

Coroner Reports

A CORONER (OFTEN called a medical examiner) is a county or town government official responsible for confirming and certifying a death. This includes overseeing the examination of a corpse or ordering an inquest into a person's death.

Not all deaths are subject to a coroner's examination. Only those of an accidental, unusual, questionable or suspicious nature are usually investigated. Although a death certificate might be issued at the time of death, a coroner's report may supersede the cause of death on the certificate, leading to the certificate being amended.

Government offices in the jurisdiction where the death occurred usually hold surviving coroner's reports, though old records may be sent to a local archive. For example, this report from Hamilton County, Ohio, is part of a collection at the University of Cincinnati Archives and Rare Books Library. Reports may be arranged chronologically, by report number, or by the surname of the deceased. Some offices have digitized and indexed their records, and even posted them online; or you might find coroner reports on websites such as FamilySearch.org <www.familysearch.org>.

Coroner reports vary depending on the place. Genealogists often overlook them as family history sources, but these records can provide rich information about a deceased individual. They may predate death certificates in some places, offering important and otherwise unavailable clues. They also can point you to additional research leads in records of funeral homes, cemetery offices, newspapers and obituaries. ■

MORGUE, HAMILTON COUNTY, OHIO.

Dec 29th 1916

RECEIVED 11 26 1916 A.M. ~~4:44~~

Name *Albert Timmerman* **1**
 White—Color—Male—Female—Age. *63*
 Occupation. *Labourer* **2** Residence. *Hotel North 340 George st*
 Married—Single—Widowed.
3 Identified by *Albert Leonard* Residence. *507 Culbert st*
4 Brought by *Auto 3* **5** from *340 George st*
6 History *Sudden Death at*

7 Height. *5 ft 11 inches* Weight. *about 195*
 Hair. *Grey* Eyes. *Brown*
 Nose. *Roman* Chin. *Short*
 Beard. *Grey* Mustache. *Grey*
 Neck. *Long* Teeth. *Poor*

Condition of body and nature of injuries. *Natural Cause*
 Clothing and marks of identification.
8 Scars, marks, deformities, etc. *Open Sores on each Leg*

9 Effects found on body by *J.D. J3*
 In presence of *Auto 3*
 As follows: *Grey tonsils chock & Splenetic*

Probate Court May 11th 1917

10 Body removed *Jan 2nd 1917* by *City Cemetery*
 Name of Undertaker.