

MORRISTOWN AND MORRIS TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY
THE NORTH JERSEY HISTORY & GENEALOGY CENTER
1 Miller Road, Morristown NJ 07960-5234
973-538-3473

GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

PLEASE CALL IN ADVANCE for retrieval of maps, photographs, rare books and manuscripts, if needed on weekends or after 5 p.m. on week days.

Before beginning research in the library it is a good idea to record everything you know about your parents and other relatives. It is generally best to start with the current generation and work backwards.

Gather all you can learn from family conversations, correspondence, records, diaries, photographs, family bibles, and other personal sources. Write all of this information down in an organized fashion. The library has samples of pedigree charts to help you.

As you begin your genealogical research in this department:

- Look in the **card catalog** to see if we have a family history or vertical file material on the name
- Look in the online catalog or the **Genealogy & Local History Microfiche Series** to see if we have material on your family surnames or the towns in which they lived
- Look in the **index** of the **Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey**. Births, marriages, and deaths are some of the records listed in this magazine. We also have an **Index to Cemetery Transcriptions and Baptismal, Birth, Burial, and Marriage Records and Dockets** through 1990 (v.65).
- Check **Census Records**, the federal census for all states from 1830-1930 and the NJ State census 1855-1915
- Trace probated wills and other data in the **New Jersey Index of Wills** and the **New Jersey Archives**
- Consult **ship passenger lists**, such as those compiled by Filby, Lancour, Hotten, and Boyer, to see when your ancestor may have arrived in this county. Find out what passenger books we have by looking in the subject side of the **card catalog** under SHIPS PASSENGER LISTS and (COUNTRY OF ORIGIN) EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.
- Study **church records** if you know the religion of your ancestors. Find out what records we have by looking in the **card catalog** under the name of the church and under CHURCH RECORDS AND REGISTERS (NAME OF LOCATION) in the **SUBJECT** side of the **card catalog**.
- Review **special indexes** compiled by the library staff. We have indexes to early newspapers or **published indexes** such as those for Revolutionary War or Civil War soldiers or pensioners.

There are many How to books to get you started on your genealogical research. Ask us for a copy of the **How to Bibliography**. We are here to help you!

REMEMBER: *The internet is just the tip of the iceberg. Most genealogical research is still done at libraries, archives and courthouses.*