985** - [New Jersey, Marriages, 1678-1985](#) Name index of county marriage records for New Jersey on FamilySearch Historical Record Collection. Microfilm copies of these records are available at the Family History Library and Family History Centers.
- **1848-1864** - These are filed by county and then alphabetically by the first letter of the groom's surname [Family History Library films 493692-94](#).

1864-1903.

Bride and groom indexes 1864 to 1867

Groom index 1867 to 1878 ([FHL Collection](#) 493695-96)

Bride and groom indexes June 1878 to 1900 (not available at the Family History Library)

Groom index 1901 to 1903 (not available at the Family History Library).

However, the records for 1848 to 1900 are on microfilms at the Family History Library.

- **1901-2016** - [New Jersey Marriage Index](#) from Reclaim the Records
- **1930-1938** - [New Jersey, Bride Index, 1930-1938](#) at [FamilySearch](#) — index

Records

1848-1900. Marriage returns, 1848 to 1867, ^[12]Indexed in the International Genealogical Index; returns, 1868 to 1878 ^[13], and registers, 1878 to 1900 ^[14]a Arranged according to a July- to-June calendar year by county and then by the first letter of the groom's surname.

[State of New Jersey Department of State](#) has placed on line a database indexing the marriages returns May 1848 through 31 May 1878.

1901-1940. The marriage records or certificates from 1904 to 1940 are arranged alphabetically by grooms' names within each year so no index is needed (not available at the Family History Library).

Marriage records from 1848 to 1878 can be obtained from the state archives for a fee. The records from June 1878 to 1940 can be viewed at the archives, but the staff cannot search them nor make photocopies. Copies of records from June 1878 to the present can be obtained by writing to the New Jersey State Department of Health. The fee and the restrictions are identical to those for births and deaths.

Death Records

A free searchable database can be found at [New Jersey Death Index](#) with digitized images for 1901-1903, 1920-1929, 1949-2000, 2001-2017.

Other Vital Records Sources and Indexes

- The Works Progress Administration (WPA) abstracted some birth and death information onto card indexes known as *New Jersey W.P.A. Birth and Death Records, Early to 1900*. These cards primarily index church burial records, but they also index death notices from newspapers, some town clerk births and deaths, cemetery headstones, and sextons' records. They are found at the state archives and on microfilm at the Family History Library. [\[15\]](#)

The New Jersey Biographical Card Index at the New Jersey Historical Society (not available at the Family History Library) is an index to about 75,000 births, baptisms, marriages, deaths, and burials from:

- Work Progress Administration abstracts of central and northern New Jersey newspapers
- Trinity Church, Newark, burial records
- Elizabeth, New Jersey records compiled by Elmer T. Hutchinson
- *Vital Statistics Index from Trenton Newspapers, 1800- 1900, at the New Jersey Bureau of Archives and History*, is an alphabetical card index to marriage and death notices for the period from December 1777 to 1900. It was microfilmed in 1969 at the state archives. [\[16\]](#)

There is an index to deaths where the person died from unusual causes:

- *Index to Inquisitions on the Dead, 1700s-1800s*. [\[17\]](#) This is an index to records at the state archives and provides the name of the person, the county, page, and sometimes the township or town.

Obituaries

- **1899-2012** - [United States, Obituaries, American Historical Society of Germans from Russia, 1899-2012](#) at [FamilySearch](#) — index and images

Divorce Records

Matrimonial records, including divorce proceedings, were kept by the court of chancery through 1947. The records at the state archives and at the Family History Library date from 1743 to 1850. They are found in the chancery court case files and enrolled decrees described in the "[Court Records](#)" page and are indexed. Records of legislative divorces before 1845 are listed in Beth Jones-Reichman's *Divorces by Legislative Acts, 1778-1844, The Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey* 53 (January 1978): 1-10. Most existing copies of divorce petitions are at the state archives.

Divorce records (Dissolution records) since 1850 are in the possession of the superior court—except those less than five years old, which are usually kept at the county clerks' offices. Most case files are not restricted. You can obtain copies if you provide the approximate year of marriage and the names of both the plaintiff and defendant. Write to:

Clerk of the Superior Court

Records Information Center

P.O. Box 967

Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0967

Telephone: 609-292-4978

Fax: 609-777-0094

Internet: [Clerk of the Superior Court](#)

Adoption Records

Beginning January 2017, adoptees, direct descendant, sibling or spouse of an adoptee adopted after 1940 can obtain an uncertified copy of their original certificate from the State of New Jersey. The uncertified copy cannot be used for legal proof of identity, citizenship or as a substitute for an Original Birth Certificate. Birth parents were permitted to redact their identifying information from their biological child's original birth certificate for adoptions finalized before 1 August 2015. Birth parents had to make the redaction request on or before 31 December 2016. The adoptee may also receive family history information and birth parent contact information if the birth parents supplied the information. Birth parents have the option of no contact, direct contact, or contact through an intermediary. As of 6 January 2017, out of the approximately 300,000 records for adopted children only [a little over 500 birth parents](#) requested redaction of their names.

The fee for the [Application for an Uncertified Copy of An Adopted Person's Original Birth Record](#) is \$25 for the first copy and \$2 for each additional copy ordered at the same time. There are additional [instructions for completing the application](#). The administration of this application is through the New Jersey Department of Health, Vital Statistics, and Registry, P.O. Box 370, Trenton, NJ 08625-0370, 609-292-4087 ext. 529.

It should be noted that New Jersey's 1940 adoption statute did not retroactively seal earlier adoption files.

The New Jersey State Archives has early adoption records from some counties. Their holdings vary from county to county. Additional and/or more recent records are held by the county surrogates' offices and Superior Court; consult the county records and judiciary pages for addresses and links.

Additional Help

For an inventory of the birth, marriage, and death records kept in the various towns, cities, and counties as of 1941, see:

- *Guide to Vital Statistics Records in New Jersey* ^[18] Volume 1 has information on birth, marriage, and death records, and volume two has information on the vital statistics records kept in churches.

Tips

- Information listed on vital records is given by an informant. Learn the relationship of the informant to the subject(s) of the record. The closer the relationship of the informant to the subject(s) and whether or not the informant was present at the time of the event can help determine the accuracy of the information found on the record.
- If you are unable to locate vital records recorded by governments, search for church records of christening, marriage, death or burial. A family Bible may have been used to record births, marriages and deaths.
- Privacy laws may restrict your access to some vital records. Copies of some vital records recorded in the last 100 years may be unavailable to anyone except a direct relative.
- Search for Vital Record in the FamilySearch Catalog by using a **Place Search** and then choosing **Vital Records**. Search for **New Jersey** to locate records filed by the State and then search the **name of the county** to locate records kept by the county.

Research Guides

Substitute Records

[New Jersey Church Records](#) Depending on the denomination, church records may contain information about birth, marriage and death

[New Jersey Cemetery Records](#) Cemetery records are a rich source of birth and death information. These records may also reveal family relationships.

[New Jersey Census](#) Census records are a valuable source for birth and marriage information. You may also determine approximate time of death when the individual disappears from the census. This is a good place to begin a search.

[New Jersey Newspapers](#) Besides obituaries, local newspapers may contain birth and marriage announcements and death notices. Also check newspaper social columns for additional information.

[New Jersey Military](#) Military pension records can give birth, marriage and death information, In addition, soldiers' homes records can included this same information.

[New Jersey Probate Records](#) If no death record exists, probate records may be helpful in estimating when an individual has died. Probate records in the 20th Century often contain the exact death date.

[New Jersey Periodicals](#) Local genealogical and historical societies often publish periodicals which may contain abstracted early birth, marriage and death information.

[New Jersey History](#) Local histories, family histories and biographies can all be sources of birth, marriage and death information. Often this information is found in county-level records or in surname searches of the FamilySearch Catalog.

More Online Links

- Link pendium Links for [New Jersey Genealogy and History](#), including individual Counties - Free/\$
- [Genealogical Research at The New Jersey Historical Society](#)
- [The New Jersey Historical Society](#)
- [The New Jersey State Archives](#)
- USGenWeb.org [New Jersey Site](#) - Free
- [Various reclaimed indexes](#)
- [German Reformed Church Hoboken, New Jersey \(1874-1900\)](#)

Closing Comments

What a great time to live in which technology is so robust, plentiful and affordable. Learning how to use this technology is an incredible opportunity for genealogists world-wide because we are no longer limited by borders or countries. Take advantage of the information shared here and you'll never hesitate to actively search for your ancestors. If you are not technology savvy, seek help from our ward temple and family history consultants and/or attend your stake family history center which number well over 5,200 units world-wide. And there's a toll—free phone number for help with FamilySearch.org seven days a week with extended hours with family history missionaries at: 866-406-1830. Remember, help is just a phone call or a click of a mouse away or a visit to your nearest stake family history center. By perusing the above mentioned resource and tutorial links, you will be in a much better situation to both search and obtain historical documents of your ancestors who resided here in the USA.

Good luck and be grateful that you have technology tools now so readily available. When I started 50 years, all I had was a typewriter and “snail mail” and long-distance phone calls were expensive and unrealistic. Which meant progress was literally always at a “snail’s” pace until the advent of affordable personal computers, high speed Internet services, websites with accessible data, tablets, smartphones and other technology advances.