

# **Delaware**

## **Research Outline**

### **Table of Contents**

Records Of The Family History Library

Family History Library Catalog

Archives And Libraries

Bible Records

Biography

Business Records And Commerce

Cemeteries

Census

Church Records

Court Records

Directories

Emigration And Immigration

Gazetteers

Genealogy

Guardianship Records

History

Land And Property

Maps

Military Records

Naturalization And Citizenship

Newspapers

Periodicals

Probate Records

Slavery And Bondage

Societies

Taxation

Vital Records

Voting Registers

For Further Reading

Comments And Suggestions

# Delaware

This outline describes major sources of information about families from Delaware. As you read this outline, study the *United States Research Outline* (30972), which will help you understand terminology and the contents and uses of genealogical records.

## RECORDS OF THE FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY

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The Family History Library has many of the records described in this outline, including:

- All available census records
- Most available pre-1860 church, probate, court, and land records
- Birth records to 1923, marriage records to 1954, and death records to 1955

Most of the Delaware microfilms at the Family History Library were acquired between 1947 and 1949. Except for some published records, little has been added to the collection since then.

If the Family History Library has a source described in this outline, the outline lists the book, microfilm, microfiche, and computer numbers. These are preceded by *FHL*, the abbreviation for *Family History Library*. These numbers may be used to locate materials in the Family History Library and to order microfilm and microfiche at family history centers.

The computer number can be used if you have access to the Family History Library Catalog on computer. The "Computer Number Search" is the fastest way to find a source in the catalog.

## FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY CATALOG

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The library's records are listed in the Family History Library Catalog found at the Family History Library and at each family history center. To find a record, look in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog for:

The *place* where your ancestor lived, such as:

**UNITED STATES - CENSUS**  
**DELAWARE - MILITARY RECORDS**  
**DELAWARE, NEW CASTLE - PROBATE**  
**RECORDS**  
**DELAWARE, NEW CASTLE, WILMINGTON**  
**- CHURCH RECORDS**

The *record type* you want to search, such as:

UNITED STATES - **CENSUS**  
DELAWARE - **MILITARY RECORDS**  
DELAWARE, NEW CASTLE - **PROBATE**  
**RECORDS**  
DELAWARE, NEW CASTLE, WILMINGTON -  
**CHURCH RECORDS**

The section headings in this outline match the names of record types used in the catalog.

## ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES

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The archives, libraries, and societies listed below have major collections or services helpful to genealogical researchers.

- Delaware Public Archives  
121 Duke of York Street  
Dover, DE 19901  
Telephone: 302-739-5318  
Fax: 302-739-6710  
Internet: <http://archives.delaware.gov/>

The Delaware Public archives has a number of useful databases on-line. These include their library catalog, an index of naturalizations, and a database of probate files (see Naturalization and Probate Records sections below).

A guide to some of their records is:

Mattern, Joanne, and Harold B. Hancock, comps. *A Preliminary Inventory of the Older Records in the Delaware Archives*. Dover, Del.: Delaware Public Archives, 1978. (FHL fiche 6331225.) This source briefly describes jurisdiction, record type, number of volumes, and dates covered.

- National Archives—Mid-Atlantic Region  
900 Market Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19107  
Telephone: 215-606-0100  
Fax: 215-606-0116  
Internet: [www.archives.gov/midatlantic](http://www.archives.gov/midatlantic)

- The Delaware Genealogical Society  
505 Market Street Mall  
Wilmington, DE 19801  
Telephone: 302-655-7161 (Historical Society  
of Delaware - they will take a message)  
Internet: www.delgensoc.org

The Delaware Genealogical Society has many research and indexing projects underway. See their Internet site for a listing. You can print a volunteer registration from their Internet site. They have the Delaware Families Projects, where researchers submit information on their families that lived in Delaware in the time period, 1787-1800. Many of those families have been researched. They also have a genealogical queries database you can search at their Internet site. They have a listing on their Internet site for surname web pages for Delaware families.

- The Historical Society of Delaware  
505 Market Street Mall  
Wilmington, DE 19801-3091  
Telephone: 302-655-7161  
Fax: 302-655-7844  
Internet: www.hsd.org
- The Historical Society of Pennsylvania  
1300 Locust Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19107-5699  
Telephone: 215-732-6201  
Fax: 215-732-2680  
Internet: www.hsp.org
- The Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania  
215 S. Broad St., 7<sup>th</sup> floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19107-5325  
Telephone: 215-545-0391  
Fax: 215-545-0936
- Hugh M. Morris Library  
University of Delaware  
181 So. College Ave.  
Newark, DE 19717-5267  
Telephone: 302-831-2965  
Internet: www.lib.udel.edu  
E-mail: askref@www.lib.udel.edu
- Hagley Museum and Library  
P.O. Box 3630  
Wilmington, DE 19807-0630  
Telephone: 302-658-2400  
Fax: 302-658-3188  
Internet: www.hagley.lib.de.us/center.html

The records and publications of more than 1,000 businesses, and some families, especially the Du Pont and related families, are at the Eleutherian Mills-Hagley Library. A guide to their records is:

Riggs, John Beverley. *A Guide to Manuscripts in the Eleutherian Mills Historical Library . . . Greenville, Del.: Eleutherian Mills Historical Library*, 1970. (FHL book 975.11/G1 J53e; and supplement.) This guide lists records acquired through 1965. The supplement lists records acquired through 1975.

For more information about Delaware repositories see:

Holley, Barbara Ann, ed. *Directory of Libraries and Information Sources in the Philadelphia Area (Eastern Pennsylvania, Southern New Jersey, and Delaware)*. Philadelphia: Special Libraries Association, Philadelphia Chapter, 1977. (FHL book 974.811 J54s 1977; film 1,036,557 item 9.) Briefly lists address, phone, hours, collection, and use of interlibrary loan.

Historical Records Survey (Delaware). *Inventory of the County Archives of Delaware. No. 1. New Castle County. Dover, Del.: The Public Archives Commission*, 1941. (FHL book 975.11 A3i; film 897,354 item 1; fiche 6051279.) **Detailed description** of each record type including years covered, number of volumes, and contents.

### Computer Networks and Bulletin Boards

Computers with modems are important tools for obtaining information from selected archives and libraries. In a way, computer networks themselves serve as a library. The Internet, certain computer bulletin boards, and commercial on-line services help family history researchers:

- Locate other researchers
- Post queries
- Send and receive E-mail
- Search large databases
- Search computer libraries
- Join in computer chat and lecture sessions

You can find computerized research tips and information about ancestors from Delaware in a variety of sources at local, state, national, and international levels. The list of sources is growing rapidly. Most of the information is available at no cost.

Addresses on the Internet change frequently. As of April 1997, the following sites are important gateways linking you to many more network and bulletin board sites:

- USGenWeb  
www.usgenweb.com/  
A cooperative effort by many volunteers to list genealogical databases, libraries, bulletin boards, and other resources available on the Internet for each county, state, and country.
- Roots-L  
www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/usa/  
A useful list of sites and resources. Includes a large, regularly-updated research coordination list.

Internet sites specifically about Delaware family history include:

- Delaware Families Project  
  
Documents all families living in Delaware between 1787 and 1800.
- Delaware Genealogical Society  
  
Lists key repositories and publications.
- Sources of Genealogical Information in Delaware  
www.everton.com/usa/de.htm  
Lists counties, when created, and their resources.

For further details about using computer networks, bulletin boards, and news groups for family history research, see the *United States Research Outline* (30972), 2nd ed., “Archives and Libraries” section.

### FamilySearch™

The Family History Library and some family history centers have computers with FamilySearch. FamilySearch is a collection of computer files containing several million names. FamilySearch is a good place to begin your research. Some of the records come from compiled sources; some have been automated from original sources.

An increasing number of family history centers have access to the Internet. These services are also available at many public libraries, college libraries, and private locations.

### BIBLE RECORDS

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The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) collection contains Bible records from Delaware. The collection is:

Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), Delaware. *Old Bible Records*. 13 vols. Newark, Del.: n.p., 1944-73. (FHL book 975.1 V29d; on 5 films starting with 845,762.) This collection contains records of persons living about 1650-1970, to which the Historical Society of Delaware has an every-name index.

Viridin, Donald O., Donald M. Hehir, and Lu Verne Hall. *Delaware Bible Records*. 6 vols. Bowie, Md.: Heritage Books, 1991-1998. (FHL book 975.1. V2v.) These Bible records were originally collected by members of the Revolution. Each volume has an every-name index.

A partial index to the DAR collection of Bible records is:

Kirkham, E. Kay. *An Index to Some of the Bibles and Family Records of the United States*. Vol. 2. Logan, Utah: Everton Publishers, 1984. (FHL book Ref 973 D22kk v. 2; fiche 6089184.)

The Delaware Public Archives (see the “Archives and Libraries” section of this outline for the address) is actively collecting and indexing Bible records. You can write for more information about the current status of this collection. The Historical Society of Delaware (see the “Archives and Libraries” section of this outline for the address) also collects Bible records.

### BIOGRAPHY

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The Historical Society of Delaware has a card index to many biographical items, called the *Family Surname File*, with approximately 500,000 names. (See the “Genealogy” section of this outline.)

Some representative biographical publications or collections are:

Bendler, Bruce A. *Colonial Delaware Assemblymen, 1682-1776*. Westminster, Md.: Family Line Publications, 1989. (FHL book 975.1 N2b.) The name, death date, county of residence and date, and often the parents, wife, children, and sources are listed.

*Biographical and Genealogical History of the State of Delaware* . . . 2 vols. Chambersburg, Pa.: J.M. Runk & Co., 1899. (FHL film 1,000,155.) This contains biographies from the 1600s to 1890s.

Reamy, Bill and Martha Reamy. *Genealogical Abstracts from Biographical and Genealogical History of the State of Delaware*. Westminster, Md.: Family Line Publications, 1998. (FHL book 987.1 D28r.) This contains the family history information from the 1899 book, and has an every-name index, which was not in the original two volumes.

Turner, Joseph Brown. *Genealogical Collection of Delaware Families*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1948. (FHL films 6,272-300.) This consists of alphabetical files for about 3,000 families. The Delaware Public Archives has the original films.

The Delaware Public Archives has a *Book Catalog Index* on 3 x 5 cards which indexes names mentioned in genealogies and local histories. This is by surname and does not contain given names. This is not a complete index to all the surnames. They will search it for you, if you include a large, self-addressed, stamped envelope with your request.

## **BUSINESS RECORDS AND COMMERCE**

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The records of the Kent County Mutual Insurance Company, 1847-1946, are at the Delaware Public Archives and are on microfilm. These records are indexed by the insured individuals' names 1847-1865. This material is not available at the Family History Library.

## **CEMETERIES**

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### **Publications**

Following is a list of the major collections and publications for the state of Delaware:

Clark, Raymond B., ed. *Delaware Tombstone Inscriptions*. St. Michaels, Md.: R. B. Clark, 1989. (FHL book 975.1 A1 no. 20.) This contains burial information on 700 revolutionary soldiers in the three counties, 600 of which are in small church and family cemeteries.

Dill, Raymond Walter. *Souls in Heaven, Names in Stone, Kent County, Delaware Cemetery Records*. Baltimore: Gateway Press, 1989. (FHL book 975.14 V3d.) The information for this work was gathered from headstones, cemetery records, maps, deeds, Bibles and by word of mouth.

Hudson, Millard F. *Cemetery Records of Sussex County, Delaware*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1948. (FHL film 6,690.) This includes transcriptions from 630 cemeteries. It is available at the Delaware Public Archives and at the Family History Library.

Tatnall, Walter G. *Tombstone Records, New Castle County, Kent County, and Sussex County, Delaware*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1949. (FHL film 6,303.) This includes inscriptions from nearly 800 small cemeteries. It is available at the Delaware Public Archives and at the Family History Library. A card index to this is available at the Delaware Public Archives. The Family History Library does not have a copy of the index.

### **Other Sources**

Some cemetery records for Delaware are being printed in the:

*Delaware Genealogical Society Journal*. Wilmington, Del.: 1980-. (FHL book 975.1 D25d.)

The Historical Society of Delaware also has a collection of cemetery records.

A county-by-county list of cemetery record transcripts available at the Family History Library is found in:

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Family History Library. *Index to United States Cemeteries*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1988. (FHL films 1,206,468-94.) Film 1,206,469 includes Delaware, among other states.

The Family History Library has copies of many other sexton and tombstone records listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

DELAWARE - CEMETERIES  
DELAWARE, [COUNTY] - CEMETERIES  
DELAWARE, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - CEMETERIES

Some cemetery record collections are also listed under "Vital Records" in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog.



# CENSUS

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## Federal Censuses

**Population Schedules.** Many federal census records are at the Family History Library, the National Archives, and other federal record centers and state archives. The *United States Research Outline* (30972) provides detailed information about these records.

The Family History Library has the U.S. federal censuses of Delaware from 1800 to 1920. The 1790 census is missing, and the 1890 census was destroyed. A substitute for the 1790 census created from tax lists is:

Devalinger, Leon, Jr. *Reconstructed 1790 Census of Delaware*. Washington, D.C.: National Genealogical Society, 1962. (FHL book 975.1 X2d 1790; film 1,000,156; fiche 6019928.)

**Statewide indexes** are available in two forms:

- Book indexes are available for the 1790 substitute census and census taken between 1800 and 1870.
- Soundex indexes are available for the 1880, 1900 and 1920 censuses. The 1910 census is not indexed.

One of the indexes for the 1850 census is:

Olmstead, Virginia L. *Index to the 1850 Census of Delaware*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 1977. (FHL book 975.1 X22o 1850.) Indexes for the three counties are listed separately. An every-person index is given for each of the counties, with age, birthplace, and the original census sheet number. The New Castle County 1850 census is on two rolls of microfilm with some duplication of page numbers. You can use a different 1850 census index to find the township.

*Countywide indexes* sometimes help you locate names overlooked in statewide indexes. A few countywide indexes are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under DELAWARE, [COUNTY] - CENSUS.

*When indexes are not available or omit a name* you can still look for the name in the census. In large cities it helps to first learn the person's address by searching the city directory for the same year as the census (see the "Directories" section of this outline). Then look for that address on the original census schedules.

These reference tools help determine which census schedule microfilm and enumeration district to search for specific addresses:

United States. Census Office. *Census Descriptions of Geographic Subdivisions and Enumerations Districts*.

- 1880 FHL film 1,402,860
- 1900 FHL film 1,303,020
- 1910 FHL film 1,374,001
- 1920 FHL film 1,842,704

Buckway, G. Eileen. *U.S. 1910 Federal Census: Unindexed States: A Guide to Finding Census Enumeration Districts for Unindexed Cities, Towns, and Villages*. Salt Lake City: Family History Library, 1992. (FHL book 973 X2bu 1910; fiche 6101340.) Lists all Delaware towns (or wards) with their 1910 census enumeration district numbers and FHL film numbers. Wilmington has special instructions.

**Mortality Schedules.** Mortality schedules for 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 are at the Delaware Public Archives, the Historical Society of Delaware, and on microfilm at the Family History Library. The 1870 and 1880 schedules are indexed in:

Jackson Ronald Vern. *Delaware 1870 Mortality Schedule*. Bountiful, Utah: Accelerated Indexing Systems, 1981. (FHL book 975.1 X2j 1870.)

Jackson Ronald Vern. *Delaware 1880 Mortality Schedule*. Bountiful, Utah: Accelerated Indexing Systems, 1981. (FHL book 975.1 X2j 1880.)

**Slave Schedules.** Slave schedules for 1850 and 1860 list the names of slave owners, but do not normally list the names of the slaves. The numbers of slaves, their gender, and their age ranges are given. Look in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under Delaware, CENSUS RECORDS, MINORITIES, SLAVE SCHEDULES.

The 1850 and 1860 slave schedules are indexed in:

Jackson, Ronald Vern. *Delaware 1850-1860 Slave Schedules*. Salt Lake City: Accelerated Indexing Systems International, 1986. (FHL book 975.1 X22j.)

For census slave schedules see:

- 1850: (FHL film 442,884)
- 1860: (FHL film 803,100.)

**Master Indexes.** Some of the indexes mentioned above are combined into composite master indexes of several census years, states, and census types:

*FamilyFinder™ Index and Viewer: Version 3.0* [Novato, Calif.]: Brøderbund Software, 1995. (FHL compact disc no. 9 1995 index. Not available at family history centers.) A master index to Delaware 1665-1697 tax lists, 1800-1860 federal censuses, 1850/1860 slave schedules, and 1870/1880 mortality schedules.

The FamilyFinder Index includes the following indexes by Ronald Vern Jackson:

Jackson, Ronald Vern. *AIS Microfiche Indexes of U.S. Census and Other Records*. Bountiful, Utah: Accelerated Indexing Systems International, 1984. (No FHL fiche number but available at many family history centers.) Delaware tax lists (1665-1697) and censuses (1800 and 1810) are combined together on Search 1. A composite mortality schedule index is on Search 8. Separate Delaware 1820, 1830, 1840, and 1850 indexes are on other searches.

### State Census

A 1782 state census exists for seven of the “hundreds” (townships). The state census has been reconstructed for the rest of the state from tax lists. See the “Taxation” section of this outline for several “census” indexes compiled from tax and other records.

### Colonial Census

In 1693 a special census was taken of Swedes who were associated with the Swedish Lutheran Church and who were living in Pennsylvania, Delaware, west New Jersey, and Cecil County, Maryland. The following book contains both the census and an index to it:

Craig, Peter Stebbins. *The 1693 Census of the Swedes on the Delaware*. Winter Park, Fla.: SAG Publications, 1993. (FHL book 973 X4c.)

## CHURCH RECORDS

Many religious groups have kept records of Delaware families. Before 1900 the largest denominations were the Baptist, Episcopal, Methodist, Presbyterian, and Quakers (Society of Friends).

A transcription of the registers and minutes of nearly 100 church records from the 1680s to the 1930s was made by the Delaware Historical Records Survey. These are at the Delaware Public Archives and are on microfilm at the Family History Library (FHL films 6,304-20). These records are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under DELAWARE, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - CHURCH RECORDS. You will also find them listed under *Historical Records Survey (Delaware)* in the Author/Title Search of the microfiche catalog.

Historical Records Survey. *Directory of Churches and Religious Organizations in Delaware*. Dover, Del.: Public Archives Commission, 1942. (FHL book 975.1 E4th: film 1,036,702 item 3; fiche 6019975.) This book is helpful to see where the churches of each denomination were located in 1942. Churches are listed by denomination, county, then city or town. The street address is given. There is an index by town also.

An old list of church addresses and ministers is:

*Directory of Churches and Religious Organizations in Delaware*. Dover, Del.: Historical Records Survey, 1942. (FHL book 975.1 E4th; film 1,036,702 item 3; fiche 6019975.)

There is an index to many baptisms, 1759-1890, on microfilm under:

Delaware. Bureau of Vital Statistics. *Index Cards of Delaware Marriages, Baptisms, Births, and Death, 1689-1913*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1949. (FHL film 6,423.)

The following publications contain information concerning church members and groups:

Burr, Horace. *The Records of Holy Trinity (Old Swedes) Church, Wilmington, Del., for 1697-1773*. [Wilmington, Del.]: Historical Society of Delaware, 1890. (FHL film 908,217; another filming 1,00,156 item 4.) This book contains English translations and abstracts from the original church records. It also includes traditions, names, and dates.

Clark, Allen B. *This Is Good Country: A History of the Amish of Delaware, 1915-1988*. Gordonville, Pa.: Gordonville Print Shop, 1989. (FHL book 975.1 K2c.) This book has information about the European beginnings of the Mennonite and Amish

groups, their migration, and settlement in Delaware. Includes traditions, names and dates.

Clark, Raymond B. *Delaware Church Records*. St. Michaels, Md.: R. B. Clark, 1986. (FHL book 975.1 A1 no. 14.) This contains baptisms, marriages, deaths, and tombstone inscriptions from several churches including Baptist, Episcopal, Methodist, Presbyterian, and Quaker churches for the period 1686-1880.

Weis, Fredrick Lewis. *The Colonial Clergy of Maryland, Delaware, and Georgia*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 1978. (FHL book 975 D3w.) This is an alphabetical listing of the clergy in Delaware from 1638-1776, and includes names, dates, and places.

Many denominations have collected their records into central repositories. The following are addresses of regional archives:

### **Baptist**

American Baptist-Samuel Colgate Historical Library  
1106 South Goodman Street  
Rochester, NY 14620  
Telephone: 716-473-1740

### **Methodist**

United Methodist Archives Center  
Drew University  
Madison, NJ 07940-4007  
Telephone: 201-408-3125

### **Presbyterian**

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Dept. of History Library  
425 Lombard Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19147-1516  
Telephone: 215-627-1852  
Fax: 215-627-0509

### **Roman Catholic**

Diocese of Wilmington Archives  
P.O. Box 2247  
Greenville, DE 19807  
Telephone: 302-655-0597 (Tuesdays 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.)

### **Society of Friends (Quaker)**

Friends Historical Library  
Swarthmore College  
500 College Avenue

Swarthmore, PA 19081-1399  
Telephone: 610-328-8496

## **COURT RECORDS**

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Various Delaware courts kept records of genealogical value. Below is a list of the courts with the approximate dates they existed.

1655-1682 Delaware was under Dutch control from 1655 to 1664 and then under New York from 1664 to 1682. These court records have been published in volume 12 of *Documents Relating to the Colonial History of the State of New York*, (Albany, N.Y.: The Argus Co., 1877. FHL book 974.7 H2d; vol. 12 is on film 824,389 item 2; computer number 152213). The index is at the end of vol. 13 (FHL film 824,390).

The records for 1648-1682 have been published in:

Gehring, Charles T. *Delaware Papers*. 2 vols. Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1977-1981. (FHL book 974.7 N2d.) Vol. 1 has records 1664-1682; vol. 2 has records for 1648-1664.

1670s *Magistrates Courts* were held by the King's authority.

1701-1831 *Courts of Common Pleas* were established in each county to hear minor civil suits, minor criminal cases, appeals from lesser courts, adoptions, and terminations of parental rights. Their powers were given to the superior court in 1831. Before 1792, the courts of common pleas also handled those matters now handled by the chancery courts.

1655-pres. *Levy Court*. This court is a county administrative unit that keeps records of schools, petitions, tavern licenses, road accounts, probates, and taxes.

1683-pres. *Orphans' Courts* have countywide jurisdiction over property rights, estates of minors, guardianships, and adoptions.

1792-pres. *Chancery Courts* are countywide courts with jurisdiction over equity matters, where sufficient remedy cannot be had by common law or statute before any other court.



- 1676-  
pres. **Court of General Quarter Sessions.** These records include apprenticeship indentures and petitions for roads and taverns. This court tries all criminal cases except capital crimes.
- 1746-  
pres. **Court of Oyer and Terminer.** This criminal court often hears capital crimes.
- 1664-  
pres. **Justices of the Peace.** These records include minor civil cases.
- 1794-  
1898 **High Court of Errors and Appeals.** This was an appeals court for the superior courts.
- 1790-  
pres. **U.S. Circuit and District Courts.** They handle naturalizations, civil cases, and criminal cases.
- 1726-  
1831 **Supreme Court.** The duties were transferred to the superior courts after 1831. All court pres records (except those from the last three years) are at the Delaware Public Archives.
- 1831-  
pres. **Superior Courts** replaced courts of common pleas. They are county courts with jurisdiction over major criminal and civil cases. Naturalization records are included.

The offices of clerk of the peace and prothonotary date from 1642. The clerk of the peace was clerk of the levy court and the court of general quarter sessions. The prothonotary was clerk of the court of common pleas and the superior court.

The Delaware Public Archives has most of the original court records, including the courts of general quarter sessions, oyer and terminer, justice of the peace, and common pleas, as well as superior court and supreme court records.

A few of the early court records have been published and are available at the Family History Library. For published court records and indexes look in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under DELAWARE, [COUNTY] - COURT RECORDS.

Two useful inventories including court records are:

Mattern and Hancock. *A Preliminary Inventory of the Older Records in the Delaware Archives.*

Historical Records Survey (Delaware). *Inventory of the County Archives of Delaware, no. 1, New Castle County.*

Both are described in the “Archives and Libraries” section of this outline.

Horle, Craig W. *Records of the Courts of Sussex County Delaware. 1677-1710.* 2 vols. Philadelphia,: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1991. (FHL book 975.17 P29r.) These are abstracts of the records of the principal courts of Sussex County, for example, the County Court Court of Common Pleas, and Court of Quarter Sessions. There is an every-name index in vol. 2.

Colonial Society of Pennsylvania. *Records of the Court of New Castle on Delaware, 1676-1681.* 2 vols. [Philadelphia:] Colonial Society of Pennsylvania, 1904, 1934. (FHL book 975.11 P2c; film 1,320,671 items 1-3.) These are abstracts of the records of the principal courts. Volumes one and two have every-name index.

## DIRECTORIES

The Family History Library has Wilmington city directories for:

- 1814, 1845,  
1853, 1857 . . . . . FHL fiche 6044647-50
- 1859/1860 . . . . . FHL fiche 6043859
  - 1862-1901 . . . . . FHL films 1,377,595-605
  - 1934 . . . . . FHL film 1,307,613

The most extensive collections of city and business directories are at the University of Delaware Library, Newark, DE 19717-5267. The Delaware Public Archives has directories from 1814 to the 1970s. The Historical Society of Delaware also has a major collection of directories for Wilmington, the state of Delaware, and the Delmarva Peninsula.

## EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

The “Emigration and Immigration” section of the *United States Research Outline* (30972) lists several important sources for finding information about immigrants. These nationwide sources include references to people who settled in Delaware. The *Tracing Immigrant Origins Research Outline* (34111) introduces the principles, search strategies, and additional record types you can use to identify an immigrant ancestor's hometown.

## People

Delaware was first settled by the Swedes in 1638. The area was conquered by the Dutch in 1655 and then by the English in 1664. From 1682 to 1776 the “three lower counties on the Delaware” River were part of the colony of Pennsylvania.

The Delaware River brought the original European settlers to Delaware. For more than three centuries it served as a waterway connecting many Delaware towns to each other and to Philadelphia.

A frequently used land migration route was from Philadelphia to Wilmington and then on to Baltimore. There was very little migration from New York and New Jersey to Delaware, but many people migrated back and forth among Virginia, Delaware, Pennsylvania, and Maryland.

## Records

The *United States Research Outline* (30972) “Emigration and Immigration” section lists several important sources for finding information about immigrants. These nationwide sources include many references to people who settled in Delaware. The *Tracing Immigrant Origins Research Outline* (34111) introduces the principles, search strategies, and additional record types you can use to identify an immigrant ancestor's original hometown.

In addition, you may find an early immigrant ancestor to Delaware in:

Johnson, Amandus. *The Swedish Settlements on the Delaware, 1638-1661*. 2 vols. 1911. Reprint. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 1969. (FHL book 974 H2j; film 1,364,768 items 8-9.) General history with index.

Few passenger arrival lists of Delaware ports exist. The Family History Library and the National Archives have passenger lists on microfilm for the port of Wilmington for the years 1820, 1830-31, 1833, and 1840-49.

The Wilmington passenger arrival lists are included in:

United States. Bureau of Customs. *Copies of Lists of Passengers Arriving at Miscellaneous Ports on the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts . . .* National Archives Microfilm Publication. (FHL films 830,234 and 830,246.) These are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under UNITED STATES - EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

For indexes to the Wilmington passenger arrival lists, see:

United States. Bureau of Customs. *Supplemental Index to Passenger Lists . . . Atlantic and Gulf Coast Ports . . .* National Archives Microfilm Publication. (FHL films 418,161-348.) These indexes are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under UNITED STATES - EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION - INDEXES.

You may also need to search the passenger lists of Philadelphia, New York, and Baltimore. About 8,000 early arrivals are listed in:

Boyer, Carl. *Ship Passenger Lists: Pennsylvania and Delaware, 1641-1825*. Newhall, Calif.: Carl Boyer, 1980. (FHL book 973 W3sb; fiche 6048670.) This contains reprints of passenger lists named in Harold Lancour's *Bibliography of Ship Passenger Lists*.

A comprehensive list of about 140,000 immigrants to America from Britain is:

Coldham, Peter Wilson. *The Complete Book of Emigrants, 1607-1776 and Emigrants in Bondage, 1614-1775*. [Novato, Calif.]: Brøderbund Software, 1996. (FHL compact disc no. 9 pt. 350. Not available at family history centers.) Includes Delaware immigrants. May show British hometown, emigration date, ship, destination, and text of the document abstract.

Records of major ethnic groups are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

DELAWARE - MINORITIES.

## GAZETTEERS

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Guides to historical place names in Delaware include:

Dunlap, A.R. *Dutch and Swedish Place-Names in Delaware*. Newark, Del.: University of Delaware Press, 1956. (FHL book 975.1 E2d.) This is a gazetteer of Delaware Place Names in the 1600s and early 1700s.

Heck, L. W. *Delaware Place Names*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1966. (FHL book 975.1 E2h) U.S. Geological Survey. *National Gazetteer of the United States: Delaware*

1983. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1984. (FHL book 975.1 E5n.) This book has names of places, a map of Delaware "hundreds" (these are county subdivisions similar to townships) and an alphabetical list of geographical sites, such as cemeteries and churches that are named on topographical survey maps.

## GENEALOGY

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Most archives, historical societies, and genealogical societies have special collections and indexes of genealogical value. Some of these must be searched in person. Further, Pennsylvania genealogies sometimes contain genealogies of people from Delaware. See also the "Genealogy" section of the *Pennsylvania Research Outline* (31075).

### Delaware Public Archives

The Delaware Public Archives has a number of useful databases on-line. These include their library catalog, an index of naturalizations, and a database of probate files (see Probate Records section below).

Their Internet is:

<http://archives.delaware.gov/>

Their e-mail is: [hjones@state.de.us](mailto:hjones@state.de.us)

Major collections of compiled genealogies in the Delaware Public Archives include:

Turner, Joseph Brown. *Genealogical Collection of Delaware Families*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1948. (FHL films 6,272-300.) This excellent collection has about 3,000 alphabetically arranged files with genealogies, pedigrees, correspondence, newspaper clippings, etc. The Delaware Public Archives sells the records on microfiche. They have microfiche which may be purchased for individual family names. The minimum order is \$5.00, which includes shipping and handling. Please write for a price quote. The archive microfilms can also be ordered on interlibrary loan.

*Genealogical Surname File*. This file indexes many of the surnames found in genealogies and local histories. The index does not include given names. The Delaware Public Archives will search it for you, if you include a large, self-addressed, stamped envelope with your request.

### Historical Society of Delaware Files

The following four sources are at the Historical Society of Delaware, but *not* at the Family History Library. These following sources cover the 1600s to the early 1900s:

*Family Surname File*. This is a surname with given name file of about 500,000 cards. It is the first source people go to at the Historical Society. It indexes church records, newspaper obituaries, the Catherine Harkness and Jeanette Eckmann research collection, and family history files which are kept in other collections at the historical society. Also included are cards submitted by genealogists researching Delaware families. The society will search it for you for a fee.

*Family History File*. This is a separate file, and it is indexed in the *Family Surname File*, above. The Family History File consists of alphabetical folders containing miscellaneous family material. Each folder contains information ranging from miscellaneous notes to complete genealogies.

*Book Card Catalog*. This catalog includes family histories in published books and pamphlets.

*Manuscript Card Catalog*. This catalog includes letters, diaries, business records, organizational records, unpublished genealogical information, and other manuscript material. It can be searched by surname.

### Published Collections

Viridin, Donald Odell. *Delaware Family Histories and Genealogies*. St. Michaels, Md.: Raymond B. Clark, 1984. (FHL book 975.1 A1 no. 11.) This lists 215 published family histories about persons who lived in Delaware between the 1630s-1980s.

Wright, F. Edward. *Colonial Families of Delaware*. 6 vols. Westminster, Md.: Willow Bend Books and Family Line Publications, 1998-. (FHL book 975.1 D2w.) There is an index to this series of books on the Internet site, <http://www.delmarvaroots.com/>

The Internet site [www.delmarvaroots.com/](http://www.delmarvaroots.com/) indexes many books concerning families of Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. The site is maintained by Colonial Roots (formerly Delmarva Roots), 217 Schley Ave., Lewes, DE. 19958, tel.: 1-800-576-8608.

The organization is publishing a number of books including the Colonial Families of Delaware series (see below).

Turner, Charles Henry Black. *Genealogical Notes, Sussex & Kent Counties, Delaware* . . . Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1965. (FHL films 441,425-31; index on FHL film 441,425.) This contains records of people who lived about 1600-1950s. This collection has family history pamphlets, articles, deeds, wills, and other original documents. It was microfilmed at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

Rider, Fremont, ed. *American Genealogical-Biographical Index*. Vols. 1-186+. Middletown, Conn.: Godfrey Memorial Library, 1952-. (FHL book 973 D22am ser. 2; on 31 FHL films.) This is a continuing series. An earlier version of 48 volumes was published as *The American Genealogical Index*, 1942-1951. Over 4 million brief citations (name, date, and source) to manuscripts, periodicals, and books. The earlier version indexed 350 sources. The second version includes the original 350 sources and an additional 800 sources.

To help interpret citations and locate the original sources, use the colored pages in some volumes of:

Clark, Patricia L., and Dorothy Huntsman, eds. *American Genealogical Biographical Key Title Index*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1990. (FHL book 973 D22am index; film 1,698,167 item 4; fiche 6088377.) Lists the sources that are at the Family History Library and their call numbers.

The Delaware Genealogical Society has the Delaware Families Projects, where researchers submit information on their families that lived in Delaware in the time period, 1787-1800. Many of those families have been researched. See their Internet site: [www.delgensoc.org](http://www.delgensoc.org)

## **GUARDIANSHIP RECORDS**

The Family History Library has microfilms of guardianship accounts of Kent and Sussex Counties, and an index for New Castle County. The Delaware Public Archives has records of guardianship accounts.

The Family History Library has Orphan Court minutes (or proceedings) which contain guardianship assignments and some probate records for estates where minors were heirs.

## **HISTORY**

The following important events in the history of Delaware affected political jurisdictions, family movements, and record keeping.

- 1638 Swedes began settling in the Delaware area.
- 1655 The area was conquered by the Dutch.
- 1664 Delaware became a British colony.
- 1682-1776 Pennsylvania's governor controlled much of Delaware, although Delaware had its own provincial assembly after 1703.
- 1684-1736 The colonial government of Maryland laid claim to southern and western Delaware.
- 1776 Delaware declared its independence from Britain and established a government separate from that of Pennsylvania.
- 1787 Delaware became the first state.
- 1861-1865 During the Civil War, Delaware was a Union state.

One of the best sources for studying Delaware history is:

Scharf, John Thomas. *History of Delaware, 1609-1888*. 2 vols. Tucson, Ariz.: W. C. Cox, 1974. (FHL film 1,000,154.) An excellent, detailed history with names, dates, and places.

Scharf's book is indexed in:

Coghlan, Gladys M. *Index to History of Delaware, 1609-1888*. Wilmington, Del.: Historical Society of Delaware, 1976. (FHL book 975.1 H2s index; fiche 6088424-26.)

Other important histories, many including biographical sketches and name indexes, can be found in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

DELAWARE - HISTORY  
DELAWARE, [COUNTY] - HISTORY



## LAND AND PROPERTY

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### Colonial and Early State Land Records

The earliest land grants were given by the Swedes and Dutch. When the English acquired the area in 1664, land grants were issued by the proprietary of James, Duke of York, in New York. When jurisdiction fell to William Penn in 1682, land was granted by this proprietary until the Revolutionary War. Records of the Penn proprietary have been microfilmed:

Pennsylvania. Surveyor General's Office. *Proprietary Papers, 1682-1850*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1976. (FHL film 1,006,521 has table of contents; on 25 films.) Microfilm copies of many of the Penn proprietary documents are also at the Delaware Public Archives.

The following publications may be helpful in studying the early records:

Brewer, Mary Marshall, Irma Sweitzer Harper. *Kent County Delaware Land Records*. 10 vols. Westminster, Md.: Family Line Publications, 1996-1998, Willow Bend Books and Family Line Publications, 1999. (FHL book 975.14 R29b.) This series contains abstracts of Kent County land records, from 1680-1775. Each volume has an every-name index.

Bryant, Carol and Carol J. Garrett. *New Castle County Delaware Land Records*. Westminster, Md.: Willow Bend Books, ----. (FHL book 975.11 R29n.) This series contains abstracts of New Castle County land records, 1673-1710, 1715-1728 (1719-1722 gap), 1728 - Dec.1731, May 1734-1738, 1738-1743, 1749-1752, 1755-1762, 1762-1765, and 1764-1769. Each volume has an every-name index.

Brewer, Mary Marshall, Johnita P. Malone, F. Edward Wright, Elaine Hastings Mason, and Judith K. Ardine. *Land Records of Sussex County, Delaware*. Westminster, Md.: Family Line Publications 1990, 1994, 1997-1999, 2000; Bowie, Md. Heritage Books, 1997; Westminster, Md.: Willow Ben Books and Family Line Publications, 1999; Lewes Del.,: Delmarva Roots, 2002. (FHL book 975.17 R29L.) This series has abstracts of Sussex County land records, 1681-1792. Each volume has an every-name index.

Myers, Albert Cook, ed. *Walter Wharton's Land Survey Register, 1675-1679*. Wilmington, Del.: The Historical Society of Delaware, 1955. (FHL book 973 R2wa; film 1,000,156 item 3.) This is a transcript of the original register with an index.

*Original Land Titles in Delaware, Commonly Known as the Duke of York Records . . . 1646 to 1679*. 1899. Reprint, Westminster, Md.: Family Line Publications, 1988. (FHL book 975.1 R2o.) Transcript with index. The 1903 edition is on FHL film 6,616 item 2.

Gehring, Charles T. *Delaware Papers*, 2 vols. Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing, 1977-1981. (FHL book 974.7 N2d.) Volume one has transcriptions of records concerning the English period, 1664-1682. Volume two contains records relating to the Dutch period, 1648-1664. Transcript with index.

Pennsylvania. Land Office. *Applications for Warrants, 1734-1865*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1975. (On 173 FHL films starting with 984,123.) Filed by the first letter of the applicant's surname within each year. These applications for warrants are for Pennsylvania but include some for what is now Delaware. The applications were usually filed one or two weeks before the land warrants were issued.

Pennsylvania. Surveyor General's Office. *Applications for Warrants, 1755-1886*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1976. (FHL films 988,263-66.)

Weinberg, Allen, and Thomas E. Slattery. *Warrants and Surveys of the Province of Pennsylvania Including the Three Lower Counties, 1759*. 1965. Reprint. Knightstown, Ind.: Bookmark, 1975. (FHL book 974.8 A1 no. 130; film 1,036,747 item 2.) This includes records for 1682-1759 of Pennsylvania and the three lower counties, which are now Delaware.

### Inventories

These following publications include land record inventories:

Delaware Public Archives. *Delaware Public Archives*. Dover, Del.: DPA, 1994. (Not at FHL.) This is a helpful sixteen-page pamphlet which you can request from the Archives, and lists many of the records at the Archives.



*Delaware's Fugitive Records: An Inventory of the Official Land Grant Records Relating to the Present State of Delaware.* Dover, Del.: Department of State, Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, 1980. (FHL book 975.1 A1, no. 7; film 1,033,995 item 4.) This guide refers to Delaware land records found in New York and Pennsylvania, and mentions microfilm copies of the records at the Delaware Public Archives.

## County Records

County land records were filed in the county courts. The county recorders have deeds, mortgages, and leases from the late 1600s to the present. The Family History Library has microfilms of deeds and deed indexes, warrants, surveys, patents, and bonds for all three counties. These deeds are available on microfilm at the Family History Library:

|                   |                                                       |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Kent County       | deeds 1680-1887,<br>and 1950-1963;<br>index 1680-1962 |
| New Castle County | deeds 1673-1886,<br>and 1952-1953<br>index 1640-1920  |
| Sussex County     | deeds 1693-1886;<br>index 1682-ca.<br>1949            |

You will find these listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under DELAWARE, [COUNTY] - LAND AND PROPERTY.

The Delaware Public Archives has microfilms of road records for the three counties. These may mention persons who resided by the roads, and may list the names of persons helping to maintain the roads.

## MAPS

The most extensive collections of Delaware maps are at the University of Delaware Library, the Historical Society of Delaware, and at the Wilmington Institute Free Library.

A valuable atlas that shows names of landowners is:

Beers, Daniel G. *Atlas of the State of Delaware*. . . Philadelphia: Pomeroy and Beers, 1868. (FHL fiche 6332689.)

There are United States atlases for the following years with excellent Delaware maps: 1790, 1810, 1823, 1838, 1862, 1878, 1884, and 1917 (FHL film 2,083; various computer numbers.)

The best atlas for showing changes in county formation and boundary disputes is by the:

Newberry Library. *Historical Atlas and Chronology of County Boundaries, 1788-1980.* Vol. 1. John H. Long, ed. Boston: G.K. Hall & Co., 1984. (FHL Ref book 973 E7h1 v. 1; fiche 6051426; 3 fiche.)

## MILITARY RECORDS

Many military records are at the Family History Library, the National Archives, and other federal and state archives. The *U.S. Military Records Research Outline* (34118) provides more information on federal military records and search strategies.

The Historical Society of Delaware has military manuscripts listed in their manuscript catalog. These include records of the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Civil War, and World War I. Some militia units and veterans organizations are also included.

The Delaware Public Archives has original military records of the colonial wars, Revolutionary War, War of 1812, militia records for 1765 to 1841, Mexican Border dispute, some Adjutant General Civil War files, Spanish-American War, National Guard Card File, World War I, and World War II records. They have indexes to many of these records. Records to 1827 are described in:

Public Archives Commission of Delaware. *Delaware Archives.* 5 vols. Wilmington, Del.: [N.p.], 1911-16. (FHL book 975.1 M2d; vol. 1 is on FHL film 928,150 item 1; vol. 2 is on FHL film 1,033,612 item 4; vol. 5 is on FHL film 599,318 item 2; vols. 3-5 are on FHL fiche 6051215.) This set contains colonial, revolutionary, and some post-revolutionary military records. The contents of the volumes are:

Vol. 1 King George's War and Revolutionary War, 1746-1783  
Vol. 2 Revolutionary War militia and pensioners, 1780-1850s; index to vols. 1-2  
Vol. 3 Revolutionary War militia and pensioners, 1776-1780s; index to vols. 1-3  
Vol. 4 Militia; 1795-1813  
Vol. 5 Militia; 1813-1827, index to vols. 4-5

### Colonial Wars (1638-1776)

A useful publication is:

Peden, Henry C. *Colonial Delaware Soldiers and Sailors 1638-1776*. Westminster, Md.: Family Line Publications, 1995. (FHL book 975.1 M2p.) This has an alphabetical list of names of soldiers who served between 29 March 1638 and 4 July 1776.

### Revolutionary War (1775-1783)

A man born between 1730 and 1765 who lived in Delaware is probably listed in some form of military record. If he supported the Revolution, he may be mentioned in records as a rebel, patriot, or Whig. Those who opposed the Revolution were Loyalists or Tories. For patriot records of the Revolutionary War see:

Peden, Henry J. *Revolutionary Patriots of Delaware: Genealogical and Historical Information on Men and Women of Delaware who Served the American Cause during the War against Great Britain, 1775-1783*. Westminster, Md.: Family Line Publications, 1996. (FHL 975.1 M2ph.) This has family history information drawn from many helpful sources. The arrangement is alphabetical.

White, Virgil D. *Genealogical Abstracts of the Revolutionary War Pension Files*. 4 vols. Waynesboro, Tenn.: National Historical Publishing, 1990. (FHL book 973 M28g.) May include name, unit, service and application dates and places, age, birth date, marriage date, residences, and names of relatives. These abstracts are mainly from:

United States. Veterans Administration. *Selected Records from Revolutionary War Pension & Bounty-Land-Warrant Application Files*. Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1969. (FHL film 840,256-406.)

United States. Veterans Administration. *Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land-Warrant Application Files*. Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1969. (FHL films 970,001-2670.) 80,000 complete pension files alphabetical by surname.

White, Virgil D. *Index to Revolutionary War Service Records*. 4 vols. Waynesboro, Tenn.: National Historical Publishing, 1995. (FHL book 973 M22wv.) Shows the name, rank, and unit of over 390,000 patriots. Transcripts of:

United States. Adjutant General's Office. *General Index to Compiled Military Service Records of Revolutionary War Soldiers*. Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1942. (FHL film 882,841-98.)

The service records and pension files for Revolutionary War patriots are available at the Family History Library. For more information, see

*U.S. Military Records Research Outline* (34118). You can also use NATF Form 80 to obtain copies of some records from the National Archives for a fee.

### War of 1812 (1812-1815)

The Delaware Public Archives and the Delaware Historical Society have records of soldiers who served in this war.

A new book listing the militia members of Delaware is now available:

Peden, Henry C., Jr. *The Delaware Militia in the War of 1812*. This book lists soldiers from the State of Delaware who served in the militia during the War of 1812 between June 19, 1812 and February 18, 1815. The book provides the soldier's name, rank, company, regiment, dates and places of service, county of residence, and notes. Information is included on soldiers' widows who applied for pensions.

### War with Mexico (1845-1848)

The Delaware Public Archives and the Delaware Historical Society have records of soldiers who served in this war.

### Civil War (1861-1865)

A roster of Delaware volunteers is given at the end of the following work:

Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Delaware, 1609-1888*. 2 vols. Philadelphia: L.J. Richards, 1888. (FHL film 1,000,154 items 1-2.) Lists place mustered, officers, and casualties.

An index to compiled Delaware military service records is available at the Family History Library (FHL film 881,617-20.) The service records have not been microfilmed yet and are available only at the National Archives. Service records may provide rank, unit, date of enlistment, length of service, age, residence, and death date.

### World War I (1917-1918)

The Delaware Public Archives has a National Guard Card File and records concerning World War I soldiers. The Historical Society of Delaware has individual questionnaires filled out by or for returning veterans of World War I.

World War I draft registration cards for men age 18 to 45 may list address, birth date, birthplace, race, nationality, citizenship, and next of kin. Not all registrants served in the war. For registration cards for Delaware, see:

United States. Selective Service System. *Delaware World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918*. National Archives Microfilm Publications. Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1987-1988. (On FHL films beginning with 1,570,621.)

To find an individual's draft card, it helps to know his name and residence at the time of registration. The cards are arranged alphabetically by county, within the county by draft board, and then alphabetically by surname within each draft board. Most counties had only one board; large cities had several.

Banks, Raymond H. *The Banks Compilation of Birth Data of Men with Links to New Castle County, Delaware [Including the City of Wilmington] who were born 1873-1900.: as found in the [World War I] Civilian Registration Cards*. Salt Lake City: R. H. Banks, 1996. (FHL book 975.11M2b.) This has the information from the World War I draft registration microfilms which are at the Family History Library (see above). This book gives the man's name, date of birth, ethnic group, birth location or other information, county or city draft board, state, and district.

### World War II (1941-1944)

The Delaware Public Archives has a National Guard Card File, and records concerning World War II soldiers. A helpful source is:

Conner, William H., and Leon DeValinger, Jr. *Delaware's Role in World War II*. 2 vols. Dover, Del.: Public Archives Commission, 1955. (FHL book 975.1 M2c.) This book has brief biographical sketches about persons who died in World War II.

## NATURALIZATION AND CITIZENSHIP

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The Delaware Public Archives is indexing many of the naturalization records, from the late 1700s to about 1930, for the three Delaware counties. The index is on their Internet site (see Archives and Library section above.) The index gives the source reference at the Delaware Public Archives.

Naturalization papers in Delaware were generally filed in the superior courts. The Delaware Public Archives has naturalization records for:

|                             |           |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Kent County . . . . .       | 1798-1929 |
| New Castle County . . . . . | 1811-1906 |
| Sussex County . . . . .     | 1795-1852 |

The Historical Society of Delaware has five volumes of New Castle County naturalization records for the years 1829 to 1856.

The Family History Library has these sources:

Delaware. Superior Court. *Naturalization Papers, Transcripts and Originals, A-Z*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1949. (FHL film 6,529.) These are naturalization records from the three counties, 1834 to 1870. New Castle County naturalizations before 1811 were recorded in the deed books. New Castle declarations from 1826 to 1850 are at the Delaware Public Archives and the Historical Society of Delaware.

United States. District Court (Delaware). *Naturalization Records, 1795-1932*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1990. (On 27 FHL films beginning with 1,704,294.) These District and Circuit Court records include declarations 1842-1936, petition indexes 1795-1927, and petitions 1817-1929.

Filby, P. William. *Philadelphia Naturalization Records*. Detroit: Gale Research, 1982. (FHL book 974.811 P4p; fiche 6100592.) This indexes Philadelphia naturalizations for 1789-1880. Many Delaware residents filed naturalization applications in the local courts in Philadelphia.

For additional naturalization records, especially after 1906, contact the National Archives—Mid-Atlantic Region. They have Delaware District Court naturalizations for 1843 to 1959.

## NEWSPAPERS

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A helpful publication that includes early Delaware information is:

Scott, Kenneth, and Janet Clarke. *Abstracts from the Pennsylvania Gazette, 1748-1755*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 1977. (FHL book 974.811 B38sa.) During this period, Delaware had no newspaper, so the Pennsylvania Gazette gave extensive coverage to what is now Delaware. The volumes contain one- to two-line news items with names and dates and include an index.

Delaware's first regular newspaper, the *Delaware Gazette*, began publication in 1785 at Wilmington. Major collections of Delaware newspapers are found at the Historical Society of Delaware, American Antiquarian Society, Library of Congress, and Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

### Indexes

The "Delaware Index," an index to the Wilmington, Delaware *News Journal* and other

Wilmington newspapers, books and pamphlets from the 1860s to the present, is available at The Wilmington Institute Library, Tenth and Market St., Dover, DE 19801; telephone: 302-571-7400; fax: 302-654-9132.

The *Family Surname File* of the Historical Society of Delaware includes an index to newspaper obituaries from about 1850-1960. For more details see the "Genealogy" section of this outline.

## Abstracts

Some helpful abstracts are:

Richard, Mary Fallon and John C. Richards. *Delaware Marriages and Deaths from Newspapers, 1729-1853*. Westminster, Md.: Family Line Publications, 1997. (FHL book 975.1 V28d. Vol. 3.) These notices were taken from eighteen different newspapers, primarily from Delaware. In many cases the notices mention the name of the father of the person who was married or died. The death date, and age are generally given. The place of marriage, or, death are usually given.

Richards, Mary Fallon. *Deaths From the Delaware Gazette, 1854-59, 61-64*. Wilmington, Del.: Delaware Genealogical Society, 1995. (FHL book 975.1 V28d.) You can use this work to supplement and authenticate death information you find in census records and Delaware vital records sources created before 1913. The information has been abstracted from death and marriage notices, local news columns, estate references by the Registrar's office, and executor/trustee sales.

Richards, Mary Fallon. *Marriages From the Delaware Gazette, 1854-59, 61-64*. Wilmington, Del.: Delaware Genealogical Society, 1996. (FHL book 975.1 V28d v.2.) You can use this work to supplement and authenticate marriage information taken from census records and Delaware vital records sources created before 1913. The information has been abstracted from death and marriage notices, local news columns, estate references by the Registrar's office, and executor/trustee sales. It also includes a list of ministers (with church locations) whose names appear in *Delaware Gazette* marriage notices, 1854-64.

Wright, Edward F. *Delaware Newspaper Abstracts, 1786-1795*. Silver Springs, Md.: Family Line Publications, 1984. (FHL book 975.1 B3w; computer number 352879.) This publication abstracts major Delaware newspapers except for the American Antiquarian Society collection. Indexed.

Frazier, Margaret Mendenhall. *Delaware Advertiser, 1827-1831, Genealogical Extracts*. Newhall, Calif.: Carl Boyer, 3rd, 1987. (FHL book 975.1 B3f.) This newspaper was a four-page weekly published every Thursday. Information extracted includes deaths, marriages, legal notices, and taxpayers. Indexed.

## PERIODICALS

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Many family history periodicals publish local records of genealogical value. These may include genealogies; information about local records and archives; queries; census indexes; and transcripts of family Bibles, church records, court records, cemetery records, land records, obituaries, and wills.

The major genealogical periodicals helpful for research in Delaware are:

*Delaware Genealogical Society Journal*. 1980-. Published by the Delaware Genealogical Society, 505 Market Street Mall, Wilmington, DE 19801-3091, Telephone: 302-655-7161, Fax: 302-655-7844. (FHL book 975.1 D25d.)

Clark, Raymond B. Jr. *Maryland and Delaware Genealogist*. Washington, D.C.: Clark, 1959-1990. (FHL book 975 B2m.)

Most family history periodicals reprint copies of local sources of genealogical value. These may include copies of every kind of record in this outline. For example, researchers often find census indexes, church record, and vital record transcripts in genealogical periodicals.

**Indexes.** The periodicals listed above have annual indexes in the final issue for the year, or indexes in each issue. For nationwide indexes to these and other family history periodicals see:

*Periodical Source Index (PERSI)*. Ft. Wayne, Ind.: Allen County Public Library Foundation, 1987-. (FHL book 973 D25per; fiche 6016863 [set of 40](1847-1985); fiche 6016864 [set of 15](1986-1990).) Indexes thousands of family history periodicals. Annual indexes have been published yearly since 1986. For further details see the *PERiodical Source Index Resource Guide* (34119).

For more family history periodicals, study the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

DELAWARE - PERIODICALS  
DELAWARE - GENEALOGY -  
PERIODICALS  
DELAWARE - SOCIETIES -  
PERIODICALS



DELAWARE - [COUNTY] - PERIODICALS  
DELAWARE - [COUNTY] - GENEALOGY-  
PERIODICALS  
DELAWARE - [COUNTY] - SOCIETIES -  
PERIODICALS

## **PROBATE RECORDS**

Probate records have been kept by the register of wills in each county from 1682 to the present. The Family History Library has probate indexes and records for all three counties, including wills, administrations, and guardian accounts to about 1850. Most of the original records are at the Delaware Public Archives.

The Delaware Public Archives has original probate files, and they have an index for ca. 1680-1925 on their Internet site, [archives.delaware.gov/](http://archives.delaware.gov/). The index is to the deceased persons for whom a probate file was created. The records consist of probate files, "loose papers," including original wills, accounts, inventories, sales, etc. Copies of the records in the files can be ordered from the Delaware Public Archives. Copies of microfilms can be purchased.

Published county court records for the 1600s refer to many probate matters. These can be found in the Library Catalog Locality Search under DELAWARE, [COUNTY] - COURT RECORDS

The Register of Wills has jurisdiction over wills and administrations. The Orphans Court has jurisdiction over appointing guardians for minors (generally until they are twenty-one, or if they were a female, until they were married), and over the estates of minors.

Viridin, Donald O. *Colonial Delaware Wills and Estates to 1800: An Index*. Bowie, Md., Heritage Books, 1994. (FHL book 975.1 P22v.) This contains an alphabetical index of recorded wills of the entire state, listing name, date, county, book and page.

Abstracts of wills up to 1800 have been published in the following volumes. Each volume includes an index that contains every name mentioned in the wills.

*A Calendar of Delaware Wills, New Castle County, 1682-1800*. New York: National Society of the Colonial Dames of America, 1911; Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1969. (FHL book 975.11 S2n; FHL film 415,069; fiche 6051273.)

DeValinger, Leon. *A Calendar of Kent County, Delaware Probate Records, 1680-1800*. Dover, Delaware: Public Archives Commission, 1944. (FHL film 1,035,860 item 4; fiche 6051248.) Facsimile reproduction of the original (FHL book 975.14 P28d).

DeValinger, Leon. *A Calendar of Sussex County, Delaware Probate Records, 1680-1800*. Dover, Delaware: Public Archives Commission, 1964. (FHL film 1,035,860; fiche 6051513).

Additional important probate records and indexes can be found in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

DELAWARE - PROBATE RECORDS  
DELAWARE, [COUNTY] - PROBATE  
RECORDS

## **SLAVERY AND BONDAGE**

Slaves are sometimes mentioned in deeds (see "Land and Property"), in wills (see "Probate Records"), in tax records (see "Taxation"), and in court order books (see the "Court Records" section of this outline). A few parish registers ("Church Records") list slaves who attended church with their masters.

For lists of licenses to import and export slaves see Mary Fallon Richards "New Castle County Licenses to Import and Export Slaves, Issued by Superior Court," *Delaware Genealogical Society Journal* 1, no. 1 (October 1980): 8-12. (FHL book 975.1 D25d vol. 1; computer number 93243). The master is listed, with the names of the slaves, their ages, transported from where to where, dates, and other information.

For more information about slaves see the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

DELAWARE - MINORITIES  
DELAWARE - COLONIZATION  
DELAWARE - EMIGRATION AND  
IMMIGRATION

## **SOCIETIES**

For genealogical and historical societies which have records and services to help you with your research, see the "Archives and Libraries" section of this outline.

Many Delaware towns and counties have historical societies or genealogical societies which offer services and collect records to help genealogists. You can find their addresses by using directories cited in the "Societies" section of the *United States Research Outline* (30972).

## **TAXATION**

### **State and County Records**

Tax assessments in what is now Delaware were first taken in 1693. FHL film 441,413 has the lists for that year for Kent, New Castle, and



Sussex Counties; also a list for 1696 for New Castle County. Tax lists were taken sporadically until 1726, then annually thereafter. Lists for the following years are on microfilm at the Family History Library:

Kent County: 1726-1850 (FHL films 6,494-510.)

New Castle County: 1738-1852 (FHL films 6,531-36.)

Sussex County: 1767-1850 (FHL films 6,674-78.)

The original lists from the 1700s to about 1915 are preserved at the Delaware Public Archives.

### Published Lists and Indexes

The following published lists and indexes may be helpful in locating early residents of Delaware:

Bendler, Bruce A. *Colonial Delaware Records, 1681-1713*. Westminster, Md.: Family Line Publications, 1990. (FHL book 975.1 R2b.) This includes lists for: Kent County, rent rolls 1681-1688, tax lists 1693, quit rents 1701-1713; New Castle County, tax lists 1693; Sussex County, rent rolls 1681-1688, tax lists 1693, quit rents 1702-1713. The quit rent records often contain valuable genealogical information.

DeValinger, Leon Jr. *Reconstructed 1790 Census of Delaware*. Washington, D.C.: National Genealogical Society, 1962. (FHL 975.1 X2d 1790; film 1,000,156; fiche 6019928.) This list was prepared from tax lists and is a useful census substitute.

*The First Tax List for the Province of Pennsylvania and the Three Lower Counties, 1693*. Bedminster, Pa.: The Press, 1994. (FHL 974.8 A1 no. 643.) This book contains information for 1693 on the three Delaware counties as well as Philadelphia, Bucks, and Chester Counties in Pennsylvania.

Hancock, Harold B. *The Reconstructed Delaware Census of 1782*. Wilmington, Del.: Delaware Genealogical Society, 1973. (FHL book 975.1 X2r.) The publication below by Ralph Nelson is more complete and more fully indexed.

Jackson, Ronald Vern, and Gary Ronald Teeple. *Early Delaware Census Records, 1665-1697*. Bountiful, Utah: Accelerated Indexing Systems, 1977. (FHL book 975.1 X2p.) This early tax record index is also included in the Accelerated Indexing Systems (AIS) microfiche search 1, available at many family history centers in the United States and in the *FamilyFinder Index and Viewer*.

Nelson, Ralph D. *Delaware 1782 Tax Assessment and Census*. Wilmington, Del.: Delaware Genealogical Society, 1994. (FHL 975.1 X2n 1782.) Contains tax lists for 1782 for all the "hundreds" of Delaware and 1782 census for seven of the "hundreds." This has maps on pages 5-6 and a list of the "hundreds" on p. 4. There is a Soundex cross reference list (to surnames) at the end of the book.

### Federal Internal Revenue Records

The following Internal Revenue records are available:

United States. Bureau of Internal Revenue. *Internal Revenue Assessment Lists for Delaware, 1862-1866*. Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1988. (FHL films 1,578,436-43.) These records are not well organized and it is difficult to find out where the records of a particular town are located. There is a note at the beginning of the first film about the history of this type of record; however, it does not show any organization for the towns and counties.

## VITAL RECORDS

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### Birth Records

Statewide registration of births began in 1861 but was discontinued in 1863. Registration was resumed in 1881 and was generally complied with by 1921. The following indexes may be helpful:

Delaware. Bureau of Vital Statistics. *Index Cards of Delaware . . . Births . . .* Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1949. (FHL films 6,424-30.) From 1684 to 1920.

Delaware. Bureau of Vital Statistics. *Vital Records, Births, 1861-1913*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1949. (FHL films 6,323-59.)

Delaware. Bureau of Vital Statistics. *Birth Records, Prior to 1913 (1861-1912) - 1923*. S.L.: International Microfilmmers, 1972. (FHL films 1,944,105-143.)

Delaware. Bureau of Vital Statistics. *Index Cards of Delaware . . . Baptisms . . .* Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1949. (FHL film 6,423.) From 1714 to 1890.

The Delaware Office of Vital Statistics has birth records from the past 72 years. You can obtain copies by writing:

Office of Vital Statistics  
Jesse S. Cooper Memorial Building  
William Penn Street  
Dover, DE 19901  
Internet: <http://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/>

Mailing address:  
Office of Vital Statistics  
P.O. Box 637  
Dover, DE 19903  
Tel: 302-744-4549

For records of births that occurred more than 72 years ago, contact the Delaware Public Archives (see the "Archives and Libraries" section of this outline).

### Death Records

Although some deaths were recorded as early as 1855, state registration of deaths officially began in 1881 and was generally complied with by 1890. For indexes see:

Delaware. Bureau of Vital Statistics. *Index Cards of Delaware . . . Deaths . . .* Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1949. (FHL film 6,431-33.) Indexes from 1697 to 1926.

Delaware. Bureau of Vital Statistics. *Vital Records, . . . Deaths, 1855-1910.* Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1949. (FHL films 6,360-409.) There is one entry for 1855, and one for 1860. The general set begins with 1861.

Delaware. Bureau of Vital Statistics. *Death Records, 1910-1955.* S.L.: International Microfilmmers, 1973. (FHL films 1,944,030-104.) The Delaware Public Archives has indexes to the death records, on microfilm for the time period 1910-1955. These are arranged by the year and the person's surname.

The Delaware Bureau of Vital Statistics has death records for the most recent 40 years. For deaths recorded over forty years ago, contact the Delaware Public Archives.

### Marriage Records

State registration of marriages began in 1847 and was generally complied with by 1913. The Family History Library has microfilm copies of the marriage bonds for 1744-1836 and 1855-1861, and licenses for 1889-1894. You can obtain marriage records for the most recent 40 years by writing to the Bureau of Vital Statistics. For marriages recorded more than 40 years ago, contact the Delaware Public Archives.

Delaware counties began keeping marriage records as early as 1832. These records have been transferred from the counties to the Delaware Public Archives. These early county marriage

records are not available at the Family History Library; however, the library has records of some pre-1847 marriage bonds.

For a helpful index see:

Delaware. Bureau of Vital Statistics. *Index Cards of Delaware . . . Marriages . . .* Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1949. (FHL film 6,416-22.) This is an index of marriages for the years 1680-1850 from information in bonds, licenses, probate records, and church records at the Delaware Public Archives.

Delaware. Bureau of Vital Statistics. *Marriage Records, Pre-1913 (1865- Jan. 1913) - 1954.* Dover, Del.: Filmed by the Bureau of Archives and Records Microfilm Service, 1993-1994. (FHL films 2,025,062-194.) This set includes Delayed Marriage Pre-1913, no. 1a-101a (missing doc. 14a). The Delaware Public Archives has indexes to these marriage records for grooms and brides.

Many early marriage license bonds are in the following collection:

Gilbert Cope, *A List of Marriage License Bonds . . . in New Castle County, Delaware, 1744-1836* (Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1965; FHL film 441,415.) It also includes a few marriages from other counties in Delaware.

Marriages of Delaware residents may also be recorded in adjoining states, such as Pennsylvania and Maryland.

### Divorce Records

The Delaware Public Archives has a card catalog with names and dates with reference to divorces granted up to about 1890 by Acts of the State Legislature.

Divorce proceedings from 1975 to the present are kept by the family court office in the county where the divorce was recorded. For records before 1975 and dating back to the early 1900s, contact the county prothonotary's office (clerk of the court of common pleas). For pre-1900 records write to the Delaware Public Archives or the:

Delaware Legislative Council  
Legislative Hall  
P.O. Box 1401  
Dover, DE 19901

## VOTING REGISTERS

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Voting election returns have been preserved for some time periods. Some are at the Delaware Public Archives, for example, election records for 1812-1864 for New Castle County.

## FOR FURTHER READING

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These books will give you further information about the records of Delaware:

*Bibliography of Delaware, 1960-1974.*  
Newart, Del.: University of Delaware, 1976.  
(Not at FHL.)

Doherty, Thomas P., ed. *Delaware Genealogical Research Guide*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed.  
Wilmington, Del.: Delaware Genealogical Society, 2002. (FHL book 975.1 D27d 2002.) This book explains geography, record types, and repositories.

Eichholz, Alice, ed. *Ancestry's Red Book: American State, County, and Town Sources*.  
Rev. ed. Salt Lake City: Ancestry, 1992. (FHL book 973 D27rb 1992.) Contains bibliographies and background information on history and ethnic groups. Also contains maps and tables showing when each county was created.

Giles, Barbara S. *Selected Delaware Bibliography and Resources*. Seattle: B. S. Giles, 1990. (FHL book 975.1 D27s.)

Mattsson, Algot. *New Sweden the Dream of an Empire*. Goteborg: Tre Bocker, 1987.  
Vanersborg: Vanersborgs Offset. (FHL book 975.1 H2m.) This is a brief historical overview of New Sweden and Swedes in America.

Reed, Henry Clay, and Marion B. Reed. *A Bibliography of Delaware through 1960*.  
Newark, Del.: University of Delaware Press, 1966. (FHL book 975.1 A3r.) Lists articles and books about specific families who lived about 1600-1960. This guide lists books, pamphlets, and manuscripts about Delaware towns, cities, counties, families, biographies, geography, history, courts, and other subjects.

Rising, Johan Claesson. *The Rise and Fall of New Sweden: Governor Johan Rising's Journal 1654-1655*. Stockholm: Almqvist & Wiksell International, 1988. Uddevalla: Bohus Laningens boktr. (FHL book 975.1 H2dn.) Includes translation and index.

## COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

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The Family History Library welcomes additions and corrections that will improve future editions of this outline. Please send your suggestions to:

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USA

We appreciate the archivists, librarians, and others who have reviewed this outline and shared helpful information.

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## Delaware Historical Background

### History

Effective family research requires some understanding of the historical events that may have affected your family and the records about them. Learning about wars, governments, laws, migrations, and religious trends may help you understand political boundaries, family movements, and settlement patterns. These events may have led to the creation of records that your family was listed in, such as land and military documents.

The following important events in the history of Delaware affected political boundaries, family movements, and record keeping.

|             |                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1638        | Swedes began settling in the Delaware area.                                                                                                                                                  |
| 1655        | The area was conquered by the Dutch.                                                                                                                                                         |
| 1664        | Delaware became a British colony.                                                                                                                                                            |
| 1682-1776   | Pennsylvania's governor controlled much of Delaware, although Delaware had its own provincial assembly after 1703.                                                                           |
| 1684-1736   | The colonial government of Maryland laid claim to southern and western Delaware.                                                                                                             |
| 1776        | Delaware declared its independence from Britain and established a government separate from that of Pennsylvania.                                                                             |
| 1787        | Delaware became the first state.                                                                                                                                                             |
| 1861-1865   | During the Civil War, Delaware was a Union state.                                                                                                                                            |
| 1898        | Over 300,000 men were involved in the Spanish-American War, which was fought mainly in Cuba and the Philippines.                                                                             |
| 1917-1918   | More than 26 million men from the United States ages 18 through 45 registered with the Selective Service for World War I, and over 4.7 million American men and women served during the war. |
| 1930s       | The Great Depression closed many factories and mills. Many small farms were abandoned, and many families moved to cities.                                                                    |
| 1940-1945   | Over 50.6 million men ages 18 to 65 registered with the Selective Service. Over 16.3 million American men and women served in the armed forces during World War II.                          |
| 1950-1953   | Over 5.7 million American men and women served in the Korean War.                                                                                                                            |
| 1950s-1960s | The building of interstate highways made it easier for people to move long distances.                                                                                                        |
| 1964-1972   | Over 8.7 million American men and women served in the Vietnam War.                                                                                                                           |

Your ancestors will become more interesting to you if you also use histories to learn about the events that were of interest to them or that they may have been involved in. For example, by using a history you might learn about the events that occurred in the year your great-grandparents were married.

## Historical Sources

You may find state or local histories in the Family History Library Catalog under Delaware or the county or the town. For descriptions of records available through Family History Centers or the Family History Library, click on **Family History Library Catalog**.

The descriptions give book or film numbers, which you need to find or to order the records.

## Local Histories

Some of the most valuable sources for family history research are local histories. Published histories of towns, counties, and states usually contain accounts of families. They describe the settlement of the area and the founding of churches, schools, and businesses. You can also find lists of pioneers, soldiers, and civil officials. Even if your ancestor is not listed, information on other relatives may be included that will provide important clues for locating your ancestor. A local history may also suggest other records to search.

Most county and town histories include separate sections or volumes containing biographical information. These may include information on 50 percent or more of the families in the locality.

In addition, local histories should be studied and enjoyed for the background information they can provide about your family's lifestyle and the community and environment in which your family lived.

About 5,000 county histories have been published for over 80 percent of the counties in the United States. For many counties there is more than one history. In addition, tens of thousands of histories have been written about local towns and communities. Bibliographies that list these histories are available for nearly every state.

For descriptions of bibliographies for Delaware available through Family History Centers or the Family History Library, click on **Family History Library Catalog**. Look under BIBLIOGRAPHY or HISTORY - BIBLIOGRAPHY.

Local histories are extensively collected by the Family History Library, public and university libraries, and state and local historical societies. Two useful guides are:

Filby, P. William. *A Bibliography of American County Histories*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 1985. (FHL book 973 H23bi.)

Kaminkow, Marion J. *United States Local Histories in the Library of Congress*. 5 vols. Baltimore: Magna Charta Book, 1975-76. (FHL book 973 A3ka.)

## State History

One of the best sources for studying Delaware history is:

Scharf, John Thomas. *History of Delaware, 1609-1888*. 2 vols. Tucson, Ariz.: W. C. Cox, 1974.

(FHL film 1000154.) An excellent, detailed history with names, dates, and places.

Scharf's book is indexed in:

Coghlan, Gladys M. *Index to History of Delaware, 1609-1888*. Wilmington, Del.: Historical Society of Delaware, 1976. (FHL book 975.1 H2s index; fiche 6088424-26.)

For other important histories, many including biographical sketches and name indexes, see What to Do Next, and click on **Family History Library Catalog**.



## United States History

The following are only a few of the many sources that are available at most large libraries:

Schlesinger, Jr., Arthur M. *The Almanac of American History*. Greenwich, Conn.: Bison Books, 1983. (FHL book 973 H2alm.) This provides brief historical essays and chronological descriptions of thousands of key events in United States history.

*Webster's Guide to American History: A Chronological, Geographical, and Biographical Survey and Compendium*. Springfield, Mass.: G&C Merriam, 1971. (FHL book 973 H2v.) This includes a history, some maps, tables, and other historical information.

*Dictionary of American History*, Revised ed., 8 vols. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1976. (FHL book 973 H2ad.) This includes historical sketches on various topics in U.S. history, such as wars, people, laws, and organizations.

## Delaware Statewide Indexes and Collections

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### Guide

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#### Introduction

In the United States, information about your ancestors is often found in town and county records. If you know which state but not the town or county your ancestor lived in, check the following statewide indexes to find the town or county. Then search records for that town or county.

The indexes and collections listed below index various sources of information, such as histories, vital records, biographies, tax lists, immigration records, etc. You may find additional information about your ancestor other than the town or county of residence. The listings may contain:

- The author and title of the source.
- The Family History Library (FHL) book, film, or fiche number. If the words *beginning with* appear before the film number, check the Family History Library Catalog for additional films.
- The name of the repository where the source can be found if the source is not available at the Family History Library.

#### What You Are Looking For

- Your ancestor's name in an index or collection.
- Where the ancestor was living.

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### Steps

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These 2 steps will help you find information about your ancestor in statewide indexes or collections.

#### Step 1. Find your ancestor's name in statewide indexes or collections.

Delaware has three counties. The major county indexes are also included in the list.

On the list below, if your ancestor lived between the years shown on the left, he or she may be listed in the source on the right.

|            |                                                                                                                            |
|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1580–1900s | <i>Ancestral File</i><br><i>International Genealogical Index</i><br><i>Family History Library Catalog - Surname Search</i> |
|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

- 1600s–1935s Delaware Bureau of Vital Statistics. *Index Cards of Delaware Marriages, Baptisms, Births and Deaths, ca. 1680–1935.* (FHL films 6416–422.) The death records are primarily for the years 1770 to 1888, but there are some cards for earlier and later deaths. These index records of deaths from Bibles, cemetery record, obituaries, etc.
- 1600–1920s Turner, Joseph Brown (Rev.). *Genealogical Collection of Delaware Families.* (FHL films 6272–300.)
- 1600–1900 Filby, P. William, ed. *Passenger and Immigration Lists Index: A Guide to Published Arrival Records of About 500,000 Passengers Who Came to the United States and Canada in the Seventeenth, Eighteenth, and Nineteenth Centuries.* (FHL book 973 W32p, & supplements; films beginning with 1597960 item 4.) An excellent way to find information about immigrants.
- 1600–1980s Virdin, Donald Odell. *Maryland and Delaware Genealogies and Family Histories: A Bibliography of Books about Maryland and Delaware Families.* (FHL book 975.2 D23vm.) This contains a list of published books about Delaware and Maryland families.
- 1600–1775 Bendler, Bruce A. *Colonial Delaware Assemblymen, 1682–1775.* (FHL book 975.1 N2b.) This book often mentions parents' names, name of wife, and names of children.
- 1600–1960 Reed, Henry Clay. *A Bibliography of Delaware Through 1960.* (FHL book 975.1 A3r.) This lists books about particular families.
- 1600–1973 *A Bibliography of Delaware 1960–1974.* (Not at FHL.) Write to Historical Society of Delaware). Lists articles and books about specific families.
- 1600–1890s *Biographical and Genealogical History of the State of Delaware: Containing Biographical and Genealogical Sketches of Prominent and Representative Citizens, Many of the Early Settlers.* (FHL film 1000155 or 599209 item 1.)
- 1600–1850 DeValinger, Leon, comp. *Calendar of Kent Co. Delaware Probate Records, 1680–1800.* (FHL film 1035860 item 4; fiche 6051248.)
- 1600–1948 Delaware Orphan's Court, (Kent County). *Wills, 1680–1860; and Index to Wills 1680–1948.* (FHL film 006492.)
- 1600–1800 Virdin, Donald Odell. *New Castle County, Delaware, Wills and Estates, 1682–1800, An Index.* (FHL book 975.1 A1 No. 9.)
- 1600–1885 Delaware. Orphan's Court. *Wills of New Castle County, Delaware, 1682–1854; Index to Wills, 1682–1885.* (FHL film 006545.)
- 1600–1850 Delaware. Public Archives Commission. *Delaware Probate Records, 1680–1800.* (FHL book 975.17 P23c.)
- 1600–1948 Delaware. Orphans Court (Sussex County). *Wills, 1682–1851; Index to Wills, 1684–1948.* (FHL film 006618.)
- 1600–1800 *A Calendar of Delaware Wills, New Castle County, 1682–1800.* (FHL book 975.11 S2n; fiche 6051273.)
- 1600–1950s Turner, Charles Henry B. *Genealogical Notes, Sussex & Kent Counties, Delaware and Somerset and Worcester Counties, Maryland.* (FHL films 441425–431.) Alphabetical.
- 1600–1940 Rider, Fremont, ed. *American Genealogical-Biographical Index to American Genealogical, Biographical and Local History Materials.* (FHL book 973 D22am ser. 2 vols. 1–186+; films beginning with 1698167.) The new series now has surnames A to W and is continuing; the old series has surnames A to Z.

- 1600–1908 *Index to American Genealogies and to Genealogical Material Contained in All Works, Such as Town Histories, County Histories, Local Histories, Historical Society Publications, Biographies, Historical Periodicals and Kindred Works.* (FHL book 973 D22m 1984; film 599811 item 2; fiche 6051301.) Known as Munsell's Index.
- 1600–1908 *Supplement 1900–1908 to the Index to Genealogies Published in 1900.* (FHL book 973 D22m 1900 supp; film 599811 item 3.)
- 1600–1888 Coghlan, Gladys M. *Index to History of Delaware, 1609–1888.* (FHL book 975.1 H2s index; fiche 6088424–6.)
- 1600–1657 Colket, Meredith B. *Founders of Early American Families: Emigrants from Europe, 1607–1657.* (FHL book 973 W2cm.) Refers to books and articles which have been published concerning early immigrants.
- 1600–1784 Delaware. Public Archives Commission. *Delaware Archives.* (FHL book 975.1 M2d; vol. 1 is on film 928150.) Vol. 1 contains military records 1744 to 1748, 1754 to 1764; vols. 1–3 have Revolutionary War records, 1775 to 1784; vol. 3 has a complete name index to volumes 1–3.
- 1600–1995 *Surname File.* Lists families for whom research is underway. (Not at FHL.) At the Historical Society of Delaware.
- 1600–1995 *Family History File.* (Not at FHL.) At the Historical Society of Delaware. For manuscripts, pamphlets, etc.
- 1600–1995 *The Maryland and Delaware Genealogist.* (FHL book 975 B2m.) A periodical; see annual indexes.
- 1600–1995 *Delaware Genealogical Society Journal.* (FHL book 975.1 D25d.) A periodical; see indexes.
- 1600–1995 *Delaware Bureau of Archives and Records Genealogical Surname File.* (Not at FHL.) At the Delaware Public Archives.
- 1600–1960s *Bible Records* and an index to them. (Not at FHL.) At the Delaware Public Archives.
- 1600–1970 *Old Bible Records.* (FHL book 975.1 V29d; films beginning with 845762.) Collected by the Daughters of the American Revolution in Delaware.
- 1600–1930s Hudson, Millard Fillmore. *Cemetery Records of Sussex County, Delaware.* (FHL film 6,690.)
- 1600–1920s Tatnall, Walter G. *Tombstone Records, New Castle County, Kent County, and Sussex County, Delaware.* (FHL film 006303.)
- 1680–1836 Cope, Gilbert. *A List of Marriage License Bonds, So far as They Have Been Preserved in New Castle County, Delaware, 1744–1836.* (FHL film 441415.)
- 1700–1784 Delaware. Public Archives Commission of Delaware. *Delaware Archives.* (FHL book 975.1 M2d; vol. 1–3; vol. 1 is on film 599318 item 2; vol. 2 is on film 1033612 item 4; vol. 3 is not on film) Vols. 1–3 contain records of Rev. War soldiers; vol. 3 has an index.
- 1700–1860 White, Virgil D. *Genealogical Abstracts of Revolutionary War Pension Files.* (FHL book 973 M28g, vols. 1–4.)
- 1700–1860 Daughters of the American Revolution. *DAR Patriot Index.* Centennial Edition. (FHL 973 C42da 1990, vol. 1–2.) Lists Rev. War patriots and their spouses; about 100,000 names.



- 1700–1860 Daughters of the American Revolution. *DAR Patriot Index*. (FHL 973 C42da.) Volume 3 is especially useful in that it lists the wives of the soldiers; about 60,000 names.
- 1700–1868 *D.A.R. Revolutionary War Burial Index*. (FHL films 1307675–82.) Alphabetical; prepared by Brigham Young University from DAR records; often lists name, birth date, death date, burial place, name of cemetery, company, and/or regiment, sometimes gives the place of birth, etc. About 67,000 names.
- 1700–1860 Hatcher, Patricia Law. *Abstracts of Graves of Revolutionary Patriots*. (FHL book 973 V38h, vols. 1–4.) About 55,000 names.
- 1700–1860 Brakebill, Clovis. *Revolutionary War Graves Register*. (FHL book 973 V3br.) About 55,000 names.
- 1700–1840 *A General Index to a Census of Pensioners For Revolutionary or Military Service, 1840*. (FHL book 973 X2pc index; film 899835 items 1–2; fiche 6046771.) Lists Revolutionary War pensioners whose names are on the 1840 census lists.  
After using the general index, go to the original book (FHL book Ref 973 X2pc 1967; film 899835 item 3). This book gives the pensioner's town of residence, the name of the head of household where he was living, and age of pensioner or his widow.
- 1700–1910 Delaware. Bureau of Vital Statistics. *Death Records, 1855–1910*. (FHL films 6360–409.) These records of deaths are from Bibles, cemetery record, obituaries, etc.; the records are primarily for the years 1770 to 1888, but there are some cards for earlier and later deaths.
- 1720–1947 Delaware. Orphan's Court (Kent County). *Orphans' Court Records, 1766–1850; Index 1766–1947*. (FHL film 6439.)
- 1720–1868 Delaware. Orphans' Court (New Castle County). *Orphans' Court Records for New Castle County, Delaware, 1742–1853; Index to Orphans' Court Records, 1742–1868*. (FHL film 6553.)
- 1740–1920 Census indexes, 1790–1880, 1900, and 1920. See What to Do Next, and click on **Family History Library Catalog**. Then select CENSUS or CENSUS - INDEXES from the topics that are listed.
- 1740–1900 White, Virgil D. *Index to War of 1812 Pension Files*. (FHL book 973 M22i.)
- 1740–1815 Delaware. Public Archives Commission. *Delaware Archives*. (FHL book 975.1 M2d; vols. 4–5; film 599318 item 2.) Vols. 4–5 contain records of soldiers of the War of 1812, 1812 to 1815.
- 1760–present County marriage records from about 1832 are now at the Delaware Public Archives. (Not at FHL.)
- 1760–1960s The Historical Society of Delaware has an index to obituaries in newspapers.
- 1760–1877 Delaware. Orphans' Court (Sussex County). *Guardian Accounts of Sussex County, Delaware*. (FHL film 6679–687.)
- 1780–1870 Jackson, Ronald Vern. *Delaware 1870 Mortality Schedule*. (FHL book 975.1 X2j 1870.)
- 1790–1880 Jackson, Ronald Vern. *Delaware 1880 Mortality Schedule*. (FHL book 975.1 X2j 1880.)
- 1800–1865 United States. Adjutant General's Office. *Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Union Soldiers Who Served in Organizations From the State of Delaware*. (FHL films 881617–620.)

- 1800–1865 Scharf, John Thomas. *History of Delaware, 1609–1888*. (FHL film 1000154) Vol. 2 beginning on page 611 has lists, by company of Delaware Civil War volunteers; for index see Gladys Coghlan's index above.
- 1800–1934 United States. Veterans Administration. *General Index to Pension Files, 1861–1934*. (On 544 FHL films beginning with 540757.) This is a card index to pension applications of Civil War and Spanish-American War veterans; copies of the original files may be ordered from the National Archives.
- 1800–1933 United States. Veterans Administration. *Veteran's Administration Pension Payment Cards, 1907–1933*. (On 2539 FHL films beginning with 1634036.) Lists veterans and wives who received pension payments for the Civil War and the War with Spain.
- 1861–1913 Delaware. Bureau of Vital Statistics. *Birth Records, 1861–1913*. (FHL films 6323–359.)
- 1870–1865 Haulsee, W. M. *Soldiers of the Great War*. (FHL book 973 M23s vols. 1–3; fiche 6051244.) Soldiers who died in World War I; vol. 1 has Delaware.
- 1878–1918 United States Selective Service System. *World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918*. (On 11 FHL films beginning with 1570621.) Men ages 18 to 45 are listed alphabetically by county or draft board.

For ideas on ways your ancestor's name might be spelled by indexers or in collections, see Name Variations.

## Step 2. Copy and document the information.

The best method is to:

- Make a photocopy of the page(s) with your ancestor's name.
- Document where the information came from by writing the title, call number, and page number of the index or collection on the photocopy. Also write the name of the library or archive with the index or collection.

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## Where to Find It

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### Family History Centers and the Family History Library

You can use the Family History Library book collection only at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, but many of our books have been microfilmed. Most of our films can be requested and used at our Family History Centers. To locate the address for your nearest Family History Center, [click here](#).

For information about contacting or visiting the library or a center, see *Family History Library and Family History Centers*.

### Libraries and Archives

You may be able to find the books at public or college libraries. If these libraries do not have a copy of the book you need, they may be able to order it from another library on interlibrary loan.

To use interlibrary loan:

- Go to a public or college library.
- Ask the librarian to order a book or microfilm for you through interlibrary loan from another library. You will need the title of the item and the name of the author.
- The library staff will direct you in their procedures. Sometimes this is free; sometimes there is a small fee.

You can find addresses and phone numbers for most libraries and archives in the *American Library Directory*, published by the American Library Association. The *American Library Directory* is available at most public and college libraries.

# Maps

## Computer Resources

### **MapQuest Maps**

Summary: Must know address, city, state, and zip code; more recent maps

### **Animap**

BYU FHL – on computer

Summary: Has each state with maps. Shows county boundary changes and allows marking of cities and finds distances.

### **Google Maps**

Summary: Has address finder, allows keyword searching, and allows street, satellite, or terrain views

### **Geology.com Maps**

Summary: Has Relief, Elevation, Drainage, Political and Road Maps for each state.



## Delaware Maps Bibliography

Andriot, Jay. *Township Atlas of the U.S.* Virginia: Documents Index, 1991.  
Mic/Gen Ref- **G 1201.F7 A5 1991**

Summary: Shows the townships in a particular county for each state except Hawaii and Alaska. Maps start after 1930.

Evaluation of Delaware Maps: pp. 131 - 138. One page history of state, list of counties and counties with minor civil divisions. Maps of census county divisions.

Eichholz, Alice. *Ancestry's RedBook: American State, County & Town Sources.* Salt Lake City: Ancestry, 1992.  
Mic/Gen Ref- **CS 49.A55 1992.** (3 copies in FHC)

Summary: The previous map was copied from page 116 of this book. On the next page is a listing of the counties, the date the county was formed and parent county, date of first recorded deeds, and Orphans' Court Register of Wills. The section on Delaware also includes a brief history and genealogical research information.

Jackson, Richard H. *Historical and Genealogical Atlas of The United States. Volume 1: East of the Mississippi.*  
Mic/Gen Ref- **G 1201.E6225 J33x 1970z** Vol. 1

Summary: List of Counties for each state.

Evaluation of Delaware maps: Maps are of the revolutionary period, 1804, 1823, 1838, 1860 and 1960, pp. 14-20.

Kirkam, E. Kay. *A Genealogical and Historical Atlas of the United States.* Utah: Everton Publishers, Inc., 1976.  
Mic/Gen Ref- **G1201.E6225.K5 1976**

Summary: Shows changes in boundaries in United States from Colonial days up to 1909. Civil war maps and information.

Evaluation of Delaware maps: State historical information, p.8; 1790-1900 map, p. 77; 1823 map, p. 90; 1838 map, p. 121; 1909 map, p. 219.

Mattson, Mark T. *Macmillan Color Atlas of the States.* Toronto: Simon & Schuster Macmillan, 1996.  
Mic/Gen Ref- **Quarto Shelves G 1200.M4 1996.**

Summary: Delaware maps and information on pages 52 - 58. Includes maps comparing Delaware to other states, cultural features, population density, agriculture, economic facts, etc. Also includes a brief state history.

Thorndale, William and William Dollarhide. *Map Guide to the U.S. Federal Censuses, 1790-1923*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co, 1987.  
MiclGen Ref- G 1201.F7 T5 1987

Summary: History of Federal Censuses, records, and completeness. U.S. Maps from 1790 - 1920 showing U.S. boundary changes. Maps of each state for each census year beginning when the state was created up through 1920.  
Evaluation of Delaware Maps: pp. 152 - 159.

Map Collection on the 2nd floor of the old section of HBLL library. One map drawer for the state of Delaware.

G3830 - G3834 State maps from 1800s to 2000. Many of the maps show county boundaries and county seats, railroad lines, private land grants, population, etc. Some maps include information about what was happening that year.

To find more maps, search the Lee Library online catalog for Delaware maps, atlases, and gazetteers.



# FAMILYSEARCH™

## G U I D E

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## Delaware Federal Census Population Schedules, 1790 to 1920

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### Guide

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#### Introduction

Federal censuses are taken every ten years. Delaware residents are included in censuses from 1800 through 1880, and 1900 through 1920.

There is a substitute 1790 census of Delaware, the *Reconstructed 1790 Census of Delaware*, prepared from tax lists.

- The 1790 through 1840 censuses give the name of the head of each household. Other household members are mentioned only by age groupings of males and females.
- The 1850 census was the first federal census to give the names of all members of the household.

For more information about the U.S. Federal Censuses, see [Background](#).

#### What You Are Looking For

The information you find varies from record to record. These records may include:

- Names of family members.
- Ages of family members, which you can use to calculate birth or marriage years.
- The county and state where your ancestors lived.
- People living with (or gone from) the family.
- Relatives that may have lived nearby.

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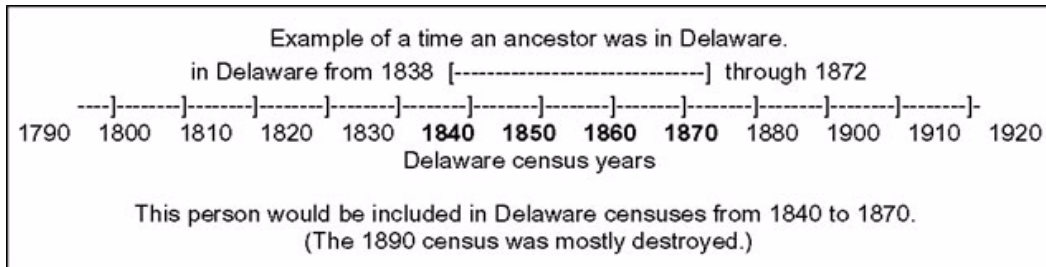
### Steps

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These 5 steps will help you use census records.

#### Step 1. Determine which censuses might include your ancestors.

Match the probable time your ancestor was in Delaware with the census years. This will determine which censuses you will search.



## Step 2. Determine a census to start with.

Start with the last census taken during the life of your ancestor.

The censuses from **1850 to 1920** give more information and include the name, age, and birthplace of every person in each household.

The censuses from **1790 to 1840** give the name of the head of each household and the number of males and females in age groups **without** their names.

The censuses for 1930 and later are available from the U.S. Census Bureau only.  
For ways the census can help you find your ancestor's parents, see Tip 1.

## Step 3. Search the census.

For instructions on how to search a specific census, click on one of the following years:

1800 1810 1820 1830 1840 1850 1860  
1870 1880 1890 1900 1910 1920

For information about archives and libraries that have census records, see Where to Find It.

## Step 4. Search another census.

Repeat steps 2 and 3 until you search all the censuses taken during the life span of your ancestor. Each census may contain additional information.

If you skip a census taken when your ancestor lived, you risk missing additional information, such as names of in-laws or other relatives who may have lived with or near the family. Those names and relationships may help you identify earlier generations.

For other information about how to search the census, see Tips.

## Step 5. Analyze the information you obtain from the censuses.

To effectively use the information from the census, ask yourself these questions:

- Who was in the family?
- About when were they born?
- Where were they born? (Birthplaces are shown in censuses for 1850 to 1920.)
- Where were they living—town or township, county, and state?
- Where were their parents born? (Birthplaces are shown in censuses for 1880 to 1920.)
- Do they have neighbors with the same last name? Could they be relatives?

For more about comparing information in several censuses, see Tip 3.

## Tips

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### Tip 1. How can the census help me find my ancestor's parents?

Searching the census taken closest to the time the ancestor married has the best possibility of finding your ancestor and spouse living close to their parents and other family members.

### Tip 2. How can I understand the information better?

Sometimes knowing why the census taker asked a question can help you understand the answer. Detailed instructions given to census takers are in the book *Twenty Censuses: Population and Housing Questions 1790-1980*, updated as *200 Years of U.S. Census Taking*, both by the U.S. Census Bureau.

### Tip 3. How can comparing information in more than one census help me?

Comparing censuses indicates:

- Changes in who was in the household, such as children leaving home or the death of grandparents or a child.
- Changes in neighbors. Remember, neighbors might be relatives or in-laws.
- Changes about each individual, such as age.
- Movement of the family within Delaware to a different county or town.
- Movement of the family out of Delaware if the family no longer appears in the census for Delaware.

You will eventually want to know every country, state, county, township, and town where your ancestor was located. You can then check information in other records for those places. A careful check of all available federal census records can help you identify those places.

The age and estimated birth date of an individual may vary greatly from census to census. Often ages are listed more accurately for young children than for adults.

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## Background

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### Description

A census is a count and a description of the population of a country, colony, territory, state, county, or city. Census records are also called census schedules or population schedules.

Early censuses are basically head counts. Later censuses give information about marriage, immigration, and literacy. United States censuses are useful because they begin early and cover a large portion of the population.

### What U.S. Federal Censuses Are Available

Censuses have been taken by the United States government every 10 years since 1790. The 1920 census is the most recent federal census available to the public; the 1930 census will be released in 2002.

The 1890 census of Delaware was destroyed by fire.



## Types of Census Schedules

The following census schedules are available for Delaware and were created in various years by the federal government:

- **Population schedules** list a large portion of the population; most are well-indexed and are available at many repositories.
- **Mortality schedules** list those who died in the 12 months prior to the day the census was taken, for the 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 censuses.
- **1840 pensioners' schedules** list people who were receiving pensions in 1840. Included were men who fought in the Revolutionary War or in the War of 1812 or their widows.
- **Slave schedules** for Southern states list slave owners and the number of slaves they owned in 1850 and 1860.
- **Agricultural schedules** list data about farms and the names of the farmers for the 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 censuses.
- **Manufacturing or industrial schedules** list data about businesses and industries for the 1810 (six pages for Sussex County only), 1820, 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 censuses.

## How Censuses Were Taken

People called enumerators were hired by the United States government to take the census. The enumerators were given forms to fill out and were assigned to gather information about everyone living in a certain area or district. Enumerators could visit houses in any order, so families who are listed together in the census may or may not have been neighbors. The accuracy of the enumerators and the readability of their handwriting varies.

After the census was taken, usually one copy was sent to the state and another to the federal government. Sometimes copies were also kept by the counties. Few of the state and county copies survived.

## When Censuses Were Taken

Census takers were supposed to gather information about the people who were part of each household on the following dates:

1790 to 1820: First Monday in August  
1830 to 1900: June 1 (June 2 in 1890)  
1910: 15 April  
1920: 1 January  
1930: 1 April

If your ancestor was born in the census year, your ancestor should be listed only if he or she was born before the census date.

If your ancestor died in the census year, your ancestor should be listed only if he or she died after the census date.

The census may have actually taken several months to complete and may reflect births and deaths after the census date.

## Censuses from 1930 to the Present

U.S. Federal Censuses from 1930 to the present are confidential. The 1930 census will be available in 2002. You may ask the U.S. Census Bureau to send information about:

- Yourself.
- Another living person, if you are that person's "authorized representative."
- Deceased individuals, if you are "their heir or administrator."

You may request information for only one person at a time. There is a fee for each search. To request information, you must provide the person's name, address at the time of the census, and other details on Form BC-600, available from the U.S. Census Bureau.

For the address of the U.S. Census Bureau, see [Where to Find It](#).

## Colonial, State, and Local Censuses

Colonial, state, and local governments also took censuses. Nonfederal censuses generally contain information similar to and sometimes more than federal censuses of the same time.

The following colonial censuses of Delaware are available:

*Early Delaware Census Records, 1665-1697*  
*The 1693 Census of the Swedes on the Delaware*  
*Delaware 1782 Tax Assessment and Census*

Delaware became a state in 1787. Delaware has no state censuses.

Colonial, state, and local censuses may be available on the Internet, at Family History Centers, at the Family History Library, and in state and local archives and libraries.

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## Where to Find It

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### Internet

Many Internet sites include census records, census indexes, or information about censuses. You may find the following sites helpful:

- Delaware GenWeb and USGenWeb have links to indexes and records and may have links to archives, libraries, and genealogical and historical societies.
- CensusLinks on the 'Net includes links to Internet sites that have United States and Canada censuses and indexes. It includes information about censuses and how to use them, a Soundex calculator, census forms you can print, an age calculator, and more.
- **Browse Categories** on this screen has links to records and indexes that are available on the Internet.
- The Archives and Libraries section of the *Delaware Research Outline* lists Internet addresses for several Delaware archives, libraries, and historical societies. These organizations may have microfilms and indexes of Delaware census records, and the Internet sites may list what records they have.

### Family History Centers

Many Family History Centers keep copies of some census microfilms. Family History Centers can borrow microfilms of a U.S. Federal Census from the Family History Library. A small fee is charged to have a microfilm sent to a center.

You may request photocopies of U.S. Federal Censuses from the Family History Library. Staff at the Family History Center can show you how to request this service.

Family History Centers are located throughout the United States and other areas of the world. See [Family History Centers](#) for the address and phone number of the center nearest you.

## Family History Library

The Family History Library has complete sets of the existing U.S. Federal Censuses from 1790 to 1920. No fee is charged for using census microfilms in person.

For a list of indexes and other census records, click on **Family History Library Catalog**. Select from the list of titles to see descriptions of the records with the film or book call numbers. Use that information to obtain the records at a family history center or at the Family History Library.

For information about contacting or visiting the library, see *Family History Library and Family History Centers*.

## National Archives

Copies of the existing federal censuses from 1790 to 1920 are available in the Microfilm Research Room in the National Archives Building and at the 13 Regional National Archives. The National Archives has a microfilm rental program for census records. Call 301-604-3699 for rental information. For information on how to order photocopies of census records from the National Archives, click here.

## College and Public Libraries

Many college libraries have copies of census microfilms, particularly for their own states. Many larger public libraries have copies of the census soundex and populations schedules. Smaller public libraries may be able to obtain the records through interlibrary loan.

## State Archives, Libraries, and Historical Societies

The Archives and Libraries section of the *Delaware Research Outline* lists Internet and mailing addresses for several Delaware archives, libraries, and historical societies. These organizations may have microfilms and indexes of Delaware census records, and the Internet sites may list what records they have.

## U.S. Census Bureau

To request information from the 1930 census and later censuses, you must provide your relative's name, address, and other details on Form BC-600, available from:

The U.S. Census Bureau  
P.O. Box 1545  
Jeffersonville, IN 47131  
Telephone: 812-218-3300

## Genealogical Search Services

Many genealogical search services will search the census for a fee. These sources can help you find a genealogical search service:

- CyndisList lists many companies and individuals who do research and mentions publications about how to hire a professional genealogist.
- Advertisements in major genealogical journals may help you find a researcher.

# U.S. State Censuses

## DELAWARE

1665-97

Early Delaware census records 1665-1697.

**FRC Table 7**  
**CS 49 .Z99 D33x**  
**1665**

## **DELAWARE**

Conrad, Henry C. History of the State of Delaware, from the Earliest Settlements to the Year 1907. Wilmington, DE: The author, 1908. **Fiche Z 1236 .L5 1971 no. 20052-53**

Federal Writers' Project of the Works Progress Administration for the State of Delaware. Delaware: a Guide to the First State. New York: Viking Press, 1938. **Fiche CS 43 .G46x LH 10788**

Historical Society of Delaware. Index to History of Delaware, 1609-1888, by J. Thomas Scharf. Wilmington, DE: Historical Society of Delaware, 1976. **F 164 .S33 1976**

Hoffecker, Carol E. Delaware: a Bicentennial History. New York: Norton, c1977. **F 164 .H62**

Hoffecker, Carol E. New Sweden in America. Newark, DE: Univ. of Delaware Press; London: Associated Univ. Presses, c1995. **F 167 .N49 1995**

Long, John Hamilton. Historical Atlas and Chronology of County Boundaries, 1788-1980. Boston: G. K. Hall, 1984. **G 1201 .F7 H58x 1984** (Map Bookshelves)

Munroe, John A. Colonial Delaware: a History. Millwood, NY: KTO Press, c1978. **F 167 .M84**

Munroe, John A. History of Delaware. Newark, DE: Univ. of Delaware Press; London: Associated Univ. Presses, c2001. **F 164 .M83 2001**

Ruhnbro, Rune, ed. New Sweden in the New World, 1638-1655: Visions of Greatness. [Hogan `has]: Wiken, c1988. **F 167 .N4913x 1988**

Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Delaware, 1609-1888. Philadelphia: L.J. Richards, 1888. **F 164 .S3** also **Fiche Z 1236 .L5 1971 no. 23251-52**

Williams, William Henry. The First State: an Illustrated History of Delaware. Northridge, CA: Windsor Publications, 1985. **F 164 .W55 1985** (Oversize Quarto)

**Kent County** In 1664 it was Horrekill District; in 1680 St. Jones County; renamed in 1682.

Hancock, Harold Bell. A History of Kent County Delaware. Dover, DE: Dover Litho Printing Co., 1976. **F 172 .K3 H35x 1976**

**New Castle County** Named for the early settlement of New Castle and applied to the whole area in 1673; officially named in 1681.



## **DELAWARE**

Cooch, Francis Allyn. Little Known History of Newark, Delaware, and its Environs. Newark, DE: Press of Kells, 1936. **Fiche CS 43 .G46x LH 10778**

Cooper, Alexander B. Fort Casimir: the Starting Point in the History of New Castle, in the State of Delaware: its Location and History, 1651-1671. Wilmington, DE: Historical Society of Delaware, [J. M. Rogers Press], 1905. **Fiche CS 43 .G46x LH 8640**

Delaware Federal Writers' Project. New Castle on the Delaware 1651-1936. Wilmington, DE: New Castle Historical Society, c1936. **F 174 .N5 F42 also Fiche CS 43 .G46x LH 11056**

Eckman, Jeanette. Crane Hook on the Delaware, 1667-1699: An early Swedish Lutheran Church and Community with the Historical Background of the Delaware River Valley. Newark, DE: Univ. of Delaware Press, 1958. **F 167 .E23**

Ferris, Benjamin. A History of the Original Settlements on the Delaware: from its Discovery by Hudson to the Colonization under William Penn: to which is added an Account of the Ecclesiastical Affairs of the Swedish Settlers, and a History of Wilmington, from its First Settlement to the Present Time. Wilmington, DE: Wilson and Herald, 1846. **Fiche CS 43 .G46x LH 8637 also Fiche Z 1201 .S32 Unit 164 11904-11907 also Fiche Z 1236 .L5 1971 no. 16195 also FHL Film 1036276 item 15**

Foot, George. An Address Embracing the Early History of Delaware and the Settlement of its Boundaries and of the Drawyers Congregation, with all the Churches Since Organized on its Original Territory: Delivered in Drawyers Church, Del., May 10, 1842, Being One Hundred and Thirty One Years Since the Site of the Present House of Worship was Purchased. Wilmington, DE: J.M. Rogers Press, 1898. **Fiche CS 43 .G46x LH 10117**

Grier, A. O. Herman. This was Wilmington: a Veteran Journalist's Recollections of the "Good Old Days". Wilmington, DE: News-Journal Co., 1945. **Fiche CS 43 .G46x LH 8638**

History of Wilmington: the Commercial, Social and Religious Growth of the City during the Past Century: Embracing a Record of its Churches, Public Schools, Public Buildings, Parks, Residences, Manufacturing Industries, Charitable Institutions, its Political History, Municipal Government, Literature, Amusements, etc. Wilmington, DE: New York: Press of Moss Engraving Co., 1894. **Fiche CS 43 .G46x LH 10773**

Janvier, Anne R. Stories of Old New Castle. s.l.: s.n., n.d. **F 174 .N5 J36**

## **DELAWARE**

Kruse, Albert. New Castle Sketches. Philadelphia: Univ. of Pennsylvania Press, 1932. **F 174 .N5 K83**

Lincoln, Anna T. Wilmington, Delaware: Three Centuries under Four Flags, 1609-1937. Rutland, VT: Tuttle Pub. Co., c1937. **Fiche CS 43 .G46x LH 10779**

Montgomery, Elizabeth. Wilmington: Reminiscences of Familiar Village Tales, Ancient and New. Cottonport, LA: Polyanthos, 1971. **F 174 .W7 M7 1971** also **Fiche CS 43 .G46x LH 8639** also **FHL Film 908366 item 4**

New Castle Common, New Castle, Delaware: October 31, 1701, Common Located by Warrant for Survey from William Penn: October 31, 1764, Trustees of New Castle Common Incorporated by Charter from the Proprietaries, Thomas Penn and Richard Penn : January 25, 1792, Trustees of the New Castle Common Re-incorporated by Special Act of Delaware Assembly. Wilmington, DE: Printed by Hambleton Prin. and Pub. Co., [1944]. **HD 1291 .U6 N3 1944** also **Fiche CS 43 .G46x LH 8643** also **Fiche CS 43 .G46x LH 10775**

Powell, Lyman P. Historic Towns of the Middle States. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1901, c 1899. **F 106 .P88x 1901** also **Fiche Z 1236 .L5 1971 no. 13549**

Sketchley, Arthur. The Great Country or Impressions of America/ by George Rose. London: Tinsley Brothers, 1868. **Fiche E 168 .R79**

**Sussex County** Created in 1682 from Deale County and Durham County, Maryland. In 1742 Worcester Co., Maryland, was created from Sussex Co., Delaware. Prior to 1769 information on lands south of Nanticoke and Indian Rivers should be sought in Maryland records.

Daughters of American Revolution. Reflections from Southeastern Sussex. Rehoboth Beach, DE: Atlantic Litho, <197-?>. **F 172 .S8 R45x**

Hynson, George B. Historical Etchings of Milford and Vicinity: Some Facts and Fancies Old and New, Embellished by a Rhyme or Two. Milford, DE: Hynson & Mears, Peninsular News and Advertiser Pub. Co., c1899. **Fiche CS 43 .G46x LH 8634**

Pusey, Pennock. History of Lewes, Delaware. Wilmington, DE: Historical Society of Delaware, [J.M. Rogers Press], 1903. **Fiche CS 43 .G46x LH 8649**

Turner, Charles Henry Black. Some Records of Sussex County, Delaware. Philadelphia: Allen, Lane & Scot, 1909. **Fiche CS 43 .G46x LH 8632**

## **DELAWARE**

### **Other Sources to Check for General County/Local Histories**

Cox, Gordon L. The Cox Library: County, State, and Local Histories. [n.p.], 1974. **E 180 .X1 A44**

Everton, George B. The Handy Book for Genealogists: State and County Histories, Maps, Libraries, Bibliographies of Genealogical Works, Where to Write for Records, etc. Logan, UT: Everton Publishers, 1957. **CS 9 .E9 1957**

Filby, P. William. A Bibliography of American County Histories. Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Pub. Co., 1985. **E 180 .X1 F54 1985**

Halverson, Frank Douglas and Eva H.T. Halverson. County Histories of the United States Giving Present Name, Date Formed, Parent County, and County Seat. [Salt Lake City, 1937]. **E 180 .H35**

Kane, Joseph Nathan. The American Counties. Metuchen, NJ: The Scarecrow Press, Inc., 1972. **E 180 .K3 1972**

Library of Congress. United States Local Histories in the Library of Congress: a Bibliography. Baltimore: Magna Carta Book Co., 1975. **E 180 .X1 U55x (Vol. 1-5)** (Soc. Sci./Edu. Ref.)

Peterson, Clarence Stewart. Consolidated Bibliography of County Histories in Fifty States in 1961: Consolidated 1935-1961. Baltimore: Genealogical Pub. Co., 1973, [c1961]. **E 180 .X1 P47 1973** (Soc. Sci./Edu. Ref.) also **E 180 .X1 P47** (Soc. Sci./Edu. Ref.)

## Other Delaware Resources

Cyndi's List Delaware Page

<http://www.cyndislist.com/de.htm>

University of Delaware Library Genealogy Page

<http://www2.lib.udel.edu/subj/genealogy/>

Geneasearch Delaware

<http://geneasearch.com/states/delaware.htm>

Historical Society of Delaware Genealogy Research Guide

<http://www.hsd.org/gengd.htm>

Delaware Historical Formation Maps

[http://www.mydelawaregenealogy.com/de\\_maps/de\\_cf.htm](http://www.mydelawaregenealogy.com/de_maps/de_cf.htm)

## Index cards of Delaware marriages, baptisms, births and deaths, 1680-1913.

|           |            |           | FILM    |
|-----------|------------|-----------|---------|
| Marriages | A-B        | 1680-1850 | 0006416 |
| Marriages | C-D        | 1680-1850 | 0006417 |
| Marriages | E-G        | 1680-1850 | 0006418 |
| Marriages | H-K        | 1680-1850 | 0006419 |
| Marriages | L-O        | 1680-1850 | 0006420 |
| Marriages | <b>P-S</b> | 1680-1850 | 0006421 |
| Marriages | T-Z        | 1680-1850 | 0006422 |
|           |            |           |         |
| Baptisms  | A-Z        | 1759-1890 | 0006423 |
|           |            |           |         |
| Births    | A-B        | 1861-1913 | 0006424 |
| Births    | C-E        | 1861-1913 | 0006425 |
| Births    | F-I        | 1861-1913 | 0006426 |
| Births    | J-L        | 1861-1913 | 0006427 |
| Births    | M-R        | 1861-1913 | 0006428 |
| Births    | S-V        | 1861-1913 | 0006429 |
| Births    | W-Z        | 1861-1913 | 0006430 |
|           |            |           |         |
| Deaths    | A-G        | to 1888   | 0006431 |
| Deaths    | H-Q        | to 1888   | 0006432 |
| Deaths    | R-Z        | to 1888   | 0006433 |

THIS RECORD FOUND UNDER

1. Delaware - Vital records - Indexes



## New England marriages prior to 1700.

Author: Torrey, Clarence Almon, 1869-1962.

Andover, Mass. : Northeast Document Conservation Center, [1983?].

A record of 17th century New England marriages collected from printed and manuscript records in the New England Historic Genealogical Society. Collection lists married men, names of their wives, dates of marriages, places of residences, and sources of information.

Introduction and guide are found at the beginning of each microfilm.

Records are arranged by Husband's surname.

|                 | FILM    |
|-----------------|---------|
| Abbey - Cutting | 0929494 |
| Dadey - Eyre    | 0929495 |
| Fabes - Hyland  | 0929496 |
| Ibrook - Lyon   | 0929497 |
| Maber - Rymes   | 0929498 |
| Sabeere - Symes | 0929499 |
| Tabor - Zalleth | 0929500 |

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1. United States, New England - Vital records
1. New England Historic Genealogical Society (Boston, Massachusetts)