

Vital Record Indexes Available at the Wisconsin Vital Records Office

Note: This is a work in progress. There may be errors in this listing, as it has not been rigorously compared to the actual indexes. It is planned that more information will be added as to the contents of each index.

Birth records

Pre-1907 – on microfiche sets (one set ordered by name, one set ordered by date of birth)

October 1907 through 1947 – on paper, in upright binders / one binder per year

1948 through 1984 – on five microfiche sets, each covering a different period (1948-1959, 1960-1969, 1970-1979, 1979-1983, 1984 / note the overlap for 1979)

After 1984 – must ask the attendant to look up specific individuals

Delayed and affidavit birth registrations – there may not be any index in this office to these records

Death records

Pre-1907: on microfiche

October 1907 through 1976 – on paper, in upright binders / one binder per year

1959 through 1997 – on two microfiche sets, each covering a different period (1959-1967 & 1969-1979 and 1979-1997 / notes: 1968 is not on any microfiche set; the earlier set of microfiche is mislabeled “1959-1967 & 1969-1970”; 1979 is covered by both sets)

1998-2006 – in large flat binders / one binder per year (a new binder is produced for every year, about six months after the close of the year)

Very recent – must ask the attendant to look up specific individuals

Marriage records

Pre-1907: on microfiche (usually both bride and groom are in the index, but sometimes only the groom or only the bride) / covers only those counties alphabetically between Adams and Portage, plus Racine)

October 1907-1909 – on paper, in upright binders / one binder per year / bride and groom are both listed

1910-1972 – on paper, in upright binders / one binder per year / only groom is indexed

1973-1977 – on paper, in upright binders / one binder per year / bride and groom are both listed, but only the groom is indexed

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1973-1978 – on microfiche, one set for brides, one set for grooms (in some years only the surname of the bride is listed [i.e., no given name])

1979-1997 -- on microfiche, one set for brides, one set for grooms (in some years only the surname of the bride is listed [i.e., no given name])

1998-2006 – in large flat binders / one binder per year

Divorce Records

Pre-1907: No index (or records) available in this office

October 1907 through 1977 – on paper, in upright binders / numerous years per binder

1965-1984 – on microfiche, in four sets (1965 & 1967-1978 ordered by name of plaintiff; 1979-1983 ordered by name of wife, 1979-1983 ordered by name of husband, 1980-1984 ordered by name of husband / note the overlap for 1980-1983

1978-1986 – in large flat binders / one binder per year

After 1986 – must ask the attendant to look up specific individuals

Notes

- 1) “Pre-1907” really means Pre-1 October 1907. The records from this time period are known to be quite incomplete. Not all vital events were recorded with the appropriate county; not all records of events recorded with a county were forwarded to the state.
- 2) The “Pre-1907” microfiche index sets and death index microfiche sets for the period 1959-1979 (except 1968) are available for onsite searching at the Wisconsin Historical Society library and numerous other locations
- 3) The “Pre-1907” microfiche index sets were scanned to produce the data available on <ancestry.com>
- 4) The “Pre-1907” microfiche index sets were scanned to create the starting point for the index data available on the Wisconsin Historical Society website; index data for Price and those counties alphabetically between Richland and Wood were added to the WHS online marriage index. Volunteers and WHS staff are continuing to work to improve the accuracy of the WHS indexes by examining the microfilmed records
- 5) The 1973-78 and 1979-1997 marriage indexes are available at <ancestry.com> (by subscription). Their description is: “This database is an index to approximately 949,000 marriages that took place in the State of Wisconsin, USA, between 1973 and 1997. Information that may be found in this database includes groom's name, groom's age, groom's

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residence (county and/or state), bride's name, bride's age, bride's residence (county and/or state), marriage date, marriage county, and marriage certificate number.”

- 6) The birth indexes are incomplete. The Wisconsin Vital Records Office website contains the following statement: “According to Chapter 69, Wisconsin Statutes, the following kinds of birth certificates cannot be issued in uncertified format: A child born to unmarried parents when paternity has not been established, or a child born to unmarried parents when paternity was established by court order.” This restriction applies to only births which occurred after 30 September 1907. Such records are not only unavailable to other than immediate family, but also excluded from the indexes. For the purpose of interpreting this restriction, parents married at any time during the pregnancy are considered to be married.