



Death Records: Focus on New York

CDC Home



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CDC 24/7: Saving Lives. Protecting People.™

Death Information Web Sites:

1. All States: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/w2w.htm>
2. Best Overall Site (online info by state) <http://www.deathindexes.com>
3. All States: Ancestry.com (use card catalog)
 - a. **Familysearch.org (by state)** Catalog at <https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/search>
 - b. For State Files: Go to Search, then select state from Map

4. New York Indexes and Documents:

- a. NYC: <http://www.italianGen.org> & <https://germangenealogygroup.com> (through 1948)
- b. N.Y. Dept. of Health: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/services/death-certificates.page>
- c. NYS: http://www.health.state.ny.us/vital_records/genealogy.htm 8 month wait; \$22.
- d. NY, Westchester County: <http://www.westchestergov.com/wcarchives> (marriage, naturalization)
- e. NJ: https://www.newjerseydeathindex.com/?mc_cid=2ac35ecaf2&mc_eid=dad6fbb436

5. Reclaim the Records Indexes at <https://archive.org/details/reclaimtherecords>

- a. New York State Births 1881-1942, Deaths 1880-1956; Marriages 1881-1952
- b. New York City marriage licenses index: 1908-1972 (images), 1950-2017 (searchable index)
- c. Buffalo, New York: deaths 1852-1944
- d. New Jersey Birth 1901-1903, Marriage 1901-2016, Death 1901-2017
- e. In Process: NYC death certificates 1949-1968

6. Miscellaneous Sites

- a. Causes: Old Medical Terms: <http://www.antiquusmorbus.com>
- b. TB: <https://jcrs.library.du.edu/jcrs/#/dashboard/advancedSearch> and JewishGen's USA database
- c. Real Estate: <http://www.brpub.com/>
- d. Names: www.jewishgen.org/databases/Givennames/
- e. The Process in NY: <http://www.museumoffamilyhistory.com/erc-vr-dc-btp-nys.htm>
- f. <https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/new-york-birth-marriage-death-vital-records>
- g. NYS Unclaimed Funds: <https://www.osc.state.ny.us/ouf/index.htm>

7. Social Security Death Index

- a. Easy to Use: <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1202535>
- b. For ZIP Code Lookups: <http://stevemorse.org/jcal/zip.html>.
- c. Request SS-5 Application: <https://secure.ssa.gov/apps9/eFOIA-FEWeb/internet/main.jsp>
- a. [Ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): Social Security Death Index and Social Security Claims Index

8. Cemeteries:

- a. Major Sites: www.findagrave.com , www.billiongraves.com ,
- b. JewishGen's JOWBR: www.jewishgen.org/databases/cemetery/
- c. NYC Cemeteries online: <https://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/krosno/NYCEM.htm>
- d. NYC cemetery maps & list of landsmanshaften: <http://www.jgsny.org/>
- e. Cemetery Maps: www.museumoffamilyhistory.com/cp-maps-fl-ca-il-oh-pa-md.htm.
- f. Reading Tombstones: <http://www.jewishgen.org/InfoFiles/tombstones.html>



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- i. Tombstone Abbreviations: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Hebrew_abbreviations
- g. Military graves,
 - i. Veterans Affairs at <https://gravelocator.cem.va.gov/index.html> ,
 - ii. the American Battle Monuments Commission (service members buried overseas) at <http://www.abmc.gov/home.php> , and the
 - iii. War Graves Photographic Project at <http://www.twgpp.org/>

9. Newspapers and Obituaries

- a. List of Newspapers on each website: <http://www.theancestorhunt.com/blog/new-york-online-historical-newspapers-summary1#.XNhi8Y5Kg2w>
- b. New York State: <http://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/> Easy to Use; highlights hits
- c. Google “newspaper + your city or town”
- d. US Library of Congress: <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/> <1930 and good list at <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/search/titles/>
- e. Ancestry.com has obituary collection with 128M records. Go to search, then card catalog, then state
- f. Worldwide: https://library.osu.edu/projects/hebrew-lexicon/Jewish-Press_files/sheet002.htm
- g. Genealogy Bank 1980-2014 summaries on Family Search <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/2333694?collectionNameFilter=true>
- h. Rootsweb Obituary Daily Times: <https://sites.rootsweb.com/~obituary/>
- i. News Library: www.ibiblio.org/slanews/internet/archives.html
- j. **Proquest** historical major US Newspapers: try university libraries, FAU, your local library.
- k. **Ancestry.com. Historical Newspapers, Birth, Marriage, & Death Announcements, 1851-2003:**
 - i. The New York Times. New York, NY, USA: The New York Times, 1851-2001.
- l. **Specific Newspaper Localities:**
 - i. TNYS History Project at <http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/nysnp>, some thru interlibrary loan
 - ii. Brooklyn Daily Eagle 1841-1902 best search at <http://fultonSearch.org>

10. Probate:

- a. **County:** <http://explorer.naco.org/>.
- a. **Find the Court:** Google or <http://www.ncsc.org/Topics/Special-Jurisdiction/Probate-Courts/State-Links.aspx> or <http://estate.findlaw.com/probate/state-probate-courts.html>
- b. Ancestry has digitized and Indexed FamilySearch microfilms for all counties 1658-1999
- c. LDS FamilySearch Catalog (put in state, city and see if probate file exists) <https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/search>
- d. **Index Cards for Brooklyn/Queens through 1950s:** <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1920234>

Tips and Techniques:

- e. Never stop at the index (indexers can be wrong)
- f. View and save the original document; Label image with SurnameGiven date type of document
- g. Use soundex or wildcards (*) whenever possible, as names morphed
- h. Use Google for answers on how to do or where to find!