

## GENEALOGICAL RESOURCES

- ♦ **Ancestry Library Edition** – Genealogical collection including immigration, church, court, death, birth and census records. Available on SFPL computers for free. Also at [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)
- ♦ **FamilySearch** – Digitized county records, including San Francisco and other California counties. <https://familysearch.org/>
- ♦ **Heritage Quest** – Includes U.S. federal census records and full text family history books. Available on SFPL computers. Access from outside the Library requires SFPL library card. [www.sfpl.org](http://www.sfpl.org)
- ♦ **San Francisco Chronicle Historical Database** – Searchable full text newspaper, 1865-1922. Access from outside the library requires SFPL library card. [www.sfpl.org](http://www.sfpl.org)
- ♦ **Library of Congress Chronicling America** – Searchable full text newspapers 1836-1922, including the Morning Call (1890-1895) and the San Francisco Call (1895-1913). <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>
- ♦ **California Digital Newspaper Collection** – Searchable full text newspapers 1846-present, including San Francisco Call (1890-1913) and the Daily Alta California (1849-1891). <http://cdnc.ucr.edu>
- ♦ **San Francisco County Genealogy:** [www.sfgenealogy.com/sf/index.htm](http://www.sfgenealogy.com/sf/index.htm)
- ♦ **California Death Index (1905-1997):** 1905-1939 available at SFPL on microfilm, Ancestry, & FamilySearch; 1940-1997 available at: <http://vitals.rootsweb.ancestry.com/ca/death/search.cgi>
- ♦ **California State Library Genealogy Resources:** [www.library.ca.gov/calhist/genealogy.html](http://www.library.ca.gov/calhist/genealogy.html)

♦ **San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society:** [www.jewishgen.org/sfbajgs](http://www.jewishgen.org/sfbajgs)

♦ **California Genealogical Society** – State organization that includes a library for research and referrals to researchers for hire. [www.californiaancestors.org](http://www.californiaancestors.org)

♦ **Board for Certification of Genealogists** – National organization that provides referrals to researchers for hire: [www.bcgcertification.org](http://www.bcgcertification.org)

♦ **San Francisco City Directories online (1850-1982):** [sfpl.org/citydirectories](http://sfpl.org/citydirectories)

♦ **SFPL Magazines & Newspapers Center** – Microfilm copies of *The San Francisco Chronicle*, *The Examiner* and other local newspapers containing marriage, birth and death notices. Particularly useful for pre-1906 research.

♦ *Raking the Ashes: Genealogical Strategies for Pre-1906 San Francisco Research.* Oakland, CA: California Genealogical Society, c2011.



San Francisco History Center  
San Francisco Public Library  
100 Larkin Street  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
(415) 557-4567  
[info@sfpl.org](mailto:info@sfpl.org)  
[www.sfpl.org/sfhistory](http://www.sfpl.org/sfhistory)  
Revised: Feb. 2014



San Francisco Public Library  
100 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA 94102 - 4733

## WHERE TO FIND VITAL RECORDS IN SAN FRANCISCO



BIRTH & DEATH CERTIFICATES

MARRIAGE RECORDS

MEDICAL EXAMINER/CORONER'S RECORDS

WILLS, PROBATE & DIVORCE RECORDS

ADOPTION RECORDS

CEMETERY & FUNERAL HOME RECORDS

GENEALOGICAL RESOURCES

## BIRTH & DEATH CERTIFICATES

The City and County of San Francisco maintains a continuous record of births and deaths that have occurred within the city since April 1906.

### Most recent 3 years (Dept. of Public Health)

Recent birth and death records (for the last 3 years) can be ordered by mail, by phone, in person or online. Payment can be made by credit card, money order or cash. Contact DPH for hours, cost and required information:

Department of Public Health  
Office of Vital Records  
101 Grove Street, Room 105  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
(415) 554-2700  
<http://www.sfdph.org/dph/comupg/records/vitalRec/default.asp>

### 1906 to 3 years ago (County Clerk)

Older records can be ordered by mail or in person at the Office of the County Clerk, City Hall. Contact for hours, cost and required information:

Office of the County Clerk  
City Hall, Room 168  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
(415) 554-4950  
<http://www.sfgov2.org/index.aspx?page=14>



## MARRIAGE RECORDS

Certified copies of marriage certificates can be ordered by mail, by phone, in person or online:

Assessor-Recorder's Office  
1 Dr. Carlton Goodlett Place  
City Hall, Room 190  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4698  
(415) 554-5596  
<http://www.sfgov2.org/index.aspx?page=19>

The Office of Vital Records at the California Department of Public Health also maintains birth, death and marriage records from July 1905:

California Department of Public Health  
Office of Vital Records – M.S. 5103  
P.O. Box 997410  
Sacramento, CA 95899-7410  
(916) 445-2684  
[www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/birthdeathmar/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/birthdeathmar/Pages/default.aspx)

## MEDICAL EXAMINER RECORDS

Autopsy records 1957-current can be found at the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. Contact for hours, cost and required information:

Office of the Chief Medical Examiner  
Hall of Justice  
850 Bryant Street – North Terrace  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
(415) 553-1694  
[www.sfgov.org/med\\_examiner](http://www.sfgov.org/med_examiner)

For Medical Examiner's records dating 1906-1956, please contact the San Francisco History Center at the San Francisco Public Library (415) 557-4567. Advance notice of 24-48 hours needed. Name and date of death required. Also available on the FamilySearch website: <https://familysearch.org/>

## WILLS, PROBATE & DIVORCE RECORDS

Records from April 1906 forward:

Clerk of the Superior Court, Room 103  
400 McAllister Street  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4514  
(415) 551-4000  
[www.sfsuperiorcourt.org](http://www.sfsuperiorcourt.org)

## ADOPTIONS

Some San Francisco Public Library archival collections contain adoption information, most notably Edgewood Orphanage records. Current California adoption information is also available from the California Department of Public Health: <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/birthdeathmar/Pages/AdoptionsandChangesinPaternity.aspx>

## CEMETERY & FUNERAL HOME RECORDS

Many religious groups have records prior to the 1906 earthquake. If the deceased was Catholic, contact Holy Cross Cemetery at (650) 756-2060 or [www.holycrosscemeteries.com](http://www.holycrosscemeteries.com). Episcopal records remain with the parish. Closed parishes records are archived with the Episcopal Diocese of California (415) 673-5015 or [www.diocal.org](http://www.diocal.org). For early Jewish cemetery records, contact Home of Peace (650) 755-4700 or [www.jewishcemeteries-sf.org](http://www.jewishcemeteries-sf.org).

San Francisco History Center also has early funeral home records, 1850-1921. Advance notice of 24-48 hours needed, call (415) 557-4567. Name and date of death required. Also available on the FamilySearch website: <https://familysearch.org/>