

**DEATHS IN BUFFALO AND ERIE COUNTY:
 SELECTED SOURCES IN THE GROSVENOR ROOM**



KEY

*	= Oversized book
Buffalo	= In Buffalo collection in Grosvenor Room
GRO	= In Grosvenor Room
Non-Fiction	= In General Non-Fiction Collection
Ref.	= On Reference Shelf
RFDK	= At Reference Desk
STACKS	= Shelved in Closed Stacks, ask staff to retrieve
WNYGS	= In Western NY Genealogical Society Collection

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www.buffalolib.org
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INTRODUCTION

This guide includes a variety of sources that might help you find your ancestor's date of death, which can then help you find an obituary or death certificate.

No comprehensive obituary index or database or one single source lists everyone who died in the Buffalo area. Instead, there are multiple sources, including newspaper indexes, compiled indexes, and published lists, with small or large numbers of names. Almost everything listed in this handout will be found in the Grosvenor Room.

Keep in mind that there is no guarantee that a death notice or obituary exists. Many deaths went unrecorded, especially in the years before New York State had a vital records law (1880). There is no law that requires that a death notice or obituary be published. See also:
<https://www.buffalolib.org/special-collections/guides-publications#13>

This guide does not list our church records, many of which include the deaths of parishioners. For church records see the separate guide, *Church Records in Microfilm and Print*. See also these free handouts, which may be useful for your search:

- Cemetery Records for Erie County NY in the Grosvenor Room
- Church Records in Microfilm and Print
- Military History and Records
- Death Notices and Obituaries: Where to Look in Buffalo & Erie County Newspapers
- Vital Records in the Grosvenor Room
- Miscellaneous Genealogical Records in the Grosvenor Room

Shelf locations are always subject to change. See staff for assistance in locating material.

For other helpful research guides see <https://www.buffalolib.org/special-collections/guides-publications>

GENERAL "HOW-TO" GUIDES	NOTES
GRO Ref. CS16 .B55 1991 Billingsley, Carolyn Earle How to Get the Most out of Death Certificates Conway, AZ: Research Associates, ©1991	How to find a death certificate, what to do if you cannot find a death certificate, how to interpret everything that appears on a death certificate, and more.
GRO Ref. CT214 .J3 Jarboe, Betty M. Obituaries: A Guide to Sources Boston, MA: G.K. Hall, 1982	A guide to card files and published lists that existed before the computer era.
GRO E169.1 .H94 2000 Hume, Janice Obituaries in American Culture Jackson, MS: University Press of Mississippi, ©2000	A history of how the American obituary developed and changed over time.

BOOKS WITH LISTS OF DEATHS		
Dates	Title & Call Number	Notes
Early 1800's to early 1900's	GRO Ref. F118 .F56, 2 vols. Foley, Janet W. Early Settlers of New York State Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co. Inc. ©1993	Includes some cemetery records and gravestone transcriptions. Has a strong focus on Western New York.
1807-1870	WNYGS 974.7 ER Lan Cla Clark, James A Record of Deaths in the Town of Lancaster...1807-1870	
1810-1854	GRO Military Ref. *F127 .E6 M42 Merrow, Leta S. A List of Revolutionary War Soldiers' Graves Located in Erie County New York [Hamburg, NY]: Abigail Fillmore Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, 1989	While no Revolutionary War battles were fought here, some Revolutionary War veterans eventually settled and died here.
1811	Buffalo *F129 .B8 M25 Marriages and Deaths Compiled from Buffalo Gazette: Published 1811 in Village of Buffalo, Niagara County (now Erie Co.), New York... Buffalo, NY: Abigail Fillmore Chapter N.S.D.A.R., date unknown	A 44 page manuscript of names from 1811.
1811-1880	GRO Ref. *F127 .E6 E76 Reamy, Bill and Martha, comp. Erie County, New York Obituaries as Found in the Files of the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society Westminster, MD: Willow Bend Books, 2000, ©1992	Covers 1811-1880. Gives date of death but not the newspaper where the obituary might be found.
1817-1902	WNYGS 974.7 ER Chu Cra Cramer, Robert A., comp. Buffalo Baptist Association Excerpts from the Minutes 1817-1902 of Deaths	Includes Baptist churches in towns outside of Buffalo
1819-1820	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 <i>Niagara Journal</i> , 1819-1820

BOOKS WITH LISTS OF DEATHS		
1825-1883	Buffalo F129 .C72 B8 1992, pp. 235-237 Briggs, Erasmus History of the Original Town of Concord: Being the Present Towns of Concord, Collins, N. Collins and Sardinia, Erie County, New York Camden, ME: Picton Press, ©1992 [reprint]	Originally published in 1883. Includes "List of Persons Who Have Met an Accidental Death by Drowning or Otherwise in the Town of Concord," 1825-1883.
1840-1901	Buffalo F129 .E85 J2, pp. 269-281 Jackman, Warren History of the Town of Elma, Erie County, N.Y. 1620-1901 Buffalo, NY: G. M. Hausauer & Son, 1902	List deaths of 400 residents
1847-1886	GRO *CS68 .C262 Rev. Campbell's Record Book: Marriages and Funerals [Buffalo, NY?] C.J. McCabe, 1970	1847 to 1886, CT, MA, OH, PA, VT, RI, and NY. Includes a few listings from the south towns of Erie County. We do not know what denomination Rev. Campbell was or where he lived.
1850	GRO Census Index Table *F129 .B8 U6 Work Progress Administration, 1939-1940, comp. Index of the 1850 Census, Buffalo, Erie County, New York [S.l., s.n.], 1940	See Addenda for deaths recorded in the 1850 Census
Ca.1850-1950	GRO RFDK F127.E6 B57 2011 (Guide #38) Births, Deaths, and Marriages Found in Select Buffalo and Erie County Publications Buffalo, NY: B&ECPL, 2011 https://www.buffalolib.org/special-collections/guides-publications#13	Includes death listings listed in select Buffalo and Erie County publications. Family member names, place of residence, and place of death are included if listed in the publication.
1858-1968	GRO *CT213 .N47 (on microfilm cabinets) The New York Times Obituaries Index New York: New York Times, 1970	Covers the years 1858-1968. Includes prominent Buffalonians.
1863	GRO Ref. *F127 .E6 J49 Jewitt, Joyce S. Some Deaths in Erie County, N.Y., 1863 Hamburg, NY: Joyce S. Jewitt, ©1984	
Late 1800s- Early 2000s	GRO Ref. F127 .E6 I43 2011, 3 vols Wernicki, Jan Index of Select Deaths from Western NY Newspapers Buffalo, NY: Jan Wernicki, 2000-2011	Includes date the item appeared in a newspaper and the type of article. See also www.BuffaloNYdeaths.com
1880-2004	WNYGS 974.7 ERI Buffalo ind Wernicki, Janice, comp. Index to Select Death Notices from Buffalo Area Newspapers—over 5,600 from 1880-2004 Janice Wernicki, © 2000-2005	Provides citations for death notices and obituaries from the <i>Buffalo News</i> and <i>Courier Express</i> .
1881-1956	Buffalo HV8378 .B9 A1 1881-1956 Buffalo Police Department Annual Report [title, publishers vary]	Reports published in these years contain narrative descriptions of every homicide in Buffalo, including names of victims and suspects.
1882-1892	GRO RFDK *F129 .B853 S44 1997 Seegal, Steven, comp. A Necrology Excerpted and Organized from the Buffalo City Directories, 1882-1892 Buffalo, NY: Buffalo and Erie County Public Library, 1997 Online: https://www.buffalolib.org/special-collections/guides-publications#13	The Desk copy includes an addenda of various necrologies found in the Local History Scrapbooks, vols. 5-8.

BOOKS WITH LISTS OF DEATHS		
1884-1928	Buffalo F129 .B8 B89 Buffalo Historical Society Annual Report of the Board of Managers... Buffalo, NY: The Society	Published annually from 1884 to 1928. Includes names of prominent citizens who died the previous year. Indexed in the <i>Local History File</i> .
1885-1997	Buffalo TH9505 .B8 A1 Buffalo (N.Y.) Fire Dept Annual Report Buffalo, NY: [various printers]	From 1885 to 1997 (gaps), almost every volume lists firefighters who died that year. From 1989 to 1997, there is a list of civilian fire deaths by address. No civilian names are given.
1886-1898	Scrapbook F129.B8 O25 [Obituary Scrapbook: 1886-1898] v. 1-2 Compiled by Eliza Dutton Clarke	Mostly prominent people and Clarke's family, (188 names) indexed in the LHF and also with the scrapbook copies. Death notices & obituaries.
1887-1901	Buffalo F129 .B8 B71 Album and Year Book Buffalo, NY: Buffalo Express	Annual: 1887 to 1901; title varies. Includes details of prominent citizens who died the previous year. Indexed in the <i>Local History File</i> .
1890-1963	STACKS Non-Circulating HV8699 .U5 B68 Bowers, William J. Executions in America Lexington, MA: Lexington Books [1974]	See pp. 296-319 for names of individuals executed in NY State from 1890-1963. Includes 43 names from Erie County.
1899- 50 years ago	GRO Desk Ref. #34 Stephan-Burns Funeral Home Records Buffalo, NY: Buffalo and Erie County Public Library, 2008 <i>A Black Rock area funeral home</i>	Contains name, death date, address, place of birth, age, birth date, and burial place. Privacy regulations restrict to 50 years before present. @Grosvenor Room Reference Desk
1904-1973	Buffalo *F129 .B8 A195 1904-1973 Social Register, Buffalo New York: Social Register Association	Each volume includes a page listing "society" men and women who died the previous year.
1914-1919	Buffalo D570.85 .N51 B9 L2 Lafayette High School of Buffalo, NY in the World War 1914-1919 Buffalo, NY: Baker, Jones, Hausauer Inc. [1920?]	Lists Lafayette alumni who lost their lives in World War I.
1914-1919	GRO Ref. *F129 .B8 S97 Sweeney, Daniel J. History of Buffalo and Erie County 1914-1919 [Buffalo, ©1920]	Includes Buffalo-area World War I casualties.
1918-1922	GRO Desk Ref. #26 Pearson, JoAnn, comp. The Arrow: Marriages and Deaths as Reported in the Pierce Arrow Newsletter, 1918-1922 Compiled Sept. 2001	Includes deaths of employees and relatives. @Grosvenor Room Reference Desk
192?-2002	GRO F129 .B89 N4126 2002 (Reference Desk, Guide #50) The Buffalo Genealogical Society of the African Diaspora Index and Introduction to the Microfilmed Buffalo African-American Funeral Program and Obituary Collection, Volume 1 Buffalo, NY: The Society, 2002	Lists the name, birth year and death year. Only one entry is a death in the 1920s, most are from the 1980s-1990s.
1923-1932	Buffalo F129 .B8 E52, May 1923-March 1932 Ellicott Square Magazine Buffalo, Ellicott Square Co.	Includes occasional obituaries of tenants and employees of the building.

BOOKS WITH LISTS OF DEATHS		
1932-1972	Buffalo AY67 .B9 N4 1932-1972 Buffalo Evening News Almanac and Fact Book Buffalo, NY: Buffalo Evening News	Includes deaths of prominent Buffalonians. See <i>Chronology, Deaths, or Necrology, Sports Necrology</i> in the index.
1939-1945	Ref. F129 .B8 B695 Buffalo and Vicinity Heroes Who Gave Lives for Nation Buffalo, NY: Buffalo Courier-Express, 1945	Names of World War II casualties
1939-1945	Buffalo AY67 .B9 N4 1947 Buffalo Evening News Almanac and Fact Book Names of Buffalo and Western New York Residents Who Gave Their Lives in the Service in World War II Buffalo, NY: Buffalo Evening News, 1947	
1940-1945	GRO Desk Ref. #15 The Bellringer, a Selected Index, Dec. 1940-1945 Compiled 2002	A brief list of deaths of employees and relatives at Bell Aircraft Corp. @Grosvenor Room Reference Desk
1943-1944	GRO Desk Ref. #28 The Curtiss Wright-er, a Selected Index, 1943-1944 Compiled Dec 2001	Includes deaths of Curtiss-Wright employees and their relatives and those who died in service. @Grosvenor Room Reference Desk
1959-1973	Buffalo *F127 .E6 K28 2004 Kavanagh, Patrick Brian, comp. In Remembrance of: Vietnam War Casualties of Western New York New York: [2004]	Photocopies of newspaper clippings and short biographies taken from Internet resources
1969-1978	GRO *CT213 .N472 1980 [on microfilm cabinets] The New York Times Obituaries Index II, 1969-1978 New York: New York Times, 1980	Covers the years 1969-1978. Includes prominent Buffalonians.
1983-1996	GRO Ref. *AI3 .W4 1983-1996 Western New York Index [Buffalo, NY: The Library]	A name section at the end of each volume includes obituaries. GRO's set is shelved just behind the Ref desk.
1998-1999	Buffalo *F127 .E6 D44 1999 Kulp, Suzanne, comp. Index to All of 1998 and 1999 (through Sept. 23) Death Notices, Obituaries and Reports of Deaths as Appeared in the Buffalo News, Buffalo, NY Orchard Park, NY: Suzanne Kulp, [1999]	

CARD FILES
<p>Local History File: A card index to local newspapers and periodicals; includes citations to articles about people, places, events, and organizations in the Buffalo area. The most thorough coverage is from 1930-1982, with fewer entries for earlier and later dates. It includes obituaries, but smaller, classified style death notices are rare. The <i>Local History File</i> is continued by the <i>Western New York Index</i> (see <i>Books</i>, above). The <i>Local History File</i> may also lead you to an obituary in one of our scrapbooks. Search by your ancestor's name (Last name, First name) to find an obituary.</p> <p>Also try these headings if they are applicable to your ancestor:</p>

CARD FILES

Accidents
Automobiles. Accidents
Deaths
Drowning

Explosions
Fires
Murders
Railroads. Accidents

Vital Index of Early Western New York Families: A card file maintained by the Western New York Genealogical Society (WNYGS), which cites names found in their collection and in records held elsewhere. Mostly 1800s.

DATABASES

<https://www.buffalolib.org/content/research>

Name	Description	Access
Ancestry Library Edition	Includes the Social Security Death Index (SSDI). Offers collections of death records from all over the US. The New York State Death Index is included, 1852 – fifty years ago. Mortality census schedules are available for 1850-1880. A Prospect Lawn Cemetery (Hamburg, NY) record <i>index</i> 1850-1950 is included.	Available for walk-in users at every public library in Erie County. No at-home use.
HeritageQuest Online	The Book Collection includes family and local histories which may list death dates. Revolutionary War pension files will often list soldier death dates in widow's pensions. Memorials are included in the U.S. Serial Set. Freedman's Bank Records may include a death certificate in rare cases. Includes the Social Security Death Index (SSDI).	Available for walk-in users at every public library in Erie County. Also available from home with a valid Buffalo and Erie County Public Library card. Sign in at address above.

DIGITAL COLLECTIONS

<https://www.buffalolib.org/research-resources/digital-collections>

Name	Description	Access
Erie County Newspaper Collection	Several Erie County newspapers have been digitized and are freely accessible at the website to the right.	https://www.buffalolib.org/research-resources/digital-collections
Erie County Poorhouse Records	The Erie County Poorhouse of Buffalo, NY and succeeding institutions operated as a social safety net for the region's poor and infirm. The records consist of intake ledgers (children "bound out" 1863-1868, adults 1861-1864, 1871-1889, 1908-1923) and death registers (1897-1952).	http://digital.buffalolib.org/collections/show/5

DIGITAL COLLECTIONS

The Why of This Book

Transcribed by Buffalo Public librarian William Ives (1817-1916), *The Why of This Book* compiles records of marriages and deaths which occurred in Buffalo and surrounding communities from 1811-1833, as transcribed from newspaper notices.

<http://digital.buffalolib.org/document/2038>

NEWSPAPERS

Most of our local newspaper collection is on microfilm

If you know the exact, or approximate, date of death, you can browse the microfilm for the days or weeks following the death.

Printing: black & white and is 20 cents (10 cents on newer machines) per 8.5 x 11 page.

Saving: 5 digital microfilm machines allow images to be saved to your flash/jump drive.

The major Buffalo daily newspapers listed below are usually good places to start your search. Around the late 19th and early 20th century, there were also many smaller publications, including newspapers directed to various ethnic groups and foreign language readers. See our newspaper guides and timeline for these titles: <https://www.buffalolib.org/special-collections/guides-publications#newspapers>

For more information on searching for death notices see our *Death Notice and Obituary* guide: <https://www.buffalolib.org/special-collections/guides-publications#13>

See also "Selected Websites" and "Digital Collections" in this guide for more newspaper searching options.

Grosvenor Room Staff can help you locate the following on microfilm:

- *Buffalo (Evening) News* on Microfilm, 1881 to present
- *(Buffalo) Courier Express* on Microfilm, 1926-1982

Where else to look: When the *Courier-Express* folded in 1982, its archives went to the Butler Library at **Buffalo State College**. According to the archive inventory, there are local and national obituaries from 1956-1982 in their collection.

- *Buffalo News* Death Notices on Microfilm, 1962-1976
The Western New York Genealogical Society (WNYGS) has special microfilms of the death notices from the *Buffalo News* from 1962 to 1976.

Buffalo News website, free access to an index of death notices from Sept. 11, 1997 to present.

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/local/new-york/buffalo-obituaries>

PERIODICALS

Western New York Genealogical Society Journal - GRO F118 .W46A

The society's journal dates back to 1974 and includes many Erie County record transcriptions. Here are some select Erie Co. indexing projects that have been featured:

PERIODICALS		
DATE RANGE	WNYGS JOURNAL ARTICLE	DATES PUBLISHED
1800 - 1880	Erie County Surrogate Index, 1800 - 1900	9/1997 – 3/1999; 9/1999 - 3/2000; 12/2005 - 3/2008
1808 - 1870	A Record of Deaths in the Town of Lancaster	A - C, 6/1991; C - P, 9/1991; R - Z, 12/1991
1824 - 1878	Erie County Deaths from Universalist Sources	A - C, 12/2000; D - Z, 3/2001;
1833 - 1869	Necrology of our Early Settlers	A - K, 9/1999; L - Y, 12/1999
1878 - 1902	Index to the Erie County Medical Examiners Records, 1878 - 1902	9/2007 - 9/2013, 3/2014, 6/2014

SCRAPBOOKS	NOTES
The Buffalo scrapbooks in GRO were compiled roughly from 1900 to 1960, and are comprised largely of local newspaper clippings and ephemera. All are indexed in the <i>Local History File</i> . The following volumes are of particular interest to obituary researchers:	
GRO *F129 .B8 B58 Scrap-book of Local Obituary Notices and Biographical Sketches 1861-1864 [1921?]	Mostly Civil War casualties
GRO *F129 .B8 B692414 v.10, pp. 158-171 Buffalo Military Affairs	Vietnam War casualties from Western New York published on May 30, 1968
GRO *F129 .B8 B69265 Local Biographies	There are about 100 volumes in this set, which includes obituaries of prominent residents. All are indexed in the <i>Local History File</i> .
GRO *F129 .B8 B6928, vols.5-8 Local History [1901-1908, 1925-1926, 1928, 1941, 1944]	Various necrologies are scattered throughout these volumes. A list was appended to the GRO Ref. Desk copy of the <i>Necrology</i> by Steven Seegal (see <i>Books</i> , above).

SELECTED WEBSITES	NOTES
https://www.buffalony.gov/276/City-Clerk City of Buffalo Death Records	Instructions and downloadable form for requesting vital records from Buffalo's City Hall.
https://archive.org/details/buffalodeathindex City of Buffalo Death Records Index, 1852-1944	Browsable for free. Also in <i>Ancestry Library Edition</i> as part of the <i>New York State Death Index</i> .
http://www.wnygs.org/erie-vr.html First Vital Statistics Records, Erie County	Gives the dates of the earliest known vital records, for every town and village in Erie Co.
https://www.elections.erie.gov/PublicOffice Erie County Directory of Public Officials	Gives names, addresses, and contact information for every town and village clerk in Erie County.
https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1680846 Family Search – New York State Deaths and Burials	Includes over 700,000 deaths from 1795-1952.
https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1920234 FamilySearch – New York Probate Records	Includes thousands of estate papers and wills for Erie Co. as well as many other New York State locations.
https://www.findagrave.com/ Find a grave	Millions of transcribed cemetery markers, searchable by name and location.
http://www.forest-lawn.com/genealogy/locate-a-loved-one Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, NY	Online cemetery records for the Forest Lawn Group of Cemeteries, including St. Matthew's in West Seneca, Lakeside in Hamburg, Williamsville Cemetery, as well as Buffalo Cremation.

SELECTED WEBSITES	NOTES
http://www.fultonhistory.com Fulton History – Newspapers	Millions of pages of New York State newspapers including some from Buffalo and Erie County.
http://www.buffalonydeaths.com/ Index to Select Death Notices, 1872-2011*	*Not comprehensive, includes many individuals listed in Buffalo newspaper death notices. A useful search box is near bottom of main page.
http://www.legacy.com/ Legacy.com	Searchable newspaper obituaries for all over the U.S. Not always full text.
https://archive.org/details/nydeathindex New York State Death Index, 1880-1956	Free access to the scanned index through the Internet Archive and Reclaim the Records. NYC is not included. Buffalo, Albany, and Yonkers are not included until 1914. Also in <i>Ancestry Library Edition</i> .
https://health.data.ny.gov/Health/Genealogical-Research-Death-Index-Beginning-1957/vafa-pf2s New York State Death Index, 1957-50 years ago	An index of New York State deaths which occurred from 1957 to 50 years ago. New York City is not included. Also in <i>Ancestry Library Edition</i> .
http://www.health.state.ny.us/vital_records/death.htm New York State Department of Health: Death Certificates	Instructions and downloadable forms. Death certificates may be ordered by telephone, mail, fax, or online.
http://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/ New York State Historic Newspapers	Includes select newspapers for New York State.
http://sites.rootsweb.com/~obituary/ Obituary Daily Times	A daily index of published obituaries. It is distributed freely, and usually has over 2,500 entries a day from all over North America.
https://www.deathindexes.com/newyork/ Online New York Death Records, Indexes & Obituaries	Offers links to websites with names and dates of people who died in New York State.
http://www.sampubco.com/ SAMPUBCO	Free indexes to numerous New York State wills and estate papers.
https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1202535 U.S. Social Security Death Index (SSDI)	Free database of over 80 million Americans who died from 1936 until 4 years ago. Also in <i>Ancestry Library Edition</i> and <i>HeritageQuest Online</i> .

VERTICAL FILES
Vertical files are loose articles and pamphlets collected in folders. The following folders have some lists of war casualties. Additional obituaries are filed by occupation (Authors, Architects, etc.).
<i>Civil War</i> <i>Middle East Wars and Western New York</i> <i>War of 1812</i>

VITAL RECORDS INDEX FOR NY STATE
The Buffalo and Erie County Public Library is a designated repository for New York State Vital Records Index on microfiche. There is a 50-year privacy restriction, which means that the index does not include deaths that occurred less than 50 years ago. An additional year of the index is added as it becomes available from the NY State Archives.
New York State Department of Health laws require us to ask for a B&ECPL library card or a picture ID from each researcher. Printing copies from the index is not permitted. Researchers may use one fiche at a time.
This index gives names, dates, and city/town of death. To get a copy of the actual death certificate, you must contact the Department of Health in Albany or the city/town in which the death occurred.

VITAL RECORDS INDEX FOR NY STATE

1881 to 1913	Microfiche includes all of New York State <u>except</u> Albany, Buffalo, New York City, and Yonkers. This is searchable in <i>Ancestry Library Edition</i> . It is browsable for free at: https://archive.org/details/nydeathindex
1914 to fifty years ago	Microfiche includes all of New York State <u>including</u> Albany, Buffalo, and Yonkers, but still excludes New York City. This is searchable in <i>Ancestry Library Edition</i> . It is browsable for free at: https://archive.org/details/nydeathindex

THE ONLINE CATALOG OF THE BECPL

https://bepl.ent.sirsi.net/client/en_US/default

Search the catalog for books, magazines, CDs, videos, maps, and manuscripts owned by the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library. It includes the Grosvenor Room, all departments in the Central Library, and every town and branch library. Access at the web address above.

To find sources in our collection beyond those listed in this guide, try these **Subject** searches:

BUFFALO N Y GENEALOGY
DEATH NOTICES NEW YORK STATE BUFFALO
DEATH NOTICES NEW YORK STATE ERIE COUNTY
ERIE COUNTY N Y GENEALOGY
OBITUARIES INDEXES
OBITUARIES NEW YORK STATE ERIE COUNTY
OBITUARIES NEW YORK STATE WESTERN
REGISTERS OF BIRTHS ETC NEW YORK STATE BUFFALO
REGISTERS OF BIRTHS ETC NEW YORK STATE ERIE COUNTY

WHAT ABOUT CORONER'S RECORDS?

Erie County Medical Examiner's Office has coroner's records from 1882 – present.

Reports are not open to the public. Copies are available to the next of kin. In order to obtain records, write to the following address supplying as much information identifying information as possible about the deceased (i.e. name, age, where lived, etc.) and details of their death. Staff time is limited for this type of research, so the turn-around time will depend on staff workload.

Erie County Medical Examiner's Office
501 Kensington Ave.
Buffalo, NY 14214
(716)-961-7591

Western New York Genealogical Society (WNYGS)

The WNYGS microfilm collection, which is housed in the Grosvenor Room, has coroner's records from October 1878 – May 1902.

Proceedings of the Board of Supervisors of Erie County – Buffalo F127 .E6 S82

Brief details of inquests can be found in many early volumes of the proceedings (abt.1878-1920). Details often include name of deceased, coroner, where deceased was found or where s/he was from, items found with deceased, when deceased was found, family members or other individuals associated with the deceased. To find the coroner's reports in the proceedings look in the index under Coroners or Medical Examiner.

WHAT ABOUT CORONER'S RECORDS?

Western New York Genealogical Society Journal – GRO F118 .W46A, also current periodicals

The Society has indexed Erie County Medical Examiner's records from 1878-1902 in their journal. The record transcriptions begin in the September 2007 issue.

WHAT ABOUT FUNERAL HOME RECORDS?

The Grosvenor Room only has records of the **Stephan-Burns Funeral Home (See Books With Lists of Deaths, p. 5)**. Other funeral homes should be contacted directly for the whereabouts of records. For those that no longer exist, check Buffalo City directories and *Local History File* to determine when the funeral home went out of business.

According to the Erie-Niagara Funeral Directors Association (<http://www.enfda.org/index.html>), there are four things that could happen to the records when a funeral home closes:

1. They could go to a nearby mortuary
2. They could go to the local historical society
3. They could remain in the family who operated the original funeral home
4. They could be discarded

WHERE ELSE CAN I LOOK UP DEATHS?	NOTES
<p>Buffalo History Museum's Research Library 1 Museum Court Buffalo, NY 14216-3199 library@buffalohistory.org 716.873.9644 x 306 http://buffalohistory.org/Learn/Research-Library.aspx</p>	<p>Has in index to obituaries. For the 1800s, death notices are included. For the 1900s, only actual obituaries are listed.</p> <p>See the museum's website for admission costs and other visitor policies.</p>
<p>Butler Library Archives and Special Collections Buffalo State College 1300 Elmwood Avenue Buffalo, NY 14222 (716) 878-6308 https://library.buffalostate.edu/archives/courier-express</p>	<p>Has local and national obituaries from 1956-1982 in the <i>Courier-Express</i> collection. Appointments are necessary.</p>
<p>City of Buffalo Inactive Records Center 85 River Rock Drive, Suite 301 Buffalo, NY 14207 (716) 874-6401, (716) 570-8721 https://www.buffalony.gov/296/Records-Management</p>	<p>Has an index of City of Buffalo deaths, 1852-1944, on CD-ROM. Walk-ins are welcome but researchers should call ahead to be sure the office is staffed before arriving.</p>
<p>Erie County Surrogate's Court Record Room 92 Franklin Street (Erie County Hall, 2nd floor) Buffalo, New York 14202 (716)-845-2560 http://www.nycourts.gov/courts/8jd/erie/surrogates/genealogy.shtml</p>	<p>This office has an index of its wills/estate records. Records older than 1973 are stored off-site and will take 3 or more days to retrieve.</p>