

Summit County Death Records

1866 - 1908

Special Collections Division
Akron-Summit County Public Library
60 S. High Street, Akron, Ohio 44326
speccollections@akronlibrary.org

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 20th of 1908. These journals are available here on microfilm and in book form.

Because these records were kept by individual counties, there is no statewide death index during this time. If other counties, Ohio or otherwise, have had their records published, we may have a copy of those records. You can search the catalog by the county and state names as well as the word death for more information.

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 is a set of books for the index and a set for the death records. Each set contains slightly different information, so it is necessary to consult both in order to gather all of the information available about the person and the 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 included in the index books except for sex, as well as columns for occupation, disease or cause of death, place of residence, and remarks. Not all of the information will appear in every entry.

Getting Started

- *Summit County, Ohio, Deaths 1866-1878, 1900-1902* (3 volumes) **aisle 4B.**
- *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 the 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" will not be found within the B's but at the end of the first index book, after the listings for the D'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 **aisles 5B and 6A**
- *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 Historical Society (OHS) has the death records of some counties. A list is available at <http://www.ohiohistory.org/resource/archlib/death2.html>.
- An OHGenWeb Project site at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~ohgenweb/CCList.htm> lists each county and provides an overview of the records available as well as a contact name.

Further Research

- In our book collection, published death records are shelved with the county in which the death occurred. When the death records have not been published, you can contact the appropriate county for more information. A list of county courthouses and their contact information is available at <http://www.ohiohistory.org/resource/archlib/cthouse.html>.
- For Ohio Deaths occurring after December 20, 1908, see the Ohio Death Certificate Collection Research Guide.