Buffalo & Erie County Public LIBRARY

Vital Records in the Grosvenor Room

Births, Marriages, and Deaths in
Buffalo, Erie County, and New York State

Key

*	=	Oversized book
ALE	=	Ancestry Library Edition, a keyword searchable database available at every B&ECPL location.
Buffalo	=	In Buffalo Collection
FS	=	FamilySearch, a free website. https://www.familysearch.org/
GRO	=	In Grosvenor Genealogy collection
MF	=	Microfilm/Microfiche
RBR	=	Seen by appointment in Rare Book Room
REC	=	Reclaim the Records, a free, browse-only website. https://www.reclaimtherecords.org/records-request/
WNYGS	=	In WNY Genealogical Society collection

See the following free handouts for additional sources of death information: Deaths in Buffalo, Tips for Finding Obituaries in Buffalo Newspapers, Cemetery Records in Erie County, Church Records in Microfilm and Print, and for wills, estate papers, and Probate Records, see Misc. Genealogical Records handout.
https://www.buffalolib.org/special-collections/guides-publications

Births	**City of Buffalo**	**Erie County**	**New York State**
City of Buffalo Birth Records on Microfilm • In the WNYGS microfilm collection. • No index. In rough chronological order by date filed.	1881 to 1913	Not Included	Not Included
City of Buffalo <u>Delayed</u> Births on Microfilm • In the WNYGS microfilm collection. • No index. In rough chronological order by birth year.	1864 to 1913	Not Included	Not Included
New York State Vital Records Index • B&ECPL library card or photo ID required. • Researchers may use one fiche at a time. • Does not include New York City or Brooklyn. • Does not include Buffalo, Albany and Yonkers prior to 1914. • ALE Database: *New York State, Birth Index, 1881-1942*	MF: 1914 to 1937 ALE, REC: 1914 to 1942	MF: 1881 to 1937 ALE, REC: 1881 to 1942	MF: 1881 to 1937 ALE, REC: 1881 to 1942
New York State Delayed Birth Certificate Index (Pre 1881) • B&ECPL library card or photo ID required. • Photocopying not permitted. • Most were filed for births occurring in the **1870**'s. • Does not include New York City.	Unknown-City of birth is not listed	1873 to 1880	1823 to 1881

Births	City of Buffalo	Erie County	New York State
Town of Eden Birth Records • On Reel 21 of B&ECPL cemetery records	Not Included	Eden Only 1847 to 1851	Not Included

Birth Announcements in Newspapers

Scan the *Buffalo (Evening) News* and the *Courier-Express* for a few weeks after the date of birth, and the *Buffalo Daily Law Journal*. No known index of local newspaper birth notices.
The Vital Records Office in Buffalo City Hall stopped releasing baby names to newspapers in 2006.

Adoptions: Unfortunately, birth notices are a poor source for adoption researchers, as the names of babies intended for adoption were not released to newspapers.
See our *Adoptions & Orphanages* handout for other adoption sources.

Dates	Newspaper	Microfilm Holdings
1932-1970	*Buffalo (Daily) Law Journal*	GRO Film #112. Also available in bound volumes, 1960-present (*K2. U34). Staff will retrieve them for you.

Marriages	City of Buffalo	Erie County	New York State
GRO Ref. *F129 .B8 Z4 1999 Zintz, June Partridge, comp. **Marriages from Buffalo, N.Y. Newspapers 1811-1884** Hamburg, NY: June P. Zintz, 1999	1811 to 1884	1811 to 1884	Not Included
RBR MSS. I94 1901 Ives, William **The Why of This Book: The Bound Volumes of Newspapers from which the Copies of Early Marriages …** [Buffalo, NY] : The Author, 1901 *Marriages in Buffalo and surrounding communities 1811-1833.* http://digital.buffalolib.org/document/2038	1811 to 1833**	1811 to 1833**	Not Included
GRO Ref. *F129 .B8 Z45 2004 v.1 Zintz, June Partridge, comp. **Marriages from Buffalo, N.Y. [Episcopal & Presbyterian] Church Records,1825-1900** Hamburg, NY: June P. Zintz, 2004	1825 to 1900	1825 to 1900	Not Included
Erie County Justice of the Peace Records on Microfilm • In the WNYGS microfilm collection. • Indexes are on rolls #1 and #2. Records are on roll #19.	1837 to 1876	1837 to 1876	Not included
GRO Ref. *F129 .B8 J49 1984, 3 vols. + index Jewitt, Allen E. **Early Justice of the Peace Marriages Performed in Buffalo, Erie County, New York** (1840-1880) Hamburg, NY: Allen E. Jewitt, 1984	1840 to1880	1840 to 1880	Not Included
Erie County Clerk's Marriage Records on Microfilm • In the WNYGS microfilm collection. • Indexes are on rolls #1 to #18. Records--rolls #20 to #159.	1877 to 1935	1877 to 1935	Not included

Marriages	City of Buffalo	Erie County	New York State
Buffalo *F129 .B8 A195 1904-1973 **Social Register, Buffalo** New York: Social Register Association *Each vol. includes a listing of the maiden and married names of "society" women married the previous year.*	1904 to 1973	1904 to 1973	Not included
New York, County Marriages • Includes index and images of records. • All counties are not included. Erie is not included. • ALE and FS Database: *New York, County Marriages, 1847-1848; 1908-1936*	Not Included	Not Included	ALE, FS: 1847 to 1848; 1908 to 1936
New York State Vital Records Index • B&ECPL library card or photo ID required for microfiche. • Researchers may use one fiche at a time. • Does not include New York City or Brooklyn. • Does not include Buffalo, Albany and Yonkers prior to 1908. • ALE Database: *New York State, Marriage Index, 1881-1967*	MF: 1908 to 1964 ALE, REC: 1908 to 1967	MF: 1881 to 1964 ALE, REC: 1881 to 1967	MF: 1881 to 1964 ALE, REC: 1881 to 1967
WNYGS 974.7 ER san Sanford, Richard M. **Marriages Abstracted from Rev. Richard M. Sanford's Journal…** *Includes Aurora, Colden, Hamburg, Orchard Park* ***Online at FamilySearch.org, microfilm number 1411736.***	Not Included	Various towns 1845 to ca.1897	Not Included
WNYGS 974.7 ER Amh cra Cramer, Robert A., comp. **Marriages by Timothy A. Hopkins, Esq., Justice of the Peace, Town of Amherst…1841-1884**	Not Included	Amherst only 1841 to 1884	Not Included
WNYGS 974.7 ER COL tay Taylor, George W. **Marriages 1875-1895 by George W. Taylor, Spiritualist Minister, Collins, Erie County**	Not Included	Collins only 1875 to 1895	Not Included
Town of Eden Marriage Records • On Reel 21 of B&ECPL cemetery records	Not Included	Eden only 1847 to 1851	Not Included
Town of Elma Marriage Records • On WNYGS film ML101 [missing]	Not Included	Elma only Up to 1902	Not included

General Sources for New York State Marriages

GRO *CS68 .C262
Rev. Campbell's Record Book: Marriages and Funerals
[Buffalo, NY?] C.J. McCabe, 1970
Names are mostly from NY, CT, MA, OH, PA, VT, RI. Includes a few names from the south towns of Erie County from 1847 to 1886. We are not sure of Rev. Campbell's denomination.

GRO CS83 .B86 2004
Bunnell, Paul J.
French and Native North American Marriages, 1600-1800
Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, ©2004

General Sources for New York State Marriages

Buffalo *F118 .M6
Miscellaneous Cemetery Inscriptions and Records in New York State
[Buffalo, NY: Abigail Fillmore Chapter N.S.D.A.R, 1931]
Includes 8 pages of marriages and deaths published in the Niagara Journal, 1819-1820

GRO *F118 .N487 1962
New York State Marriages: Some Marriage Records Gleaned from County Histories of New York State
Buffalo, NY: Buffalo & Erie County Public Library, 1962

GRO F118 .N485 1968
New York Marriages previous to 1784…
Baltimore: Genealogical Pub. Co., 1984, c1968.
Focuses on Long Island & Eastern area of NY State, 1639-1783.

GRO F130 .G3 B54 2000
Biebel, Frank A.
Index to Marriage and Death Notices in the *New-Yorker Staats-Zeitung*, 1836-1870
New York: New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, 2000

Marriage Announcements in Newspapers

There is no comprehensive index of local newspaper wedding announcements. Browse the *Buffalo (Evening) News*, *Courier-Express,* and the *Buffalo Daily Law Journal* for a few weeks around the date of the wedding. In some years, announcements were published every day, scattered throughout the paper. A brief notice of marriage license may be found in some years.

Dates	Newspaper	Microfilm Holdings, notes.
1932-1970	*Buffalo (Daily) Law Journal*	GRO Film #112. Also available in bound volumes, 1960-present (*K2. U34). Ask Staff to retrieve them.

Deaths	City of Buffalo	Erie County	New York State

New York State Vital Records Index
• B&ECPL library card or photo ID required.
• Researchers may use one fiche at a time.
• Does not include New York City or Brooklyn.
• Does not include Albany, Buffalo and Yonkers prior to 1914.
• ALE Databases:
  ○ ***New York, Death Index, 1852-1956*** [includes Index to Deaths in Buffalo, New York, 1852-1944]
  ○ ***New York State, Death Index, 1957-1970***
• This index is also online for the years 1957-fifty years ago: https://health.data.ny.gov/Health/Genealogical-Research-Death-Index-Beginning-1957/vafa-pf2s
	MF: 1914 to 1964
	
	ALE: 1852 to 1968
	
	REC: 1852 to 1956
		MF: 1880 to 1964
		
		ALE: 1880 to 1968
		
		REC: 1880 to 1956
			MF: 1880 to 1964
			
			ALE: 1880 to 1968
			
			REC: 1880 to 1956

Death Notices from the *Buffalo News* on Microfilm • On 6 rolls of microfilm in the WNYGS collection. No index.	1962 to 1976	1962 to 1976	Not Included
Village of East Aurora Death Records • On Reels17 & 18 of B&ECPL cemetery records • Not true "death records," but includes some death & burial information and gravestone transcriptions.	Not Included	E. Aurora only 1810 to 1976	Not Included
Town of Eden Deaths • On Reel 21 of B&ECPL cemetery records	Not Included	Eden only 1847 to 1851	Not Included

Deaths	City of Buffalo	Erie County	New York State
Town of Elma Deaths • On WNYGS cemetery film ML101 [missing]	Not Included	Elma only Up to 1902	Not Included

New York City Vital Records

The NYC Historical Vital Records Project
Free online images of births (1866-1909), deaths (1862-1948), and marriages (1866-1937) are online through the NYC Department of Records and Information Services (DORIS) at https://a860-historicalvitalrecords.nyc.gov/. Coverage varies by borough and the project is ongoing, so more records will be added over time. The site is easiest to search if you know the year, certificate number, and borough where the vital event took place. That information can be found in the *Ancestry Library Edition* and *FamilySearch* databases listed below.

New York City Births
- *ALE Databases:* New York, New York, U.S., Index to Birth Certificates, 1866-1909; New York, New York, Extracted Birth Index, 1878-1909; New York, New York, U.S., Birth Index, 1891-1902; New York, New York, Birth Index, 1910-1965
- *FS Databases:* New York, New York City Births, 1846-1909

New York City Marriages
- *ALE Databases*: New York, New York, Extracted Marriage Index, 1866-1937; New York, New York, Marriage License Indexes, 1907-2018
- *FS Databases:* New York, New York City Marriage Records, 1829-1940; New York, New York City Marriage Licenses Index, 1950-1995

New York City Deaths
- *ALE Databases*: New York, New York, Extracted Death Index, 1862-1948; New York, New York, Death Index, 1949-1965

General Vital Records

Sources that may include local or NYS vital records.

WNYGS Vital Index of Early Western NY Families
Approximately 120,000 cards that provide birth, marriage, or death information. Compiled by the Western New York Genealogical Society (WNYGS) from sources such as local histories, cemetery records, land records, probate records, old newspapers, etc.

GRO Ref. *CS69 .B9
Names and Origins of Early New York State Settlers
[Buffalo, NY]: Buffalo and Erie County Public Library, n.d.

GRO Ref. F118 .F65 1993, 2 vols.
Foley, Janet Wethy
Early Settlers of New York State
Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Pub. Co., 1993
Focuses mostly on Western New York

GRO Ref. F125 .B68 1985
Bowman, Fred Q.
10,000 Vital Records of Western New York 1809-1850
Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Pub. Co., 1985

F128.9 .H9 N4
Wittmeyer, Alfred, ed.
Registers of the Births, Marriages, and Deaths of the "Eglise Françoise à la Nouvelle York," from 1688 to 1804
Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Pub. Co., 1968

General Vital Records

Sources that may include local or NYS vital records.

Buffalo *F129 .B8 B696
Ramsey, Mrs. James A.
Vital Statistics and Personal Items Found in *The Buffalo Republican* from March 14, 1828 to Feb. 15, 1830
[Buffalo, NY? n.d.]

Buffalo *F129 .B8 W5
Vital Statistics Taken from *The Western Star* July-October 1834
[Buffalo, NY? n.d.]

Social Security Databases

- *Social Security Death Index, 1935-2014* [ALE, FS]
- *Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007* [ALE]

Both databases list birthdate and at least the month and year of death. The claims index also lists parents' names and places of birth. The bulk range of death dates are 1965-2014 years ago. Every person who had a social security number was not necessarily included.

Reference Sources for Vital Records Research

GRO Ref *CS42.7 .K46 2017
Kemp, Thomas Jay
International Vital Records Handbook, 7th ed.
Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Pub. Co., 2017
Provides addresses, phone numbers, and reproducible forms for vital records departments in all 50 states, US territories, and every nation.

GRO Ref. F118 .B68 1995
Bowman, Fred Q.
Directory to Collections of New York Vital Records
Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, 1995

GRO Ref. F118 .N39 2014
Joshi, Naomi et al., eds.
New York Family History Guide and Gazetteer
New York, NY : New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, c[2014]

Selected Websites

Cyndi's List - https://www.cyndislist.com/us/vital/
A directory of genealogy websites. This link will take you to the U.S. vital records category.

German Genealogy Group - http://www.germangenealogygroup.com/
This website is not just for German research. It includes many indexes to New York City area births, deaths, marriages, and other records.

Italian Genealogical Group - https://www.italiangen.org/databases/
This website is not just for Italian research. It includes many indexes to New York City area births, deaths, marriages, and other records.

Online Searchable Death Indexes and Records - https://www.deathindexes.com/
A directory of online death indexes for all across the United States.