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

- **Ancestor lived Pre-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**
    - **Colonial Marriages (to 1799)**
    - **Marriage after 1790**
      - **Yes**
        - **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
      - **No**
        - 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
          - [Early Land Records Index](#) or County Deeds on microfilm at NJSA for marriage or death references
          - [Genealogical](#) [Magazine of New Jersey](#) [Family and Town Histories](#) [Published Church Records](#) [Colonial Marriage Bonds](#) [New Jersey County Marriages](#) [Early Land Records Index](#) or County Deeds on microfilm at NJSA

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