

ULTIMATE RECORD CHECKLIST

Birth Records

- Civil birth
- Religious birth (see religious)
- Adoption
- Orphan train
- Orphanage

Marriage Records

- Civil marriage records
- Religious death records (see religious)
- Civil divorce records
- Consent forms
- Intention to marry forms
- Marital contracts
- Marriage license
- Prenuptial and post-nuptial agreements

Death Records

- Civil death certificates
- Religious death (see religious)
- Burial permits
- Cemetery deeds
- Cemetery records
- Coroner or medical examiner reports
- Funeral home account books
- Funeral directors' records
- Funerary cards
- Grave opening orders
- Grave relocation records
- Gravestone inscriptions
- Graveyard or cemetery caretaker
- Interment records
- Monument company
- Online memorials
- Online obituaries
- Social Security Death Index

Religious Records

- Congregation histories
- Dismissions
- Dispensations
- Lists of communicants
- Marriage banns
- Meeting notes
- Parish registers of births, baptisms and christenings
- Parish registers of confirmations
- Parish registers of families
- Parish registers of marriages
- Parish registers of deaths, burials or interments
- Parish registers of tithe payments
- Paupers' fund reports
- Pew rental listings
- Session minutes
- Sunday school records
- Vestry minutes
- Specialized records

Newspaper Records

Advertisements
Articles of interest
Auctions
Bankruptcies
Birth announcements
Burial events
Company dissolutions
Court records
Death notices
Divorces
Engagement announcements
Gossip columns
Graduations
Insolvency lists
Jury selections
Land transfers
Legal notices
Marriage licenses
Memorial announcements
Military draft lists
Missing heir advertisements
Missing immigrant advertisements
Natural disaster news
Obituaries
Passenger ship advertisements
Passenger ship arrivals
Probate notices
Public announcements
Public thank you notices
Reunions
Runaway slave advertisements
Social events and gatherings
Society columns
Unclaimed letters or mail lists
Wedding and anniversary
announcements

Home & Family Records

- Artifacts and ephemera
- Diaries and journals
- Family bibles
- Handcrafted samplers and quilts
- Interviews, oral and written
- Letters and postcards
- Medical records
- Personal address books
- Photo albums
- Recipe cards or books
- Report cards
- Reunion memorabilia
- Scrapbooks
- Social media family groups
- Wedding albums and memorabilia

Probate Records

Administrative accounts	○
Court orders	○
Dower records	○
Guardian accounts	○
Guardian appointments	○
Inventories (chattel, slave lists)	○
Petitions	○
Probate records	○
Wills	○

Census & Population Records

Federal censuses	○
State censuses	○
Population registers	○
Agricultural schedules	○
Census maps	○
Census substitutes	○
Industrial schedules	○
Manufacturing schedules	○
Military censuses	○
Mortality schedules	○
Indian Census Rolls	○
Dawes Rolls	○
Slave schedules	○
Slave statistics registers	○
Defective, Dependent and Delinquent classes	○
Sheriffs' censuses	○

Immigration & Travel Records

Alien registration cards	○
Incoming passenger lists (U.S. Customs)	○
Indentures	○
List of aliens (U.S. Customs)	○
List of citizens (U.S. Customs)	○
Outgoing passenger lists	○
Passports and applications	○

Court Records

Appeals	○
Bastardy cases	○
Case files	○
Criminal records	○
Docket books	○
Judgment docket books	○
Minute books	○
Name changes	○
Order books	○
Penitentiary records	○
Petitions	○
Prison records	○

Naturalization Records

Certificates of Naturalization (plus stubs)	○
Declaration of Intention (first papers)	○
Petition with testimony and residency (second papers)	○

DNA Records & Methods

Cousin matches	○
DNA testing	○
Autosomal DNA tools	○
Chromosome mapping	○
Triangulation	○
DNA painter tools	○
DNA ethnicity estimate graphs	○
DNA methods (Leeds, McGuire)	○
mtDNA tools	○
Y-DNA tools	○
Surname projects	○

Tax Records

Land tax digests	○
Real estate property tax records	○
State tax lists	○

General Genealogical Records

Biographical directories or histories	○
Books about ancestors' communities	○
Document abstracts	○
Document transcriptions	○
Genealogical journals	○
Genealogical society newsletters	○
Genealogical society surname files	○
Lineage organizations and societies	○
Pedigree databases (DAR)	○
Published case studies	○
Published family histories	○
Published genealogies	○

Societal Records

Almshouse records	○
Disaster records (natural and travel)	○
Dog license applications	○
Ethnic organizations and societies	○
Insurance maps	○
Online surname communities	○
Voter registrations	○

Work & Community Records

Accounting books	○
Apprentice records	○
Bankruptcy	○
City directories	○
Maps of geographical areas	○
Doctors' journals or diaries	○
Employment licenses	○
Freedman's records	○
Histories	○
Labor union records	○
Licenses for trades and professions	○
Life insurance records	○
Mining accident records	○
Mining employment records	○
Organizations and societies (labor, trade)	○
Pensions	○
Personnel records	○
Plantation records	○
Professional directories	○
Professional licenses	○
Railroad accident records	○
Railroad employment records	○
Telephone directories	○
WPA records	○
Post Office records	○

Military Records

Artifacts	○
Burial records	○
Court martials	○
Discharge records	○
Draft cards	○
Headstone applications	○
Interment records	○
Military academy records	○
Military history books	○
Payrolls	○
Pension applications	○
Pension payment cards	○
Pension records	○
Prisoners of war records	○
Register of enlistments	○
Selective Service	○
Service folder of records	○
State militia records	○
Veteran compensation applications	○
Veteran benefits records	○
War bounty land warrants	○

School Records

Class reunion histories	○
College directories	○
School histories	○
School photos	○
School records	○
Yearbooks	○