

# Summit County Death Records

1866 - 1908

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## Summit County Death Records

In 1867, Ohio began requiring county governments to record the deaths occurring in their jurisdiction. The Summit County Probate Court assumed this responsibility and kept journals recording deaths until the state began issuing death certificates on December 20, 1908. These journals are available in Special Collections on microfilm and in book form, as well as in Ancestry Library Edition, a database accessible from any Akron-Summit County Public Library location, and FamilySearch.org

(<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/2128172?collectionNameFilter=true>). Because death records prior to December 1908 were kept by individual counties, there is no statewide death index during this time.

## What information is included in these early death records?

The early Summit County death records consist of handwritten entries in record books, rather than actual certificates. There are two sets of books for these records: indexes and recorded deaths. Each set contains slightly different information. Consult both in order to gather all the information available about a person and their death.

The index books include columns for the person's name, date of death, age, place of death, place of birth, sex, race, marital status, the volume and page on which the actual entry can be found in the record books, and the record number. There is also a column for parents' names "in case of death without Given Name," so parent's names *are not* included for most of the entries.

The death record books include columns for all of the information listed in the index books except sex, as well as columns for occupation, disease or cause of death, place of residence, and remarks. Not all of the information is provided for every entry.

## Getting Started

- *Summit County, Ohio, Deaths 1866-1878, 1900-1902* (3 volumes) **aisle 6.**
- *Summit County Index to Death Records, 1870-1908* **Microfilm Cabinet 5, Drawer 1 (1 roll)**
- *Summit County Death Records, v. 1-13 1870-1908* **Microfilm Cabinet 5, Drawer 1 (1 roll)**

Note: There are four index books included on one index reel, each of which begins with page number one. The four books are broken down as follows: A-D, E-K, L-R, and S-Z. While names within the index are in alphabetical order, frequently occurring names are listed separately at the end of the book containing that name, rather than within the alphabetical listing. For example, all individuals with the surname "Bailey" are found at end of the first (A-D) index book after the listings for the D's, rather than alphabetical in the B's. Each of the four index books begins with a two-page index to the frequently occurring names within that section. These are summarized in the following chart.

Book 1 (A-D)		Book 2 (E-K)		Book 3 (L-R)		Book 4 (S-Z)	
Alexander	p. 77	Evans	p. 99	Martin	p. 99	Smith	p. 79
Allen	79	Fisher	101	Miller	101	Snyder	81
Anderson	81	Fischer	101	Morgan	103	Taylor	83
Andrews	83	Foster	103	Moore	105	Thomas	85
Averill	85	Foust	105	Myers	107	Thompson	87
Bailey	87	Hall	107	Meyers	107	Wagoner	87
Baily	87	Harris	109	Palmer	109	Wagner	87
Baker	89	Hart	111	Richard	111	Wetmore	89
Barnes	91	Hill	113	Richards	111	White	91
Baughman	93	Jones	115	Robinson	113	Williams	93
Beck	95	Johnston	117			Wise	95
Becker	97	Johnson	117			Wolf	97
Bell	99					Wholf	97
Bowers	101					Wolfe	97
Bradley	103					Wright	99
Brewster	105					Young	101
Brown	107						
Butler	109						
Carter	111						
Case	113						
Chapman	115						
Chamberlin	117						
Clark	119						
Collins	121						
Cook	123						
Crane	125						
Daily	127						
Dailey	127						
Davis	129						

## Additional Resources

- *How to Get the Most out of Death Certificates* (1991) a 22-page booklet in **aisle 12**
- *Glendale Cemetery Burial Records 1839-1989* **Microfilm Cabinet 6, Drawer 3**
- *Cunningham/Cunningham-McCafferty Funeral Home Records 1906-1966* **Microfilm Cabinet 6, Drawer 3**
- The Ohio History Connection has death records for some Ohio counties. A list is available at [www.ohiohistory.org/learn/archives-library/death-records](http://www.ohiohistory.org/learn/archives-library/death-records).
- DeathIndexes.com has a page dedicated to Ohio Death Records & Indexes at [www.deathindexes.com/ohio](http://www.deathindexes.com/ohio).

## Further Research

- In our book collection, published death records are shelved with the county in which the death occurred. If the death records for a particular county have not been published, contact the appropriate county office for more information. A list of county courthouses and their contact information is available at [www.ohiohistory.org/resource/archlib/cthouse.html](http://www.ohiohistory.org/resource/archlib/cthouse.html).
- Ohio Death Certificates, 1908-1953 are available for free through FamilySearch.org at <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1307272>. Certificates through 1963 are available through the Ohio History Connection at <http://apps.ohiohistory.org/death>.