Using the
Wisconsin Historical Society
Research Portal

What is the Wisconsin Historical Society Research Portal?

The Wisconsin Historical Research Portal is a collection of databases provided by the Wisconsin Historical Society. Included in the Research Portal are the following:
* Wisconsin Magazine of History Archives
* Wisconsin Vital Records
    ‣ The Wisconsin Pre-1907 Birth Records Index includes approximately one million names from Wisconsin birth records dated between 1852 and September 30, 1907.
    ‣ Pre-1907 marriage and death indexes are included in the index. There are over 2 million vital records in our index
* Wisconsin Name Index
* Wisconsin Local History & Biography Articles
* Wisconsin Historical Images
* Wisconsin Historical Collections
* American Journeys
* Turning Points in Wisconsin History
* Wisconsin Architecture & History Inventory
* Register of Historic Places
* Wisconsin Historic Preservation Database (Subscription only)
* Civil War Roster of Volunteers
* International Harvester Paint Committee Decisions
* Wisconsin Magazine of History Index, 1992-2002
* Wisconsin Corporations Index

In addition, there are other useful resources such as the Dictionary of Wisconsin History, government records, burial sites, military history, African-American newspapers and periodicals, etc.

Accessing the Wisconsin Historical Society Research Portal

* http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/research.asp

* Click on any of the links in the column on the right to view other useful resources.

* Use the **Image Search**, **Local History & Biography Article Search**, or the **Term Search** boxes in the lower-left corner

* For a **People Search**, click on the **Wisconsin Vital Records** link which is the second from the top in the left corner.

The Wisconsin Vital Records link will search for pre-1907 Vital Records including birth, death, and marriage records as well as the 150,000 Wisconsin Name Index including biographical sketches, obituaries, and newspaper articles before 2000.

Using the Wisconsin Genealogy Index

- After you have clicked in the **Wisconsin Vital Records** link, a new window will open.

WISCONSIN GENEALOGY INDEX

Search for pre-1907 Vital Records (VR), including birth, death, and marriage records as well as for 150,000 Wisconsin Name Index (WNI) records, including biographical sketches, obituaries, and newspaper articles published before 2000.

Last Name: _____

First Name: _____

County: [▾] [For VR only] County Map

Event Date: _____ [For VR only]
(10-29-1888)

Event Year: _____

[Search] [Clear Fields] Search Help

Made possible through the generosity of The Schoenleber Foundation and the Wisconsin State Genealogical Society.

- Enter the last name for which you are searching. You must enter at least three letters, so, to catch all variant spellings, you may use Wil to find all surnames beginning with Wil. This field is not case sensitive. Do NOT use apostrophes in such names as O'Malley. Spaces are not necessary
- The first name field is optional. You may enter a couple of letters to broaden your search. For instance, entering Ed with return all names beginning with Ed such as Edith, Edmund, Edward, etc.
- **County** field is optional. You may click on the **View a Map** option to see a county map of Wisconsin so that you may determine surrounding counties.
- Enter an **Event Date** and/or **Year** (4-digits) if desired.
- Click on **Search** or press **Enter**.
- The Search Results Window will open.

Search Results
Birth Only | Death Only | Marriage Only | WNI Only   Search Again | Search Tips

Name	Type	Date	County		
Smit H, Ld	Marriage	May 10 1894	Bayfield	Details	BUY→
Smit H, Lea R	Marriage	Jul 23 1889	Kenosha	Details	BUY→
Smit H, Leander D	Marriage	Sep 16 1873	La Crosse	Details	BUY→
Smit H, Leanora	Marriage	Nov 20 1879	Columbia	Details	BUY→

- If desired, use the search limiters of **Birth Only**, **Death Only**, **Marriage Only** or **WNI Only** at the top of the window to limit the results to just see those fitting that criteria selected..
- Click on the **Details** button for the entry you wish to view.

Marriage Record Details

Last Name:	Smit H
First Name:	Lea R
Day:	23
Month:	July
Year:	1889
County:	Kenosha
Volume:	03
Page:	0366

- Use this information to determine what film to use at the Family History Library or a Family History Center to see the original record or you may order the record online by clicking the **BUY** button.