Genealogical Research Death Index

Overview

New York State Department of Health Division of Administration Vital Records

OPEN Data NY

Overview

Vital records registration started in New York State outside of New York City in 1881. The New York State (NYS) Vital Records Section of the NYS Department of Health (DOH) files certificates for deaths that occur in New York State outside of New York City. Generally, the NYS DOH provides uncertified copies of the following types of records for genealogy research of death certificates, if on file for at least 50 years.

To better serve the public, NYS Vital Records Section is providing the Genealogical Research Death Index dataset to assist researchers to locate death records that fall within defined genealogy years. This Index contains information on decedents, parents, date of death, gender, age at death and NYS file number that will allow the public to search for individuals on a variety of genealogy criteria. Researchers have the option of ordering a death certificate by State file number for a decedent whose record falls within the genealogy years for death records.

The application and associated fees can be accessed at:

www.health.ny.gov/vital_records/genealogy

Mail the completed application to: New York State Department of Health, Vital Records Section Genealogy Unit, OPEN Data NY Request, and P.O. Box 2602, Albany, NY 12220-2602

The NYS Vital Records Section is reviewing the feasibility of also adding the Birth and Marriage Indexes to facilitate genealogical research for the following timeframes:

- Birth certificates if on file for at least 75 years and the person whose name is on the birth certificate is known to be deceased.
- Marriage certificates if on file for at least 50 years and both spouses are known to be deceased.

Libraries Assisting with Genealogical Research

Full Death Record (back to 1881), Birth Record (back to 1880), and Marriage Record (back to 1881) Indexes for genealogical research are available at nine libraries throughout the state, on microfiche. The locations are provided below:

- 1. New York State Archives, Cultural Education Center, Empire State Plaza, Albany 12230. Available Monday through Friday, 9:00-4:30, and Saturday, 9:30-4:30 except State holidays. No appointment is needed to use the indexes. Researchers must produce identification, sign a registration form, and comply with the rules of the research room. Several microfiche readers are available for use, however, researchers will be limited to one hour's use of a microfiche reader, if other persons are waiting to use the readers.
- 2. National Archives--Northeast Region, 201 Varick Street, New York, NY 10014; telephone (212) 401-1620, email newyork.archives@nara.gov; website www.archives.gov/northeast/nyc/.

- 3. Rochester Public Library--115 South Avenue, Rochester, NY 14604; telephone (585) 428-8440, website www3.libraryweb.org.
- 4. Onondaga County Public Library, 447 South Salina Street, Syracuse, NY 13202; telephone (315) 435-1900; website www.onlib.org.
- 5. Buffalo & Erie County Public Library, Grosvenor Room, 1 Lafayette Square, Buffalo, NY 14203; telephone (716) 858-8900; website www.buffalolib.org/.
- 6. Steele Memorial Library—101 East Church Street, Elmira, NY 14901; telephone (607) 733-8603; website www.steele.lib.ny.us.
- 7. Crandall Public Library, Center for Folklife, History & Cultural Programs—251 Glen Street, Glens Falls, NY 12801; telephone (518) 792-6508; website www.crandalllibrary.org.
- 8. Patchogue-Medford Library—54 E. Main Street, Patchogue, NY 11772; telephone (631) 654-4700; website www.pmlib.org.
- 9. Flower Memorial Library—229 Washington Street, Watertown, NY 13601; telephone (315) 785-7705; website www.flowermemoriallibrary.org/.
- 10. Broome County Public Library—185 Court Street, Binghamton, NY 13901; telephone (607) 778-6400; website www.bclibrary.info/index.html.
- 11. Utica Public Library—303 Genesee Street, Utica, NY 13501; telephone (315) 735-2279; website www.uticapubliclibrary.org.