22 Steps in Researching Your Family Tree

'Discovering Your Past Blog Series'

Step 6. Obtaining Vital Records

Step-by-step guide on how to obtain vital records using FamilySearch.com:

1. Go to the FamilySearch website at www.familysearch.org.
2. Click on the "Search" tab at the top of the homepage.
3. Under "Search Historical Records," select "Birth, Marriage, & Death."
4. Enter the required information in the search fields, including the first and last name of the person, as well as their birth, marriage, or death date and location. You can also select additional search options, such as gender or parents' names, to narrow your search.
5. Click "Search" to see a list of potential matches for the person you are researching.
6. Select the record you want to view by clicking on the title of the record.
7. If the record is available online, click on the camera icon next to the record to view a digital copy of the document. If the record is not available online, you can order a copy of the record by clicking on the "Order Record" button.
8. Follow the prompts to order a copy of the record. You may be required to create a free account with FamilySearch and provide payment information.
9. Once your order is complete, you will receive a confirmation email with information on how to access your record.

Note that not all vital records are available online, and some may require additional steps to obtain. In some cases, you may need to visit a government office or archives to obtain a copy of the record. However, using FamilySearch can be a helpful starting point for your research and may provide you with valuable information to continue your search for vital records.