

A Summary of Where to Look

Genealogical Facts

A Summary of Where to Look

The following list will assist you in finding specific information. The list contains the type of information, which you wish to find, and where you might locate it. Once you know what you want to find, review the list for the most likely place to search. Unfortunately, there are always exceptions to the rule and you may be disappointed on occasion—no guarantee can be provided.

These four are some common sources of family and historical data. These will not be listed under the categories elsewhere:

Diaries or Journals

Local Histories

Family Histories

Personal Letters



Age at death

County history
Death certificate
Estate papers
Memorial card
Military pension record
Obituary
Tombstone

Church affiliation

Baptismal Certificate
Engagement announcement
Memorial card
Obituary

Age of parents

Birth certificate

Date of baptism/Christening

Baptismal Certificate
Church records

Cause of death

Death Certificate
Obituary

Date of birth

1900 federal census (month & year)
Birth Certificate
Church records
Death Certificate
Family Bible
Marriage license application
Obituary
Tombstone

Cemetery where buried

Death Certificate
Memorial card
Obituary

Date of death

Death Certificate
Family Bible
Obituary

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Marriage date

Church records
Engagement announcement
Family Bible
Marriage certificate
Obituary
Wedding invitation

Military Service

Military record
Military pension record
Obituary
Tombstone

Name of bride and groom

Divorce records
Marriage application
Marriage Certificate
Newspaper—marriage announcement
Wedding invitation

Names of children

1880-1920 federal census
Divorce papers
Obituary

Names of parents

Baptismal certificate
Birth certificate
Death certificate
Engagement announcement
Marriage license application
Obituary
Wedding invitation

Place of Baptism

Baptismal certificate
Church records

Place of birth

1850-1920 Federal Census (generally only the state)
Family Bible
Military Pension Record
Obituary

Place of marriage

Engagement announcement
Marriage certificate
Wedding invitation

Property ownership

Deeds and/or Mortgages
Estate papers
Tax lists
Will

Race

1850-1920 Federal Census
1880-1920 Census Soundex
Birth certificate
Marriage license application
World War I draft registration

Relationship to others

1880-1920 federal census
Cemetery record
Death certificate
Estate papers
Marriage application
Obituary
Will

Residence

1850-1920 Federal Census
City Directory
Obituary
Tax lists
Voter registration