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A LIST OF OUR GENEALOGICAL STANDARD OF PROOF RESOURCES

THE FOUNDATIONS FOR OUR RESEARCH SUCCESS STORIES

ANCESTORS BORN FROM AROUND 1930 ONWARDS

Certain documents that prove an ancestor's vital statistics are only available from 75 to 100 years after their death. In many cases, you can pay for a copy of a birth and death certificate or military service records if this time-period affects an ancestor you are researching. However, most states will limit access to direct descendants. When these records become available differ from state to state. You will need to research your state's statutes when it comes to releasing birth and death certificates for people who fall within this 75-to-100-year range. The list below contains resources you can access to overcome this information barrier.

- [Religious documents](#) (baptism, christening, etc): this can be a program that was kept within the family or may be obtained from places of worship
 - [Parish records](#)
 - [School enrolment documents](#)
 - [Birth announcements in newspapers](#)
 - [Death notices / obituaries](#)
 - [Funeral programs](#)
 - [Military Service Records](#) (available to direct descendants for a fee)
 - [WWII Draft cards](#)
 - [Engagement / Wedding announcements in newspapers](#)
 - [Marriage certificates](#)
 - [Social Security Application forms \(Ancestry.com\)](#)
 - [Property / land records](#) (via local county offices)
 - [City Directories](#) (prior to the mass take-up of mobile phones)
 - [Court cases](#) (including divorce papers)
 - [Immigration documentation](#)
 - [1940 US Federal Census](#) (the last publicly available census)
 - [US State Census](#)
 - [Railway Records & Railroad Retirement Pensions](#)
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ANCESTORS BORN BETWEEN THE 1870 & 1930 US FEDERAL CENSUS YEARS

GENERAL RESOURCES

- **Religious documents** (baptism, christening, etc): this can be a program that was kept within the family or may be obtained from places of worship
 - **Parish records**
 - **Birth certificates (including delayed Birth Certificates)**
 - **Birth announcements in newspapers**
 - **Death certificates** (you will need to research when the county & state mandated death certificates)
 - **Death notices / obituaries**
 - **Funeral programs**
 - **Military Service Records**
 - **WWI & WWII Draft cards**
 - **Engagement / Wedding announcements in newspapers**
 - **Marriage certificates**
 - **Social Security Application forms (Ancestry.com)**
 - **Property / land records** (via local county offices)
 - **City Directories** (prior to the mass take-up of mobile phones)
 - **Court cases** (including divorce papers)
 - **Immigration documentation**
 - **US Federal Census** (until the 1940 US Federal Census)
 - **US State Census**
 - **Insurance policies**
 - **Railway Records & Railroad Retirement Pensions**
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ANCESTORS BORN PRIOR TO THE 1870 US FEDERAL CENSUS

European-descended Ancestors	Enslaved African-Descended Ancestors	Free People of Color
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lineage books (with caution!): always vet these for accuracy • Parish & county records (birth, baptism/christening, marriage & death records) • Bastardy bonds • Binding out Petitions • Apprenticeship papers • Court archives • Insurance records • Probate, land & tax records • Guardianship papers • Military Records, Pensions & land grants • Newspapers • US Census (1790-1860) • US State Census • Educational enrollment • Family Bibles • Immigration & naturalization paperwork • Travel documents • Prison & mental asylum records • Mortality Schedules 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enslavers' probate/estate records • Enslaver's Day Books / Farm Books • Slave Sales Deeds • Parish records (some births, marriages, and deaths were recorded in parish records) • Freedmen's Bureau Records • County & state newspapers (e.g. Runaway advertisements, etc.) • Enslavers' insurance policies • Enslavers' mortgage policies • Hiring-out work contracts • Mortality schedules • Slave Insurance Policies • The first State Census after Emancipation and before the 1870 US Federal Census • 1870 US Federal Census • Maritime Records for those who were enslaved sailors, boatsmen, etc. • Civil War Pension Records 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lineage books (with caution!): always vet these for accuracy • Parish & county records (birth, baptism/christening, marriage & death records) • Bastardy bonds • Binding out Petitions • Apprenticeship papers • Court archives • Manumission Petitions • Freedom Papers • Insurance records • Probate, land & tax records • Guardianship papers • Military Records, Pensions & land grants • Newspapers • US Census (1790-1860) • US State Census • Educational enrollment • Freedmen's Bureau Records • Family Bibles • Prison & mental asylum records • Mortality Schedules

EUROPEAN RESEARCH RESOURCES

ONLINE IRISH & BRITISH RESOURCES

Burke's genealogical and heraldic history of the peerage, baronetage, and knightage, Privy Council, and order of preference (1938): <https://tinyurl.com/burkesq101>

Burke's A genealogical and heraldic history of the landed gentry of Ireland: <https://tinyurl.com/burkesq103>

Burke's Peerage & Landed Gentry (the entire series): <https://tinyurl.com/burkesq104>

Burke's Peerage, Baronetage, and Knightage (the entire series): <https://tinyurl.com/burkesq105>

Dictionary of Welsh Biography: <https://biography.wales>

The Harleian Society Publications: <https://tinyurl.com/HarleianPublications>

Heralds' Visitations and the College of Arms (Includes Harleian Society & Dugdale publications): <https://tinyurl.com/collofarms>

The History of Parliament Online: <https://tinyurl.com/histofparl>

Irish pedigrees; or, The origin and stem of the Irish nation: <https://tinyurl.com/irishgen101>

FREE PEOPLE OF COLOR RESEARCH RESOURCES*

(*includes additional resources for free people of color who have Native American ancestry)

ONLINE RESOURCES

- **American Indian Online Genealogy Records (*FamilySearch*):** <https://tinyurl.com/NAGen101>
- **Free African Americans of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Maryland, and Delaware** by Paul Heinegg
<http://www.freeafricanamericans.com/>
- **Library of Virginia:** www.lva.virginia.gov
- **Patriots of Color:** <http://www.archives.com/Patriots>
- **Virginia Memory – Digital Collections:** <https://www.virginiamemory.com/collections/>
- **Virginia Slaves Freed after 1782:** <http://www.freeafricanamericans.com/virginiafreeafter1782.htm>

(NATIVE AMERICAN REOURCES VIA FOLD3 VIA <https://www.fold3.com>)

[Dawes Packets](#)

[Ratified Indian Treaties](#)

[Indian Census Rolls, 1885-1940](#)

[Cherokee Indian Agency \(TN\)](#)

[Guion Miller Roll](#)

[Eastern Cherokee Applications](#)

[Dawes Enrollment Cards](#)

ENSLAVED ANCESTORS RESEARCH RESOURCES

ONLINE RESOURCES

- **Afrigeneas:** <http://www.afrigeneas.com/>
- **Library of Virginia:** <http://www.lva.virginia.gov>
- **Louisiana Records:** [https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Louisiana Online Genealogy Records](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Louisiana_Online_Genealogy_Records)
- **North Carolina Records:**
[https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/North Carolina, United States Genealogy](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/North_Carolina,_United_States_Genealogy)
- **South Carolina Department of Archives & History:**
[https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/South Carolina Department of Archives and History](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/South_Carolina_Department_of_Archives_and_History)
- **TransAtlantic Slave Trade Voyages, index:** <https://www.slavevoyages.org/>
- **United States Freedmen's Bureau, Records of Freedmen, 1865-1872:**
<https://tinyurl.com/FreedmensBureau100>
- **Unknown No longer - A Database of Virginia Slave Names:** <https://tinyurl.com/VAUNL>
- **Virginia Cohabitation Records (1866):**
[https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Virginia Cohabitation Records](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Virginia_Cohabitation_Records)
- **Virginia Memory – Digital Collections:** <https://www.virginiamemory.com/collections>

NATIVE AMERICAN RESEARCH RESOURCES

(all via Fold3 via <https://www.fold3.com>)

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