

**The Importance of Using Vital Records**  
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**Always know the dates of when the area you are researching in began keeping records. For the dates look at:**

- [familysearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki) Wiki
- State Webpages
- City/Town and County Board of Health Webpages
- Local Genealogical and Historical Societies
- County Histories
- Local Libraries
- *International Vital Records Handbook* by Thomas Jay Kemp 7th edition, 2017

**Where you might find Vital Records:**

- [ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com)
- [familysearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org)
- [myheritage.com](https://www.myheritage.com)
- [findmypast.com](https://www.findmypast.com)
- City/Town County Board of Healths
- Board of Vital Statistics

**Locating Dates of the Event:**

- Family Papers<sup>1</sup>
- Family Bible
- Mom's old Personal Telephone Books
- Other Records
  - \*Census Records
  - \*Birth Certificates
  - \*Marriage Applications
  - \*Death Certificates
  - \*Divorces Records
  - \*Land Records
  - \*Guardianship Records
- Newspaper Articles (Birth announcements, Obituaries)
- School Records
- Church Records
- Military Records
- Naturalization Records

### **Information found on a Birth Certificates**

- Name of Child
- Date and Place of Birth
- Parents Names with Mother's Maiden Name
- Parents Occupation
- Parents Residence
- Parents Ages
- Number of Children Born to Mother
- Number of Deceased Children
- Attending Physician or Midwife
- What Precaution were taken for baby and mother
- File Date

### **Information found on a Marriage Records**

- Names of Bride and Groom
- Ages, Birth Dates & Place
- Residence of the Marring Couple
- Previous Marriage Dates and Divorces
- Children Ages
- Parents Names & Residence or Birth Place
- Occupations
- Some Medical questions
- Date & Place of Marriage
- Officiatant
- Religion Denomination
- Name of Witness

### **Information found on a Death Record**

- Name of Deceased
- Age & Birth Date & Place
- Death Date & Place
- Parents Names if known
- Military Service
- Occupation
- Spouse Name
- Cause of Death
- Attending Physician
- Funeral Director
- Date of Burial or Cremation
- Cemetery
- Name of Informant & Relationship

### **Bibliography**

Greenwood, Val D. *The Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co. 1990, 2nd ed

Staley, Ann. *Hatched, Matched and dispatched: Vital records Research in the 20th Century*, NGS, 2007

