Researching New Jersey State Vital Records May 1848-December 1917
(*date changes at the end of each calendar year when all records in a calendar year are 100 years old)

Death

Exact Date?

Yes

Before 1903

Look at NJSA Death Records Indexes online for May 1848-May 1878 and June 1878-June 1897. Family Search, and 1901-1903 on Ancestry.

1904-1917

Look at microfilm, arranged in alphabetical order by last name within calendar year

No

Before 1903

1904-1917

Check to see if death occurred by 1905 or 1915 census

Before 1901?

Yes

Check State Archives Death indexes May 1848-May 1878 and June 1878-June 1897 (order records from here too) or Family Search.org’s NJ Death Index, which includes State records May 1848-December 1900

No

Check New Jersey Death Index for indexes 1901-1903, 1920-29, 1949-2017 (modern records held by NJ Dept. Health)

Before 1903

NJSA has searchable death records from January 1918 to December 1955 for in person use only. If these records are needed for any official purposes, you must contact the Department of Health Office of Vital Statistics and Registry to order at 609-292-4087.

If ordering from the New Jersey State Archives (NJSA) remotely, make sure to include the exact date of death on your order form. Further questions? Contact the State Archives at 609-292-6260

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