



Selected New York Resources:

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National Society Daughters of the American Revolution

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Important General Resources:

- Joshi, Naomi, Michael J. Leclerc, Cathy Michelsen, Catherine Ziegler, Susan R. Miller, and H. McKelden Smith. 2017. *New York Family History Research Guide and Gazetteer*. (ISBN 9780692319987)
- FamilySearch wiki (always!):
https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/New_York_United_States_Genealogy
- NYGenWeb: <https://www.nygenweb.net/>
- New York Genealogical and Biographical Society's New York Knowledgebase (includes county guides) <https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/new-york-knowledge-base>
- New England Historic Genealogical Society's subject guide to New York:
<https://www.americanancestors.org/education/learning-resources/read/new-york-guide>
- New York Heritage (digital resources, Long Island esp. interesting):
<https://nyheritage.org/> (includes FABULOUS early Long Island account books:
<https://newyorkgenealogy.org/nassau/long-island-new-york-historic-account-books.htm>)

Vital Records:

	Births	Marriages	Deaths
Earliest	1847	1847	1847
Statewide Registration	1880	1880	1880
General Compliance	1890		1890

(This table borrowed from the FamilySearch wiki page:

https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/New_York_Vital_Records)

Who has the records?

Outside New York City (after 1880/1881):

	Births	Marriages	Deaths	Notes:
Records themselves:				
Outside New York City:	New York State Health Department	New York State Health Department	New York State Health Department	Records for Albany, Buffalo and Yonkers start 1914

Indices:

Births 1881-1942:	By year: https://archive.org/details/nybirthindex (images; free) Searchable database: https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/nystatebirthindex/ (requires subscription)
Deaths 1881-1956:	By year: https://archive.org/details/nydeathindex (images; free) Searchable database: https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/nystatedeathindex/ (requires subscription); includes Buffalo 1852-1956
Deaths 1957- current limit (currently March 1969)	https://health.data.ny.gov/Health/Genealogical-Research-Death-Index-Beginning-1957/vafa-pf2s (free; updated quarterly)
Marriages 1881-1964	By year: https://archive.org/details/nymarriageindex (images; free) Searchable database: https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/nystatemarriageindex/ (requires subscription)
Marriage licenses 1847-1848, 1908-1936	Many counties: https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1618491 (free; partially indexed)

New York City:

Records themselves:	
Birth records 1910 - present:	Individuals with one of the following relationships to the subject of the certificate can obtain copies of birth records from New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) (with proof of death): spouse/domestic partner, parent, child, sibling, niece/nephew, aunt/uncle, grandchild/great-grandchild, grandniece/grandnephew)
Death records 1950 - present:	Individuals with one of the following relationships to the subject of the certificate can obtain copies of birth records from New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) (with proof of death): spouse/domestic partner, parent, grandparent, child, sibling, niece/nephew, aunt/uncle, grandchild/great-grandchild/great-great-grandchild, grandniece/grandnephew)
Marriages:	License files prior to 1950: can be viewed at or ordered from NYC Municipal Archives (MUNI) 1950 onwards: must be requested from the New York City Clerk's marriage bureau

Indices:	
Marriages:	Index 1908-1972, 2016, 2018: By year: https://archive.org/details/nycmarriageindex (images; free) License index 1950-2017: nycmarriageindex.com (searchable; free)

Indices:	
Births 1881-1942:	By year: https://archive.org/details/nybirthindex (images; free) Searchable database: https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/nystatebirthindex/ (requires subscription)
Deaths 1881-1956:	By year: https://archive.org/details/nydeathindex and https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/2803479 (images; free) Searchable database: https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/nystatedeathindex/ (requires subscription); includes Buffalo 1852-1956
Deaths 1957- current limit (currently March 1969)	https://health.data.ny.gov/Health/Genealogical-Research-Death-Index-Beginning-1957/vafa-pf2s (free; updated quarterly) https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/2285574 (free)
Marriages 1881-1964	By year: https://archive.org/details/nymarriageindex (images; free) Searchable database: https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/nystatemarriageindex/ (requires subscription)
Marriage licenses 1847-1848, 1908-1936	Many counties: https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1618491 (free; partially indexed)

Maps:

- Geological and land patent [map of the state of New York](#)
- New York [Sanborn maps](#)

- Other maps of [New York at LOC](#)
- Individual county chronologies from Newberry Library :
[https://publications.newberry.org/ahcbp/documents/NY Individual County Chronologies.htm#Individual County Chronologies](https://publications.newberry.org/ahcbp/documents/NY_Individual_County_Chronologies.htm#Individual_County_Chronologies)
- Interactive map of boundary changes (Newberry Library):
<https://publications.newberry.org/ahcbp/map/map.html#NY>

Land records:

- [New York Indorsed Land Papers, 1643-1676](#) (index of land transfers from colonial governments to first owners)
- [Lords of Manors of New York](#) (biographical sketches of some of the early landowners in the New York Genealogical and Biographical Record)
- [New York, Land Records, 1630-1975](#) (images; by county)
- [Landholders of Northeastern New York, 1739-1802](#) (\$)
- [New York, Sales of Loyalist Land, 1762-1830](#) (\$; index/images)
- [Western New York Land Transactions, 1804-1824](#) (\$)
- [Western New York Land Transactions, 1825-1835](#) (\$)
- [New York Land Records](#), by county (collection of links)
- [Bureau of Land Management Land Patents](#)
- [New York Will Books Testators Records](#), In the FREEFind box, type the last name first and put quotations around the name to search on the phrase, such as "Robertson John." Optionally, add a town or county ("Robertson John" Worcester) to narrow the search.

Archives:

The New York State Archives

The Archives **do not** hold birth, marriage, and death certificates, only **indexes** to them.

Requests for genealogy copies of birth, marriage, and death **certificates** held by the New York State Department of Health may be dropped off at the New York State Archives or at:

New York State Department of Health
Vital Records Section
800 North Pearl St. (2nd Floor)
Menands, NY 12204

Local registrars of vital statistics (town, village, city, or consolidated county district) hold registers of births, marriages, and deaths or for recent decades, duplicate certificates.

NYC Municipal Archives:

The Municipal Archives maintains historical birth, death and marriage records for the five boroughs of New York City (Manhattan, Brooklyn, Bronx, Queens and Staten Island).

The collection includes:

- Birth certificates prior to 1910
- Available records:

Manhattan:	July 1847-48, July 1853-1909 (includes records for western Bronx, 1874-97, and eastern Bronx, 1895-97)
Brooklyn:	1898-1909 (pre-1898 records are for Brooklyn city only. Records for former towns in Kings County usually commence 1880-81; some of those towns have vital records for the later 1840s.)
Bronx, Queens, Staten Island:	1898-1909 (there are scattered earlier records for towns and villages prior to their incorporation into New York City in 1898. Long Island City records start in 1871.)

For birth records after 1909, contact the [New York City Department of Health](#).

- Death certificates prior to 1949.

Available records:

Manhattan:	1795, 1802-04, 1808, 1812-1948
Brooklyn:	1847-53, 1857-1948
Bronx, Queens, Staten Island:	1898-1948

For death records after 1948, contact the [New York City Department of Health](#).

- Marriage certificates (records of marriages reported to the Health Department) prior to 1938; and
- Marriage license records (including the affidavit, license and certificate filed by the City Clerk) dated 1908 to 1949.

Available records:

Manhattan:	June 1847-48, July 1853-1949
Brooklyn:	1866-1949
Bronx, Queens, Staten Island:	1898-1949

For marriage records after 1949, contact the [City Clerk](#), or write to

New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Office of Vital Records
125 Worth Street, CN4, Room 133
New York, NY 10013
(212) 788-4520

Post-1949 marriage records are held by the borough offices of the New York City Clerk. For addresses of borough offices, contact:

[New York City Clerk's Office](#)

New York City Marriage Bureau
Municipal Building (Room 252)
1 Centre Street
New York, NY 10007
(212) 639-9775
New York City Marriage Bureau

Other Official Vital Records in Upstate Cities and Counties:

Some upstate cities began recording some vital events a few years prior to 1880: Albany, Binghamton, Buffalo, Elmira, Newburgh, Poughkeepsie, Rochester, Syracuse, Utica, and Yonkers. For further information contact the city clerk's office. Some county clerks hold marriage records for the period ca. 1908-35.

Courts:

PROBATE: Surrogate's Court since 1787 (by County)

Chancery jurisdiction included guardianship for the property of widows and orphans; mortgage foreclosure; real property partition; and divorce (1787- 1847 only).

New York [Statutes](#)

[Court of Assizes \(1665-1683\)](#) (high court until 1683, hearing major civil and criminal cases)

[Court of Chancery \(1683-1847\)](#) (exclusive jurisdiction in matters involving trusteeships, mortgages, mercantile law, women's property rights, and family property settlements)

[Supreme Court of Judicature \(1691-1847\)](#)

[Prerogative Court and Court of Probates \(1665-1823\)](#) (Before the establishment of the New York State Surrogate's Court system in 1787, jurisdiction over probate matters was exercised by the colonial Prerogative Court and its successor, the State Court of Probates)

[Court for the Trial of Impeachments and Correction of Errors \(1777-1847\)](#)

[Court of Appeals \(1847-present\)](#)

[Appellate Division of the Supreme Court \(1896-present\)](#)