

So.....you think your ancestors lived in Wayland and you are trying to gather information. Listed below is some information which could help in your research.

Prior to 1880 New York State did not maintain Vital Records. Records for times prior to 1880 are generally found in church records.

After 1880 records were maintained by the Town and Village Clerks and filed with the State. There was a fire in Wayland in 1883 and all town records were destroyed when the Town Hall burned. Records start again in 1886. Records for the Village start with 1891.

NYS law required that marriage licenses be acquired in the residence town of the bride. After the ceremony the completed Certificate of Marriage would be filed in the same town. Even if the marriage took place in Wayland the Certificate would not be available in Wayland if Wayland was not the residence of the bride.

The records maintained by the Town and Village Clerks are not open to the public. If you think a record may exist you can submit a request to the clerk. The public cannot walk into the Town or Village offices and see the records or request immediate copies. Printable forms to request birth, death and marriage records available at the Town and Village Halls and on the Town website. Mailed requests must include a picture ID and appropriate fees. All these records are the property of the New York State Department of Health. The Town and Village Clerks act solely as the custodian of records. Remember – the records only contain the information that was provided to the clerks. In days past, births and deaths often occurred at home without any authority in attendance. Many of these events did not get reported to the Town and Village clerks.

New York State offers a great deal of information including that which might be contained in records of the Town and Village Clerks. Visit their website http://www.health.ny.gov/vital_records/genealogy.htm to see what is available and the conditions under which that information can be obtained.

Adoptions records were sealed records. The only information that a town would receive when an adoption took place was a “corrected” birth certificate that would be sent to the town where the original birth record was filed.

Town of Wayland
Town Clerk
110 N. Main Street
Wayland, NY 14572
585-728-5660

Village of Wayland
Village Clerk
15 N. Main St.
585-728-2800
Wayland, NY 14572

Website: www.townofwayland.org

Email: townclerk@townofwayland.com

Other possible sources of information include:

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Wayland Historical Society
Attn: Sandy Booth
(email - boothsb4749@aol.com)
Corner South Main & Washington Sts.
PO Box 494
Wayland, NY 14572

Wayland Free Library
101 W. Naples St.
Wayland, NY 14572

Steuben County Historical Society
PO Box 349
Bath, NY 14810
www.steubenhistoricalsociety.org

Steuben County Historian
Magee House
1 Conhocton St
Bath, NY 14810
www.steubency.org (click on historian)

Churches – List includes “old” area churches.

Holy Family Catholic Parish Office
(Includes Sacred Heart, Perkinsville and St. Joseph’s Wayland and St. Pius, Cohocton)
206 Fremont St
Wayland, NY 14572
585-728-2228

St. Peter’s UCC (Original Lutheran Church
County Rte 90
Wayland, NY 14572

United Methodist Church of Wayland
1 East Ave.
(Lackawanna St. at East Ave).
Wayland, NY 14572

These churches could be a source of old birth, death and marriage records.

Records from some of these churches, along with a great deal of other information, are available through Cornell University. To see what is available, visit their website.

www.library.cornell.edu/olinuris/ref/genpage.htm

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Wayland,,NY 14572 585-728-3668
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