

NYS Vital Record Indexes: Catch Up on the Rapidly Changing Access



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New York State Vital Records

The New York State Health Department has created indexes to births, marriages, and deaths occurring after 1880 for locations outside of [New York City](#). See Exceptions below.

Researchers with New York State ancestors can get their ancestor's vital record (if it exists and before the restricted time periods) in two steps:

- Locate the certificate number in a New York State vital records index
- Use the certificate number found in the index to request the record

These records are only available to the public after a certain period of time, which varies depending on the record and the researcher's relation to the person of interest. For an even more in-depth and comprehensive guide to vital records, see our print [Guide to NY Birth, Marriage, and Death Records](#) or the vital records chapter of our [New York Family History Research Guide and Gazetteer](#).

Researchers have to access the microfiche index to New York State vital records indexes at one of eleven repositories in New York (alphabetical by county):

1. [New York State Archives](#), Albany, Albany County
2. [Broome County Public Library](#), Binghamton, Broome County
3. [Steele Memorial Library](#), Elmira, Chemung County
4. [Buffalo & Erie County Public Library](#), Buffalo, Erie County
5. [Flower Memorial Library](#), Watertown, Jefferson County
6. [Rochester Public Library](#), Rochester, Monroe County
7. [National Archives at New York City](#), New York, New York County (Manhattan)
8. [Utica Public Library](#), Utica, Oneida County
9. [Onondaga County Public Library](#), Syracuse, Onondaga County
10. [Patchogue-Medford Library](#), Patchogue, Suffolk County
11. [Crandall Public Library](#), Glens Falls, Warren County

New York State Death Certificates

The NYG&B eLibrary contains images of the [New York State Death Index](#).

From Reclaim the Records: archive.org/details/nydeathindex

The images in these collections are not searchable, but they are easy to browse by year, though the image quality of some years makes it difficult to read certain images.

From Ancestry.com: ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=61535

For more recent deaths, [New York State's Interactive Ancestry/Genealogical Research Death Index](#). Contains 1957 to the current legal limit (1968 as of 2018).

Once you have found the death certificate number, you're ready to [request a copy](#).

New York State Marriage Records

From Reclaim the Records: archive.org/details/nymarriageindex

From Ancestry.com: ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=61632

Once you have found the marriage certificate number, you're ready to [request a copy](#).

In some cases, marriage records can be located at the county level. See the database on FamilySearch for many counties: familysearch.org/search/collection/1618491

Findmypast also has a growing collection of county marriage records for New York State—this includes a searchable index of brides and grooms, along with images of marriage records in many cases. NYG&B members can [access these records](#) for free as a benefit of membership.

New York State Birth Certificates

From Reclaim the Records: archive.org/details/nybirthindex

From Ancestry.com: ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=61667

Once you have found the birth certificate number, you're ready to [request a copy](#).

New York Knowledge Base article (member access):

newyorkfamilyhistory.org/new-york-birth-marriage-death-vital-records

Exceptions:

State coverage for [Albany](#), [Buffalo](#), and [Yonkers](#) does not begin until 1914. If you're seeking a birth, marriage, or death record for an ancestor in one of those locations before 1914, click the name of each municipality for tips on finding records before 1914.

Other exceptions include civil vital records created under earlier state law (1847). See the *NYG&B Guide to NY Birth, Marriage, and Death Records* or the *New York Family History Research Guide and Gazetteer*.

For New York City

Please see “Finding Ancestors in New York City Vital Records in the 1800s and Early 1900s” recorded in October. newyorkfamilyhistory.org/video/finding-ancestors-new-york-city-vital-records-1800s-and-early-1900s, accessible to NYG&B members.