

## *SUBSTITUTES FOR VITAL RECORDS*



*Birth*

Bible Record  
 Tombstone  
 Death Certificate  
 Obituary  
 Delayed Birth Certificate  
 Baptismal Record  
 Individual's Child's Birth Certificate  
 Military Record/Pension Application  
 Marriage License  
 Social Security Death Index  
 Census Records  
 County Records – wills, guardian,  
 apprentice, tax, militia service,  
 deeds  
 Private Papers – letters, journals,  
 diaries \*



*Death*

Bible Record  
 Tombstone  
 Cemetery Records  
 Obituary  
 Social Security Death Index  
 Church Record  
 County Records – wills, estates  
 records, deeds, tax, court  
 minutes  
 Military Record/Pension Application  
 Funeral Home Record  
 Private Papers – letters, journals,  
 diaries \*  
 Mortality Census (1850-1880)  
 Municipal Records -- Death Registries:  
 Wilmington (1903-07) Raleigh (1887-1937)



*Marriage*

Bible Record  
 Newspaper Notice  
 County Records – wills,  
 estates records, deeds,  
 court minutes  
 Census Records  
 Pension Application  
 Private Papers – letters,  
 journals, diaries \*

\* Search for private records  
 not only created within your family  
 but also kept by others **in the area.**

NOTE: Some of these records may give only an estimated date.

THE ANCESTOR'S SIBLINGS' RECORDS MAY REVEAL THE INFORMATION YOU ARE SEEKING.

### **Useful techniques for problems encountered in working with births, deaths, and marriages:**

Leary, Helen F. M. *North Carolina Research: Genealogy and Local History*. 2nd ed. (Raleigh: North Carolina Genealogical Society, 1996).

- "Strategy for Vital Records" p. 24
- "Strategy for Marriage Records" p. 39-42
- "Strategy for Estimating Birth Date" p. 61-62
- "Appendix A: Selected Terms and Abbreviations" under "Age of" p. 569
- "Strategy for the Census" p. 24-27