

# Sources for Vital Records

## **NORTH CAROLINA** Public Recording of Births and Deaths began October 1913

**North Carolina Vital Records** (225 N. McDowell St., Raleigh; 919-733-3526 – Mail to: 1903 Mail Service Center 27699-1903)

- should **NOT** be 1<sup>st</sup> choice for **genealogical information** <http://vitalrecords.dhhs.state.nc.us/vr/holdings/genealogy.html>
- \$24.00 for 5-year search and one certificate copy; \$15.00 for each additional copy
- \$15.00 for expedited service – includes WALK-INS requesting same-day copy (close at 3:00 pm daily)
- expedited online, fax, and credit card services available via arrangement with VitalChek <http://www.vitalchek.com>

**North Carolina State Archives** (109 E. Jones St., Raleigh; 919-807-7310 – Mail to: 4614 Mail Service Center 27699-4614)

<http://www.archives.ncdcr.gov/default.htm>

- Death Certificates, 1913-1979 [Statewide Index: 1913-1979]
- microfilmed Indexes to Births and Deaths for individual counties
- Marriage Bonds, 1741-1868 • Cohabitation Records, 1866-1867
- microfilmed Marriage Registers and Indexes • microfilmed Marriage Licenses for many of the counties
- **Guide to Research Materials in the North Carolina State Archives: County Records** available in PDF format online at [http://www.archives.ncdcr.gov/FindingAids/co\\_guide.pdf](http://www.archives.ncdcr.gov/FindingAids/co_guide.pdf)

Most **Register of Deeds** offices house birth and death records and marriage licenses for their counties

“North Carolina Directory of State and County Officials” <http://www.secretary.state.nc.us/pubsweb/direct.aspx>

**Wake County.** Birth and Death records in Register of Deeds, One Bank of America Plaza, 421 Fayetteville Street, Suite 300, Raleigh. Mail: P. O. Box 1897, Raleigh, NC 27602-1897; telephone 919-856-2752.

**Durham County.** Birth and Death records relocated July 2007 to Register of Deeds, 200 E. Main Street, Durham, NC 27701; telephone 919-560-0495.

**Mecklenburg County.** Register of Deeds provides certified copies of recorded birth and death records. The Mecklenburg Vital Statistics office records all birth and death documents and also issues certified copies at 700 E. Stonewall Street, Rm. 320, Charlotte 28202; telephone 704-336-2819 or e-mail at [OVR@co.mecklenburg.nc.us](mailto:OVR@co.mecklenburg.nc.us). Search online: <http://meckrod.manatron.com/localization/menu.asp>  
Deaths 1991-present Births 1913-present

A number of North Carolina county Registers of Deeds are making their birth/ death/ marriage records available Online.  
Use your favorite search engine with keywords: county name, register, deeds. Also found through NC MOSAIC

“**North Carolina Birth Index, 1800-2000**” - available for subscribers of Ancestry.com or free at libraries subscribing to Ancestry Library Edition  
Includes Delayed Birth registrations that extend back into the 18<sup>th</sup> century; these require documentary proof of birthdate or age, birthplace, and parentage from other records and must identify contemporary owner of family Bible if presented for proof. Durham, Wake, Forsyth, and Dare counties are not covered.

“**North Carolina Death Collection, 1908-2004**” - available to Ancestry.com subscribers or free at libraries having Ancestry Library Edition  
Index to North Carolina deaths: 1908-1967 has Images from microfilm copies of county death indexes obtained from the North Carolina State Archives and Records Section. Index for 1968-1996 from North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services does not include images.

## **ALL STATES**

Kemp, Thomas Jay. *International Vital Records Handbook*. 5<sup>th</sup> ed. (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2009).

“Social Security Death Index” [http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Search/frameset\\_search.asp](http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Search/frameset_search.asp)

“Vital Records Information United States” <http://www.vitalrec.com/>

“Online Searchable Death Indexes & Records” <http://www.deathindexes.com>

“VitalChek” – order official vital records through the Internet <http://www.vitalchek.com>

## **FINDING NEWSPAPERS**

“Guide to Newspapers on Microfilm in the **North Carolina State Archives**” <http://statelibrary.ncdcr.gov/reference/newspapers/GuideMaster.pdf>

**State Library of North Carolina** newspaper microfilm holdings Catalog: <http://go.dcr.state.nc.us/>  
Search Catalog by Title (Basic Search) or by Keyword or by County/City (Advanced Search)

U. S. Library of Congress. *Newspapers in Microform: United States, 1948-1983*. 2 vols. (Washington: The Library, 1984).

For microfilm of **Newspapers held in Other Institutions**

## **Helpful Websites for the Genealogist:**

“Skillbuilding: Using Newspapers Effectively”

<http://www.bcgcertification.org/skillbuilders/>

“Using Newspapers for Genealogical Research” (State Historical Society of Missouri)

<http://www.umssystem.edu/shs/newspap.html>

# 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*. 2d 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