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](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/w2w.htm)
- County clerk’s offices.
Where to Write for Vital Records

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)
Where to Write for Vital Records

NCHS Home > Where to Write for Vital Records

Return to Where to Write Homepage

Kentucky

**Birth**

**Event:** Birth  
**Cost of copy:** $10.30  
**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 1938.  
**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 1938.  
**Event:** Divorce (County)  
**Cost of copy:** Varies  
**Address:** See remarks  
**Remarks:** Clerk of County Court in county where license was issued.
BIRTH & DEATH RECORDS
Birth Certificates

Certificate of Birth

State of Delaware
Bureau of Vital Statistics

Place of Birth

County of New Castle

City of Wilmington

Village

Hundred

Street

Ward

Certificate No 2568

9 June 1920

Sex of Child

Female

Full Name of Child

Helen Irene Jones

Father

Theodore Jones

Mother

Mary Glass

Residence

1906 N. Eight St.

Residence

1906 N. Eight St.

Color or Race

White

Occupation

Riveter

Rating

Housewife

Child's number in family

6

Child's number by this mother

6

Certificate of Attending Physician or Midwife

I hereby certify that I attended the birth of above child, and that it occurred at 2:45 P.M. on June 9, 1920.

Signature: (Carl Bell)

Address: Wilmington, New Castle, Del.

Dated: July 7, 1920

Registrar: (W. J. H. Mitchell)
Birth & Death Records prior to the 20th century

- Some counties and cities kept their own birth & death registers prior to the state registration of these events.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State births &amp; deaths prior to 1880</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Delaware: 1860</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida: 1865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawaii: 1850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iowa: 1880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Massachusetts: 1841</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan: 1867</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Hampshire: 1840</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Jersey: 1878</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York: 1880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhode Island: 1853</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vermont: 1770</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia: 1853</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wisconsin: 1876</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington, D.C.: 1871</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City births &amp; deaths prior to 1880</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Orleans: 1790</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boston: 1848</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philadelphia: 1860</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pittsburgh: 1870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baltimore: 1875</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**States & Cities that required registration of births & deaths prior to 1880**
MARRIAGE RECORDS
Marriage Records

The State of Alabama,

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 8th day of January A.D. 1876

Sarritt C. Green
Judge of Probate.

The State of Alabama,

I hereby certify that on the 8th 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 8th day of January A.D. 1876

John B. Hinchell
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)
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
HORSEMEN DIES AT RIPE OLD AGE: Col. S D. Bruce, a well-known Kentuckian, expires.

FOUNDED TURF, FIELD, FARM.

Witnessed the famous Grey Eagle-Wagner Race Run Here in 1839.

O'NEIL A PROMISING RIDER.

Col. Sanders D. Bruce, one of the greatest authorities in the world on the breeding of thoroughbred horses, died last Friday 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. 5.)

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. Spanulding 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 Pratling of Her Untimely End.

SEDUCTION, RUIN, MISERY.

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 Borromeo Catholic Church. Burial will be in St. Louis Cemetery.

Services for Kenneth McDaniel, 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. McDaniel. They had escaped from the Louisville and Jefferson County Children's Home.
Deaths reported yesterday: White—John William Deans, 33 years; inflammation of the bowel. Jacob Flexner, 53 years; softening of the brain. J. Lytle Martin, 32 years; consumption. Kate Ward, 47 years; consumption. Charles Graff, 70 years; liver disease and dyspepsia. Ed. Holland, 65 years; cause of death not stated. Black—Lizzie Hekler, 9 months; burn. Eva Lee Lock, 6 months; cholera infantum.
GRONNOUGH—At 1:15 p.m., June 18, 1920, Francis X., beloved husband of Sarah A. Gronnough, aged 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
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/
Sources

- Family Search. www.familysearch.org