

## 22 Steps in Researching Your Family Tree

### 'Discovering Your Past Blog Series'

#### Student Notes:

#### Step 6. Obtaining Vital Records

- Once you have identified your ancestors through census records, family trees or other sources, the next step is to obtain or locate copies of their vital records such as birth certificates or baptism records, marriage records, death or burial records and obituary notices. These records can provide important information about your ancestors and help you build a comprehensive family tree.
- There are several ways to obtain or locate copies of vital records:
  1. Online databases: Many vital records are now available online through government websites, genealogy websites or other databases. Examples include Ancestry.com, FamilySearch.org, VitalChek.com, and more.
  2. Government offices: Vital records can be obtained from government offices such as the Department of Health or Vital Statistics in the state or county where the event occurred.
  3. Local archives and libraries: Local archives and libraries may have collections of vital records, especially for the local area. You can contact them or visit in person to access these records.
  4. Family members: Family members may have copies of vital records in their possession, especially for more recent generations.
  5. Genealogical societies: Genealogical societies can be a valuable resource for obtaining or locating vital records. They often have collections of records or can provide guidance on where to find them.
  6. Funeral homes: Funeral homes may have copies of death or burial records, as well as obituary notices, that they can provide to family members.
- It is important to note that not all vital records are available online or through government offices. Some may be restricted due to privacy laws or simply not available

for certain time periods. In these cases, alternative sources such as family members or genealogical societies may be more helpful.

- When obtaining or locating vital records, it is important to keep track of the information you find. Record the date, source and any other relevant details so you can refer back to it later. Also, be prepared to pay fees for obtaining copies of vital records from government offices or online databases.

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Quiz: Step 6. Obtaining Vital Records

1. What types of records are included in vital records?
  - a. Military records
  - b. Immigration records
  - c. Birth, marriage, and death records
  - d. All of the above
2. What is the purpose of obtaining vital records?
  - a. To verify family relationships
  - b. To build a family tree
  - c. To find out personal information about ancestors
  - d. All of the above
3. Where can you obtain birth, marriage, and death records in person?
  - a. Local government offices
  - b. Local libraries and archives
  - c. Funeral homes
  - d. All of the above
4. What is the process for obtaining vital records online?
  - a. Fill out an application and pay a fee
  - b. Search for the record and download a copy
  - c. Request the record through email
  - d. None of the above
5. Which website can you use to search for vital records for free?
  - a. Ancestry.com

- b. FamilySearch.org
  - c. GenealogyBank
  - d. Newspapers.com
6. What information is typically included in a birth record?
- a. Full name of the child
  - b. Date and place of birth
  - c. Names of the parents
  - d. All of the above
7. Where can you find obituary notices?
- a. Online newspaper websites
  - b. Local libraries and archives
  - c. Funeral homes
  - d. All of the above
8. What is the purpose of using social media in your search for obituary notices?
- a. To connect with others who may have information on your ancestors
  - b. To post inquiries about obituary notices
  - c. To search for vital records
  - d. None of the above
9. What is the purpose of consulting with local historical societies in your search for obituary notices?
- a. To access archives of local newspapers
  - b. To find information on your ancestors
  - c. To connect with others who may have information on your ancestors
  - d. All of the above
10. Where can you find burial records?
- a. Local government offices
  - b. Local cemeteries
  - c. Online cemetery websites
  - d. All of the above

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### Answers to Quiz

1. c. Birth, marriage, and death records
2. d. All of the above
3. d. All of the above
4. a. Fill out an application and pay a fee
5. b. FamilySearch.org
6. d. All of the above
7. d. All of the above
8. a. To connect with others who may have information on your ancestors
9. a. To access archives of local newspapers
10. d. All of the above