# Vital Records in the Grosvenor Room

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

## Key

- **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/](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.reclaimtheproducts.org/](https://www.reclaimtheproducts.org/)
- **WNYGS** = In WNY Genealogical Society collection

## Births

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Births</th>
<th>City of Buffalo</th>
<th>Erie County</th>
<th>New York State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>City of Buffalo Birth Records on Microfilm</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- In the WNYGS microfilm collection.</td>
<td>1881 to 1913</td>
<td>Not Included</td>
<td>Not Included</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- No index. In rough chronological order by date filed.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>City of Buffalo Delayed Births on Microfilm</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- In the WNYGS microfilm collection.</td>
<td>1864 to 1913</td>
<td>Not Included</td>
<td>Not Included</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- No index. In rough chronological order by birth year.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>New York State Vital Records Index</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- B&amp;ECPL library card or photo ID required.</td>
<td>MF: 1914 to 1937</td>
<td>MF: 1881 to 1937</td>
<td>MF: 1881 to 1937</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Researchers may use one fiche at a time.</td>
<td>ALE, REC: 1914 to 1942</td>
<td>ALE, REC: 1881 to 1942</td>
<td>ALE, REC: 1881 to 1942</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Does not include New York City or Brooklyn.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Does not include Buffalo, Albany and Yonkers prior to 1914.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- ALE Database: <em>New York State, Birth Index, 1881-1942</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>New York State Delayed Birth Certificate Index (Pre 1881)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- B&amp;ECPL library card or photo ID required.</td>
<td>Unknown-City of birth is not listed</td>
<td>1873 to 1880</td>
<td>1823 to 1881</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Photocopying not permitted.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Most were filed for births occurring in the 1870's.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Does not include New York City.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Town of Eden Birth Records</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Eden Only 1847 to 1851</td>
<td>Not Included</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- On Reel 21 of B&amp;ECPL cemetry records</td>
<td>Not Included</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Newspaper</th>
<th>Microfilm Holdings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1932-1970</td>
<td><em>Buffalo (Daily) Law Journal</em></td>
<td>GRO Film #112. Also available in bound volumes, 1960-present (*K2. U34). Staff will retrieve them for you.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Marriages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City of Buffalo</th>
<th>Erie County</th>
<th>New York State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **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.*
**Available by appointment in Rare Book Room.** | 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 to 1880 | 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 |

*Note: same records at the Inactive Recs Center, Buffalo*

**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.*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Marriages</th>
<th>City of Buffalo</th>
<th>Erie County</th>
<th>New York State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New York, County Marriages</td>
<td>Not Included</td>
<td>Not Included</td>
<td>ALE, FS: 1847 to 1848; 1908 to 1936</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Includes <em>index and images</em> of records.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• All counties are <strong>not</strong> included.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• ALE and FS Database: <em>New York, County Marriages, 1847-1848; 1908-1936</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New York State Vital Records Index</th>
<th>MF: 1908 to 1964</th>
<th>MF: 1881 to 1964</th>
<th>MF: 1881 to 1964</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• B&amp;ECPL library card or photo ID required for microfiche.</td>
<td>ALE, REC: 1908 to 1967</td>
<td>ALE, REC: 1881 to 1967</td>
<td>ALE, REC: 1881 to 1967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Researchers may use one fiche at a time.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Does not include New York City or Brooklyn.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Does not include Buffalo, Albany and Yonkers prior to 1908.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• ALE Database: <em>New York State, Marriage Index, 1881-1967</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WNYGS 974.7 ER san Sanford, Richard M.</th>
<th>Not Included</th>
<th>Various towns 1845 to ca.1897</th>
<th>Not Included</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Marriages Abstracted from Rev. Richard M. Sanford’s Journal...</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Includes Aurora, Colden, Hamburg, Orchard Park</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Online at FamilySearch.org, microfilm number 1411736.</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WNYGS 974.7 ER Amh cra Cramer, Robert A., comp.</th>
<th>Not Included</th>
<th>Amherst only 1841 to 1884</th>
<th>Not Included</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Marriages by Timothy A. Hopkins, Esq., Justice of the Peace, Town of Amherst...1841-1884</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WNYGS 974.7 ER COL tay Taylor, George W.</th>
<th>Not Included</th>
<th>Collins only 1875 to 1895</th>
<th>Not Included</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Marriages 1875-1895 by George W. Taylor, Spiritualist Minister, Collins, Erie County</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Town of Eden Marriage Records</th>
<th>Not Included</th>
<th>Eden only 1847 to 1851</th>
<th>Not Included</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• On Reel 21 of B&amp;ECPL cemetery records</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Town of Elma Marriage Records</th>
<th>Not Included</th>
<th>Elma only Up to 1902</th>
<th>Not included</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• On WNYGS film ML101 [missing]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**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

**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
General Sources for New York State Marriages

GRO F118 .N485 1968
New York Marriages previous to 1784...
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

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Newspaper</th>
<th>Microfilm Holdings, notes.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Deaths

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, 1957-1968
- 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](https://health.data.ny.gov/Health/Genealogical-Research-Death-Index-Beginning-1957/vafa-pf2s)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City of Buffalo</th>
<th>Erie County</th>
<th>New York State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MF: 1914 to 1964</td>
<td>MF: 1880 to 1964</td>
<td>MF: 1880 to 1964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALE: 1852 to 1968</td>
<td>ALE: 1880 to 1968</td>
<td>ALE: 1880 to 1968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REC: 1852 to 1956</td>
<td>REC: 1880 to 1956</td>
<td>REC: 1880 to 1956</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Death Notices from the Buffalo News on Microfilm
- On 6 rolls of microfilm in the WNYGS collection. No index.
  - 1962 to 1976

Village of East Aurora Death Records
- On Reels 17 & 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

Town of Eden Deaths
- On Reel 21 of B&ECPL cemetery records
- Not Included Eden only 1847 to 1951

Town of Elma Deaths
- On WNYGS cemetery film ML101 [missing]
- Not Included Elma only Up to 1902
### Additional Sources for Deaths, Obituaries, and Burial Records

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*

For Wills, Estate Papers, and Probate Records, see *Misc. Genealogical Records* handout.

### New York City Vital Records

#### New York City Births
- **ALE Databases:** New York, New York, Extracted Birth Index, 1878-1909; 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.
  
  Foley, Janet Wethy

- **Early Settlers of New York State**
  *Focuses mostly on Western New York*
  
  GRO Ref. F125 .B68 1985
  Bowman, Fred Q.

- **10,000 Vital Records of Western New York 1809-1850**
  
  F128.9 .H9 N4
  Wittmeyer, Alfred, ed.

- ** Registers of the Births, Marriages, and Deaths of the "Eglise Française à la Nouvelle York," from 1688 to 1804**
**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 [ALE, FS]*
- *Social Security Applications and Claims Index [ALE]*

Both databases list birthdate and at least the month and year of death. The claims index also lists parents’ names and place of birth. The bulk range of birth dates is from 1870s-four years ago. The bulk range of death dates are 1965-four years ago. But both indexes go back earlier than stated. This is a national database, but 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
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*

**Selected Websites**

**Cyndi’s List** - [https://www.cyndislist.com/us/vital/](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/](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** - [http://www.italiangen.org/records-search/](http://www.italiangen.org/records-search/)
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/](https://www.deathindexes.com/)
A directory of online death indexes for all across the United States.

---

Grosvenor Room, Buffalo & Erie County Public Library, 1 Lafayette Square, Buffalo, NY, 14203-1887
Ed. November 2018