

Informational Guide to Conducting Genealogy Research in the City of Old Town, Maine

Genealogy is the number one hobby in America today. As a result, municipal clerk's offices receive numerous requests each week for information. Requests are received in person, in the mail and over the phone. The Old Town City Clerk's office does not have email access at this time. Municipalities have different policies regarding conducting genealogy research - some charge by the hour, some charge per search. This pamphlet is developed with the intent to provide information to citizens conducting genealogy research on ancestors from the Old Town, Maine area. Specific questions regarding office policy for genealogy research in Old Town should be directed to the Old Town City Clerk's Office at 207-827-3980.

Helpful Hints:

- 1) Prior to 1892, towns were not required to file records of birth, marriage and death. Some towns have records before 1892, but these are not a complete recording of events.
- 2) Unsure where the event took place? Begin by contacting the state (The Maine State Archives in Augusta); they maintain copies of records from every town in Maine.
- 3) Be sure to check family bibles, city directories, obituaries, old maps, old photographs, town history books and old newspapers of information.
- 4) State Archives keeps a list of professional genealogists who will provide research for a fee.

Genealogy Research:

Local level:

City of Old Town Municipal Records

There is no public access to birth or death records in the City of Old Town. Birth, Marriage and death records for Old Town date back to the early 1800s. Records before 1892 are not a complete listing. There is an initial search fee of \$5.00 for the first name, and a \$1.00 fee attached to each name/item searched beyond the first. If the record is found, the fee includes a photocopy when possible, or our in office vitals form. A billing statement will be sent with your requested information. This is not a legal document. For a legal certified copy of birth, death or marriage records, a fee of \$10.00 each is required. Certified copies need to be paid in advance. Make check payable to City of Old Town. Include all known information with the written request - name, dates, etc. Office hours are Mon - Fri, 8am - 4:30pm. Old Town City Hall, City Clerk Office, 150 Brunswick St., Old Town, ME 04468-1497. 207-827-3980. Due to volume of requests, we prefer written requests for searches.

Old Town Public Library

Material on City's history, Indian Island & French Island history, old newspapers (digital copies: <http://oldtown.advantage-preservation.com/>)

Old Town Public Library, 46 Middle St. Old Town, ME 207-827-3972
old-town.lib.me.us

Old Town Indian Island/ Penobscot Indian Nation

For those with Indian Heritage in the Old Town area. Indian Island Community Ctr, 12 Wabanaki Way, Old Town, ME 04468
207-827-7776

Area Churches

No central source for information. You must contact individual churches for information. There are 12 churches in Old Town.

Cemetery listings

The Old Town City Clerk's Office (207-827-3980) and Public Works Dept. (207-827-3974), hold cemetery records and can also be found on the library website.

Penobscot County Register of Probate

Adoptions, legal change of names, guardianship and wills. 97 Hammond St., Bangor, ME 04401 207-942-8769.

Penobscot County Register of Deeds

Land records, property deeds, and titles to property. 97 Hammond St., Bangor, ME 04401 207-941-3040.

State level:

Maine State Archives

Birth, marriage and death records for each town in the state from 1892-1922.

84 State House Station, Cultural Building, Augusta, ME 04333-0084.

Search Room 207-287-5788 State Records Center 207-287-5892 www.state.me.us/dhs

Office of Vital Statistics

Birth, marriage and death records for each town in the state from 1925 - present. Also maintain divorce records from state courts. Will accept credit cards. 211 State St, Augusta, ME 04333-0011. 207-287-3181

www.state.me.us/dhs

Regional and National:

Patten Free Library Genealogy Room

Regarded as the best genealogy history room in Maine. 33 Summer St., Bath, ME 04530

Maine State Historical Society

Center for Maine History, Library Research Center, 485 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101
www.mainehistory.org

Maine Maritime Museum

If ancestors had a shipping or maritime background. Washington St., Bath, ME 04530

National Society of the Daughter of the American Revolution

Exclusive cemetery indexes, data from graves of Revolutionary War soldiers, more
Phone: 202-879-3229

New England Historical Genealogy Society - Boston.

Nations's oldest society. Phone: 617- 536-5740

Military records, Old Census record, Ship's Passenger Lists, etc.

See website listing for National Archives www.nara.gov

Mormon Church Records

See website www.familysearch.org

Helpful Internet Websites

www.nara.gov National Archives site-census records from 1790 - 1920; military records Revolutionary War to WW1; military pension records; passport applications back to 1795; ship passenger lists; naturalization; more

www.usgenweb.org Links to state and county information.

www.ancestry.com Includes Social Security Death Index - find death records by date of death or SSN; databases; more

www.cyndislist.com Links to 42,000 genealogy sites - everything from ship's passenger lists to prison rolls

www.rootsweb.com Internet's oldest genealogy site - lets you see who is looking for the same surnames you are.

www.adoptions.com Good place to start genealogy research if you were adopted.

www.lcweb.loc.gov/rr/genealogy Local History and Genealogy Reading Room. Library of Congress

www.genealogynews.com Online newsletter