New Jersey Research: Four Centuries of History and Genealogy

Class 3: 19th-Century Research

December 13, 2023

THE BRUE FAMILY LEARNING CENTER

American Ancestors
by New England Historic Genealogical Society

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Meet today's presenter

Kimberly Mannisto

Researcher

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OVERVIEW

- **Presentation** (60 mins.)
  - History
  - Record collections
  - Repositories
- **Q&A** (30 mins.)

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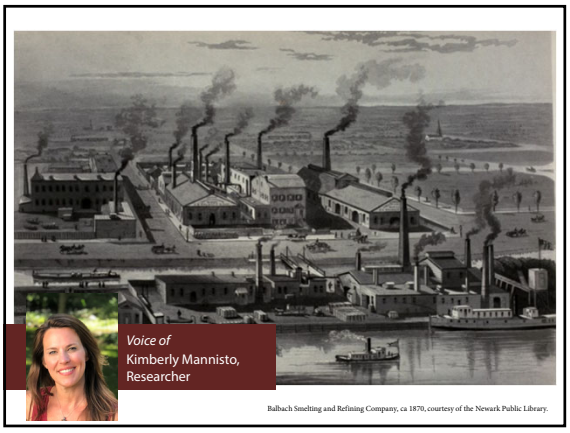

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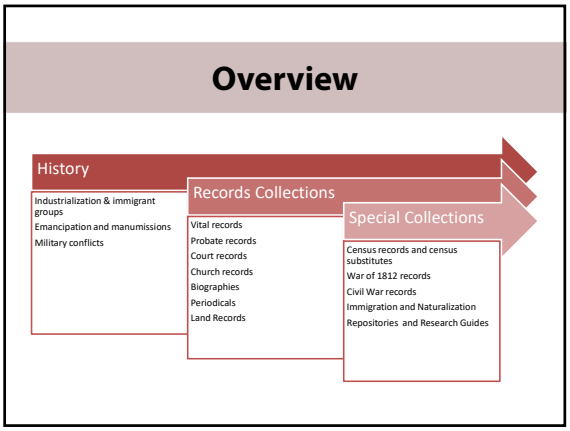

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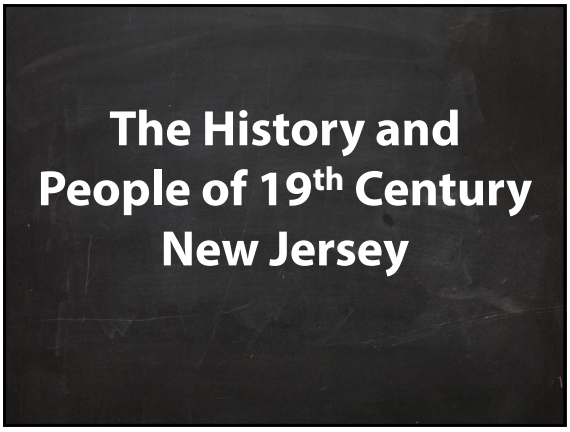

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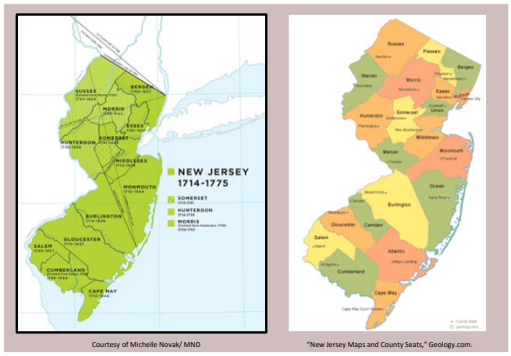

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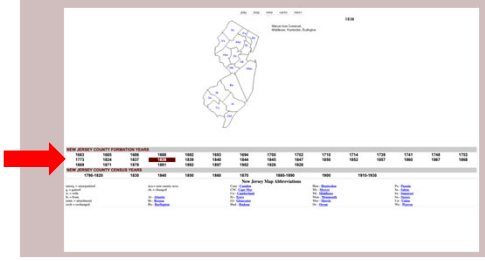
Understand Boundary Changes

- Interactive map https://www.mapofus.org/_iframe/nj-maps.htm



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Industrial Revolution

- First "planned" industrial town in the U.S. was centered in Paterson, New Jersey in Passaic County:
  - Promoted by Alexander Hamilton- the United States first Secretary of Treasury
  - Built to harness the power of water to run the industrial center
  - In 1809, Thomas Jefferson placed an embargo on British manufactured goods

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"Silk City"

- Paterson produced cotton and other textiles like wool as well as paper, locomotives, and guns
- By the end of the 19th century Paterson was known as "Silk City"

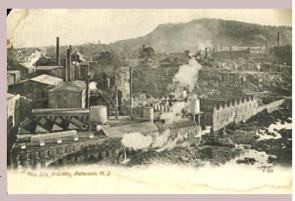

Image courtesy of Flickr.com

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- By 1850, there were half a million people living in New Jersey
- New Jersey prospered during the early 1800s and manufacturing centers were also erected in Camden, Elizabeth, Jersey City, Trenton, and Newark:
  - Immigration helped increase the state's population to half a million by 1850
- The state was comprised of rural farmers in the south and industrial manufacturers in the north

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Canals and Railroads

- In 1820, the Morris Canal was built in Newark
  - Increase in Irish immigrants
- In the 1830s, the Morris and Essex Railroad was built

J. S. Green," A Map of the Morris and Essex Railroad," 1835, image courtesy of The Morristown & Morris Township Library.

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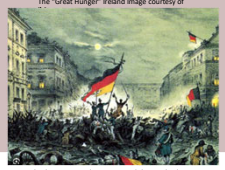
Irish and German Immigrants

- 1840s and 50s saw an increase in Irish due to the "Great Hunger" and German immigrants because of the failed Revolution of 1848

The "Great Hunger" Ireland Image courtesy of



Fights between revolutionaries and the royal military, Breite Strasse Street Berlin, Image courtesy of Wikipedia.org

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- Italians also made up a large immigrant population that arrived in New Jersey after Italian Unification in 1861
- About 1870, after the Civil War, New Jersey started to see an increase in the Black population due to the migration of southern Black workers
- Industrialization, declining conditions in Europe, and a post Civil war environment made New Jersey one of the most diverse states in the nation

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Emancipation

- New Jersey was the last northern state to pass a law regarding the emancipation of enslaved persons:
  - It was passed on 15 February 1804, but called for the "gradual emancipation of slaves"
- Understanding slave codes and laws prior to emancipation may help put into context what enslaved persons had to endure:
  - consult Rutgers University for more information on slave codes and laws- http://fas-history.rutgers.edu/clemens/NJLaw/slaverypage.html

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Manumission Records

- For manumission records see:
  - "United States Indenture and Manumission Records, 1780-1939" on Family Search
- A Writ of Habeas Corpus had to be filed to grant emancipation
  - Search the database *Supreme Court Case Files, 1704-1844*- https://wwwnet-dos.state.nj.us/DOS_ArchivesDBPortal/index.aspx
- County specific manumission records:
  - See African American Resources for New Jersey on Family Search which include manumission records for Bergen, Essex, Gloucester, Middlesex, Monmouth, Salem, and Sussex counties- https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/African_American_Resources_for_New_Jersey

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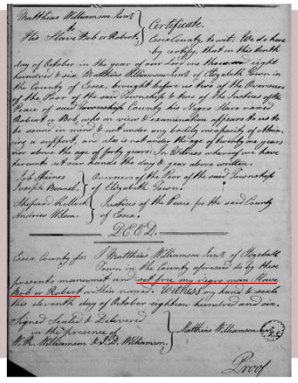

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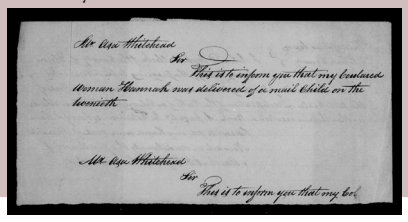
County Manumission Records

- In 1804, law required the registration of children born to enslaved mothers because children born after 4 July 1804 were declared "Free," but they were bound as servants to the slave owners of their mothers for a period of 25 years for males and 21 years for females.



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War of 1812
(19 June 1812 – 17 February 1815)

- New Jersey bore witness to several violent attacks against U.S. ships off her own coast
- New Jersey legislature approved a resolution agreeing to:
  - "a resort to arm against Great Britain…because of the lawless aggressions committed by the British nations on the persons and property of our citizens"
- New Jersey was divided when it came to supporting President Madison's declaration of war against Great Britain
- "New Jersey & the War of 1812" *by Harvey Strum*- https://gardenstatelegacy.com/files/New_Jersey_and_The_War_of_1812_Strum_GSL41.pdf
  - Detailed political account of New Jersey leading up to the war

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Civil War
(12 April 1861 – 9 April 1865)

- Over 88,000 New Jersians fought for the Union and around 6,000 lost their lives
- New Jersians served in over 50 different regiments
  - A large portion joined and served in the the Army of the Potomac once commanded by General George McClellan
- New Jersey and the Civil War:
  - *Remember You are a Jerseyman: A Military History of New Jersey's Troops in the Civil War* by Joseph G. Bilby and William C. Globe- search for a copy on Worldcat

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New Jersey Record Collections

- Primary records for New Jersey have not been shared with free or paid sites like Family Search or Ancestry:
  - Most records need to be ordered from the New Jersey State Archives for a fee
- Many indexes, abstracts, and transcriptions are available to help locate records
- Through out the 19th century record keeping became more consistent

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New Jersey Vital Records

- No authoritative source in charge of vital records in the state before 1 May 1848
- Other records can provide clues when vital records are not available:
  - Primary record sets like land, court, and probate records as well as church records
  - Also search cemeteries, military records, newspapers, town histories, biographies, and genealogies

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Birth Records Pre-1848

- Available indexes include:
  - "1660-1931 New Jersey, Births ad Christenings" on Ancestry
  - "New Jersey, Church Records, 1675-1970" on Family Search
    - Both collections contained abstracted information from the state of New Jersey
- "New Jersey Vital Records, Historical Society of Pennsylvania" also has New Jersey vital records- access via Findmypast

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Death Records Pre-1848

- May need to use record substitutes like cemetery, church, probate records, as well as deeds and military pension records
- Other resources include:
  - "Pennsylvania and New Jersey, Church and Town Records, 1708-1985" on Ancestry
  - "New Jersey Vital Records, Historical Society of Pennsylvania" on Findmypast
  - "New Jersey Deaths and Burials, 1720-1988" on Family Search or "New Jersey, U.S., Deaths and Burials Index, 1798-1971" on Ancestry

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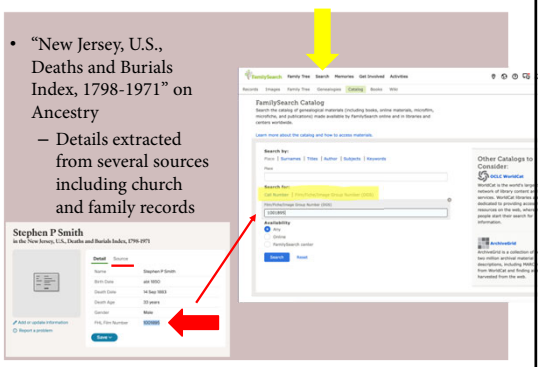
- "New Jersey, U.S., Deaths and Burials Index, 1798-1971" on Ancestry
  - Details extracted from several sources including church and family records



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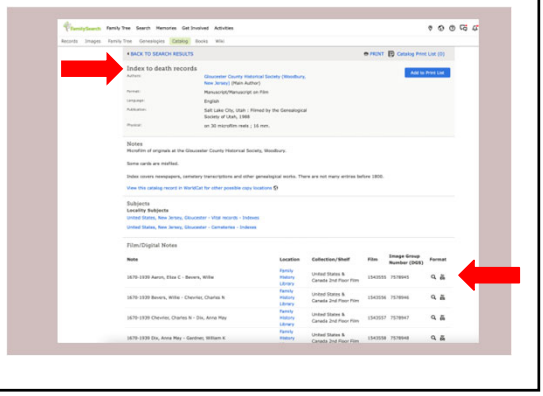

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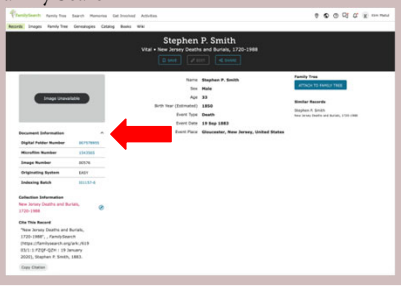
- "New Jersey Deaths and Burials, 1720-1988" on Family Search



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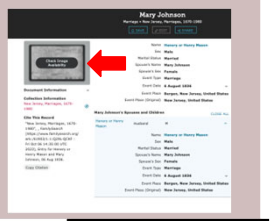
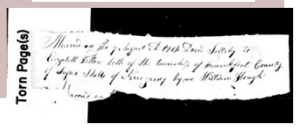
Marriage Records

- First step is to locate a marriage record in indexes like:
  - "New Jersey, Marriages, 1670-1980" on Family Search
  - "New Jersey, U.S. Complied Marriage Records, 1684-1886" on Ancestry
  - "New Jersey Marriage Records, 1670-1965" on Ancestry





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New Jersey State Archives

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NJSA Searchable Databases

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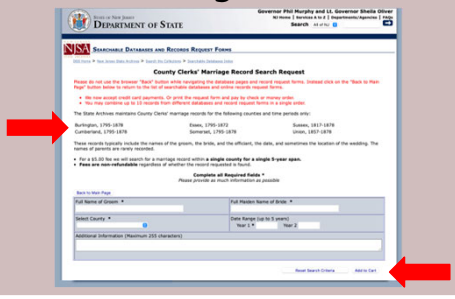
Ordering Records



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Tip

Always check to see what vital record collections are available at the county and/or town Level!

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Vital Records Post 1 May 1848

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- New Jersey was the 2nd state in the U.S. to start a continuous collection of vital records and this started on May 1, 1848
- New Jersey State Archive databases:

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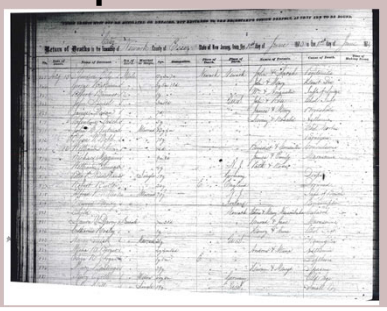
Sample Death Record



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Cause of Death

- Glossary of Medical Terms used in the 19th century- http://www.thornber.net/medicine/html/medgloss.html
- Old medical terms- https://fentonhistsoc.tripod.com/id121.html

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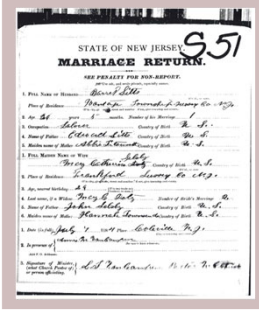
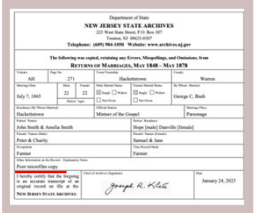
Sample Marriage Records





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If your ancestors lived:

Pre- May 1848 → Vital Record Substitutes → Probate records, Cemetery record, Church records, Land records, Biographies, Periodicals, Town histories, Military records

After May 1, 1848 → New Jersey State Archives → Searchable databases for Birth, Marriage, and Death records

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Probate Records

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Probate and Estate Records

- After 1784, the Secretary of State handled probate matters and surrogates were appointed to handle cases
  - During this time, probate records were supposed to be sent to Trenton
  - Estate papers include wills, inventories, administrations, and guardianship papers
- Starting in 1804, the county surrogate offices started recorded copies of probate records
- Estate matters such as partitions of estates, petitions filed against the estate, and guardianship matters were shared by the Orphans' Court and the county surrogate:
  - Search for records in county surrogate records

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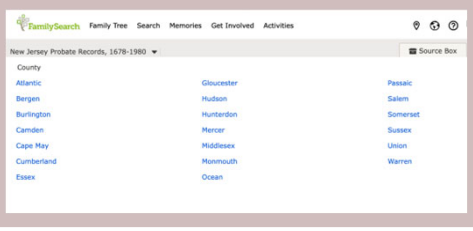
- Family Search has copied many probate records from county surrogate offices:
  - "New Jersey, Probate Records, 1678-1980"



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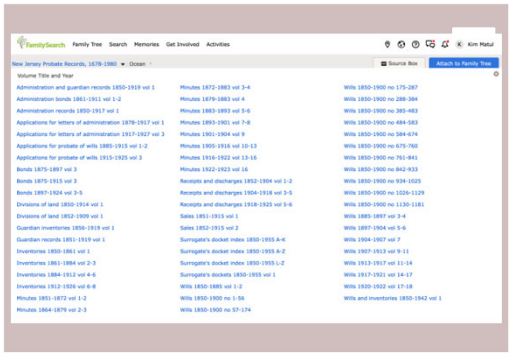

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Other Resources

- "New Jersey, U.S., Abstract of Wills, 1670-1817" on Ancestry (New Jersey Calendar of Wills) - https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/2793/
  - Abstracted records before 1817
- "New Jersey, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1739-1991" on Ancestry:
  - Includes original copies filed at the county level
- *A Review and Index of Succession Law in the State of New Jersey, Including Statues and Decisions from 1775 to 1905* by Joseph Fitz Randolph- https://archive.org/details/reviewindexofsuc00rand/page/6/mode/2up

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- The New Jersey State Archives has copies of probate records up to 1901 and most county probate records from the 19th century
  - Search the database *Probate Record Search Request: ca 1660-1952*

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Tip

Don't forget to check what probate records are available at the county level

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Court Records

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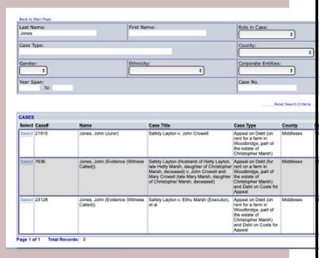
New Jersey Supreme Court

- *Supreme Court Case Files, 1704-1844*:
  - Searchable *database* on the New Jersey State Archives
  - May contain vital information as well as personal details about your ancestor like their occupation or where they lived



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Courthouse Records

- Don't overlook courthouse records which can include:
  - Tavern Licenses
  - Shopkeepers' Licenses
  - Peddlers' Licenses
  - Slave Births
  - Manumission records
  - Justice of the Peace Dockets
    - Look the county level by checking with the county clerk and/or at the New Jersey State Archives

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Tip

Always look to see if there are records for your ancestor in county surrogate records!

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Church Records

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Church Records for Vital Information

- "New Jersey Church Records" on Family Search
- "Pennsylvania and New Jersey, Church and Town Records, 1708-1985" on Ancestry:
  - Abstracted, transcribed, and some original records
- Specific denominational records for the 19th century are available on Family Search- https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/New_Jersey_Church_Records
  - These include Methodist, Presbyterian, Baptist, Dutch Reformed, Episcopal, Lutheran, Quaker and Catholic records

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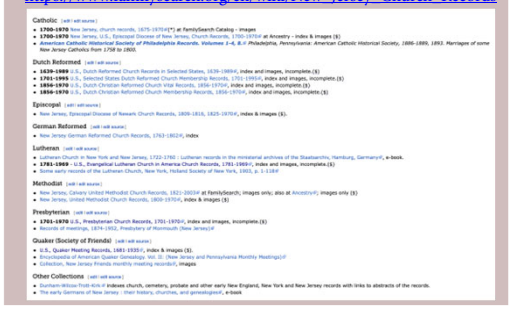
- Family Search "research wiki" for New Jersey Church Records- https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/New_Jersey_Church_Records



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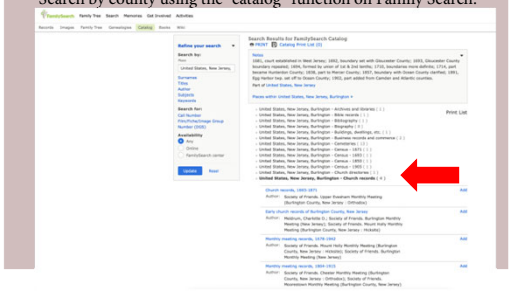
- Search for church records in periodicals and genealogical journals
- Search by county using the "catalog" function on Family Search:



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Periodicals and Biographies

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New Jersey Periodicals

- *The Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey:*
  - Cemetery transcriptions, vital information, church records, tax lists, family histories, and bible records
  - *The Genealogical Magazine on New Jersey index, the first thirty five years* on Family Search
- *New Jersey History:*
  - First 10 volumes from 1845 to 1866 were known by the title *Proceedings of the New Jersey Historical Society*
  - Abstracts and colonial records
  - Some volumes on Hathitrust.org and Archives.org

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New York and Pennsylvania

- *The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record:*
  - Also known as *The Record*
- *The Pennsylvania Genealogical Magazine:*
  - Previously known as *Publications of The Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania*
  - Database available on American Ancestors- https://www.americanancestors.org/search/databasesearch/412/pennsylvania-genealogical-magazine
- *The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography:*
  - Available on *FamilySearch*- https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/97148?availability=Family%20History%20Library

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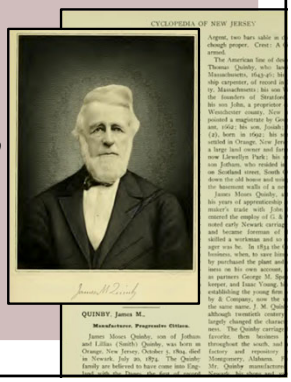
- By Donald A. Sinclair:
  - *A New Jersey Biographical Index: Covering Some 100,000 Biographies and Associated Portraits in 237 New Jersey Cyclopedias, Histories, Yearbooks, Periodicals, and Other Collective Biographical Source Published to about 1980*
  - *New Jersey Family Index: A Guide to the Genealogical Sketches in New Jersey Collective Sources*
- *Memorial Cyclopedia of New Jersey* by Mary Depue Ogden:
  - 4 Volumes



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Tip

Look to see what biographies are available at the county and town level!

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Land Records

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Land Records

- Land records can include deeds, warrants, surveys, and mortgages and in the 19th century they are still known as Secretary of States deeds
- Like probate records, you can find land records in Secretary of State records and at the county level in the county clerk's office
  - The clerk's offices house the original land records

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- The New Jersey State Library has a guide titled "NJ County Offices Resources" with links to searchable indexes and databases at different county offices- https://libguides.njstatelib.org/genealogynjsl/county
  - These include links to County Clerk land and property records

Searchable Indexes and Website Links

Some county offices have searchable online databases for property, wills, naturalizations, or businesses. If the county does not offer a searchable index, links are provided to the main website.

County	Clerk Searchable Index	Surrogate Searchable Index	Notes
Atlantic	Searchable online index	No	Index is Full Text Public Records (including deeds/mortgages) 1972-2000
Bergen	Searchable online index	No	Index to County Land Records
Burlington	PRESS (public records) Tax Records	Estate Index	Tax Records search is state wide
Camden	Online Property Records	Index	
Cape May	Index Historic Records via Cape May County Clerk's Archive (includes Surrogate's Records)	No	Use Internet Explorer when searching index on Clerk's site
Cumberland	Cumberland Public Records Search	No	Also has election results online 2015-present
Essex	No	No	
Gloucester	Gloucester County Land Records (select "Gloucester County Records Online" to search)	No	**Historical Clerk's records available at Gloucester County Historical Society**
Hudson	Hudson Co. Register's Office, a division of the County Clerk has land records	Estate Index Search	

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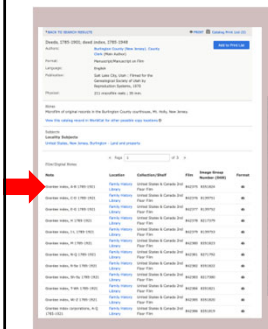

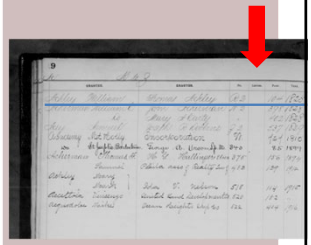

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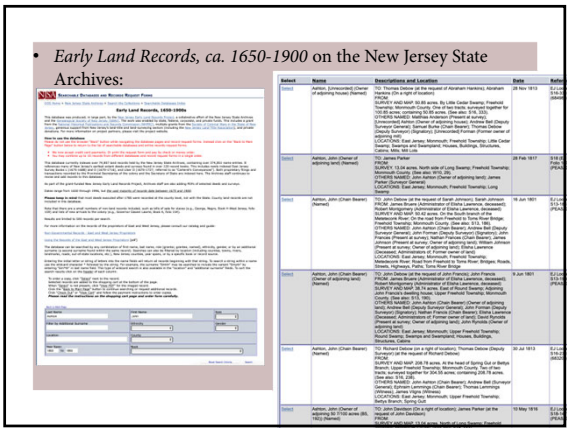
- *Early Land Records, ca. 1650-1900* on the New Jersey State Archives:



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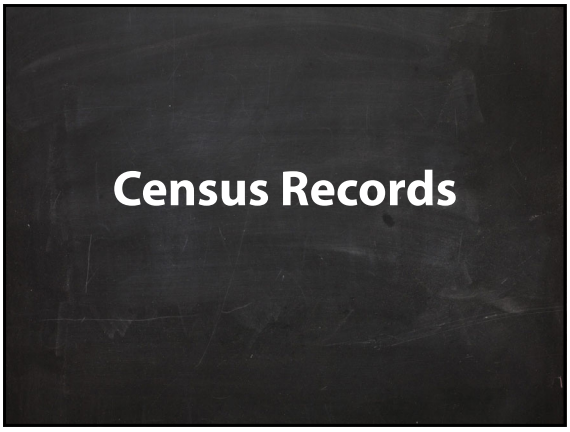

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New Jersey Census Records

- The 1800, 1810 and 1820 U.S. Federal Census for New Jersey did not survive (except for Cumberland County in 1800) and the 1890 U.S. Federal census was lost in the National Archives fire in 1921
  - Link to existing and lost New Jersey census records: https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/New_Jersey_Censuses_Existing_and_Lost
- Use census substitutes like non-population census records as well as land, probate, and tax records
- Also consult the New Jersey State Census records conducted from 1855 to 1915

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New Jersey State Census

- State Censuses were conducted at the county level and then returns were sent to Trenton
- See the county-by-county guide at the Genealogical Society of New Jersey to navigate these state census records- https://www.gsnj.org/new-jersey-state-censuses/

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Non-population Schedules

- Non-population schedules for New Jersey include:
  - Mortality schedules
  - Agricultural schedules
  - Slave schedules
  - Manufacturing schedules

Year	Type of Census	Links
1890	Veterans	at Ancestry
1880	Defective	at Ancestry
1880	Mortality	at Ancestry
1870	Mortality	at Ancestry
1860	Mortality	at Ancestry
1850	Slave Owner	at Ancestry
1850	Mortality	at Ancestry
1840	Pensioners	at Ancestry

Familysearch.org, New Jersey Census.

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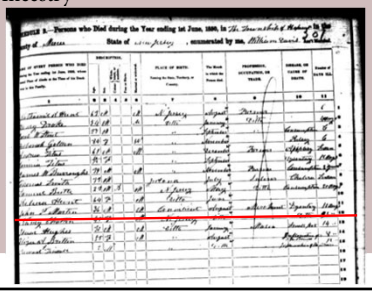
Mortality Schedule

- "U.S., Federal Census Mortality Schedule, 1850-1885" on Ancestry



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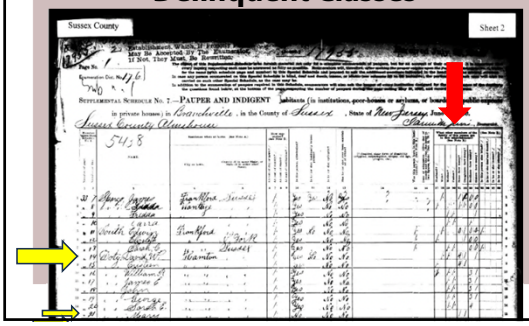
Defective, Dependent, and Delinquent Classes



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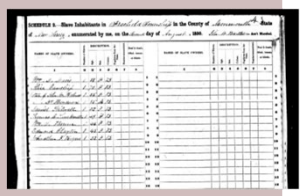
1850 Slave Schedule

- Questions asked in the 1850 Slave Schedule include:
  - Whether the slave is a fugitive
  - Number of slaves manumitted
  - Number of house slaves
- Enslaved persons were not usually named. Only age, sex, and color was usually recorded



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Tax Records and Ratables

- Taxes can be poll taxes or taxes levied on real or personal property
- Resources include:
  - *New Jersey Tax Lists, 1772-1822* by Ronald Vern Jackson
    - 4 volumes, but they exclude some counties
  - "New Jersey Periodicals Register of New Jersey County tax ratables, abstracts and exempt lists, 1773 to about 1889" and the "County tax ratable 1778-1832"
  - "United States Internal Revenue Assessment Lists, 1862-1874" on Family Search

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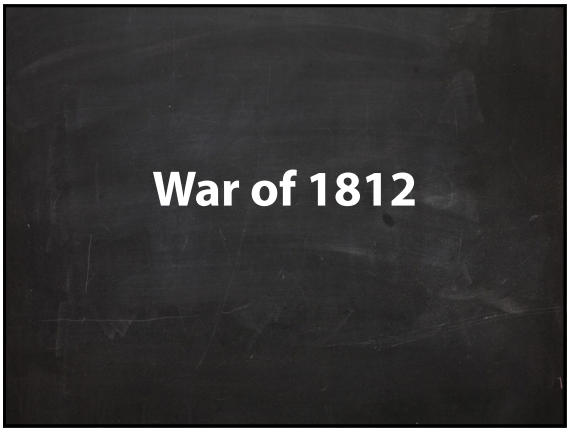

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War of 1812 Record Collections

- Records include:
  - "War of 1812 Service Records" on Ancestry which provides name, company, rank, and discharge information
  - "War of 1812 Pension Application Files Index, 1812-1815" on Fold3 or "U.S., War of 1812 Pension Application File Index, 1812-1815" on Ancestry
  - "War of 1812 Pension Files" on Fold3
- *Records of Officers and Men of New Jersey in Wars, 1791-1815* which is a searchable collection on Ancestry or available on Archive.org - https://archive.org/details/recordsofoffice00newj/page/n111/mode/2up?view=theater

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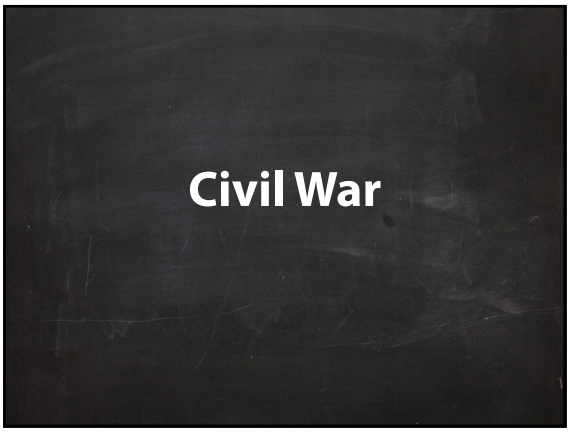

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Indexes on Fold3

- Service and pension records for New Jersey have not been digitized. Consult the following indexes on Fold3:
  - "U.S. Civil War Service Index – Union – New Jersey, 1861-1865"
  - "U.S., Civil War Pensions Index, 1861-1900"
- Various indexes for Colored Troops are on Fold3, but try first using the Family Search collection "United States Civil War Service Records of Union Colored Troops, 1863-1865"
  - New Jersey State Archives also has a series titled "United States Colored Troops - Service Files, ca 1862-1870s"- https://www.nj.gov/state/archives/sdea4015.html
- "New Jersey Civil War burial records, 1800s-1900s" on Family Search
  - information complied often includes name, regiment, birth, and death

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Published Resources

- Also consult published resourced including:
  - *Record of Officers and Men of New Jersey in the Civil War, 1861-1865* compiled by William S. Stryker
    - Digital version on Family Search https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/246877?availability=Family%20History%20Library
- *Alphabetical Roll of New Jersey Volunteers in the Civil War*- view at a family Search library

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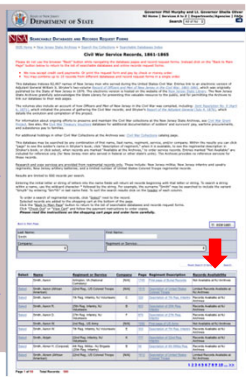
- Searchable databases at the New Jersey State Archives:
  - *Civil War Service Records, 1861-1865-* https://wwwnet-dos.state.nj.us/DOS_ArchivesDBPortal/index.aspx
  - *Civil War Payment Vouchers, 1861-1865-* https://wwwnet-dos.state.nj.us/DOS_ArchivesDBPortal/index.aspx



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Immigration and Naturalization

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Passenger Lists

- New Jersey immigrants could have arrived through several different ports including New York, Delaware, and Philadelphia
- Passenger lists between 1820 and 1891 started to ask for more information including name, age, occupation and county of origin. See:
  - "Ship Passenger New York and New Jersey, 1600-1825" on Family Search
  - "All U.S. and Canada, Passenger and Immigration Lists Index, 1500-1900" on Ancestry
- After 1891, passenger lists asked for more details like a final destination, last residence, and if they were joining a relative

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- Passports were available starting in 1795 and include a date of birth and where they were born:
  - See "U.S. Passport Applications for New Jersey, 1795-1925" on Ancestry
- Naturalization records could be in New Jersey Supreme Court records:
  - New Jersey Supreme Court records in "Naturalization Records, 1749-1873; Card Index 1761-1860" on Family Search
  - "Naturalization Records, 1832-1847, 1852, 1846-1859, 1861-1862" on Family Search

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Repositories and Research Guides

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New Jersey State Archives

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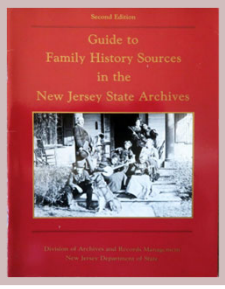
New Jersey State Archives

- *Guide to Family History Sources in the New Jersey State Archives, 2nd edition* By Bette Marie Barker, Karl Niederer, Daniel Jones, and Joseph Klett



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New Jersey State Library

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Family Histories

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New Jersey Resource Guides

- *Handy New Jersey Genealogy handbook: All You Need to Find Genealogy Resources for New Jersey* by Gary L .Morris
- *New Jersey: Digging for Ancestors in the Garden State* by Dr. Stryker-Rodda
- *State Research Guide: New* Jersey by James M. Beidler available from *Family Tree Magazine*

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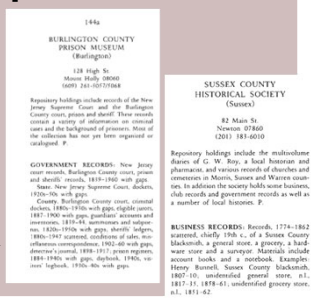
Manuscript Collections

- *New Jersey historical manuscripts: a guide to collections in the state* by Mary R. Murrin:
  - Contains an alphabetical list of all repositories in New Jersey
  - Provides a detailed list of what is in each collection


144a

BURLINGTON COUNTY PRISON MUSEUM (Burlington)

128 High St
Mount Holly 08060
(609) 261-1017/1068

Repository holdings include records of the New Jersey Supreme Court and the Burlington County court, prisons and sheriff. These records contain a variety of information on criminal cases and the background of prisoners. Most of the collection has not yet been organized or catalogued. P.

GOVERNMENT RECORDS: New Jersey court records, Burlington County court, prison and sheriffs' records, 1819–1960 with gaps.
State. New Jersey Supreme Court, dockets, 1920s–30s with gaps.
County. Burlington County court, criminal dockets, 1880s–1930s with gaps, eligible jurors, 1887–1900 with gaps, guardians' accounts and inventories, 1810–94, summonses and subpoenas, 1820s–1910s with gaps, sheriffs' ledgers, 1880s–1947 scattered, conditions of sales, miscellaneous correspondence, 1902–40 with gaps, detective's journal, 1898–1917; prison registers, 1884–1940s with gaps, daybook, 1940s, warrant logbook, 1930s–40s with gaps.

SUSSEX COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY (Sussex)

82 Main St.
Newton 07860
(201) 383-6010

Repository holdings include the multivolume diaries of G. W. Roy, a local historian and pharmacist, and various records of churches and cemeteries in Morris, Sussex and Warren counties. In addition the society holds some business, club records and government records as well as a number of local histories. P.

BUSINESS RECORDS: Records, 1774–1862 scattered, chiefly 19th c., of a Sussex County blacksmith, a general store, a grocery, a hardware store and a surveyor. Materials include account books and a notebook. Examples: Henry Bunnell, Sussex County blacksmith, 1807–10, unidentified general store, n.l., 1817–31, 1858–61, unidentified grocery store, n.l., 1851–62.

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Bible Collections

- Major bible collections:
  - New Jersey Historical Society
  - Gloucester County Historical Society
  - Daughters of the American Revolution Library in Washington D.C.
  - Genealogical Society of New Jersey (GSNJ)
- Series edited by Anna Miller Watring includes:
  - *New Jersey Bible Records: Vol 1, Atlantic, Burlington, Cape May and Gloucester Counties*
  - *New Jersey Bible Records Vol 2, Salem and Cumberland Counties*

GSNJ Bible and Family Records Collection Index | www.gsnj.

Record No.	Surname	Record Details
2200	Aaron	[Aaron; Baily; Collins; Loyd; Remington; Wood]
3068	Aaron	[Aaron; Collins; Loyd]
3070	Aaron	[Aaron; Abbott; Baily; Collins; Hall; Hund; Ivins; Reming… Whitehead; Wood; Woodston]
3636	Aaron	[Aaron; Cook; Habey; Havens; Robinson; Roebes; Schnie…
4277	Aaron	Aaron B. Rowell and wife; Elisabeth; children born 1853-… Havens; Heanns; Rossell]
444	Aaronfion	[Aaronfion; Burt; Burrough; Coles; Davis; Gardiner; Grey… Stiles; Thom; Tomlinson]

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Historical Societies

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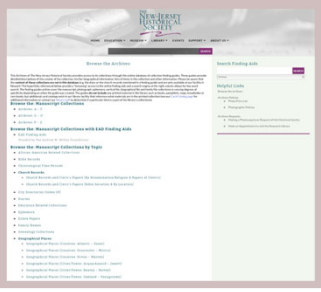
The New Jersey Historical Society



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Family Search

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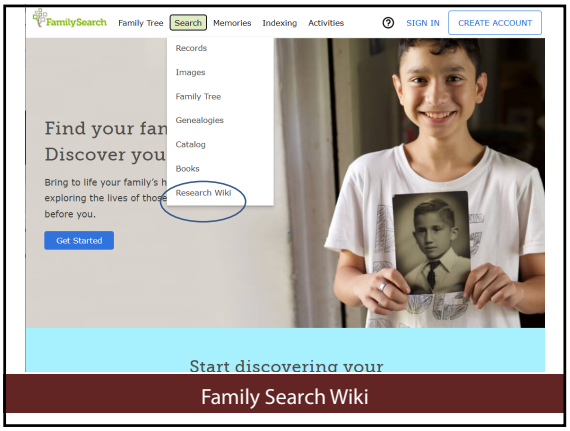

Family Search Wiki

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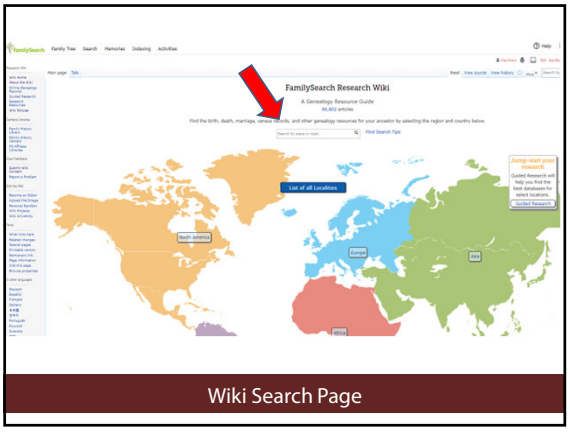

Wiki Search Page

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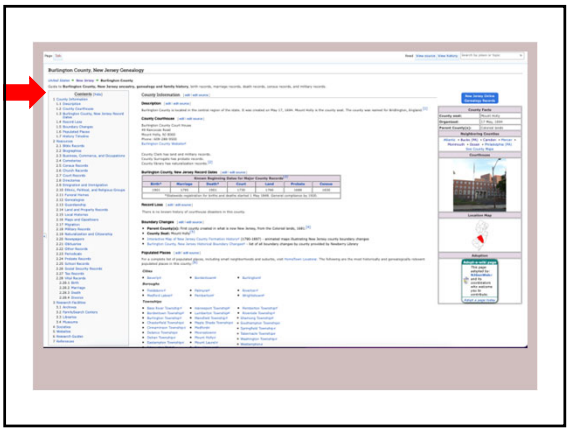

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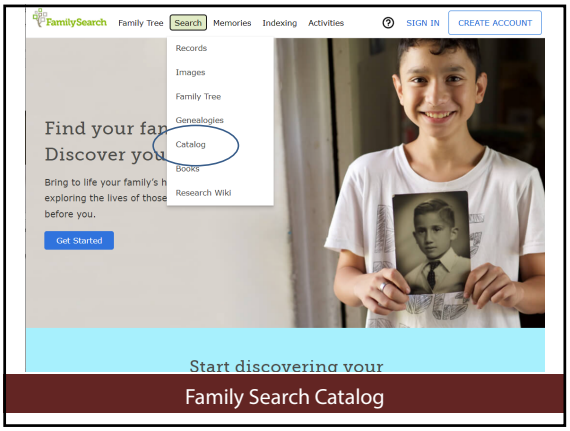

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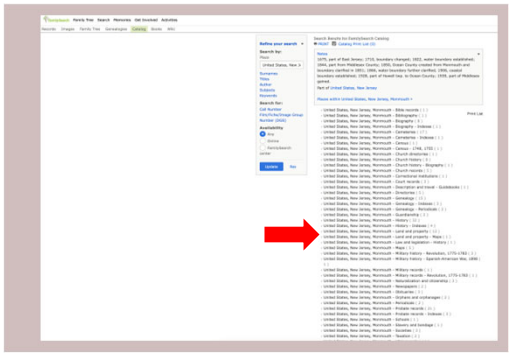

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How to locate Indexes and Abstracts

- Internet Archives- https://archive.org
- HathiTrust- https://www.hathitrust.org
- WorldCat- https://www.worldcat.org

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QUESTIONS?

Hire Research Services
research@nehgs.org

Chat with a Genealogist
AmericanAncestors.org/chat

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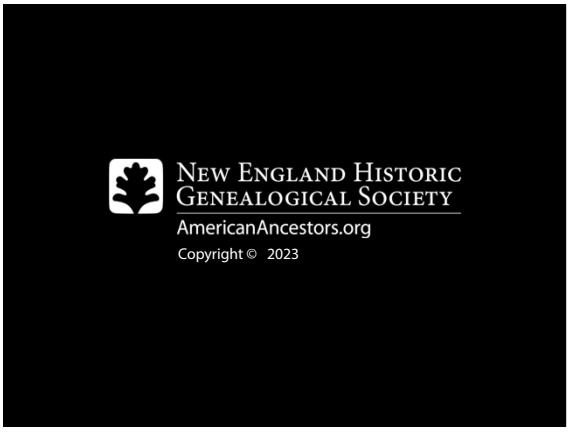

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