

Vital Records Series

A Finding Aid

Date of Birth.	Name of Child.
January 4 th 1848	Mildora Ann Sanburn
January 15 th do	Susan Catherine Estabrook Lyden
January 19 th do	Christy Morris
January 31 st do	Charlotte Daniels
February 9 th 1848	Eliza Jane Philhower
February 11 th 1848	Emesansa Gamble
February 11 th 1848	Colonel Mc Kay
February 14 th 1848	Catherine DeLoe ter
February 15 th 1848	Silva Lovina More
February 22 nd 1848	Mary Elizabeth Taylor

Livingston County Historian's Office
 5 Murray Hill Dr.
 Mt. Morris, NY 14510
 February 2017

I. Collection Summary

Title	Vital Records Series
Extent	.5 linear foot, some digital records
Date Ranges	1847-1850; 1908-1935
Abstract	<p>This collection comprises birth, death, and marriage records, marriage certificates, and indices for marriages executed in Livingston County, New York. The early vital records, between 1847-1849, were created by the town clerks of Caledonia, Conesus, Geneseo, Groveland, Leicester, Lima, Livonia, Mt. Morris, North Dansville, Nunda, Portage, Sparta, Springwater, West Sparta, and York, Livingston County. They give basic information for births, marriages, and deaths, sometimes including residences, marital status, ages, occupations, causes of death, and parents' names.</p> <p>The bound marriage records from 1908-1935 were created by the Livingston County Clerk. Two of the bound volumes are only indices; one only records the names of bride and groom and provides no date of marriage. The other provides the names of both parties and the date of marriage but no other information. The three volumes containing full certificates provide the vital and other information for the bride and groom.</p>
Languages	English.
Access and Restrictions	<p>Use of the records in this collection is for serious research and by request and permission of the Livingston County Historian. Any use of the material in publications must be cited as follows, "Courtesy of Livingston County Historian's Office, New York." Additionally, all items should be handled with care.</p> <p>To arrange to conduct research with the documents in the collection, contact the Livingston County Historian by mail at: 5 Murray Hill Drive, Mount Morris, NY, by phone at (585) 243-7955, or by e-mail at Historian@livingstoncountyny.gov.</p>
Copyright	There are no materials subject to copyright.

II. Background Information

New York State passed a law in 1847 to require school districts in each town to record births, marriages, and deaths; while some townships initially complied, they often failed to keep complete records, and other towns soon slacked off or ignored the law entirely. In 1850 the practice was effectively suspended by the Secretary of State but it was not until 1880 that the chapter of the law was amended and the requirement removed in favor of a new system.

This law of 1847 generated returns from the school districts in each town, which were submitted to and compiled by the respective town clerks. In Livingston County, the following towns complied in full or in part: Caledonia, Conesus, Geneseo, Groveland, Leicester, Lima, Livonia, Mount Morris, Nunda, Portage, Sparta, Springwater, West Sparta, and York. Ossian was not a part of Livingston County until 1856, and therefore was not included, and Avon's returns have either been lost or were never created.

The original forms from Caledonia through York are held by the Livingston County Clerk's Office and are now stored at Records Management in Mt. Morris, New York. They were once housed in Geneseo at the County Clerk's Office and subject of a transcription project by Mr. and Mrs. Dean in 1965, which encompassed only Caledonia, Conesus, and North Dansville returns. Only the transcriptions from the three towns were on hand, and the existence of any originals was largely forgotten from the 1960s until 2015. After the originals' existence was again confirmed in 2015 and their location discovered, they were requested by the County Historian's Office. They were loaned to the County Historian's Office by Records Management and the County Clerk for digitizing and indexing in December 2015.

Additionally, an original sheaf of Groveland births, deaths, and marriages from 1847 through 1850 are also in the archives of the County Historian's Office, though it is not known when or by whom they were donated. These duplicate sheets are slightly more extensive than the records for Groveland held by the County Clerk's Office, though some entries overlap.

All the above vital records compiled by town clerks are indexed on the County Historian's Records Index by name, town, and date. A subset of records, including the Groveland original pages held by the County Historian and the transcriptions by Mr. and Mrs. Dean for Caledonia, Conesus, and North Dansville have also been uploaded to the database under the "Ledger" series. It should be noted that the vital record entries from the 1965 transcriptions are the product of several generations of interpretation and copying out. Therefore, they may contain a greater number of errors than the indexed entries from the original pages from the County Clerk's Office. The transcribed records are entered with the reference title of "1965 Transcriptions of Livingston County Vital Records, 1847-1849" and are therefore distinguished from the full series from the County Clerk's Office, which are titled "Livingston County Vital Records, 1847-1849."

One known discrepancy between the 1965 transcriptions and the original pages from the County Clerk is that the former includes a handful of birth records in the Town of Conesus in 1850. The original pages did not encompass these entries, and so the transcriptions appear to be the only surviving record of these births.

Typical entries from the 1840s birth records include the following columns: sex and color of child, date of birth, name of child, and names of parents. Marriage records include date of marriage, names of persons married, residence of both groom and bride, name and residence of officer or clergyman performing the marriage ceremony, and ages of husband and wife. Death records include deceased person's name, sex, color, date of death, age, occupation, marital and citizenship status, and cause of death. No parents' names are given in marriage or death records, except in a few cases where the deceased was a child and the parent was noted instead of giving the child's first name.

Beginning in 1880, New York State began a new regimen of keeping vital records at both the municipal and state level. For a time, from about 1908 to 1935, county clerks were also required to maintain vital records, though duplicate records were filed with the town or village clerk where the event occurred, as well as with the New York State Department of Health. Compliance with the 1880 law was also scattered for the first five to ten years, but the basis of modern-day vital information record-keeping was founded.

The five bound volumes of marriage records included in this Vital Records series were donated to the Livingston County Historian's Office in 2013 by the Livingston County Clerk. The record books were part of the span of years, c. 1908-1936, where vital records were held by county clerks; the Livingston County Clerk released the records to the County Historian as they had reached the end of their confidentiality retention schedule of 50 to 75 years and the County Clerk had no need to keep them. Two of the volumes are indexes only; one (1929-1935) has separate entries for bride and groom, entered alphabetically, with certificate number only; the other (1926-1929) has separate entries for both parties with volume number, certificate number, and marriage date. The other three volumes, spanning the approximate years of 1918-1926, consist of full Marriage License, Marriage Certificate, Affidavit for License to Marry, and Certificate of Consent. Available details include full names, maiden names, information on parents, occupations, birthplaces, any previous marriage information, ages, towns of residence, and witnesses.

All these county marriage records have been indexed on the County Historian's Records Index database by name under the "Marriages" series. A unique hyperlink within each individual record links the bride and groom to one another and provides as much pertinent identification information as possible and details on locating the original record in the County Historian's archival storage.

Finally, this series also comprises a few scattered marriage certificates gathered from various donors. Three marriage certificates from the 1870s also were included in the box of 1840s vital records loaned by the County Clerk for digitizing and have been copied for inclusion in the Family Files series under the respective names of the bride and groom.

III. Contents List

109	Livingston County Clerk Record of Marriages 1908-1926, vol. 3 (1918-1922)
109	Livingston County Clerk Record of Marriages 1908-1926, vol. 4 (1922-1924)
109	Livingston County Clerk Record of Marriages 1908-1926, vol. 5 (1924-1926)
109	Livingston County Clerk Record of Marriages 1908-1926, vol. 6 (index) (1926-1929)
109	Livingston County Clerk Record of Marriages 1908-1926, Index (Dec. 1929-1935)
109	C4-D3 Record of Births, Deaths, and Marriages in the Town of Groveland, 1847-1850 (original)
Digital	Record of Births in the Town of Caledonia, 1847-1849
Digital	Record of Births in the Town of Conesus, 1847-1849
Digital	Record of Births in the Town of Geneseo, 1847-1848
Digital	Record of Births in the Town of Groveland, 1847-1849
Digital	Record of Births in the Town of Leicester, 1847
Digital	Record of Births in the Town of Lima, 1847-1848
Digital	Record of Births in the Town of Livonia, 1847 and 1849
Digital	Record of Births in the Town of Mt. Morris, 1847-1848
Digital	Record of Births in the Town of North Dansville, 1847-1848
Digital	Record of Births in the Town of Nunda, 1847 and 1849
Digital	Record of Births in the Town of Portage, 1847-1849
Digital	Record of Births in the Town of Sparta, 1847-1849
Digital	Record of Births in the Town of Springwater, 1847
Digital	Record of Births in the Town of West Sparta, 1847-1848
Digital	Record of Births in the Town of York, 1847-1849
Digital	Record of Deaths in the Town of Caledonia, 1847-1849
Digital	Record of Deaths in the Town of Conesus, 1847-1849
Digital	Record of Deaths in the Town of Geneseo, 1847-1848
Digital	Record of Deaths in the Town of Groveland, 1847-1849
Digital	Record of Deaths in the Town of Leicester, 1848
Digital	Record of Deaths in the Town of Lima, 1847-1848
Digital	Record of Deaths in the Town of Livonia, 1847 and 1849
Digital	Record of Deaths in the Town of Mt. Morris, 1847-1848
Digital	Record of Deaths in the Town of North Dansville, 1847-1848
Digital	Record of Deaths in the Town of Nunda, 1847 and 1849
Digital	Record of Deaths in the Town of Portage, 1847-1849
Digital	Record of Deaths in the Town of Sparta, 1847-1849
Digital	Record of Deaths in the Town of Springwater, 1847
Digital	Record of Deaths in the Town of West Sparta, 1847-1848
Digital	Record of Deaths in the Town of York, 1847-1849
Digital	Record of Marriages in the Town of Caledonia, 1847-1849
Digital	Record of Marriages in the Town of Conesus, 1847-1849
Digital	Record of Marriages in the Town of Geneseo, 1847-1848
Digital	Record of Marriages in the Town of Groveland, 1847 and 1849
Digital	Record of Marriages in the Town of Leicester, 1847
Digital	Record of Marriages in the Town of Lima, 1847-1848
Digital	Record of Marriages in the Town of Livonia, 1847 and 1849
Digital	Record of Marriages in the Town of Mt. Morris, 1847-1848

Digital Record of Marriages in the Town of North Dansville, 1847-1848
Digital Record of Marriages in the Town of Nunda, 1847 and 1849
Digital Record of Marriages in the Town of Portage, 1847-1849
Digital Record of Marriages in the Town of Sparta, 1847-1849
Digital Record of Marriages in the Town of Springwater, 1847
Digital Record of Marriages in the Town of West Sparta, 1847-1848
Digital Record of Marriages in the Town of York, 1847-1849

IV. Related Materials

Livingston County Historian's Office

5 Murray Hill Drive
Mt. Morris, NY 14510

- Church record holdings are also available from as early as c. 1806, which often include marriages and baptisms performed and deaths within the congregation or community. Many of the Historian's church record holdings are in the process of being indexed and are available on the Online Records Index. Sacramental records are also available at individual parishes if still active.
- Census schedules 1855, 1865 and 1875 include marriages and deaths for the past year and some are available at the Historian's Office and on FamilySearch.org.
- Other resources, including cemetery information, newspapers, and family genealogical material are available and can also be of assistance in discovering vital information.

Familysearch.org

County Marriages, 1847-1848; 1908-1936

New York State Department of Health

Vital Records Section
Genealogy Unit
P.O. Box 2602
Albany, NY 12237-2602
https://www.health.ny.gov/vital_records/genealogy.htm