U.S. Vital Records

Obtaining birth, marriage, and death certificates can help determine some of the more significant pieces of information for family history research. The format of these documents may vary greatly based on time and locality. Some of the basic data provided may include the individual's name, spouse's and parents' names, addresses, birthplaces, and occupations, dates and places of the events, and the individual's Social Security number (SSN).

Vital records should be used in conjunction with other documents before reaching solid conclusions. Reported facts may vary, depending on who supplied the information and whether the informant had actual knowledge of the individual(s) described on the document. For instance, it is highly likely that on a marriage certificate the bride and groom supplied the correct information. However, the informant on a death certificate might be a friend who may not be sure of the deceased's parent's names, or a grieving relative who may not be focused on filling out forms.

Search online indexes for birth, marriage and divorce records for the USA at http://www.cyndislist.com/us/vital

Visit http://www.deathindexes.com/ for a directory of links to websites with online death indexes, listed by state and county. Included are death records, death certificate indexes, death notices & registers, obituaries, probate indexes, and cemetery & burial records. You can also find information here about searching the Social Security Death Index online

The Social Security Death Index (from 1965 on) is available on **Ancestry.com** and **Rootsweb.org**.

Death index from NYC (to 1948) is available at www.italiangen.org

Footnote's Collection of Online Vital Records presently includes some online digitized vital records that are indexed, spanning colonial times in 1815 through the Post War era, after 1950. You can visit the site at http://www.footnote.com/

Visit http://www.worldvitalrecords.com for several vital records databases.

Visit Family Search at https://familysearch.org/

Location of Records

Birth, marriage, and death certificates are usually found in a city or county's Bureau of Vital Records or City/County Clerk's Office. Different localities may have various names for these agencies. Older records, as determined by each jurisdiction, may be found in city, county, or state archives, libraries or historical societies. Often you can visit these repositories and conduct the research yourself. Many times the records are made easy to find with indexes, some of which are now online. Some repositories, however, only accept written requests, for a small fee.

The JewishGen USA Database, http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/USA/, offers over one million records for the United States, from a variety of sources, including: cemetery records, synagogue records, newspapers, organizational records, and others.

Obituary Research

Even a brief obituary or death notice can offer clues and information about an individual's life, including surviving family, occupation, and place of birth. Sometimes a photograph accompanies the article. Once you know a date of death, search for obituaries in local and ethnic newspapers. More and more newspapers are creating online indexes, and online library catalogs are making it easier to locate periodical holdings. Ancestor Hunt Database offers

Courtesy of the Jewish Genealogical Society & the Ackman and Ziff Family Genealogy Institute Updated June 2011

newspaper obituary search engine links for each state. To search through these links, please visit http://www.ancestorhunt.com/obituary search engines.htm.

Cemetery Research

Information obtained in cemeteries can lead to a death certificate, as well as being interesting in and of itself. If you know where a relative is buried, the gravestone may include the Hebrew or Yiddish name, birth and death dates, a photo of the deceased, and the father's name. Visiting a cemetery plot may also reveal other relatives who are buried nearby, or within the same burial society. Cemeteries and funeral homes often keep records with additional data. The Jewish Genealogical Society has cemetery and burial society information, including a map of New York area Jewish cemeteries and a directory of the Jewish metropolitan New York area cemeteries at www.jgsny.org.

The Virtual Cemetery Project, http://www.ancestralfindings.com/vcem_welcome.htm, is a collection of tombstone photos and a fully searchable archive of transcriptions. Individuals can both contribute photos of tombstones or search the database of tombstones currently available.

To view a free database of cemetery records, cemetery inscriptions and a general list of cemeteries nationwide, please visit http://www.ancestralfindings.com/cemetery.htm. On the right hand side of the same web page, take advantage of the links providing a free database of information on nationwide military, land, marriage, divorce, birth and death records.

Major NYC cemeteries have their own database of burials, available online (e.g. Mt. Hebron, Mt. Zion, Mt. Lebanon, Mt. Carmel, Mt. Judah).

Obtaining Records

Here are some resources, including print material, that outline what records are available for each state and how to obtain records. Fees are listed for:

- · Questions for Vital Records
 - http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/w2w.htm
- U.S. Vital Records Information (through RootsWeb and Ancestrylibrary.com)
 - http://vitalrec.com/index.html
- VitalChek Network (commercial site for ordering birth, marriage, and death records)
 www.vitalchek.com
- · Alice Eichholz, editor, *Ancestry's Red Book: American State, County, and Town Sources, 3rd ed.* (Ancestry, 2004). **CGI CS49. A55**

Further information on New York City vital records and obituaries is listed below.

New York City Vital Records

NYC Municipal Archives

31 Chambers Street, Room 103 (between Centre & Elk Streets)

New York, NY 10007

(212) 788-8580; Fax: (212) 385-0984

Open Monday to Thursday, 9:00 am to 4:30 pm; Friday, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

http://nyc.gov/html/records/html/about/archives.shtml

Vital records are filed and indexed according to the Borough in which the event occurred. The Municipal Archives also has marriage records from the City Clerk's Office: bride and groom indexes, 1908-1951; licenses, 1908-1929.

| MANHATTAN | BROOKLYN | BRONX | QUEENS | RICHMOND |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Births | Births | Births | Births | Births |
| • July 1847-1848; | • 1866-1909 | • 1898-1909 | • 1898-1909 | • 1898-1909 |
| • July 1853-1909 | Deaths | Deaths | Deaths | Deaths |
| Deaths | • 1847-1853; | • 1898-1948 | • 1898-1948 | • 1898-1948 |
| • 1795; | • 1857-1948 | Marriages | Marriages | Marriages |
| 1802-1804; | Marriages | • 1898-1937 | • 1898-1937 | • 1898-1937 |
| • 1808; | • 1866-1937 | | | |
| • 1812-1948 | | The Bronx did not | Pre-consolidation | Pre-consolidation |
| Marriages | There are separate | exist as separate | Town and Village | Town and Village |
| • June 1847-1848; | marriage and death | Borough until 1898. | vital records, 1847- | vital records, 1847- |
| • July 1853-1937 | records for Kings | | 1849; 1881-1897, | 1849; 1881 - 1897. |
| | County | New York City | and Long Island | |
| | | (Manhattan) annexed | City, 1871-1897. | |
| | Towns: | the area west of the | | |
| | • Flatbush, 1847-1851; | Bronx River in 1874 | | |
| | 1880-1894, | and annexed the area | | |
| | • Flatlands, 1880-1895, | east of the Bronx | | |
| | • Gravesend, 1880-1894, | River in 1895. | | |
| | • New Lots, 1881-1886 | | | |
| | and New Utrecht, | For vital records in | | |
| | 1880-1894. | those areas after the | | |
| | | date of annexation | | |
| | | through 1897, | | |
| | | request a search of | | |
| | | Manhattan records. | | |

For birth and death records in dates beyond those in the above table, contact:

Office of Vital Records

New York City Department of Health

125 Worth Street

New York, NY 10013

(see links at www.nyc.gov/html/records/html/vitalrecords/home.shtml)

For marriage records beyond the above dates (all boroughs) contact: http://www.cityclerknyc.com/MarriageBureau/NY City Clerk's Office, Marriage Bureau

Municipal Building (at Chambers St & Brooklyn Bridge)

1 Centre St, Room 252

New York, NY 10007

(212) 669-8898 Open Monday to Friday: 8:30 am to 4:00 pm

The City Clerk's Office has indexes, 1908 to the present; applications and licenses, 1930 to the present.

Ackman & Ziff Family Genealogy Institute • Center for Jewish History
15 West 16th Street, New York, NY 10011 • (212) 294-8318 • http://genealogy.cjh.org
Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc. • 15 West 16th Street, New York, NY 10011 • (212) 294-8326 • www.jgsny.org

Other Sources of Vital Records and Obituaries for NYC

Courtesy of Joy Rich, JGSNY Editor, Dorot

Contact information and web links for major repositories in metropolitan New York: www.jgsny.org/resource1.htm

NY Public Library, Irma & Paul Milstein Division Of U.S. History, Local History and Genealogy www.nypl.org/locations/schwarzman/milstein-division-us-history-local-history-genealogy

Birth indexes, NYC Department of Health (print, microfiche, microfilm)

Bronx: 1888-1982 Manhattan: 1888-1982 Brooklyn: 1898-1982 Queens: 1898-1982 Staten Island: 1898-1982

Marriage indexes, NYC DOH

Bronx brides: 1869-1937 (microfilm) Manhattan brides: 1869-1937 (microfilm) Queens brides: 1869-1937 (microfilm) Staten Island brides: 1869-1937 (microfilm) NYC grooms: August 1888-1937 (microfilm) All boroughs, grooms: 1898-1937) (microfilm)

Death indexes, NYC DOH

Brooklyn: 1848-1898 (microfilm) Manhattan: 1868-1890 (microfilm) Staten Island: 1847-1897 (microfilm) NYC: August 1888-1982 (microfilm)

All boroughs: 1888-1967, 1969-1982 (microfilm and books)

New-York Historical Society www.nyhistory.org/web/default.php?section=library

Birth indexes, NYC DOH (print)

Manhattan and Bronx: 1889-1897, All boroughs: 1898-1905

Marriage indexes, NYC DOH (print)

Manhattan and Bronx: 1889-1897, All boroughs: 1898-1905

Death indexes, NYC DOH (print)

Manhattan and Bronx: 1889-1897, All boroughs: 1898-1905

Because many of the indexes at N-YHS are in fragile condition, photocopies cannot be made.

National Archives and Records Administration, Northeast Region, NYC www.archives.gov/northeast/nyc

The birth, marriage, and death indexes do not include NYC or the former City of Brooklyn. The indexes do include, in addition to the remainder of New York State:

Kings County: towns prior to annexation by the City of Brooklyn in the 1880s and 1890s

Ackman & Ziff Family Genealogy Institute • Center for Jewish History
15 West 16th Street, New York, NY 10011 • (212) 294-8318 • http://genealogy.cjh.org
Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc. • 15 West 16th Street, New York, NY 10011 • (212) 294-8326 • www.jgsny.org

Courtesy of the Jewish Genealogical Society & the Ackman and Ziff Family Genealogy Institute Updated June 2011

Queens County: western towns prior to incorporation into the City of New York on January 1, 1898

Richmond County: prior to incorporation into the City of New York on January 1, 1898

Westchester County: portions prior to annexation by New York City in 1895

Birth indexes, NYS Department of Health (DOH): 1881-1931 (microfiche)

Marriage indexes, NYS DOH: 1881-1956 (microfiche)

Death indexes, NYS DOH: 1881-1956 (microfiche)

Searchable database indexes:
Manhattan - Death Index 1891-1900
All boroughs - Death index 1912-1919
All boroughs - Grooms Index 1908-1936
Brooklyn and Manhattan - Grooms Index 1895-1897
Brooklyn, Queens, and Bronx Brides Index up to 1936

NYC Birth, Marriage, and Death Records: Online Sources or Where To Find Them

Online NYC Vital Records & Indexes: www.jewishgen.org/infofiles/nycv-lds.html

NYC vital records indexes search engines: Italiangen.org

Links to Brooklyn (and Long Island) vital records: www.bklyn-genealogy-info.com/ (selected records)

Births from Queens County Sentinel: www.nyvagenealogy.homestead.com/QUEENSBIRTH.html

New York Marriage Records: marriagedatabase.com/newyork/marriage-records.htm

Database of New York Vital records: http://www.italiangen.org/VRECLIST.stm

Newspapers: Online Sources or Where To Find Them

Brooklyn Eagle, 1841-1902 (full text):

http://eagle.brooklynpubliclibrary.org/Default/Skins/BEagle/Client.asp?Skin=BEagle

Death notices and obituaries in Brooklyn, Queens, Manhattan, and Long Island newspapers (older L.I. newspapers also covered Brooklyn and Queens): www.bklyn-genealogy-info.com/Newspaper/index.html

List of Brooklyn & Long Island newspapers: www.rootsweb.com/~nynassa2/linewspaper.htm

NYS Newspapers on Microfilm, NYS Library: http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/nysnp/all/city4.htm (click on a city) www.nysl.nysed.gov/nysnp/county1.htm (click on a county)

NYS Newspapers on Microfilm, all NYS Locations: http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/nysnp/city1.htm (click on a city) http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/nysnp/county1.htm (click a county)

Newspapers on Microfilm at the Queens Public Library's Long Island Division, including Brooklyn, Manhattan, and Queens newspapers (Note: Older Long Island newspapers also covered Brooklyn and Queens): http://aqua.queenslibrary.org/?q=newspapers%20on%20microfilms Courtesy of the Jewish Genealogical Society & the Ackman and Ziff Family Genealogy Institute Updated June 2011

Queens County Sentinel (abstracted marriage and death names and dates): www.nyvagenealogy.homestead.com/mainqueenscountysentinel.html

Queens County Sentinel (Births): http://nyvagenealogy.homestead.com/queensbirth.html

Index to the New-York Daily Tribune, 1875-1884, 1895: www.loc.gov/rr/news/news research tools/nytribindex.html