

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Discovering Your Family Story

TIP

General genealogical family history research **does not require** a certified copy. Free vital record copies are available online 24/7 in the [Digital Archive](#).

Records at the State Archives have been used by generations of Rhode Islanders to trace family history, study immigration, and research demographics. View historic Vital Records online in the [Digital Archive](#).

Step 1: Identify whose story will you research.

- Be prepared with your ancestor's full name and date of birth or death.
- Additional information such as names of parents, siblings, spouse, or city of birth are also helpful.

Step 2: Confirm if the birth, marriage, or death record you need is at the State Archives.

• VITAL RECORDS

Explore records of births, marriages, and deaths in Rhode Island dating to the 1600s.

- Death records must be at least 50 years old.
- Marriage and birth records must be at least 100 years old.
- **Note:** To request records of births and marriages under 100 years, and deaths under 50 years, please visit the [Department of Health, Office of Vital Records](#) or call 401-222-2811.

Step 3: Review the other helpful records available at the State Archives.

• CENSUS RECORDS

Learn where your ancestors lived, trace new family members, and research family connections. **[these records have not been digitized]**

• CITY AND TOWN DIRECTORIES

Dive deeper into the life and businesses of Rhode Island and make new connections to your own family history with directories dating back to 1824. **[on-site only – these records cannot be digitized]**

• MILITARY RECORDS

Discover military service on your family tree with State Archives records dating back to the mid-1700s.

- View digitized material online by searching the [catalog](#).

Step 4: Request your record.

- Request birth, marriage, or death records using the [Vital Records Request Form](#).
- Request additional records via email at statearchives@sos.ri.gov.