

ADOPTION & ORPHANAGE RESOURCES FOR GENEALOGISTS AND HISTORIANS: SELECTED SOURCES IN THE GROSVENOR ROOM



KEY

*	= Oversized book
Buffalo	= In Buffalo Collection in Grosvenor Room
Folio	= Very oversized book
GRO	= In Grosvenor Room
Non-Fict	= In Central Library Non-fiction section
Ref.	= Reference book, cannot be borrowed
Stacks	= Closed Stacks, ask staff for retrieval
WNYGS	= In collection of Western NY Genealogical Society

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INTRODUCTION

This guide is designed to assist persons researching adoption and orphanage records for genealogy and local history purposes in the Grosvenor Room of the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library. Most of the materials listed here deal exclusively with research of adoptions and orphanages in Buffalo and Erie County. References to local almshouses are also included, as many poor children were transferred to orphanages.

Nearly everything listed in this guide can be found in the Grosvenor Room (GRO). Material in the Grosvenor Room does not circulate and cannot be removed from the room. In a few cases, there are duplicate copies of these books that can be borrowed from the Central Library Non-fiction department.

Books are listed in call number order. Shelf locations are always subject to change.

This guide, and other guides to vital records, genealogy, and Buffalo history can be found online:
<https://www.buffalolib.org/special-collections/guides-publications>

GENERAL HOW-TO GUIDES AND HISTORIES

Stacks CS14 .H56 1999

Hinckley, Kathleen W.

Locating Lost Family Members & Friends

Cincinnati: Betterway Books, 1999

GENERAL HOW-TO GUIDES AND HISTORIES	
CS21 .B48 2016 Bettinger, Blaine T., The family tree guide to DNA testing and genetic genealogy Cincinnati, Ohio : Family Tree Books, [2016]	
GRO Ref CS49 .S65 2006 Szucs, Loretto Dennis & Sandra Hargreaves Luebking The Source: A Guidebook to American Genealogy Provo, UT: Ancestry, 2006 <i>Includes a brief section on adoption, pages 294-295</i>	
GRO Ref HV875 .U38 2011 Carangelo, Lori. The Ultimate Search Book: Worldwide Adoption and Vital Records Baltimore, MD: Clearfield, 2011	
GRO Ref HV875.55 .A364 1989 Paul, Ellen The Adoption Directory: The Most Comprehensive Guide to Family-Building Options Including State Statutes on Adoption, Public and Private Adoption Agencies, Adoption Exchanges, Foreign Requirements and Adoption Agencies, Independent Adoption Services, Foster Parenting, Biological Alternatives, and Support Groups New York: Gale Research, Inc., 1989	
GRO Ref HV875.55 .B76 2008 Brown, T. A. (Teresa A.) Adoption records handbook: birth family searches made easier with self-help tips, registries, search angels, pro se legal forms, etc Las Vegas, Nev. : Crary Pub., [2008]	
Stacks HV875.55 .C38 1998 Carp, E. Wayne Family Matters: Secrecy and Disclosure in the History of Adoption Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1998	
Non-Fict HV875.55 .C45 2006 Askeland, Lori Children and Youth In Adoption, Orphanages, and Foster Care: A Historical Handbook and Guide Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2006	
Non-Fict HV875.55 .H57 2008 Herman, Ellen Kinship by Design: A History of Adoption in the Modern United States Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2008	

ORPHANAGE AND ADOPTION HISTORY FOR THE BUFFALO AREA	
Buffalo BX5978 .C5 Church Home Quarterly; devoted to the interests of the Church Charity Foundation Buffalo, NY: The Charity Foundation of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the City of Buffalo, 1881-1899	The Church Home had both an orphanage and a home for the elderly. Deaths of residents and staff are listed. Some names of residents are listed as well as occasional select details of adoptions or foster homes. Dates owned: 1881-1899.
Buffalo F129 .B8 B15 Babies' Milk Dispensary of Buffalo Annual Report Buffalo, NY: n.p., 1910-	Some pictures of unnamed children are included. Dates owned: 1909-1911, 1913, 1914.

ORPHANAGE AND ADOPTION HISTORY FOR THE BUFFALO AREA	
Buffalo F129 .B8 B477 Fresh Air Mission Annual Report Buffalo, NY: W.H. Wright, Jr., 1888-1919	Reports of the Fresh Air Mission of Buffalo (Cradle Beach, Angola) and Buffalo Fresh Air Mission Hospital (Athol Springs). Includes many photos of the missions and children who stayed there (not named). Dates: 1893-1895, 1898/1899, 1901-1919.
Buffalo F129 .B8 B4835 Home for the Friendless (Buffalo, N.Y.) Our record Buffalo, N.Y. : Managers of the Home for the Friendless, [186-]-	1869; 1894-1964.
Buffalo F129.B8 B4837 Home for the Friendless (Buffalo, N.Y.) History and by-laws of the Home for the Friendless... Buffalo, N.Y. : Courier Co., 1888	The Home for the Friendless provided temporary shelter for women, suitable places in families for young girls out of employment. and permanent shelter for elderly women.
Buffalo HV63 .U6 B46 Beman, Lynn S. On the Edge of Town: Almshouses in Western New York Williamsville, NY: People Inc, 2006	Erie County Almshouse, p. 21-28.
Buffalo HV93 .N7 E3, 1915, 1920-1945 County of Erie Annual Report of the Commissioner of Charities and Corrections [Buffalo, N.Y. : s.n.], 1915-1945	The volumes for 1915-1928 include reports about the poorhouse/welfare dept. from which many children were moved to orphanages or placed in permanent homes. May include photos of institutions, conditions of institutions, number of children cared for, statistics on children sent to orphanages or permanent homes, and other data.
Buffalo HV93 .N& E3, 1915, 1920-1945 Annual Report of the Commissioner of Charities and Corrections	1921 Report includes a report on the history of the "Placing Out Work" [of children into family homes] in Erie County which began in 1878. page 17-20
Buffalo HV98 .N7 L4 Letchworth, William Pryor A record of examinations and official inspections of charitable institutions in the counties of Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans, and Wyoming in...New York Albany, NY: State Board of Charities, 1897	Includes a Report on the Erie County System of Placing Dependent Children in Families from 1878-1896. See Directory section in this guide for more details.
Buffalo HV743 .B8 S4 Children's Aid and Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children of Erie County, New York Time present and time past ...; an interim report commemorating the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Children's Aid Society Buffalo, NY: n.p., 1948	
Buffalo HV743 .E8 C6 1914 Children's Aid and Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children The report of the Children's Aid and Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children Buffalo, N.Y. : The Society, [19--]-	Library owns: 1914, 1932/33, 1934, 1943, 1950, 1955.
Buffalo HV859 .B9 B9 Report of the Child Placing Department of the Buffalo Orphan Asylum and the Children's Aid Society [n.p.: n.p., 1925]	

ORPHANAGE AND ADOPTION HISTORY FOR THE BUFFALO AREA	
Buffalo HV875 .R7 Roth, Beatrice Casework in Referral of Clients of Ingleside to Adoption Service Buffalo, NY: University at Buffalo Thesis, 1949	
Buffalo *HV875 .S4 Sherman, Jean Marie A Study of the Factors Involved in Long-Term Placement of Forty Children in a Private Multi-Function Agency Buffalo, NY: D'Youville College, 1957	Includes a chapter on the history of and description of placement services of Catholic Charities in Buffalo.
Buffalo *HV885 .B9 I6 Krolewicz, Sr. Mary Celestine The History and Developmental Study of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Home... Buffalo, NY: University of Buffalo Thesis, 1947	
Buffalo HV885 .B9 J7 PN Powers, Ethel Kenyon A follow-up study of students of the Josephine Goodyear Convalescent Home Buffalo, NY: State University of New York at Buffalo Thesis, 1950	Includes a brief history, photographs, descriptions of school programs, and other information.
Buffalo HV885 .B9 N4 A21 Newsboys and Bootblacks' Home Proceedings at opening, with address of S.S. Guthrie, May 21, 1885 Buffalo, NY: Courier Co., 1885	
Buffalo HV885 .B9 N4 A23 Newsboys and Bootblacks' Home The Buffalo Children's Aid Society Newsboys and Bootblacks' Home. Reports of its various officers, committees, etc. Buffalo, NY: E.H. Hutchinson, 1893	Also includes a list of boys assisted during the year.
Buffalo *HV885 .B9 S2 B2 Bain, Agnes, Sister One hundred years in the history of Saint Vincent's Manor, 1848-1948... Buffalo, NY: thesis, 1950	Also includes images of the home and some of its residents.
Buffalo HV885 .B9 S6 Society for the Protection of Destitute Roman Catholic Children of the City of Buffalo. Act of incorporation, and acts amendatory thereof, with its by-laws Buffalo, Catholic Publication Co., 1873	
Buffalo HV885 .B9 W64 Working Boys' Home Souvenir of the Opening and Dedication of the Working Boys' Home [Buffalo, Buffalo Union and Times, 1891]	
Buffalo HV995.B9 B9 Buffalo Orphan Asylum Annual report of the Buffalo Orphan Asylum [S.l. : s.n.], Murray & Baker	General and financial reports, agent and physician reports, letters from children (anonymous) placed in homes and adoptive parents, donor and donations lists, board of directors. 1915-1920, some photos of anonymous children are included. Holdings: 1881-1922 .

ORPHANAGE AND ADOPTION HISTORY FOR THE BUFFALO AREA	
Buffalo HV995.B9 B915 Buffalo Orphan Asylum List of officers, together with honorary and life members. Also charter, amendments, and by-laws Buffalo : Warren, Johnson & Co., printers, 1874	Lists of donors and trustees, charters, protocol, by-laws.
Buffalo HV995.B9 B916 Revised charter and by-laws of the Buffalo Orphan Asylum... Buffalo : Matthews, Northrup & Co., 1885	Lists of donors and trustees, charters, protocol, by-laws.
Buffalo HV995.B9 B917 Buffalo Orphan Asylum Rules and regulations for the internal management, recommended by the Board of Directresses... Buffalo, Democracy Print, 1854	
Buffalo HV995 .B9 B92 Semi-centennial celebration: the Buffalo Orphan Asylum... Buffalo, N.Y. : Art-printing works of Matthews, Northrup & Co., 1887	Includes a history of the asylum.
STACKS HV86 .N76 1868-1936 Annual Report of the Board of State Commissioners of Public Charities Albany, NY: Various Publishers	Brief descriptions of local orphanages. The orphanages and charities are described in the "Directory" volumes.
LC503.B9 G26 Gallagher, Marie Patrice, Sister The history of Catholic elementary education in the diocese of Buffalo, 1847-1944 Washington, D.C., Catholic University of America Press, 1945	Includes institutional schools.

ADOPTION, ORPHANAGE, AND POORHOUSE RECORDS	
GRO Ref *F127 .E6 J48 1984, 2 vols. Jewitt, Allen E. Adoption's [sic] Recorded in Erie County Hall, Buffalo, 1874-1900 Hamburg, N.Y. : A.E. Jewitt, 1984	
Buffalo F129.B8 C763 Coppola, R. Donald, Mrs. Records of the Evangelical Lutheran St. John's Orphan Home, Buffalo, Erie County, New York, 1865-1961 [Buffalo, NY]: DAR, Abigail Fillmore Chapter, 1981	
The original roll book for the girls was destroyed by a fire. The original Boys roll and two later rolls are indexed in this work. According to the Introduction, the records are kept at the Clarence Center Lutheran Church (Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church).	

ADOPTION, ORPHANAGE, AND POORHOUSE RECORDS

Available by request in the Grosvenor Room

Some ledgers are available online: <http://digital.buffalolib.org/collections/show/5>

Erie County Poorhouse Ledgers, 1829-1952

The collection consists of ledgers recording children “bound out”/adopted (1863-1868), intake registers (children 1829-1841-1852, adults/families 1829-1845, 1861-1864, 1871-1889, 1908-1923), and hospital and death registers (1854-1867, 1897-1952). Intake registers often include age, nativity, occupation, gender, date of commitment, commitment by whom of what town, direct cause of commitment, death, date of discharge, and number of days in the institution. They also identify an individual as pauper, vagrant, insane, idiot, or **orphan**. **A ledger from 1864-1868 covers children bound out by Erie County Superintendents of the Poor.** The child’s name, date of commitment, date of discharge, who took them out, and where they were taken are listed. **Bound out** refers to an indenture agreement with a family. The indenture may have been for a short period of time or could have been permanent. Even babies could be bound out for companionship.

WNYGS Microfilm ML 139 Book 3 [Erie County Miscellaneous Records]

Erie County Records, Adoptions 1857-1876

A small number of adoptions are included.

BIRTH RECORDS

Q: My ancestor was adopted. How can I find their birth certificate?

A: NYS began requiring birth certificates in 1880. That law was not well enforced until 1914. In **1936**, original adoptee birth certificates became sealed, but they were reopened again on January 15, 2020 to adult (18 and older) adoptees. Direct line descendants can also obtain the certificate if the adoptee is deceased. The certificate can be obtained through the New York State Department of Health:

https://www.health.ny.gov/vital_records/preadoption.htm

New York State Vital Records Index

A microfiche index that includes New York State births. Coverage for Buffalo, Albany, and Yonkers is not included until 1914. New York City and Brooklyn are not included. Information that you will find in the index is the date and town/city of birth as well as the state certificate number. The state certificate number is not the same as the local certificate number. Individuals are listed by their birth name only.

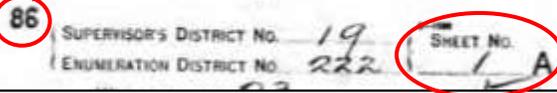
CEMETERY RECORDS	NOTES
WNYGS Microfilm ML905 Forest Lawn Cemetery Records <i>Buffalo Orphan Asylum, Church Charity Foundation and Home for the Friendless burial records are included.</i>	Records can be found in Lot Registers, Section DD, Lot 1 (Church Charity Foundation), Lot 2 (Buffalo Orphan Asylum) and Lots 3 & 5 (Home for the Friendless).
WNYGS Microfilm ML213 United German & French Roman Catholic Cemetery <i>German Roman Catholic Orphans are included. “Welfare burials” are included.</i>	Records are in Book 32, Section 8A and 8AA (German R.C. Orphans). Roll 13 (ML215), Book 17, Section SS (Welfare Burials).

CENSUSES

The quickest way to look up a census record below is by using **Ancestry Library Edition** (see *Databases section below*). Once you are in the database: (1) choose the Search Census, (2) choose the census year of interest (3) Choose the appropriate state, county, city, ward, and enumeration district under Browse this collection from the table below, (4) scroll through the images until you reach the desired stamped page number (5) The name of the institution should be listed at the top of the census schedule if you are on the correct page.

Stamped page #

Occasionally databases miss a page of the census. If you do not find the page number you are seeking try the microfilm.



Asylum of Our Lady of Refuge

Year	GRO Film #	Roll #	Stamped Page#/Sheet#	Notes
1900	875	1029	252(A) / 1A	Ward 18, ED 272
1910	898	944	237(B) / 13B	Ward 14, ED 127, Listed as Home of the Good Shepherd
1920	918	1103	66(A) / 18A	Ward 13, ED 100
1930	948	1427	42(A) / 1A	Ward 11, ED 138

Buffalo Children's Aid Society/Newsboys and Bootblacks' Home

Year	GRO Film #	Roll #	Stamped Page#/Sheet#	Notes
1900	877	1031	117(A) / 13A	Ward 20, ED 167

Buffalo Friendship Home

Year	GRO Film #	Roll #	Stamped Page#/Sheet#	Notes
1930	945	1424	127(A) / 15A	Ward 5, ED 48, Jefferson Ave.

Buffalo Orphan Asylum

Year	GRO Film #	Roll #	Stamped Page#/Sheet#	Notes
1910	902	948	13(B) / 13B	Ward 23, ED 217
1920	921	1106	284(A) / 25A	Ward 21, ED 199; Ward 25, ED 250 (Virginia St.)
1930	953	1432	226(A) / 1A	Ward 24, ED 221

Children's Aid Society Boys' Home

Year	GRO Film #	Roll #	Stamped Page#/Sheet#	Notes
1910	901	947	144(A) / 16A	Ward 24, ED 223, Niagara Sq.
1920	924	1109	128(A) / 26A	Ward 27, ED 27, listed as Children's Aid Society and Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children

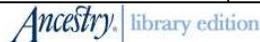
Church Charity Foundation (Episcopal)

Year	GRO Film #	Roll #	Stamped Page#/Sheet#	Notes
1900	877	1031	180(A) / 17A	Ward 22, ED 180, Front Ave. (Now Busti Ave.)

Church Charity Home

Year	GRO Film #	Roll #	Stamped Page#/Sheet#	Notes
1910	901	947	90(A) / 4A	Ward 22. ED 214, Rhode Island St.
1920	923	1108	85(A) / 3A	Ward 24, ED 233, Rhode Island St.
1930	954	1433	128(A) / 1A	Ward 26, ED 325, Rhode Island St.

Erie County Almshouse				
Year	GRO Film #	Roll #	Stamped Page#/Sheet#	Notes
1900	879	1033	65(A) / 1A	Ward 25, ED 222. Present-day location of University at Buffalo, South Campus
Evangelical Church Home				
Year	GRO Film #	Roll #	Stamped Page#/Sheet#	Notes
1920	924	1109	1(A) / 1A	Cheektowaga; ED 266
Father Baker's/Limestone Institutions				
Year	GRO Film #	Roll #	Stamped Page#/Sheet#	Notes
1900	421	1034	193(A) / 1A	West Seneca. Full names of almost 400 children.
1910	422	939	141(A) / 1A	West Seneca? Lackawanna Ward 4, ED 283
1920	273	1110	269(A) / 1A	Lackawanna Ward 4, ED 310
1930	957	1436	238(A) / 1A	Lackawanna Ward 4, ED 428
Fitch Creche				
Year	GRO Film #	Roll #	Stamped Page#/Sheet#	Notes
1900	871	1025	70(B) / 3B	Ward 3, ED 25, Swan St.
German Deaconess Home and Hospital				
Year	GRO Film #	Roll #	Stamped Page#/Sheet#	Notes
1900	876	1030	63(A) / 20A	Ward 18, ED 145
1910	899	945	41(A) / 21A	Ward 16, ED 150
1920	919	1104	61(B) / 11B	Ward 18, ED 152
1930	948	1427	276(A) / 18A	Ward 13, ED 170
German Roman Catholic Orphanage				
Year	GRO Film #	Roll #	Stamped Page#/Sheet#	Notes
1900	876	1030	297(A) / 9A	Ward 18, ED 142, Dodge St.
1910	899	945	36(A) / 16A	Ward 16, ED 150, Dodge St.
1920	919	1104	111(A) / 14A	Ward 18, ED 155, Dodge St.
1930	949	1428	35(A) / 1A	Ward 13, ED 173, Dodge St.
1940			1A	Ward 13, ED 291, Dodge St.
Home for the Friendless				
Year	GRO Film #	Roll #	Stamped Page#/Sheet#	Notes
1900	877	1031	306(A) / 16A	Ward 24, ED 202, Main St.
1910	901	947	229(A) / 15A	Ward 21, ED 204, Main St.
1920	923	1108	228(B) / 6B	Ward 25, ED 241, Main St.
1930	954	1433	19(A) / 19A	Ward 24, ED 298, Main St.
1940			2A	Ward 24, ED 526, Main St.
Immaculate Heart of Mary				
Year	GRO Film #	Roll #	Stamped Page#/Sheet#	Notes
1920	924	1109	68(A) / 30A	Cheektowaga, ED 269, William St.
1930	956	1434	243(A) / 1A	Cheektowaga, ED 382, William St.
Ingleside Home				
Year	GRO Film #	Roll #	Stamped Page#/Sheet#	Notes
1900	878	1032	31(A) / 7A	Ward 24, ED 204, Harvard Place
1910	901	947	142(A) / 14A	Ward 20, ED 200, Harvard Place
1920	922	1107	239(A) / 9B	Ward 23, ED 227, Harvard Place
1930	953	1432	193(A) / 6A	Ward 24. ED 292, Harvard Place

Lutheran Church Home				
Year	GRO Film #	Roll #	Stamped Page#/Sheet#	Notes
1910	899	945	124(A) / 3A	Ward 16, ED 156
1920	919	1104	165(B) / 7B	Ward 18, ED 144
1930	948	1427	138(A) / 1A	Ward 13, ED 163
Our Lady of Victory Infant Home				
Year	GRO Film #	Roll #	Stamped Page#/Sheet#	Notes
1910	893	939	136(B) / 8B	Lackawanna Ward 4, ED 282
1920	925	1110	276(A) / 8A	Lackawanna Ward 4, ED 282
Protestant Home for Unprotected Children				
Year	GRO Film #	Roll #	Stamped Page#/Sheet#	Notes
1920	923	1108	183(A) / 11A	Ward 26, ED 254, Niagara St.
1930	954	1433	220(A) / 1A	Ward 26, ED 332, Niagara St.
1940			1B	Ward 26, ED 567, Niagara St.
Salvation Army Rescue Home (1910); Salvation Army Maternity Hospital and Home (1940)				
Year	GRO Film #	Roll #	Stamped Page#/Sheet#	Notes
1910	902	948	104(A) / 19A	Ward 23, ED 222, Cottage & Jefferson
1940			6A	Ward 24, ED 548, Cottage
St. Charles' Home for Working Girls				
Year	GRO Film #	Roll #	Stamped Page#/Sheet#	Notes
1910	901	947	313(A) / 22A	Ward 24, ED 230, Niagara St.
St. Felix Home for Polish Girls				
Year	GRO Film #	Roll #	Stamped Page#/Sheet#	Notes
1910	897	943	275(A) / 28A	Ward 11, ED 102, Fillmore Ave.
1930	947	1426	229(A) / 11A	Ward 9, ED 119, Fillmore Ave.
St. Francis Asylum				
Year	GRO Film #	Roll #	Stamped Page#/Sheet#	Notes
1910	895	941	244(A) / 13A	Ward 5, ED 43, Pine St.
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Orphan Home				
Year	GRO Film #	Roll #	Stamped Page#/Sheet#	Notes
1920	925	1110	269(A) / 1A	Ward 5, ED 44, Mineral Springs Rd.
St. Joseph's				
Year	GRO Film #	Roll #	Stamped Page#/Sheet#	Notes
1900	880	1034	198(A) / 6A	Sheet #6-Sheet #8. The full names of about 200 children are included.
1910	893	939	145(A) / 5A	Lackawanna Ward 4, ED 283
1920	925	1110	274(A) / 6A	Lackawanna Ward 4, ED 311
St. Mary's Home for Women and Working Girls				
Year	GRO Film #	Roll #	Stamped Page#/Sheet#	Notes
1930	954	1433	275(A) / 1A	Ward 25, ED 315, Edward St.

St. Mary's Infant Asylum & Maternity Home				
Year	GRO Film #	Roll #	Stamped Page#/Sheet#	Notes
1900	877	1031	187(A) / 1A	Ward 21, ED 243, Edward St.
1910	902	948	10(A) / 10A	Ward 23, ED 217, Edward St.
1920	923	1108	75(A) / 8A	Ward 25, ED 248, Edward St.
1930	954	1433	297(A) / 1A	Ward 25, ED 317, Edward St.
1940	 library edition		1A	Ward 25, ED 549, Edward St.
St. Vincent's Female Orphan Asylum				
Year	GRO Film #	Roll #	Stamped Page#/Sheet#	Notes
1910	1424	945	243(A) / 21A	Ward 15, ED 145
1920	919	1104	102(A) / 14A	Ward 17, ED 139, Ellicott St.
1925 NYS	931	52	3	Ward 17, ED 9
1930	948	1427	86(A) / 1A	Ward 12, ED 159, Ellicott St.
1940	 library edition		1A	Ward 12, ED 171
Working Boys' Home of the Sacred Heart				
Year	GRO Film #	Roll #	Stamped Page#/Sheet#	Notes
1900	876	1030	99(B) / 23A	Ward 20, ED 165, Niagara Sq.
1940	 library edition		81A	Ward 27, ED 601, Niagara Sq.

CHURCH RECORDS		
Below are the records of churches associated with orphanages in Buffalo.		
Microfilm Number	Orphanage	Records/Years
406 Vol. 14	Church Microfilm Records – Holy Innocents Orphanage Information which may be found in the records: Baptisms: date, place, name, birth information, parents, sponsors/witnesses Confirmations: date, names, age, sometimes where baptized Communicants: date, names, may list: death or marriage date, new residence and date of new residence Marriages: date, place, bride and groom, parents, witnesses Burials: burial date, death date, name, age, residence, cause of death, place of burial, parents	This is a collection of records kept by the Episcopal Diocese of WNY. Vol. 14 includes records from Holy Innocents Orphanage. Baptisms: 1896-1925 Confirmations: 1896-1922 Communicants: 1885-1922 Marriages: 1896-1924 (only 4 recs) Burials: 1896-1925

DATABASES		
http://dbaz.buffalolib.org/dbaz.php#Genealogy		
Name	Description	Access
Ancestry Library Edition	Provides access to more than 1 billion names. Includes city directories, 450 million census records from the U.S. Federal Census, immigration, vital, military, court, church and ethnic records.	Available for walk-in users at every public library in Erie County. No at-home use. Includes <i>New York, Census of Inmates in Almshouses and Poorhouses, 1830-1920</i> . Erie County's coverage is 1860-1920.
HeritageQuest Online	Contains U.S. federal census records, family and local histories, city directories, probate records, vital records, and other resources.	Available for walk-in users at every public library in Erie County. Also available from home with a valid Buffalo and Erie County Public Library card. Sign in at address above.

DIRECTORIES	NOTES
City Directories – The Grosvenor Room carries a complete set of Buffalo city directories (1828-current), Buffalo suburban, Erie County, and select directories for locations across the state and country.	Lists orphanages' address, board members, when established, number of children housed, and other historical details.
Buffalo AY67 .B9 N4 Buffalo Evening News Almanac and Fact Book Buffalo, NY: Buffalo Evening News [1933-1979]	Most years have listings for "Social Service," "Social Welfare," or "Service" agencies. 1933-1979
STACKS *HV90 .A3 Benevolent Institutions: 1904 Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1905	Includes listings of institutions who take in children permanently and temporarily, by state and city, and includes other data about the institutions.
Buffalo HV98 .N7 B7 1921 Buffalo Foundation Social Service Directory of Erie County Buffalo, NY: The Buffalo Foundation, 1921-2005 <i>Dates Available:</i> 1921, 1927, 1930, 1934, 1938, 1942, 1946, 1950, 1955, 1959, 1963, 1964, 1966 supplements, 1967, 1968 supplements, 1969 supplements, 1972, 1979, 1982, 1984, 1988/89, 1990, 1992, 1994-2005.	A directory of social service agencies with locations in Erie County, NY. Include contact information and services offered. Early directories include data such as when established, staff names, if reports were published, and other information.
Buffalo HV98 .N7 L4 Letchworth, William Pryor A record of examinations and official inspections of charitable institutions in the counties of Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans, and Wyoming in ... New York Albany, NY: State Board of Charities, 1897	Covers incorporated charities and institutions, 1873-1896. Includes: incorporation date, address, officials, condition of facilities, recommendations, and other data. Includes a report on the Erie County System of Placing Dependent Children in Families.
GRO Ref HV700.5 .N34 Directory: Maternity Homes and Residential Facilities for Unmarried Mothers New York: National Council on Illegitimacy, 1966	
GRO Ref HV881 .N54 Niles, Reg Adoption Agencies, Orphanages, and Maternity Homes: An Historical Directory Garden City, NY: Pileas Deight Corp., 1981	Does not include agencies which closed before 1900 or that had capacities under 15 children. Information which may be included is name, address, date established,
Buffalo HV883 .N4 L6 Letchworth, William P. Homes of Homeless Children: A Report on Orphan Asylums and Other Institutions for the Care of Children [Albany, 1903] [A reissue of the writer's reports from 1875-1876]	Covers areas in NY State including Buffalo, Dunkirk, Rochester, Batavia, and others. Gives names, locations, descriptions, mission of the institution, historical information, policies, activities of inmates, and more.

LOCAL HISTORY FILE

This is a card index of newspaper and periodical articles about people, places, and things in the Buffalo area. In addition to looking up your family surnames, try these headings:

Almshouse, Erie County
Charities
Charities. Catholic
Charities. Children's Aid
Charities. Felician Sisters Infant Home
Charities. Immaculate Heart of Mary Home for Children
Charities. Laboure Hall
Charities. Methodist Deaconess Home
Charities. Methodist Home for Children
Charities. Our Lady of Refuge
Charities. St. Charles' Home
Charities. St. Mary's Infant Home
Charities. St. Rita's Home
Charities. Working Boys' Home
Hospitals. Louise de Marillac [Maternity Hospital]
Hospitals. Maternity Institution [Maternity Hospital]
Hospitals. Prospect Park Maternity Hospital [Maternity Hospital]
Hospitals. Providence Retreat [Maternity Hospital]
Hospitals. St. Mary's [Maternity Hospital]
Ingleside Home
Laboure Hall for Girls
Mineral Springs [St. John's]
Orphan Asylums
Orphans in Buffalo
Thomas Indian School

NATIVE AMERICAN ADOPTION	NOTES
Buffalo E97.6 .T4 T4 Thomas Asylum for Orphan and Destitute Indian Children Annual Report Buffalo, NY: Bigelow Brothers [and others], 1882-1942	Located on the Cattaraugus Indian Reservation in Erie Co. For any NY Native American children, under the age of 16. Covers: 1881-1942, a few missing. Names of children are listed. Photos, 1907 & up.
Buffalo E98 .O76 H65 2001 Holt, Marilyn Irvin Indian Orphanages Lawrence, KS: University of Kansas Press, 2001	Includes a chapter on Senecas, p. 49-83
GRO E99 .S3 S35 Conover, George Stillwell Rites of Adoption by the Seneca Indians on the Cattaraugus Reservation, June 15, 1885 n.p.: n.p., 1885	

NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS - ARTICLES	NOTES
F116 .T88 v. 39, no. 1, March 1999, p. 41-42 "Buffalo Orphan Asylum, 1860" Tree Talks	A list of about 80 names of orphans in 1860.
F118 .W46A, September 2014 - ongoing "Erie County Children and Orphans Placed at Local Charitable Institutions" Western New York Genealogical Society Journal	Listings start for 1875 and forward. Transcriptions are currently ongoing.

RARE BOOK ROOM	NOTES
Items in Rare Book Room may be seen by appointment (716-858-8900).	
RBR HV995.B9 B9 Annual report of the Buffalo Orphan Asylum [S.l. : s.n.], Murray & Baker	Rare Book Room has volumes 1837, 1846 1853-1855, 1859, 1861, 1865-1866, 1877-1878, 1881-1922, and 1935.

SCRAPBOOKS
The Buffalo scrapbooks in GRO were compiled roughly from 1900 to 1960 and are comprised largely of local newspaper clippings and ephemera. All are indexed in the <i>Local History File</i> .
GRO Scrapbook HV885 .L3 B9 The Rt. Rev. Msgr. Nelson H. Baker
GRO Scrapbook HV99 .B86, 5 Vols. Charities in Buffalo

SELECTED WEBSITES
http://www.asylumprojects.org/ Asylum Projects
https://www.childrensaidnyc.org/about/history-innovation The Children's Aid Society
http://www.cyndislist.com/adoption Cyndi's List - Adoption
https://orphantraindepot.org/ National Orphan Train Complex
http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/genealogy/adopt.htm New York State Library Search Strategy Materials for Adoptees
https://sites.rootsweb.com/~ote/orphans/ New York's Orphans Records

TIPS

1. **Find out what institutions the orphanage is/was affiliated.** There may have been burial grounds and baptismal records associated with the institution.
2. **Are you trying to find a relative who was put up for adoption after having lived for a while with their birth family?** If there are grandparents, siblings, or other close relatives still living after they were put up for adoption, research those individuals. Especially check wills and estate papers, obituaries, marriage records (witness names), and marriage announcements. You may find the new last name of the adopted child.
3. **Social Security Death Index** – available in *Ancestry Library Edition*.

Here is a strategy to use if you know who your relative's birth parents are, but do not know what happened to your relative after s/he was adopted:

If your ancestor was not adopted at birth, is deceased, and would have had a social security number, try searching the Social Security Death Index by birth date only. You can then see a list of individuals who are deceased and have your ancestor's birth date. You may get lucky and find someone with your ancestor's first name. This could mean that your ancestor's given name was not changed after adoption. If you find someone of interest, you could then see if a birth certificate exists for the potential "adopted name." If a certificate does not exist, then this could be your ancestor.

A note about the Social Security Death Index: Social Security began in 1936. Computerization of Social Security records began in 1962. Individuals who died before that year are less likely to be listed in the database. The index is composed of persons whose deaths were reported to the Social Security Administration. Not all deaths were reported. In addition, in the early days of Social Security, children were not automatically signed up for it. Therefore, your ancestor may not have had a Social Security number.

4. **Newspapers:** Look in the legal section of the paper for notices relating to an adoption hearing or an advertisement that tries to establish paternity. A good website for New York State newspapers, including some for Buffalo and Erie County is: www.fultonhistory.com
5. **Name Changes:** Petitions to change names can indicate an adoption. Name changes may have been required to be published in a local newspaper.
6. **Guardianships:** In cases where one or both parents have died, leaving minor children, the court can appoint a guardian to care for the children. In many instances, these guardians are family members. In the nineteenth century this is a clue to an adoption.
7. **State Legislative Records:** In some states, the General Assembly accepted adoption petitions from prospective adoptive parents. This contains the child's birth name and the name of the adoptive parents.
8. **Unofficial Adoptions:** Before WWI, many children were adopted "unofficially." Couples would often take in a child without "official paperwork."

VERTICAL FILE

The Grosvenor Room collects articles, pamphlets, and clippings about local history. Ask for these folders:

Asylums & Orphanages
Charities

THE ONLINE CATALOG OF THE BUFFALO & ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

https://bepl.ent.sirsi.net/client/en_US/default

The online catalog includes the books, magazines, CDs, videos, maps, and manuscripts owned by the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library. It includes the Grosvenor Room, all departments in the Central Library, and every town and branch library. Access it free on the internet at the address above.

To find additional adoption and orphanage-related items in our collection beyond those listed in this guide, try these Subject searches.

ADOPTION
 ADOPTION UNITED STATES DIRECTORIES
 ALMSHOUSES
 CHARITIES
 CHARITIES BUFFALO N Y
 CHARITIES DIRECTORIES
 CHARITIES NEW YORK STATE
 HOSPITALS BUFFALO N Y
 HOSPITALS NEW YORK STATE BUFFALO
 MATERNITY HOMES
 ORPHANAGES
 ORPHANAGES NEW YORK STATE BUFFALO
 ORPHANAGES UNITED STATES DIRECTORIES

WHERE ELSE CAN I RESEARCH ADOPTION & ORPHANAGE RECORDS?	NOTES
<p>Research Library Buffalo History Museum 1 Museum Court Buffalo, NY 14216-3199 Email: library@buffalohistory.org Telephone: 716.873.9644 x 306 https://buffalohistory.org/library-collections/</p>	<p>The Museum's Research Library carries records for the Buffalo Orphan Asylum including admissions and departures from 1836-1939. For a complete holdings list see the Adoption Genealogy Vertical File, available at the Reference Desk. For a list of other orphanage related resources at the museum see: http://tinyurl.com/TBHM-orphans</p>
<p>Catholic Diocese of Buffalo 795 Main St. Buffalo, NY 14203 (716)–847–8700</p>	<p>Christenings from St. Mary's Infant Home for 1870-1904 are in the possession of this institution.</p>
<p>Catholic Charities 525 Washington St. Buffalo, NY 14203 (716)–856–4495</p>	<p>Carries Catholic Charities adoption records and select records for the German Roman Catholic Orphan Asylum, St. Mary's Infant Asylum, and Saint Vincent's Female Orphan Asylum. Call the phone number listed for information regarding these records.</p>

WHERE ELSE CAN I RESEARCH ADOPTION & ORPHANAGE RECORDS?	NOTES
<p>Denise Gallo, PhD. Provincial Archivist Daughters of Charity 333 S. Seton Avenue Emmitsburg, MD 21727 (301) 447-3121</p>	<p>St. Vincent's Female Orphan Asylum Includes: minutes of the Board of Directors 1848-1951; correspondence 1897-1970; annual reports 1880-1968; photographs and other materials.</p>
<p>Family History Centers https://www.familysearch.org/centers/locations/ Multiple Family History Centers are located in Erie County: Amherst, Buffalo, and Orchard Park.</p>	<p>www.familysearch.org Search the Family History Library catalog for orphanage and adoption records. Try a subject search for "orphans," "orphanages," and "adoption" along with a location name. Many FamilySearch records can be viewed online.</p>
<p>New York State Archives New York State Education Department Cultural Education Center Albany, NY 12230 (518) 474-8955 http://www.archives.nysed.gov/</p>	<p>Census of inmates in almshouses & poorhouses, 1875-1921, are on 225 microfilm reels in the New York State Archives. They are arranged alphabetically by name of county or city institution, then chronologically by date of census or admission. No index is available. May be borrowed through Interlibrary Loan. This resource is also available in Ancestry Library Edition which is available for use in-library at any of the B&ECPL locations.</p> <p>New York State residents can access this for free at: https://www.ancestry.com/cs/newyork</p> <p>Many children in poorhouses were transferred to orphanages.</p>
<p>State University of New York at Oswego Penfield Library Special Collections 7060 State Route 104 Oswego, NY 13126 (315) 312-3537 https://www.oswego.edu/library/special-collections</p>	<p>Ruth Holmes Marshall kept admission records, 1852-1862 for the Buffalo Orphan Asylum. These records are part of the Marshall family papers, available at the library.</p>