Genealogy Research in Ohio

The people living in the area now called Ohio when Europeans arrived included:

The Erie tribe
The Kickapoo
The Shawnee
The Delaware
The Miami
The Ottawa
The Mingo (Ohio Seneca)
The Wyandot

Most of these people were forced to leave Ohio during the Indian Removals of the 1800's. They were moved to reservations in what is now Oklahoma.

At one time both France and Great Britain laid claim to the Ohio area.
After the Northwest Territory was established, and the Treaty of Greenville signed, thousands of settlers came to the Ohio region. Among the early settlers were Revolutionary War soldiers who had been given bounty lands in southeast Ohio for their military service.
The Harrison Land Act in 1800 enabled settlers to purchase land in the Northwest Territory. Many people came, which led Ohio to become the 17th state on March 1, 1803.

To connect with trade to the Eastern states, Ohio built a 1,000-mile long canal system of eighty-three locks called the Ohio and Erie Canal, opening in 1825. This provided means for Ohio farmers, foresters and miners to sell their goods.
The railroad arrived in the mid 1800's, turning Ohio into a crossroads for trade and migration.
Ohioans were instrumental in smuggling freedom seeking slaves to Canada through the Underground Railroad. This resulted in a scattering of small African American communities serving as temporary safe havens in southeastern Ohio.

Ohio Birth and Death Records

Online indexes of Ohio birth and death records:

- Ancestry.com
- FamilySearch.org
- Ohio History Connection - http://apps.ohiohistory.org/death/
- Cincinnati Birth and Death Records, 1865-1912 - http://digital.libraries.uc.edu/collections/birthdeath/

County registrations of births and deaths officially began in 1867. These records were kept by the Probate Court; they are incomplete.
A few counties have records dating from the 1840s. These records may include the names of the parents and their place of residence.
Contact the county Probate Court for information about which years of Birth and Death Records are available.

Birth and Death Records, Fetal Death Records, Stillbirth Certificates 1908 to the present

In 1908, the state passed a law standardizing the record forms and requiring registration of all births and deaths.
State registered birth records usually contain a child's name, place and date of birth, sex, race, and the names and birthplaces of the parents.

Death records usually include a child's name, place and date of death, sex, age at death, marital state, place of birth, names of parents, occupation, cause of death, and last residence.

Purchase Copies of Vital Records from the Ohio Bureau of Vital Statistics:

- Birth records 1908 to the present
- Death records from 1964 to the present

Ohio Marriage Records

Individual counties began recording marriages from the date the county was created. These records can include marriage records, marriage returns, marriage consents of minors by parents, and ministers' license records.

County marriage records listed the names of the bride and groom, the date of the marriage, the county in which the marriage occurred, and the officiating individual. After 1900, some records included the ages and residences of the bride and groom and the names of the parents.

Obtain a copy of a marriage record from the **Probate Court** of the county where the record was created.

Obtain a copy of a divorce decree from the **County Clerk** of the county in which the divorce was finalized.

Statewide marriage registration began in 1949. However, marriage and divorce records are NOT maintained by the Ohio State Bureau of Vital Statistics.

Note: County boundaries shifted often; check the records of parent counties.

Other Sources of Birth, Marriage, and Death Information

- Newspaper birth or marriage announcements/ obituaries
- Church records
- Family Bibles
- Military records
- Censuses
- Funeral Home/Cemetery records

Ohio Land Records

The state of Ohio was created from the Ohio Territory in 1803.

Early Ohio settlers purchased land from the Federal Government or from Land Companies.

Search for a land patent granted by the Federal Government to your ancestor on the *Bureau of Land Management website* – www.glorecords.blm.gov . Use the patent information to request the corresponding land entry case file from the National Archives.

Veterans of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 were often given military land warrants (bounty warrants) by the Federal Government as payment for their service. The U.S. Military District of Ohio was an area in the center of the state. Virginia awarded lands to its claimants in the Virginia Military District in southwest Ohio. View the Virginia Military District Bounty Warrants and rejected claims on *Virginia Memory* – www.virginiamemory.com

Search a database of U.S. Military District warrants on *Ancestry.com.*

Land in north central Ohio was reserved for residents of Connecticut towns that were burned during the American Revolution. View information about the "Firelands" on the websites of *The Western Reserve Historical Society* < www.wrhs.org> and the *Firelands Historical Society* www.firelandsmuseum.com

Find deeds of private land sales in **County Recorders' Offices**. Due to county border disputes, records of pre-1837 land sales in Williams, Fulton, and Lucas counties may be located in the Michigan counties of Hillsdale, Lenawee, and Monroe.

Ohio Counties

The Atlas of Historical County Boundaries – Interactive maps and text covering the historical boundaries, names, organization, and attachments of every county, extinct county and unsuccessful county proposal from the creation of the first county through December 31, 2000. - http://publications.newberry.org/ahcbp/index.html

Ohio Migration Routes

Braddock's Road · Forbes Road · Erie Canal · Great Trail · Kanawha Trail · Lake Erie · Lake Shore Path (or Lake Trail) · Maysville Turnpike · Miami and Erie Canal · Miami Path · National Road (or Cumberland Road) · Ohio and Erie Canal · Ohio River · Pennsylvania and Erie Canal · Scioto Trail · Tennessee, Ohio and Great Lakes Trail · Vincennes-Indianapolis-Detroit Road · Wabash and Erie Canal · Zane's Trace

Migration Routes in the Central Plains States - http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~tqpeiffer/Documents/Ancestral%20Migration%20Archives/Migration%20Webpage%20Folder/Central%20Plains%20States%20Routes.htm

Major Ohio Genealogical/Historical Repositories

Ohio History Connection Library – Columbus, Ohio
Ohio Historical Society
State Library of Ohio
Ohio Genealogical Society Library – Bellville, Ohio
Ohio Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution
Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County – local history; African American collections
Western Reserve Historical Society

Genealogy Research Websites

NOTE: Look for the *GenWeb* or *Genealogy Trails* of any county in which your ancestor lived.

Columbus Metropolitan Library City Directories - search digitized Columbus, Ohio, city directories by name - https://digital-collections.columbuslibrary.org/digital/collection/citydir
Euclid, Ohio Yearbooks – read them online - http://www.euclidlibrary.org/research/euclid-yearbooks
Defiance County, OH: **Hicksville Historical Society, Inc.** - oral histories of local citizens, photos - http://www.hicksvillehistoricalsociety.org/
Digital Library Network – Cincinnati city directories, photos, etc. – http://digital.cincinnatilibrary.org/digital/
Geauga County Public Library – links to indexes of birth, marriage, and death records; index of estate and probate records; alphabetical listing of burials in each township - https://divi.geaugalibrary.net/genealogy/
Greene County, Ohio: **Online Resources** – indexes of county vital records, military records, emancipation records - https://www.co.greene.oh.us/948/Online-Resources
Greene County Public Library - search indexes or view images of birth records, death records, censuses, Soldiers and Sailors Home, etc. - http://greenelibrary.info/research-categories/history-and-genealogy/
Huron County Community Library – Index of Willard area newspaper obituaries and birth announcements – http://huroncolib.org/obituary-index
My Genealogy Hound – *biographies* extracted from *pre-1900 county histories* of Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee – vintage county maps from Arkansas, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma (including Indian Nations), and Tennessee - http://www.mygenealogyhound.com/
Ohio Biographies Project – read biographies of citizens - http://www.usbiographies.org/ohio/
Ohio Genealogy Trails – links to genealogy records in counties - http://genealogytrails.com/ohio/
Ohio GenWeb – links to genealogy records in counties - http://www.ohgenweb.org/
Ohio History Connection –indexes of state death certificates: volume and certificate #'s, order copies of certificates from state archives - http://apps.ohiohistory.org/death/
Ohio Memory – digitized newspapers, photos of Civil War officers, gravestone registrations, yearbooks, county atlases – www.ohiomemory.org

Ohio Obituary Database - an index to 2,900,000 obituaries, death & marriage notices in Ohio from the 1810's to the present day – order copies for small fee - https://www.rbhayes.org/main/ohio-obituary-index/
Plain City, OH, Burials – alphabetical index of burials includes names, date of death and/or burial, name of cemetery - http://www.plaincitylib.org/burialA-F.htm
Plain City, OH, Obituaries – name index of obituaries on file at the Plain City Historical Society - http://www.plaincityhistoricalsociety.org/index.php/obituaries
Stark County District Library – Stark County, Ohio – indexes to deaths, obituaries, marriages, pedigree charts, military records, veterans' graves, etc. - http://www.starklibrary.org/starkcountyonlineind
Summit County, OH: **Barberton Public Library Obituary Index** – indexes of newspaper obituaries - http://www.barbertonlibrary.org/Local_History_Room/Obituary_Indexes-2
Tuscarawas County Genealogical Society - indexes of obituaries and marriages- http://www.tuscogene.com/index.htm
Warren County Genealogical Society – indexes of wide variety of records – view some online, contact society for copies of others - http://www.wcgsoh.org/
Wales Ohio Project – digitized information from the Library of Wales about Welsh settlers in Ohio- over 10,000 images of archive, manuscript and printed material, photographs and maps, *The Cambrian* magazine (1880-1919), etc. - http://ohio.llgc.org.uk/index.php
Williams County Public Library – index of local obituaries - http://obits.mywcpl.org/

Ohio African-American Research

Access Genealogy – links by state to websites of African American genealogy, cemeteries, and censuses
AfricaMap – track the slave trade with historical overlays and geographical data - http://worldmap.harvard.edu/africamap/
AfriGeneas – slave records, death and marriage records, censuses, surnames – chat or send messages to other researchers - http://afrigeneas.com/
Greene County, Ohio: **Online Resources** – indexes of county emancipation records - https://www.co.greene.oh.us/948/Online-Resources
International African American Museum - African American funeral programs, obituaries, marriage records, photos, historical documents and family histories – military records of the U.S. Colored Troops are currently being digitized - https://cfh.iaamuseum.org/records/
Last Seen: Finding Family After Slavery - search thousands of "Information Wanted" advertisements taken out by former slaves in all states searching for family members lost by sale, flight, or enlistment – the collection currently includes newspapers from 1853 to 1911 - http://www.informationwanted.org/
Slave Voyages - the *Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database* documents vessels along the Atlantic slave routes from 1514 to 1866; *Intra-American Slave Trade Database* documents vessels traveling between the Atlantic and Pacific ports ranging from the United States to Brazil; the *African Names Database* gives names, ages, possible origins of slaves liberated from captured slave ships between 1808 and 1862 - https://www.slavevoyages.org/

Ohio Cemetery Research

Columbus, Ohio: **Green Lawn Cemetery Burials** – lists of over 129,000 burials - http://delaware43015.com/greenlawn/greenlawn/Greenlawn/index.htm
Dayton, Ohio: **Calvary Cemetery** – search list of burials in this cemetery and from the earlier St. Henry's Cemetery – view cemetery map - http://www.calvarycemeterydayton.org/
Dayton, Ohio: **Dayton Memorial Park Cemetery** – rural cemetery just north of Dayton - burials list - http://www.daytonmempark.com/
Dayton, Ohio: **Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum** – search over 107,000 burials - http://www.woodlandcemetery.org/search/

Delaware County, Ohio, Cemeteries – burial database of over 75,000 burials - http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ohdchs/cemetery/burials_a.html?cj=1&netid=cj&o_xid=0000584978&o_lid=0000584978&o_sch=Affiliate+External
Goshen Township Cemeteries– Click the Cemeteries link in the contents list and then click on a specific cemetery link - http://www.goshentownship.com/Cemeteries/index.cem.html
New Albany, Plain Township, OH – **Maplewood Cemetery –** index includes name, date of death and burial, veteran status, names of spouse, parents, children, siblings, if known - https://plaintownship.org/cemeteries/maplewood-cemetery-online-burial-search/
Youngstown, OH: **Tod Homestead Cemetery** – list of burials of the cemetery, relocated burials from Rodef Sholom Cemetery, and the "potter's field" burials of Youngstown Township Cemetery - http://www.todhomestead.com/find-a-grave/

Ohio Military Research

Grand Army of the Republic Records Project – developing database - histories of posts, reports of officers and members if available, search by state - http://suvcw.org/garrecords/
Ohio World War II Oral Histories – student interviews with individuals who directly experienced WWII, whether as military veterans, Holocaust survivors, refugees, or non-combatants on the home front - https://digitalgallery.bgsu.edu/exhibits/show/wwii_oral_histories/interviews
Trumbull County Casualties Database Online - The Trumbull County, Ohio, Veterans Service Office maintains this database of all Trumbull County veterans killed in action in *World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan* - http://www.trumbullcountycasualties.com/
War of 1812 Ohio Soldiers – name search of regiment officers and soldiers who fought in the Ohio companies - www.accessgenealogy.com/ohio/war_of_1812.htm

Ohio Native American Research

Native American Tribes of Ohio - http://www.native-languages.org/ohio.htm

Ohio Newspaper Research

Kent State University Newspaper Archives – search or browse issues of the student newspapers published from 1939 to 1999 - http://dks.library.kent.edu/
Ohio Online Historical Newspapers – names of some newspapers, publication dates, links to websites with images of newspaper pages - https://sites.google.com/site/onlinenewspapersite/Home/usa/oh
Ohio's Digitized Newspapers – catalog of digitized Ohio newspapers - http://www.ohiohistoryhost.org/ohiomemory/newspapers
Stark County District Library - search issues of 8 newspapers from 1810 – 1929 - http://starklibrary.advantage-preservation.com/
Warren County Genealogical Society – includes indexes of newspaper articles - contact the society for copies of articles - http://www.co.warren.oh.us/genealogy/

Information on these pages is compiled from information in:

- *FamilySearch.org* Wiki
- Family Tree Magazine
- *The Weekly Genealogist, NEHGS; Genealogy Gems: News from the Allen County Public Library; lisalouisecook.com*