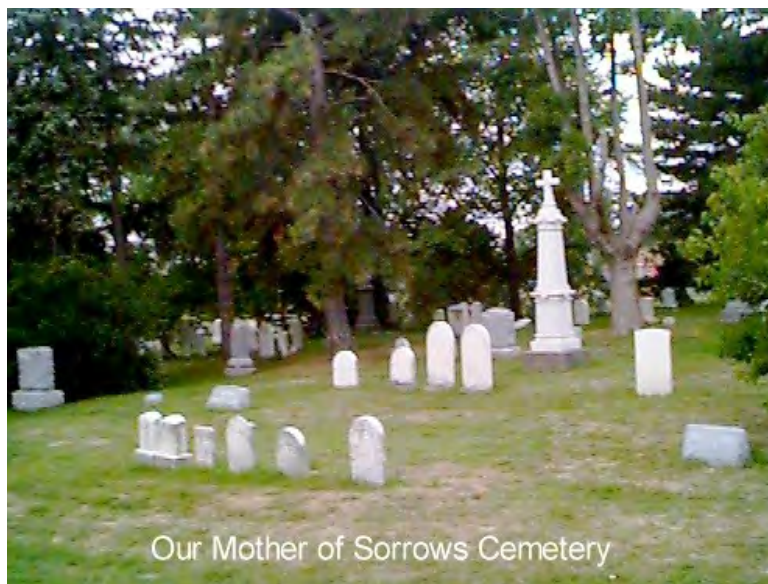


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Cemetery Records, Tombstone Inscriptions & Funeral Home Records

It appears from looking at old cemetery records that New York State did not try to regulate cemeteries until around the year 1900. Few cemeteries in this area have burial records before that time. The records that do exist may be difficult to locate because they are usually kept at a private home for most of the smaller and rural cemeteries. In many cases, the only record of an individual who died in the 18th or 19th century may be a transcription of data from the tombstone collected by a dedicated individual or by a civic or patriotic society. The collection of printed tombstone inscriptions in the [Local History and Genealogy Division](#) of the Rochester Public Library is one the best collections available. That said, many of the tombstone inscriptions from the 1920s and 1930s are often incomplete. The library website also has a transcription of [all the cemeteries in the Town of Ogden](#) (1803 – 2004) and another transcription of [Garland Cemetery](#) in the Town of Clarkson. Both of those are records were compiled by Donald Specht who is active in the Ogden Farmers' Library.



One of the first things to be added to the GenWeb of Monroe County website in 1996 was tombstone transcriptions. Although not complete, the records on the [cemetery page](#) have become a good source for tombstone and burial records. Donations of burial records came from the Oakwood Cemetery Association in Penfield who also have donated burial records of Mt. Pleasant Cemetery in Fairport. The Town of Sweden donated the burials records of Lakeview/Beach Ridge Cemetery and Brockport Cemetery in Sweden. The GenWeb cemetery page also has GPS coordinates for most cemeteries. Then there are links to maps on Google Maps and Mapquest that will show where cemeteries are located.

The [New York State Library](#) also has a large collection of Monroe County tombstone inscriptions, the majority of which are in the over 650 printed volumes of [Unpublished Cemetery, Church and Town Records](#) (NYPL 974.7 qD23). Those were compiled by the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) starting in the 1920s. Some Monroe County cemeteries have as many as four transcriptions in those volumes. These volumes are indexed by town in a card file in the Local History Division of the State Library. There are also a few other groups of inscriptions available in booklet form.

Note that FamilySearch has filmed approximately the first 400 volumes of the DAR's [Unpublished Cemetery, Church and Town Records](#). The problem is that none of the cemetery records within the volumes are in their card catalog so they are almost impossible to find. The LDS Eastern Stakes Mission compiled an 11 volume collection of cemetery records and tombstone inscriptions. This collection covers much of New York State and New England. The collection is available at both Family History Centers in Monroe County and the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah.

In 1995 FamilySearch filmed the original burial records of the Mt. Hope Cemetery in Rochester (1837 – 1995). Those microfilms of the [Mt Hope records](#) are only available at the Family History Library in Salt Lake

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City, Utah. They also have digitized films of [burials in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery](#) (1871 – 1915) but those records can only be viewed at the Family History Library or at one of the local Family History Centers. For smaller cemetery records available, search the [FamilySearch Catalog](#) for records by town. A large portion of those records for smaller cemeteries are only available as printed records in Salt Lake City.

The University of Rochester has online images of both Mt. Hope Cemetery (1837 – 2002) and Riverside Cemetery (1892 – 2002) that can be view on [this web page](#). Note that you only should put the first letters of the surname in the search box and select a volume and it gives pages that match your search.

DATE OF INTERMENT.	NAME.	AGE. Y. M. D.	DISEASE.	RESIDENCE.	NATIV- ITY.	SECTION AND LOT.
83 July 20	Bertha J. Hahnke	11 10	Congestion of Brain	Ward Park	am	Sec 5, 535, M.
85 Oct 6	Bertha Hagan	2 11 3	Puerperal Periton	Elizabeth Place		W. 42 - 53 M.
88 Dec 17	August Hahnke	44 4	Paralysis of Heart	Ward Park		S.W. 44 - 113 R1
86 Nov 17	Barbara A. Haigh	84	Cerebral Hemorrhage	Elizabeth St.		Age 70 y.
88 Jan 5	Adelia M. Hahnke	23	Puerperal Fever	Edward St.		Sec. 100 R. 21
88 Mar 26	Butler M. Hahnke Inf.		Premature birth	Oxford St.		Sec 2 & R 22

The Rochester Genealogical Society (RGS) has [this PDF file](#) that will help you to interpret the burial locations in Mt. Hope Cemetery. They also have digital files of the [Mt. Hope plot books](#) for Sections, Ranges and Single Graves that will show other family members buried in family plots. RGS also has an extensive collection of [records of Riverside Cemetery](#). This includes alphabetic indexes that are of better quality than the ones available from the University of Rochester. The collection of Riverside Cemetery also includes burials by date and plot books. They also have burial records and plot ownership records for [Fairfield Cemetery](#) in the Village of Spencerport.

Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Rochester has a website with a [search page](#) to find if a person is buried there. Search results will give you the date of burial, burial location, age and sometimes the date of death. If you click yellow circles on the map and it will show people buried together. The same information is available at a kiosk in the lobby of the cemetery office (2461 Lake Ave., Rochester, NY 14612). There is also a mobile “app” available for your cell phone that can be used to search for people and also to get directions to the graves. The cemetery claims that their information is complete but research has shown that some of the earliest burials in pauper section are not in the data. Those can be found in original burial records that were filmed by FamilySearch (see description above).

A few Monroe County cemeteries have put their records on their own websites; [Maplewood Cemetery](#) (Penfield), [Webster Rural Cemetery](#) (Webster), and [Webster Union Cemetery](#). The Village of Churchville has a [search page](#) that is a combined search in the burial records for the Churchville (also called Creekside) Cemetery and St. Vincent de Paul Cemetery. Those two cemeteries adjoin each other and both are now managed by the Village of Churchville.

The [Ogden Farmers' Library](#) in the Town of Ogden has a collection of tombstone records in three– ring binders. Their records are mostly for the towns in the northwestern part of Monroe County: i.e. Hamlin, Sweden, Clarkson and, of course, Ogden. They have a collection of veteran's burial records for a good share of

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Monroe County that were initialed by the Monroe County Veteran's Service Agency. Look for those in black binders on their open shelves.

[Find A Grave](#) has become the largest website of cemetery records for the United States. It has a great collection of records for Monroe County. Most people search for a name but you can also search for cemetery and view all people buried there. Find A Grave also has photos of some of the tombstones. If there is a record of a person without a photo of the tombstone then you can request a photo of the tombstone. In some cases it may take as long as few years before anyone will get to the cemetery to take a photo.

[Billion Graves](#) also has cemetery records from around the globe. It is smaller than Find A Grave in spite of their name. The volunteers that take photos for Billion Graves have to use a camera with GPS. That means that there also is a map for each tombstone picture showing where the person is buried in the cemetery. If you download their cell phone "app," it will guide you to the exact location in the cemetery.

A much smaller project with photos of area tombstones is [New York Gravestones](#). That website only has about 1,000 tombstone photos for Monroe County.

Funeral homes in this area started after the Civil War. Records could contain date date and place, place of burial and person who paid for the funeral. The funeral home's records would be considered business records. As such, when the funeral home closed the records could have been kept by a family, transferred to another funeral home or destroyed.

Locating older funeral home records could be difficult. Most modern funeral homes are corporations that own multiple locations. They may or may not be willing to search their records even if you are a close relative.

About 90% of the Jewish burials in the Rochester area from the late 1880s to 2009 were officiated by the Parsky Funeral Home. At that time it was purchased by [Brighton Memorial Chapel](#) which has Parsky's old burial records.

One online source of funeral home records is [Daily – Fowler Home Records, 1888 – 1939](#), which was in Brockport, NY. Their records were indexed by the former Hamlin Town Historian, Mary E. Smith. Those records show that most of the burials took place in cemeteries in the northwestern part of Monroe County but there are a few burials that took place in other counties. There are also some people that died out of town but were buried in cemeteries around Brockport.



The screenshot shows the Find A Grave profile for Nathaniel Rochester. It includes a portrait photo of an elderly man with white hair and a dark coat. To the right of the photo is a table with biographical information:

Nathaniel Rochester 🇺🇸	
BIRTH	21 Feb 1752 Westmoreland County, Virginia, USA
DEATH	17 May 1831 (aged 79) Rochester, Monroe County, New York, USA
BURIAL	Mount Hope Cemetery Rochester, Monroe County, New York, USA
PLOT	Section R, Lot 11
MEMORIAL ID	6181 · View Source

Below the table are two photographs of the tombstone. The left photo shows the tombstone from a distance, and the right photo is a close-up of the inscription. The inscription reads: "THE GRAVE OF NATHANIEL ROCHESTER BORN FEB 21 1752 DIED MAY 17 1831 AGED 79 YEARS 6 MONTHS 16 DAYS MOUNT HOPE CEMETERY ROCHESTER N.Y."

---- END. ----