

The final years of the Colonial era, from 1702-1776, saw a succession of royal governors, some of whom were also governors of New York: Edward, Lord Cornbury, Robert Hunter, William Burnet and, notably Lewis Morris who served from 1738 until his death in 1746 and has emerged as one of the most influential men in the history of the province.

After Morris there were several other governors, the most notable of which was William Franklin, son of Benjamin, who served from 1763 until 1776, until he was banished to Connecticut and ultimately returned to England a few years later. It was during this period that signs of discontent, already apparent in other colonies, became noticeable in New Jersey – particularly with the Stamp Act and the Mutiny Act of 1765 and the Boston Tea Party in 1773.

The growing discontent with English rule led to the formation of many committees and congresses in New Jersey and elsewhere, although New Jersey, with long experience in the politics of self-government, seems to have demonstrated a particular skill in the organizing effective means of opposition. These efforts, which culminated in the Provincial and Continental Congresses in 1776, saw the emergence of several new New Jersey figures: John Witherspoon, Richard Stockton, William Paterson and William Livingston, who was elected first governor of the state. Also, due largely to Quaker influence, the seeds for the abolition of slavery were sown. These began to bear fruit with the 1804 Act of the Legislature, although actual abolition did not occur until 1846.

Although there were many signs of discontent in New Jersey, support for the American cause in the Revolution was far from unanimous. Many large landholders who stood to lose everything remained loyal to the Crown (hence the term “loyalist”); many smaller landholders did likewise, for reasons best known to themselves. Notwithstanding that, New Jersey emerged as the “crossroads” of the Revolution and played no small part in its success.

All of the above events help us to understand how records of genealogical interest came into being and have been preserved in New Jersey. The next major step came in 1848 when New Jersey became the second state (after Massachusetts) to require statewide registration of births, deaths and marriages.

One footnote: As in the Revolutionary War, the role of New Jersey in the Civil War was not as unambiguous as might be expected. In a further demonstration of the diversity which has always characterized New Jersey, although slavery had been abolished, New Jersey continued to enforce the Fugitive Slave Law, and there was powerful opposition in the state against abolitionists and “armed interference in Southern affairs”. Some of this opposition was economic as well: the industrial centers of Newark and Trenton depended heavily on their Southern markets; many summer visitors to the Jersey shore came from Richmond and Baltimore, and a large percentage of the students at the college in Princeton came from Virginia. Nevertheless, despite the power of the antiwar forces, New Jersey became a major contributor – of men and resources – to the Union cause.

A New Jersey Timeline:

- 1609 – Sighting of New Jersey by Henry Hudson
- 1629 – First Dutch settlement at Pavonia (Jersey City)
- 1638 – Swedish colony established on lower Delaware River
- 1664 – English defeat of Dutch interests and initial grant of New Jersey
- 1675 and 1682 – Town clerks legally required to register vital records
- 1676 – Creation of East and West Jersey Provinces through Quintipartite Deed
- 1702 – Surrender of Proprietors’ government rights; New Jersey becomes a Crown Colony
- 1776 – First New Jersey State Constitution
- 1787 – New Jersey becomes the third state to ratify the Constitution
- 1795 – County clerks began keeping marriage records
- 1848 – New Jersey required statewide registration of births, deaths and marriages
- 1878 – County clerks duty of recording marriages absolved

What New Jersey Records are Available:

Census Records: Colonial censuses taken in 1726, 1738, 1745 and 1772 have not survived, but taxpayer, quit-rent and other lists of residents (some of which have been published) may be helpful substitutes. The 1790, 1800, 1810 and 1820 and 1890 Federal censuses are likewise unavailable (with minor exceptions, including an 1890 schedule of Union veterans.) Other Federal, and State censuses from 1855-1915, with some missing counties, are available in the New Jersey State Archives and Family History Library. The New Jersey Historical Society also has a large collection of census and tax records.

Church and Cemetery Records: Some records for the major denominations have survived and are in various locations, including the Family History Library. The GSNJ Collections at Rutgers Library have transcriptions from over 800 cemeteries and 16 file drawers of cards with transcribed inscriptions. The New Jersey Historical Society also has a large collection of cemetery transcriptions and an 11,000 card "Index to Civil War Soldiers' Graves In New Jersey".

City and Other Directories: A large number of these from the mid-19th century are available in several locations, including the New Jersey State Library and The New Jersey Historical Society.

Court Records: Some probate records, guardianship, naturalization, and a wide variety of other records have survived from as early as the 1670s and are available in the New Jersey State Archives, the Superior Court of New Jersey Records Management Center and the Family History Library, as well as in various County Clerks' offices. Records of the US District Court for the District of New Jersey 1789-1967 and circuit courts (until 1911), including bankruptcy records, are in the National Archives Northeast Region - New York NY; 212-337-1300.

Emigration and Immigration and Naturalization Records: New York and Philadelphia were the major ports of entry into New Jersey and passenger lists for those ports will be found in the branches of the National Archives. There are many published and transcribed passenger lists available; the Family History Library New Jersey Research Guide lists several.

The New Jersey Archives has New Jersey naturalization records (in addition to those filed under each county) for the colonial period and part of the 19th century. Others will be found in the various County Clerks' offices. The GSNJ Collection has an Emigrant Register of many New Jersey residents who emigrated from the state until the 19th century.

Land and Property Records: The earliest recorded sales of land in New Jersey were by the proprietors of East and West Jersey, and many of those records are in the New Jersey State Archives as well as deeds recorded in the Secretary of State's Office until 1785 (with some to 1800) and are indexed in *Colonial Conveyances: Provinces of East & West New Jersey 1664-1794*. Most recorded deeds from 1785 (some earlier) and mortgages from 1766 are maintained in county clerks' offices. The Archives has some copies of these, particularly the ones filmed by the Family History Library. It is estimated that only about half of the deeds from this period were ever recorded.

The Archives also has a collection of various lot surveys, including the rare "Elizabethtown Book C – the Surveys of 1736-38."

Military Records: The New Jersey State Archives maintains all military records for New Jersey from the Colonial period to, but not including WWI. Later records are at the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs. A typescript, "Military Lists from The Office of the Adjutant General, Trenton, New Jersey," copied by Albert F. and Sara Morton Koehler (n.p., 1962) is available at the New York

Genealogical and Biographical Society. Many military records for New Jersey are also available at the New Jersey Historical Society, the National Archives and the Family History Library.

Newspapers: The New Jersey Archives has a large collection of New Jersey newspapers on microfilm as well as a number of volumes of published abstracts from early New Jersey newspapers. The Special Collections at the Rutgers University Alexander Library has newspaper holdings dating chiefly from the eighteenth through the mid-nineteenth centuries. Over a thousand titles, published in New Jersey, Philadelphia, and New York City, form the bulk of the collection. Among the rarest titles is the *New Jersey Freeman*, an 1840s abolitionist newspaper. The New Jersey Historical Society also has a large collection of newspapers. While not many indexes exist, there are published abstracts of newspaper items from Colonial and later times, e.g. *Notices from New Jersey Newspapers 1791-1795* by Thomas Wilson and Dorothy Agans Stratford.

Probate Records and Wills: Probate in New Jersey has been a county issue since 1784, when Orphans Courts were created. Some probate matters were transferred to Surrogates Courts in 1804 (all were transferred in 1947). Microfilm copies and bound paper indexes of all New Jersey wills and inventories before 1951 are in the New Jersey State Archives; *later wills are held in the Superior Court Records Office*. The Family History Library has microfilms of most NJ probate records from 1665-1900.

Town Records: A few New Jersey Town Records, particularly for the early New England settlements in East Jersey, containing valuable genealogical information are held in the New Jersey State Archives, the Rutgers University Library and the New Jersey Historical Society.

Vital Records: Town clerks were required by laws of 1675 and 1682 to register vital records, but few complied and most records collections end in the 1730s. Marriages were also to be kept by the county clerks from 1795. In 1848 New Jersey became only the second state (after Massachusetts) to require statewide registration, but many births, deaths and marriages were not recorded in the early years. The New Jersey State Archives has records from 1848 (see below for details); many copies (but perhaps with less information) will also be found in County Clerks' offices.

Research Repositories:

New Jersey State Archives

225 W. State Street, Trenton NJ 08625-0307

<http://www.nj.gov/state/archives/index.html>

Browsable Catalog: <http://www.nj.gov/state/archives/catalog.html>

Mail Reference: <http://www.nj.gov/state/archives/referenceFees.html>

Searchable Databases:

<https://wwwnet1.state.nj.us/DOS/Admin/ArchivesDBPortal/index.aspx>

Vital Statistics (Birth, Marriage, Death and Divorce Records):

Birth Records: 1848-1923; Marriage Records: 1848-1948; Death Records: 1848-1958.
Divorce Records 1743-mid 20th century.

Pre-1848 marriages were recorded by county clerks from 1795-1848. The Archives have some of these records in their County collections. The Archives also have Colonial Marriage Bonds from 1711-1795 (online database).

Also, some information about pre-1848 baptismal, marriage and burial information has been collected by local historical societies and/or published in book form. The Archives may have some of these; others may be found in the NJ State Library.

New Jersey State Library

185 W. State Street, Trenton NJ 08625-0520

The New Jersey State Library dates its official inception to 1796 when, for the first time, the Legislature assigned responsibility for its collection of books to an individual, the Clerk of the House. It began as a collection of books maintained by the New Jersey Assembly when New Jersey was an English colony. When New Jersey became a state, the collection gained the name the State's library.

- Genealogical reference tools, indexes, bibliographies
- Community and local histories for New Jersey and for states populated from New Jersey
- New Jersey genealogies and published sources on families originating in New Jersey
- Genealogies on major colonial and revolutionary families in northeastern United States
- Genealogical periodicals and publications of major New Jersey, northeastern and national genealogical and hereditary societies

Genealogy And Local History

http://www.njstatelib.org/research_library/collections/genealogy_and_local_history/

Genealogy: Library Guide

<http://libguides.njstatelib.org/genealogynj>

Maps and Atlases

http://www.njstatelib.org/research_library/collections/maps_and_atlases/

New Jersey Historical Society

52 Park Place, Newark, NJ 07102

<http://jerseyhistory.org/>

Proceedings of the New Jersey Historical Society

The publication, the Proceedings of the New Jersey Historical Society, began in 1845 through its name change to New Jersey History in 1967. The journal has not published genealogical source material since 1951. Indexed annually.

- First Series, 1845-1866. 10 Volumes; Second Series, 1867-1895. 13 Volumes; Third Series, 1896-1914. 9 Volumes; New, Series, 1916-1919 4 Volumes.

Pre-1923 volumes can be found digitized at: <https://archive.org/> by conducting a search by creator:

“New Jersey Historical Society” –or- a search by Title: “Proceedings of the New Jersey Historical Society”

- Honeyman, A. Van Doren. *Subject-index to the thirty-six volumes (1845-1919) of the Proceedings of the New Jersey Historical Society*. Newark, New Jersey : New Jersey Historical Society, 1920.
 - <https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/2058261>

Genealogical Society of New Jersey

P.O. Box 1476, Trenton, NJ 08607, <http://gsnj.org/>

About GSNJ: The Genealogical Society of New Jersey (GSNJ) was founded in 1921 by a group of genealogical scholars dedicated to the preservation of New Jersey family history. In 1924, the Society

was incorporated with a mission to discover, procure, preserve and publish information pertaining to families and individuals associated with New Jersey. GSNJ's institutional history has depended extensively on contributions made by volunteers.

The Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey

Since 1925, the Genealogical Society of New Jersey has published The Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey (GMNJ). Respected today as a national leader among genealogical publications, it is recognized as the preeminent resource for transcribed primary source material from New Jersey. Three issue numbers of the GMNJ (together comprising one volume) plus an annual full name index are published each year.

FamilySearch

<https://familysearch.org/>

FamilySearch, historically known as the Genealogical Society of Utah, which was founded in 1894, is dedicated to preserving the records of the family of mankind. Our purpose is simple—help people connect with their ancestors through easy access to historical records.

- Search Historical Records <https://familysearch.org/search/>
- Catalog <https://familysearch.org/catalog/search>
- Wiki https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Main_Page

Digital Resources:

SUSSEX

Sussex County Clerk's Office: Search Records (Deeds)

<https://sussex.landrecordsonline.com/sussex/search.do>

Sussex County Library: Local History and Genealogy

<http://sussexcountylibrary.org/local-history-genealogy/>

Sussex County Historical Society

<http://www.sussexhistory.org/>

Sussex County Surrogate Index Search

<http://www.sussex.nj.us/Cit-e-Access/datasearch/?TID=7&TPID=11198>

MORRIS

Morris Area Genealogy Society

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~njmags/>

Morris County Historical Society

<http://acornhall.org/morris-county-historical-society.html>

Morris County Clerk's Office Official Records Public Search - Deeds (1900-present)

http://mcclerksng.co.morris.nj.us/or_wb1/default.asp

Morris County Surrogate's Court: Search Case Index (1804-present)

<http://e-probate.com.fern.arvixe.com/MorrisSearch/DisplaySearchCriteria.aspx>

North Jersey History & Genealogy Center

<http://www.jfpl.org/njhistoryhome.cfm>

WARREN

Marx Local History Room (Easton, PA)

<http://www.eastonpl.org/EAPLMarxRoomHome.html>

Warren County Clerk's Office - Deeds (1872-present)

<http://www.searchiqs.com/warren.html>

Warren County Library: Local History

<http://warrenlib.org/node/61>

Statewide:

Ancestry

<http://www.ancestry.com/>

BillionGraves

<https://billiongraves.com/>

Find A Grave

<http://findagrave.com/>

Drew University: Special Collections & University Archives

United Methodist Archives Center

<http://www.drew.edu/library/special-collections>

InternetArchive

<https://archive.org/>

Historical Compilations of New Jersey Law

http://www.njstatelib.org/research_library/legal_resources/historical_laws/compilations/

New Brunswick Theological Seminary: Gardner A. Sage Library - Archives of the Reformed Church in America (RCA)

<http://www.nbts.edu/newsite/sage.cfm>

New Jersey Historical Maps - Rutgers Cartography Lab

<http://mapmaker.rutgers.edu/MAPS.html>

Online Historical Newspapers Website

<https://sites.google.com/site/onlinenewspapersite/>

Online Historical Directories Website

<https://sites.google.com/site/onlinedirectorysite/>

Princeton Theological Seminary Library

<http://www.ptsem.edu/library/collections/>

Sanborn Maps: Digitized by Princeton University

http://libweb5.princeton.edu/visual_materials/maps/sanborn/sanborn-web.htm

Statewide (Ethnic):

Carpatho-Rusyn Society: New Jersey Chapter

<http://www.c-rs.org/chapters/NJ/>

The Italian Genealogy Society of New Jersey

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~njigc/>

The Ukrainian History & Education Center: Family History Group (Nashi Predky)

<https://nashipredky.org>

Regional:

Italian Genealogy Group (IGG) & German Genealogy Group (GGG)

<http://italiangen.org/> -or- <http://germangenealogygroup.com/>

Msgr. William Noé Field Archives & Special Collections Center at Seton Hall University

<http://library.shu.edu/archives>

Catholic Cemeteries of the Archdiocese of Newark

<http://www.rcancem.org/find-a-loved-one-search/>

West Jersey and South Jersey Heritage

<http://westjersey.org/>

West Jersey History Project

<http://www.westjerseyhistory.org/>

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- <https://rucore.libraries.rutgers.edu/rutgers-lib/41177/PDF/1/>
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