

Vital Records/Alternative Vital Records

I. Vital Records/Primary Sources

Definition: Official document at the time of the event. One required.

- A Birth
- B Marriage (Bonds, Consents, Intentions)
- C Death

II. Alternative Vital Records/Secondary Sources

Definition: Indirect sources derived from a record or statement not given at the time of the event. Two or more required.

- A Delayed birth or marriage
- B Church
- C Bible
- D Newspaper
- E Military
- F Funeral Home/Mortuary/Funeral Cards
- G Cemetery
- H Immigration/Naturalization/Ship Record
- I Census/Non Population (Federal and State)
- J Family Letters, Diaries, Journals
- K County Histories
- L Internet
- M Wills/Probate
- N Obituaries
- O Interview Family/Letters or Documents in Home
- P Land/Homestead
- Q Social Security Administration
- R Indexes/Lists
- S Printed Information
- T PERSI
- U WPA Records
- V Divorce (For marriage)

III. Tips

- Do a timeline
- Re-evaluate/Re-work what you have already done
- Re-check available information
- Look for people/cousins posting family trees
- Study history/boundary changes
- Do collaterals/siblings
- Watch for misspellings/handwriting & transcribing errors
- Join local genealogy societies/history societies
- Network (brainstorm) with others
- Look at newsletters (Eastman's), message boards, blogs, twitters
- Internet – Find A Grave, Ancestry, U.S. Gen Web, Fold3, Family Search
- Always Document Your Work
- Always date and place on documents you copy
- If possible, go to the place where your documents, etc. are located
- Remember, if you research long enough you will hit a “brick wall”

Think outside the box!

You Can't Solve the Mystery Unless You Do the History!

Google, google, google!