



**VISIT:** The Reference Desk  
**CALL:** 262-242-2593 ext.320  
**EMAIL:** ref@flwlib.org

## **FAMILY HISTORY RECORDS GUIDE**

### **I'M LOOKING FOR:**

[Births](#) | [Marriages](#) | [Deaths](#) | [Census Records](#) |  
[Immigration Records](#) | [Property Records](#) | [Military Records](#)

*These lists describe the key types of genealogical information and where to find them. They are by no means exhaustive. If you need help navigating a website or finding a record, ask a librarian.*

*For a more general overview of the major local and online genealogy resources, check our [Genealogy Resource Guide](#).*

---

### **Births**

**LOOK FOR:** Birth certificates; birth announcements; census records; baptismal/church records

**SEARCH AT:**

- Wisconsin Historical Society for births occurring before 1907; index on [their website](#), and records on microfilm at their library
- [FamilySearch.org](#) for births occurring before 1907
- [Ancestry: Library Edition](#) (inside the library) OR [Ancestry.com](#) (personal subscription)
- [MyHeritage.com](#) (personal subscription)
- [Ozaukee County Register of Deeds](#)
- [Ozaukee County Historical Society](#)
- [Milwaukee Register of Deeds](#)
- [Dodge/Jefferson Counties Genealogical Society](#)
- [State Vital Records Office](#)
- Local church baptismal records

### **Marriages**

**LOOK FOR:** Marriage certificates; marriage announcements; church records; census records

**SEARCH AT:**

- Wisconsin Historical Society for marriages occurring before 1907; index on [their website](#), and records on microfilm at their library
- [FamilySearch.org](#) for marriages occurring before 1907

- [Ancestry: Library Edition](#) (inside the library) OR [Ancestry.com](#) (personal subscription)
- [MyHeritage.com](#) (personal subscription)
- [Ozaukee County Register of Deeds](#)
- [Ozaukee County Historical Society](#)
- [Milwaukee Digital Library](#) for Milwaukee marriages occurring from 1822-1876
- [Milwaukee Register of Deeds](#)
- [Dodge/Jefferson Counties Genealogical Society](#)
- [State Vital Records Office](#)
- Local church marriage records

## Deaths

**LOOK FOR:** Death certificates; census mortality schedules (included in 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 censuses); wills and probate records; obituaries; burial permits; cemetery listings

### **SEARCH AT:**

- Wisconsin Historical Society for deaths occurring before 1907; index on [their website](#), and records on microfilm at their library
- [FamilySearch.org](#) for deaths occurring before 1907
- [Ancestry: Library Edition](#) (inside the library) OR [Ancestry.com](#) (personal subscription)
- [MyHeritage.com](#) (personal subscription)
- [Wisconsin Historical Society Family History Records](#) (via [BadgerLink](#)) – Wills and probate records
- [FindAGrave](#) – Cemetery listings, photographs, and other information
- [BillionGraves](#) – Cemetery listings, headstone photographs, etc
- [Jewish Data](#) (inside the library) – Jewish headstones
- [Nationwide Gravesite Locator](#) – Veterans' burial locations
- [Deathindexes.com](#) – Mostly indexes to death records, but also some death records, organized by state
- Newspapers (for obituaries, death notices, etc)
  - [Newspapers.com Library Edition](#) (via [BadgerLink](#)) – US and international papers, 1700-2000
  - [Archive of Wisconsin Newspapers](#) (via [BadgerLink](#); click on Search Historical Newspapers) – Wisconsin papers
  - [Chronicling America](#) (Library of Congress) – US papers, 1789-1963
  - [MyHeritage.com](#) (personal subscription) – US and international papers
  - Local clippings at historical and genealogical societies, e.g. the [Dodge/Jefferson Counties Genealogical Society](#)
  - On microfilm, especially at the [Wisconsin Historical Society](#)
- [Ozaukee County Register of Deeds](#)
- [Ozaukee County Historical Society](#)
- [Milwaukee Register of Deeds](#)
- [Dodge/Jefferson Counties Genealogical Society](#)
- [State Vital Records Office](#)
- Local church funerary records
- Local cemetery records

## Census Records

### **SEARCH AT:**

- [FamilySearch.org](#)

- [HeritageQuest](#) (via [BadgerLink](#))
- [Ancestry: Library Edition](#) (inside the library) OR [Ancestry.com](#) (personal subscription)
- [MyHeritage.com](#) (personal subscription)
- [Wisconsin Historical Society Family History Records](#) (via [BadgerLink](#)) – index to 1895 and 1905 Wisconsin state censuses
- [Milwaukee County Historical Society](#)
- [Dodge/Jefferson Counties Genealogical Society](#)
- [Wisconsin Historical Society](#)
- [National Archives](#)

### Immigration Records

**LOOK FOR:** Passenger lists; declarations of intent; petitions of naturalization

**SEARCH AT:**

- [FamilySearch.org](#)
- [Ancestry: Library Edition](#) (inside the library) OR [Ancestry.com](#) (personal subscription)
- [MyHeritage.com](#) (personal subscription)
- [Immigrant Ships Transcribers Guild](#) – Passenger lists, ship manifests, etc
- [The Ships List](#) – Passenger lists, diaries, etc
- [EllisIsland.org](#) – Passenger lists
- [Ozaukee County Register of Deeds](#)
- [Milwaukee County Historical Society](#)
- [Dodge/Jefferson Counties Genealogical Society](#)
- [UW and WHS Area Research Centers](#) – Naturalization records
- [National Archives](#)
- Local courthouses, state courthouses, and federal courthouses

### Property Records

**LOOK FOR:** Sanborn Fire Insurance maps; deeds; plat maps; property tax records; agricultural census schedules (included in 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 censuses); census records

**SEARCH AT:**

- [FamilySearch Wiki Entry for Wisconsin Land and Property Records](#) – Information about Wisconsin property history and guides to where to find records
- [Ancestry: Library Edition](#) (inside the library) OR [Ancestry.com](#) (personal subscription)
- [Library of Congress](#) – Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps
- [Bureau of Land Management and General Land Office](#) – Land patents
- [FamilySearch.org](#) – Tract books and township plats available on microfilm
- [Board of Commissioners of Public Lands](#) – Plat maps from 1832-1866 are online; assorted other property records onsite
- [Ozaukee County Register of Deeds](#)
- [Milwaukee County Historical Society](#)
- [Dodge/Jefferson Counties Genealogical Society](#)
- [Wisconsin Historical Society](#)

### Military Records

**LOOK FOR:** Pension files; compiled service records

**SEARCH AT:**

- [Fold3](#) (Subscription)
- [Ancestry: Library Edition](#) (inside the library) OR [Ancestry.com](#) (personal subscription)

- [MyHeritage.com](#) (personal subscription)
- [FamilySearch.org](#) – Indexes
- [Nationwide Gravesite Locator](#) – Veterans' burial locations
- [HeritageQuest](#) (via [BadgerLink](#)) – Revolutionary War pension records
- [National Park Service](#) – Civil War records
- [American Civil War Research Database](#) (Subscription) – Civil War records
- [Civil War Archive](#) – Civil War regimental index, letters, diaries, etc
- [Milwaukee County Historical Society](#) – Civil War records
- [Wisconsin Historical Society](#)
- [Wisconsin Veterans Museum](#)
- [National Archives](#)