



# Beginning Genealogy

## Vital Records & Obituaries

Presented by Jana Meyer

# Birth, Death & Marriage Records



# Locating Vital Records in the United States

- Your extended family.
- Libraries & archives in the state where your ancestor was born, married, or died.
- Online sources such as Ancestry.com & Family Search. (Especially for death & marriage records.)
- A state's vital records office.
  - “Where to write for vital records” by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. A listing, by state, of how to obtain copies of birth, death, marriage, and divorce records: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/w2w.htm>
- County clerk's offices.



## Where to Write for Vital Records

[NCHS Home](#)
[Return to NCHS Homepage](#)

[Recommend](#) 636 [Tweet](#) 86 [Share](#)

The links below are provided for those users who want direct access to individual state and territory information. To use this valuable tool, you must first determine the state or area where the birth, death, marriage, or divorce occurred, then click on that state or area. Please follow the provided [guidelines](#) to ensure an accurate response to your request.

The federal government does not distribute certificates, files, or indexes with identifying information for vital records. Applications for passports can be obtained through the [U.S. State Department](#)®. Family issues such as marriage, divorce, death, and birth abroad can be found at this [site](#)®.

[PDF Version](#) (591 KB)

### A

[Alabama](#)  
[Alaska](#)  
[American Samoa](#)  
[Arizona](#)  
[Arkansas](#)

### C

[California](#)  
[Canal Zone](#)  
[Colorado](#)  
[Connecticut](#)

### D

[Delaware](#)  
[District of Columbia](#)

### F

[Florida](#)  
[Foreign or high-seas events](#)

### G

[Georgia](#)  
[Guam](#)

### H

[Hawaii](#)

### I

[Idaho](#)  
[Illinois](#)  
[Indiana](#)  
[Iowa](#)

### K

[Kansas](#)  
[Kentucky](#)

### L

[Louisiana](#)

### M

[Maine](#)  
[Maryland](#)  
[Massachusetts](#)  
[Michigan](#)  
[Minnesota](#)  
[Mississippi](#)  
[Missouri](#)  
[Montana](#)

### N

[Nebraska](#)  
[Nevada](#)  
[New Hampshire](#)  
[New Jersey](#)  
[New Mexico](#)  
[New York \(except New York City\)](#)  
[New York City](#)  
[North Carolina](#)  
[North Dakota](#)  
[Northern Mariana Islands](#)

### O

[Ohio](#)  
[Oklahoma](#)  
[Oregon](#)

### P

[Pennsylvania](#)  
[Puerto Rico](#)

### R

[Rhode Island](#)

### S

[South Carolina](#)  
[South Dakota](#)

### T

[Tennessee](#)  
[Texas](#)

### U

[Utah](#)

### V

[Vermont](#)  
[Virginia](#)  
[Virgin Islands](#)

### W

[Washington](#)  
[West Virginia](#)  
[Wisconsin](#)  
[Wyoming](#)



## Where to Write for Vital Records

[NCHS Home](#) > [Where to Write for Vital Records](#)[Return to Where to Write Homepage](#)[Facebook Recommend](#) 9[Twitter Tweet](#)[Share](#)

## Kentucky

## Birth

**Event:** Birth**Cost of copy:** \$10.00**Address:**Office of Vital Statistics  
Department for Public Health  
Cabinet for Health and Family  
Services  
275 East Main Street 1E-A  
Frankfort, KY 40621**Remarks:** State office has records  
since January 1911.Personal check or money order  
should be made payable to  
**Kentucky State Treasurer.** To  
verify current fees, the telephone  
number is (502) 564-4212.  
Information on how to obtain  
certified copies is also available via  
the [Kentucky Department for  
Public Health, Vital Records and  
Genealogy Information website](#)  
[@](#).

## Death

**Event:** Death**Cost of copy:** \$6.00**Address:**Office of Vital Statistics  
Department for Public Health  
Cabinet for Health and Family  
Services  
275 East Main Street 1E-A  
Frankfort, KY 40621**Remarks:** State office has records  
since January 1911.Personal check or money order  
should be made payable to  
**Kentucky State Treasurer.** To  
verify current fees, the telephone  
number is (502) 564-4212.  
Information on how to obtain  
certified copies is also available via  
the [Kentucky Department for  
Public Health, Vital Records and  
Genealogy Information website](#)  
[@](#).

## Marriage

**Event:** Marriage (State)**Cost of copy:** \$6.00**Address:**Office of Vital Statistics  
Department for Public Health  
Cabinet for Health and Family  
Services  
275 East Main Street 1E-A  
Frankfort, KY 40621**Remarks:** Records since June  
1958.**Event:** Marriage (County)**Cost of copy:** Varies**Address:** See remarks**Remarks:** Clerk of County Court in  
county where license was issued.

## Divorce

**Event:** Divorce (State)**Cost of copy:** \$6.00**Address:**Office of Vital Statistics  
Department for Public Health  
Cabinet for Health and Family  
Services  
275 East Main Street 1E-A  
Frankfort, KY 40621**Remarks:** Records since June  
1958.**Event:** Divorce (county)**Cost of copy:** Varies**Address:** See remarks**Remarks:** Clerk of County Court in  
county where license was issued.





# **BIRTH & DEATH RECORDS**

# Death Certificates

## Registrar of Vital Statistics Certified Copy



3620969

64- 8614

FORM V.S. NO. 1-A  
REV. 1-58  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE  
NATIONAL OFFICE VITAL STATISTICS

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
DIVISION OF VITAL STATISTICS  
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

REGISTRAR'S NO. 116  
421

Registration District No. 790  
Primary Registration District No. 2290

1. PLACE OF DEATH  
a. COUNTY Kenton  
b. CITY OR TOWN Covington  
c. LENGTH OF TIME Weeks  
d. FULL NAME OF HOSPITAL OR INSTITUTION Booth Hospital

2. USUAL RESIDENCE  
a. STATE Ky.  
b. COUNTY Kenton  
c. CITY OR TOWN Covington  
d. STREET ADDRESS 5 E. 39th St.

3. NAME OF DECEASED  
a. (Print) Levi  
b. (Print) M.  
c. (Print) Oliver

4. DATE OF DEATH  
a. (Month) 4  
b. (Day) 19  
c. (Year) 1964

5. SEX Male  
6. COLOR OR RACE White  
7. MARRIED, NEVER MARRIED, WIDOWED, DIVORCED, (Check one) Married

8. DATE OF BIRTH 4-12-1886  
9. AGE 78  
10. BIRTHPLACE (State or foreign country) North Carolina

11. CITIZENSHIP OF DECEASED USA

12. FATHER'S NAME Marion Oliver  
13. MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME Darlene Allen

14. WAS DECEASED EVER IN U. S. ARMED FORCES? (If yes, give year or dates of service) No  
15. SOCIAL SECURITY NO. None

16. INFORMANT Mrs. Maude Oliver

17. CAUSE OF DEATH  
PART I: DEATH WAS CAUSED BY  
a. (Print) Heart Disease - pulmonary edema  
b. (Print) Arteriosclerosis and Coronary Heart Disease  
c. (Print) Smoking cigarettes  
d. (Print) Fracture of Left femur in fall Feb 64

18. MEDICAL CERTIFICATION  
a. (Print) 4201  
b. (Print) 104 E 38th St  
c. (Print) Franklin  
d. (Print) Franklin

19. TIME OF DEATH  
a. (Print) 10:45 AM  
b. (Print) 10:45 AM  
c. (Print) 10:45 AM

20. PLACE OF BIRTH  
a. (Print) North Carolina  
b. (Print) North Carolina  
c. (Print) North Carolina

21. I hereby certify that I attended the deceased from March 15, 1964 to April 17, 1964 and that death occurred at 2:45 PM from the causes and on the date stated above.

22. DATE SIGNED 4-22-1964  
23. NAME OF CELEBRITY OR EXAMINATOR Forest Lamm  
24. LOCATION (City, town, or village) Erlanger  
25. COUNTY Ky.  
26. DATE RECORDED Apr 20 1964  
27. REGISTRAR'S SIGNATURE Paul F. Royce  
28. FUNERAL DIRECTOR Swindler Funeral Homes Inc. Cov., Ky.



THIS PAPER CONTAINS A GENUINE WATERMARK WHICH CAN BE VIEWED BY TRANSMITTED LIGHT.

I, Paul F. Royce, Registrar of Vital Statistics, hereby certify this to be a true and correct copy of the certificate of birth, death, marriage or divorce of the person therein named, and that the original certificate is registered under the file number shown. In testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name and caused the official seal of the Office of Vital Statistics to be affixed at Frankfort, Kentucky this 30 day of May, 2013.

Paul F. Royce  
State Registrar

# Birth Certificates

**STATE OF DELAWARE**  
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS

4003

**CERTIFICATE OF BIRTH**

1 PLACE OF BIRTH  
County of New Castle  
Hundred of ag 803  
Village of  
City of Wilmington (No. 1906 W. Eighth Street, 5 Ward)

2 FULL NAME OF CHILD Helen Irene Jones

3 SEX OF CHILD Female

4 Twin, Triplet, or other?

5 Color or Race White

6 Legitimate

7 DATE OF BIRTH June 25 1920 A. M.  
(Month) (Day) (Year) 8:25 P. M.

8 FULL NAME FATHER Theodore Jones

9 RESIDENCE 1906 W. Eighth St.

10 COLOR OR RACE White

11 AGE AT LAST BIRTHDAY 38 (Years)

12 BIRTHPLACE (State or Country) Ma.

13 OCCUPATION Riveter

14 FULL MAIDEN NAME MOTHER Mary Glick

15 RESIDENCE 1906 W. Eighth St.

16 COLOR OR RACE White

17 AGE AT LAST BIRTHDAY 28 (Years)

18 BIRTHPLACE (State or Country) Del.

19 OCCUPATION Housewife

20 Child's number in family 6th

21 Child's number by this mother 6th

22 Certificate of Attending Physician or Midwife\*

I hereby certify that I attended the birth of above child, and that it occurred on June 25 1920, at 8:25 P. M.

(Signature) Earl Bell  
(Attending physician, midwife, father, etc.)\*

24 { \* When there was no attending physician or midwife, then the father, householder, etc., should make this return. See Law on back. }  
Address Wilmington New Castle Del.  
City, Town County State

25 Given or christian name added from a supplemental report 191

Dated July 4 1920

23 FILED 10-10-1920 191 Thomas J. P. [Signature] REGISTRAR

MARGIN RESERVE FOR BINDING. THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD. WRITING PLAINLY, WITH UNFADING INK. EXACT STATEMENTS MUST BE GIVEN. SEE EXTRACT OF LAW ON BACK OF CERTIFICATE.



# Birth & Death Records prior to the 20<sup>th</sup> century

- Some counties and cities kept their own birth & death registers prior to the state registration of these events.

## State births & deaths prior to 1880

- Delaware: 1860
- Florida: 1865
- Hawaii: 1850
- Iowa: 1880
- Massachusetts: 1841
- Michigan: 1867
- New Hampshire: 1840
- New Jersey: 1878
- New York: 1880
- Rhode Island: 1853
- Vermont: 1770
- Virginia: 1853
- Wisconsin: 1876
- Washington, D.C.: 1871

## City births & deaths prior to 1880

- New Orleans: 1790
- Boston: 1848
- Philadelphia: 1860
- Pittsburgh: 1870
- Baltimore: 1875

**States & Cities that required  
registration of births & deaths prior  
to 1880**



# **MARRIAGE RECORDS**

# Marriage Records

**THE STATE OF ALABAMA,**

*Chickasaw* County. PROBATE COURT.

To any of the State Judges, or to any Licensed Minister of the Gospel, or to any Justice of the Peace of the said County,  
**Know Ye,** That you are hereby authorized and Licensed to join together  
**IN THE BONDS OF MATRIMONY,**  
*Joseph M. Wallace and Sarah J. Pollard*

GIVEN under my Hand and the Seal of the said Court this the  
*8<sup>th</sup>* day of January A. D., 1876

*Barthlett Green*  
 Judge of Probate.

**THE STATE OF ALABAMA,** *Chickasaw* COUNTY.

I hereby Certify that on the *9<sup>th</sup>* day of January A. D., 1876  
 I solemnized the Rites of Matrimony between *Joseph M. Wallace*  
 and *Sarah J. Pollard* at  
 in said County. WITNESS this *9<sup>th</sup>* day of January A. D., 1876  
*John B. Thackerall, Jr.*

**Fifty Dollars Fine for failing to return this License.**



# Marriage Documents

- Some jurisdictions required more than one document.
- Records of intent to marry vs. records documenting the actual marriage.
- Some common documents:
  - Banns or Intentions
  - Bonds
  - Applications & Licenses
  - Consent affidavits
  - Marriage certificates
  - Marriage registers and returns

# Information you may find on a Marriage Document

- Full names of bride and groom
- Date and/or place of birth for bride and groom
- Age at time of marriage
- Date of the marriage
- County where the marriage took place
- Name of minister or priest who performed marriage
- Church of marriage ceremony
- Names and birthplaces of the bride's and groom's parents
- Names of the witnesses to the marriage, often relatives
- Occupation
- Residence of the parties
- Whether single, widowed or divorced

# Alternate Sources of Vital Information

- Cemetery records & headstones
- Census records
- Church records
- Coroner's reports (for those who died in an unusual manner or were murdered)
- Family bibles & other family documents (journals, diaries, letters, etc.)
- Hospital/doctor's records
- Land records (E.g. death date of a person leaving property to an heir)
- Local published histories
- Military records & pension files
- Mortality schedules (1850-1880)
- Newspaper notices (birth & marriages announcements, death notices/obituaries)



# **OBITUARIES**



# Modern Obituaries

## **Leichty, Ruth (Earnest)**

CORALVILLE – Ruth (Earnest) Leichty, 75, passed away Friday, Oct. 1, 2010, with her loving husband by her side, in their Coralville home. A memorial celebration of life for Ruth will be held at 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 10, at First Mennonite Church in Iowa City, where the family will greet friends after 2 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed for the First Mennonite Columbarium. Arrangements are with Lensing Funeral and Cremation Service.

Ruth was born Jan. 7, 1935, in Milford, Neb. She married Lowell Leichty on Oct. 10, 1954. They raised their family in Coralville. For many years Ruth worked as the office manager for the family firm, L.J. Leichty Construction. Ruth was deeply involved in the life and work of the First Mennonite Church in Iowa City. She had a vibrant network of friends and she had a special place in her heart for her grandchildren.

She is survived by her husband of 55 years, Lowell Leichty; their five children, Greg (Kathleen) Leichty, Phil (Kim) Leichty, Kathy (Loren) Sands, Ruth (Brad) Giesking and Mark (Kristen) Leichty; 13 grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and her siblings, Arlene Kremer, Ina Rediger, Don Earnest and Ron Earnest.

Online condolences may be sent to [www.lensingfuneral.com](http://www.lensingfuneral.com)

# Prominent or Wealthy Individuals

**HORSEMEN DIES AT RIPE OLD AGE:** Col. S  
*Courier-Journal* (1869-1922); Feb 3, 1902;  
ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Louisville Courier Journal  
pg. 6

## HORSEMEN DIES AT RIPE OLD AGE

Col. S. D. Bruce, Well-  
known Kentuckian,  
Expires.

FOUNDED TURF, FIELD, FARM.

Witnessed the Famous Grey Eagle-  
Wagner Race Run Here  
In 1839.

O'NEIL A PROMISING RIDER.

OL. SANDERS D. BRUCE, one  
of the greatest authorities in the  
world on the breeding of thor-  
oughbred horses, died last Fri-  
day at his home, 117 West Fifty-eighth  
street, New York City. His remains will  
be brought to Lexington for burial.

## Death of Hon. Lewis Collins.

[From the Maysville Bulletin, Feb. 3.]

Our community was thrown into a state of gloom, on Sunday morning last, by the announcement of the sudden death of Judge Lewis Collins. He had been a sufferer for some months past from a mental affliction which rendered it necessary he should be placed in charge of the eminent Dr. Chipley at Lexington, where his disease was treated with all the skill and tenderness of a great humanity and a large experience. His bodily health had been regarded good, under the circumstances, up to a few days previous to his death, and some hopes were entertained for his ultimate recovery. Though our citizens were not wholly unprepared for this public calamity, the sad news was received with deep and regretful feeling. He was born in Fayette county, in this State—within a few miles of Ashland—on Christmas day, 1797, and was consequently at the time of his death in his seventy-third year. His removal to this city took place in 1814, and he was married here to Mary Ellen Peers, who now survives him, on the 1st day of April, 1823, having been married nearly a half century. He began life in this country as an

# Sensational Deaths

## ABORTION ALLEGED.

Miss Josie Vezolles Dies, is Buried,  
and Leaves Behind a Pretty  
Babe.

Dr. Spanlding Says She Died of a  
Congestive Chill, Twenty-Two  
Days Ago.

A Long Search in the Health Office Fails  
to Unearth Any Record of Her  
Death.

She Rests in Cave Hill, While Busy  
Tongues Keep Prattling of Her  
Untimely End.

SEDUCTION, RUIN, MISERY.

## Funeral for Two Train Victims to Be Today

*Courier-Journal* (1869-1922); Jul 17, 1922;

ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Louisville Courier Journal (1830 - 1922)  
pg. 2

## Funeral for Two Train Victims to Be Today

Funeral services for Frank Mueller, 16 years old, who was killed Wednesday when he was struck by a passenger train near Orleans, Ind., will be held at 8 o'clock this morning at Schoppenhorst's Chapel, and at 8:30 o'clock at St. Charles Boromeo Catholic Church. Burial will be in St. Louis Cemetery.

Services for Kenneth McDaniels, 16 years old, who met death with the Mueller boy, will be held at 2:30 o'clock this afternoon at the residence, 430 North Twenty-eighth Street. Burial will be in Mount Taber Cemetery, near New Albany.

The victims were sons of Mrs. Clara Mueller, 1729 West Market Street, and W. J. McDaniels. They had escaped from the Louisville and Jefferson County Children's Home.

# Death Notices

Deaths reported yesterday: White—John William Deuser, 53 years; induration of the lungs. Jacob Flexner, 51 years; softening of the brain. J. Lytle Martin, 32 years; consumption. Kate Ward, 47 years; consumption. Charles Graft, 10 years; liver disease and dyspepsia. Ed. Holland, 65 years; cause of death not stated. Black—Lizzie Ficker, 9 months; burn. Erania Lock, 6 months; cholera infantum.



# Brief Obituaries

**GRENOUGH**—At 1:15 p.m., June 18, 1920 Francis X., beloved husband of Sarah A. Grenough, age 59 years. Funeral will take place from residence, 635 Myrtle Street, Sunday afternoon at 1:45 and at St. Louis Bertrand's Church at 2 o'clock. Interment in St. Louis Cemetery.

.. .. .

# Ethnic publications



# Religious publications

- **TYSON.-Anna Tyson**, relict of the late Isaac B. Tyson, of Upper Providence Twp., Montgomery Co, Pa., died on Monday the 6th of October, at the residence of her daughter, Lydia W. Heisey, near Williams Grove Cumberland Co., aged 85 years, 4 months and 26 days. Eight years ago when her husband died, Sister Tyson removed from the above named township to Cumberland Co. She was well known in this section and had the highest esteem of a wide circle of friends. The deceased was the mother of ten children, six of whom survive her, viz: Enos W., of Schwenksville; Lydia W., wife of Henry S. Heisey, of Cumberland Co; Reuben W., of Upper Providence, Emeline W. wife of Daniel Kinsel; Mary W., wife of Levi S. Heisey of Cumberland Co., and Harriet. W., wife of Pre. Geo. Detwiler, of Sherkston, Ont. Thirty-five grand-children and two great-grand-children survive one who has passed the border line after a long and very useful life. The funeral services were held at the residence of her daughter, Lydia, on the 9th inst. Pre. John Lininger preached from Phil. 4:8. Services were also held at the Upper Providence church on the 10th and the remains interred in the burial ground adjoining the church.

# Identifying & Locating Historic Newspapers

## U.S. Newspaper Directory:

<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/search/titles/>

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/search/titles/>. The page features the National Endowment for the Humanities logo and the title "CHRONICLING AMERICA Historic American Newspapers". It includes a search bar with filters for "All states", "from 1836", and "to 1922". Below the search bar, it indicates "Pages Available: 6,673,511" and provides links for "Print", "Subscribe", "Share/Save", and "Give Feedback". The main section is titled "Search U.S. Newspaper Directory, 1690-Present" and describes the directory's purpose. It offers a "Browse the Directory by newspaper title" section with a grid of letters A-Z and numbers 0-9. Below this, there are dropdown menus for "Select where the newspaper was published:" (Kentucky, Breathitt, Select Cities...), "Select when the newspaper was published:" (from 1690 to 2013), and "Enter keywords:". Further down, there are "More search options:" including "Frequency:", "Language:", "Ethnicity Press:", "Labor Press:", "Material Type:", and "LCCN:". At the bottom right, there are "Clear" and "Search" buttons.

Welcome to x National Digil x National Digil x National Digil x Lexington Pul x KCPL Newsp x Afternoon An x Facebook x http://www.g x Search U.S. N x

chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/search/titles/

Web Slice Gallery Filson Historical Soc... Filson OPAC Ancestry.com Genealogy Bank American Civil War ... Fold3 (Ebscohost) Other bookmarks

**NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES** **CHRONICLING AMERICA** Historic American Newspapers

Search America's historic newspaper pages from 1836-1922 or use the U.S. Newspaper Directory to find information about American newspapers published between 1690-present. Chronicling America is sponsored jointly by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Library of Congress. [Learn more >](#)

**Search Pages** **Advanced Search** **All Digitized Newspapers 1836-1922** **US Newspaper Directory, 1690-Present**

All states + from 1836 to 1922 + enter one or more search words **GO**

Pages Available: 6,673,511

**Search U.S. Newspaper Directory, 1690-Present**

This directory of newspapers published in the United States since 1690 can help identify what titles exist for a specific place and time, and how to access them. Use the options below to select a particular place and time, using keywords to locate specific titles. Titles currently listed: 152,145.

**Browse the Directory by newspaper title:**

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

**Select where the newspaper was published:**

Kentucky Breathitt Select Cities...

**Select when the newspaper was published:**

from 1690 to 2013

**Enter keywords:**

**More search options:**

Frequency: Select Language: Select

Ethnicity Press: Select Labor Press: Select Material Type: Select LCCN:

**Clear Search**

Connect with the Find Us On Subscribe & Comment Download & Play Questions



# Sources

- Family Search. [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
- The Source: a Guidebook of American Genealogy. Edited by Loretto Dennis Szucs and Sandra Hargreaves Luebking. Salt Lake City, UT:Ancestry Inc. (1997).