Researching New Jersey Ancestors in the Pre-Vital Records Era (May 1848)

- **Ancestor lived Pre-May 1848**
  - **Ancestor married or died after May 1848?**
    - **Yes**
      - Look at State Marriage or Death Record (will have most authoritative info, including birthdate and parents’ names if known by informant)
    - **No**
      - Check Early Land Records Index or County Deeds on microfilm at NJSA for marriage or death references

- **Secondary Resources**
  - Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey
  - Published Church Records
  - Family and Town Histories
  - Colonial Marriage Bonds indexed online and available on Microfilm at NJSA
  - New Jersey County Marriages on FamilySearch.org or on microfilm at NJSA

- **In NJ Index to Wills?**
  - **Yes**
    - Year of probate is generally the same as year of death. Order Estate Papers from State Archives.
  - **No**
    - Check County Surrogate’s Estate Records to get year of probate (same as death year usually). Available on microfilm at State Archives.