

Discovering Your Ancestors in Poorhouse Records

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Genealogy Center

Genealogy@ACPL.Info

Types of Poorhouse Records

- Admission and Discharge Records
- Apprenticeship papers
- Hospital Records
- Indenture Books
- Probate Records & County Court Minutes

Other Names for Poorhouse Records

- Almshouse records
- Poorhouse records
- Poor farm records
- Asylum Records
- Paupers Records
- Old Age Home Records
- “Record of Inmates”

Places You Can Find These Records

- FamilySearch
- Local Libraries
 - & The Genealogy Center!
- City Archives
- County Courthouse/Archives
- State Archives — see NARA State Archives list under “Online Resources” below
- 1880 Federal Census Supplemental Schedule 7 for the Defective, Dependent, and Delinquent Classes

Online Resources

- FamilySearch catalog
- “United States 1880 Defective, Dependent, and Delinquent Schedules”, FamilySearch Research Wiki:
 - [https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United_States_1880_Defective,_Dependent,_and_Delinquent_Schedules_\(National_Institute\)](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United_States_1880_Defective,_Dependent,_and_Delinquent_Schedules_(National_Institute))
- Ancestry
 - 1880 Federal Census Supplemental Schedule 7, for the Defective, Dependent, and Delinquent Classes: <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/1634/>
 - New York, U.S., Census of Inmates in Almshouses and Poorhouses, 1830-1920: <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/1083/>
 - Chester County, Pennsylvania, U.S., Poor House Admissions Index, 1800-1910: <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/70834/>
- NYC Municipal Archives Guide to the Almshouse ledgers, 1758-1952: https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/records/pdf/Almshouse_REC0008_MASTER.pdf
- NARA State Archives List: <https://www.archives.gov/research/alic/reference/state-archives.html>

Additional Reading and Physical Resources in the Genealogy Center

1880 Supplemental Schedule 7, for the Defective, Dependent, and Delinquent Classes (Microfilm)

ACPL catalog entry: https://www.genealogycenter.info/results_mtcensus.php

Baltimore County Historical Society. *The Almshouse built in 1872, closed in 1958* [...]. Cockeysville, MD: Baltimore County Historical Society, 1977.

ACPL catalog entry:

https://acpl.lib.in.us/wise-apps/catalog/6000/detail/wise/695921?offset=8&q=almshouse&search_in=iets&state=search&wf_vestlabel=Genealogy

Boles, James M. *When there were poor houses: early care in rural New York 1808-1950*. Buffalo, NY: Museum of disABILITY History, 2012.

ACPL catalog entry:

https://acpl.lib.in.us/wise-apps/catalog/6000/detail/wise/1622476?offset=12&q=poorhouse&search_in=iets&state=search&wf_vestlabel=Genealogy

Engelbrecht, Jacob. *The Jacob Engelbrecht property and almshouse ledgers of Frederick County, Maryland, 1820-1890*. Monrovia, MD: Paw Prints, 1996.

ACPL catalog entry:

https://acpl.lib.in.us/wise-apps/catalog/6000/detail/wise/187138?offset=6&q=almshouse&search_in=iets&state=search&wf_vestlabel=Genealogy

Gannt, Betty, indexer. *Allen county, Indiana, infirmary deaths, 1937-1973*.

ACPL catalog entry:

https://acpl.lib.in.us/wise-apps/catalog/6000/detail/wise/537465?offset=6&q=poorhouse&search_in=iets&state=search&wf_vestlabel=Genealogy

Goodwin, Aaron. *New York City Municipal Archives: an authorized guide for family historians*. New York, NY: New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, 2016.

ACPL catalog entry:

https://acpl.lib.in.us/wise-apps/catalog/6000/detail/wise/1538912?offset=17&q=almshouse&search_in=iets&state=search&wf_vestlabel=Genealogy

Green, Elena C. *This business of relief: confronting poverty in a Southern city, 1740-1940*. Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press, 2003

ACPL catalog entry:

https://acpl.lib.in.us/wise-apps/catalog/6000/detail/wise/1010902?offset=10&q=poorhouse&search_in=iets&state=search&wf_vestlabel=Genealogy

Horn, Stacey. *Damnation Island: poor, sick, mad & criminal in 19th-century New York*. Chapel Hill, NC: Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, 2018.

ACPL catalog entry:

https://acpl.lib.in.us/wise-apps/catalog/6000/detail/wise/1591546?offset=16&q=almshouse&search_in=iets&state=search&wf_vestlabel=Genealogy

Ibbotson, Patricia. *Eloise: poorhouse, farm, asylum, and hospital, 1839-1984*. Chicago, IL: Arcadia, 2002.

ACPL catalog entry:

https://acpl.lib.in.us/wise-apps/catalog/6000/detail/wise/801930?offset=4&q=poorhouse&search_in=iets&state=search&wf_vestlabel=Genealogy

Katz, M.B. *In the shadow of the poorhouse: a social history of welfare in America*

ACPL catalog entry:

https://acpl.lib.in.us/wise-apps/catalog/6000/detail/wise/622356?offset=0&q=In%20the%20shadow%20of%20the%20poorhouse&search_in=iets&state=search

Logsdon, Mary. *Brown county, Illinois, county farm (Almshouse): records, residents, etc., 1878-1937*. Versailles, IL: Versailles Area Genealogical & Historical Society, 2002.

ACPL catalog entry:

https://acpl.lib.in.us/wise-apps/catalog/6000/detail/wise/870913?offset=5&q=almshouse&search_in=iets&state=search&wf_vestlabel=Genealogy

Maddigan, Michael J. *Massachusetts Correctional Institution Bridgewater: a troubled past*. Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2018.

ACPL catalog entry:

https://acpl.lib.in.us/wise-apps/catalog/6000/detail/wise/1597843?offset=12&q=almshouse&search_in=iets&state=search&wf_vestlabel=Genealogy

Newman, Simon P. *Embodied history: the lives of the poor in early Philadelphia*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2003.

ACPL catalog entry:

https://acpl.lib.in.us/wise-apps/catalog/6000/detail/wise/906316?offset=10&q=almshouse&search_in=iets&state=search&wf_vestlabel=Genealogy

Overton County, Tennessee poorhouse/county home, 1902-1961, history, photographs, documents : also, including journal, 1926-1946 of Rebecca "Becky" (Stewart) Qualls. Livingston, TN: Overton County Historical Society, 2011.

ACPL catalog entry:

https://acpl.lib.in.us/wise-apps/catalog/6000/detail/wise/1361706?offset=5&q=poorhouse&search_in=iets&state=search&wf_vestlabel=Genealogy

Poorhouse Records 1865-1930 [Dauphin County, PA] (Microform)

ACPL catalog entry:

https://acpl.lib.in.us/wise-apps/catalog/6000/detail/wise/1140423?offset=0&q=poorhouse&search_in=iets&state=search&wf_vestlabel=Genealogy

Prince George's County Genealogical Society Publications Committee. *Records of the almshouse of Prince George's County Maryland*. Bowie, MD: Willow Bend Books, 2003.

ACPL catalog entry:

https://acpl.lib.in.us/wise-apps/catalog/6000/detail/wise/899651?offset=4&q=almshouse&search_in=iets&state=search&wf_vestlabel=Genealogy

Record of inmates of poor-house, 1887-1948 [Oceana County, MI] (Microform)

ACPL catalog entry:

https://acpl.lib.in.us/wise-apps/catalog/6000/detail/wise/1713760?offset=1&q=poorhouse&search_in=iets&state=search&wf_vestlabel=Genealogy

Schmidt, Cynthia V. *Bits and pieces: records for Talbot and Queen Anne's counties of Maryland, complete transcriptions taken from the original records*. C.V. Schmidt, 2003.

ACPL catalog entry:

https://acpl.lib.in.us/wise-apps/catalog/6000/detail/wise/881351?offset=11&q=almshouse&search_in=iets&state=search&wf_vestlabel=Genealogy

“Select nineteenth century Onondaga County, NY Poorhouse records.” *Tree Talks* 60, no. 4 (December 2020). Central New York Genealogical Society.

ACPL catalog entry:

https://acpl.lib.in.us/wise-apps/catalog/6000/detail/wise/1789588?offset=2&q=poorhouse&search_in=iets&state=search&wf_vestlabel=Genealogy

Trego, Ethel. *Warren County Home records, 1860 to 1928, Monmouth, Illinois*. Monmouth, IL: Warren County, IL Genealogical Society, 1992.

ACPL catalog entry:

https://acpl.lib.in.us/wise-apps/catalog/6000/detail/wise/646254?offset=13&q=almshouse&search_in=iets&state=search&wf_vestlabel=Genealogy

Vaseka, Pat. *Monroe County, IL almshouse*. Waterloo, IL: Monroe County Historical Society, 2002.

ACPL catalog entry:

https://acpl.lib.in.us/wise-apps/catalog/6000/detail/wise/1008057?offset=0&q=almshouse&search_in=iets&state=search

Weaver, Jeanne Crain. *Menard County, IL almshouse register, 1879-1940*. Petersburg, IL: Weaver Genealogical Publications, 1996.

ACPL catalog entry:

https://acpl.lib.in.us/wise-apps/catalog/6000/detail/wise/509614?offset=3&q=almshouse&search_in=iets&state=search&wf_vestlabel=Genealogy

Winters, Lisa. *Piatt County, IL Almshouse register*. Monticello, IL: Piatt County Historical Society, 1996.

ACPL catalog entry:

https://acpl.lib.in.us/wise-apps/catalog/6000/detail/wise/37420?offset=1&q=almshouse&search_in=iets&state=search