



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Minnesota State Archives

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Vital Statistics Division An Inventory of Its Subject Files

OVERVIEW OF THE RECORDS

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| Agency: | Minnesota. Division of Vital Statistics. |
| Series Title: | Subject files. |
| Dates: | 1914-1974. |
| Quantity: | 2.1 cu. ft. (2 boxes and 1 partial box). |
| Location: | See Detailed Description section for box locations. |

SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE RECORDS

Correspondence, newspaper and magazine articles, reports, statistics, surveys, studies, legislation, procedures, and related materials documenting the activities of the Vital Statistics Division, particularly the policies and methods used in recording, registering, and certifying births, adoptions, marriages, annulments, divorces, deaths, and burials.

Included are files documenting confidentiality issues, dental and medical fatality studies, foreign births and deaths of Minnesota natives, birth certificate applications, World War II defense employment requests, birth lists requests, a birth record certification case involving St. Paul native and convicted conman Edward T'Kach/Eduard von Rothkirch, and relations with the American Association of Registration Executives, Association of Clerks of the District Court of the State of Minnesota, Minnesota State Bar Association, and the Interim Committee on State Administration and Employment (1953-1944).

Also housed in the files are records of the Native Sons of Minnesota, an effort to register all persons whose births had not been recorded or who were born prior to 1870 in Minnesota (1917-1922), and field trip reports (1914-1948). The latter detail trips made by Vital Statistics field agents to check on the operations of local registrars, county clerks of court, doctors and others involved in recording vital statistics.

OTHER FINDING AIDS

A second version of the Native Sons of Minnesota Index to Names and Vital Statistics Records Forms is cataloged in the Minnesota Historical Society Library collections as Index of Vital Statistics of Native Sons of Minnesota.

INDEX TERMS

These records are indexed under the following headings in the catalog of the Minnesota Historical Society. Researchers desiring materials about related topics, persons or places should search the catalog using these headings.

Topics:

- Adoption--Minnesota.
- Birth certificates--Minnesota.
- Data protection--Minnesota.
- Death certificates--Minnesota.
- Death--Minnesota--Proof and certification.
- Deaths--Causes--Statistics.
- Defense industries--Minnesota--Employees.
- Divorce records--Minnesota.
- Health officers--Minnesota--Reporting.
- Marriage records--Minnesota.
- Marriage--Annulment--Minnesota.
- Mortality--Minnesota.
- Privacy, Right of--Minnesota.
- Registers of births, etc.--Minnesota.
- World War, 1939-1945--War work--Minnesota.

Persons:

- T'Kach, Edward, 1919-.

Places:

- Minnesota--Statistics, Vital--Field work.

Organizations:

- American Association of Registration Executives.
- Association of Clerks of the District Court of the State of Minnesota.
- Minnesota State Bar Association.
- Minnesota. Legislature. House of Representatives. Interim Committee on State Administration and Employment.
- Native Sons of Minnesota (Organization)--Registers.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Preferred Citation:

[Indicate the cited item and folder title here]. Minnesota. Division of Vital Statistics.
Subject Files. Minnesota Historical Society. State Archives.
See the Chicago Manual of Style for additional examples.

Accession Information:

Accession number(s): 2003-8, 2003-56

Processing Information:

Processed by: Kristin Pollin, July 2002; Debbie Sher, October 2002, March 2003
Catalog ID No.: 1738030

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Note to Researchers: To request materials, please note both the location and box numbers shown below. Each file consists of one folder unless specified otherwise.

| Location | Box | |
|-------------|-----|---|
| 106.D.14.8F | 1 | American Association of Registration Executives, 1935-1956. 4 folders. Correspondence, general, 1938-1956. Correspondence of Director Pierson, 1937-1946. Documenting Director of Vital Statistics Gerda C. Pierson's activities as District No. 4 Chairman, mainly relating to preparation of exhibits for meetings. Correspondence with President Davis, 1935-1938. Regions to coincide with United States public health regions, 1938-1939. Articles, 1946-1955. Includes newspaper clippings and magazine articles about vital statistics policy. Binding project, 1965-1966. Birth and death registration test, 1933-1934. Birth and death registration tests, 1950-1951. 2 folders. The Birth Certification Process in the Division of Vital Statistics, April 17, 1942. Report created by the Administration Department's Division of Administrative Management and Research. Card-operated sorting machines, 1936-1943. Cemetery lists by county, undated. Change in county boundaries in delayed birth registration, 1966. Clerk of Court records: Transmittal of record copies, 1943-1945. Clerk of District Court county vital statistics survey, 1966. Clerk of District Court memos, 1966. |

| Location | Box | |
|-----------------|------------|---|
| 106.D.14.8F | 1 | <p>Clerks of District Court Association of Minnesota, 1946–1965. 2 folders.</p> <p>Confidentiality: Adoptions, 1943–1965.</p> <p>Confidentiality of records, 1949–1950.</p> <p>Connecticut Health Department and Vital Statistics Division correspondence, 1947–1965.</p> <p>Correspondence, miscellaneous, 1936–1966.</p> <p>Court orders, 1955–1958.</p> <p>Death registration manual development, 1963–1966.</p> <p>Dentist fatality study, American Dental Association, 1954–1964.</p> <p>Doctor fatality study, American Medical Association, 1942–1959.</p> <p>Education of personnel directors regarding birth record evaluation, January –March 1942.</p> <p>Falsification of records court action: Minnesota v. Twedt, 1955–1956.</p> <p>Field trip reports, 1914–1948. 7 folders.</p> <p>Reports documenting trips made by Vital Statistics field agents to check up on the operations of local registrars, county clerks of court, doctors and others involved in recording vital statistics, especially in cases of missing, poor and/or incomplete certificates.</p> |
| 106.D.14.9B | 2 | <p>Florida Health Department and Vital Statistics Division correspondence, 1936–1965.</p> <p>Foreign births and deaths of Minnesota natives, 1949–1965.</p> <p>Fraud, 1935–1964.</p> <p>Funeral directors: Monthly reports, 1961–1962.</p> <p>History: Vital statistics legislation and practices 1858–1956, undated.</p> <p>History: The First Five Decades of Vital Statistics in Minnesota, 1937.</p> <p>Legislation, undated, 1925–1945.</p> <p>Marriage and divorce centralized registers, 1946–1949.</p> <p>Marriage records, 1960–1965.</p> <p>Marriage report, monthly, 1963.</p> <p>Merger of Minneapolis and Hennepin County birth and death records and processing, 1967.</p> <p>Minnesota State Bar Association, 1942–1959.</p> <p>Includes correspondence and birth certificate applications.</p> <p>National defense employment related increase in requests: Correspondence, August 1941.</p> <p>National defense employment related increase in requests: Weekly reports, July 5–December 28, 1940.</p> |

| Location | Box | |
|-----------------|------------|---|
| 106.D.14.9B | 2 | <p>Native Sons of Minnesota, 1917-1922. 3 folders.</p> <p>On March 4, 1870, a law was passed requiring the official recording of births and deaths in Minnesota. Persons whose births had not been recorded or who were born before 1870 in Minnesota could submit the Native Sons of Minnesota Vital Statistics.</p> <p>Correspondence, 1917-1922.</p> <p>Index to Names and Vital Statistics Record forms, 1917-1918.</p> <p>Alphabetical index and individual forms submitted to the department. Information recorded on each form includes names of great-grandparents, grandparents, parents, spouse, siblings, and children; parents', grandparents', and spouse's residence before coming to Minnesota and date of arrival; birthplace of spouse, and birth, death, baptism and marriage dates and places of the individual, siblings, and children.</p> <p>Individuals listed in the index are: Alden, William Albert; Aldrich, Henry C.; Andrist, Charles Martin; Ankeny, William Schell; Austin, Gertrude Susan; Babcock, Charles H.; Barber, Edwin Roswell, Jr.; Barney, Frank H.; Bell, George E.; Benjamin, Arthur E.; Bofferding, William H.; Bowen, William John; Brewer, Jay Putnam; Brooks, Caroline Laugd; Brown, Dan D.; Brown, Walter, R.; Buerfening, Ida Katherine; Capen, Martha C.; Caswell, Irving Albert; Chamberlain, Louis M.; Chase, Frances Helen S.; Chute, Frederick B.; Chute, Louis Prince; Clark, Everett Edwin; Clark, Herbert John; Cole, Eugenia Louise; Cole, Ruth Barr; Crafts, Leo M.; Cushman, Elizabeth; Decker, Edward Williams; Dunsmoor, Frederick A.; Ellison, James Hollister; Ferrant, Emil; Folsom, John A.; Furber, George Miller; Garvey, James Jesse; Gillette, Louesa P.; Gorton, Minnie Truman; Gowen, Frank Leslie; Grimshaw, Blanche; Gross, Francis Anthony; Haggard, George D.; Hall, Harriet; Hamer, Millard Collins; Hammond, Asa John; Harrison, Perry; Hawley, Elizabeth McKennan; Head, George Douglas; Hendrickson, Emma Laura; Hinds, Annie B.; Keith, Walter; Kohler, Christian Henry; Laugd, Caroline Brooks; Leonard, William Edwin; Lyford, Emma Hendrickson; Miller, Emily Luella; Moyer, Anna Lizzie; Nicol, Walter Herbert; O'Brien, Frank G.; O'Connor, Etta Julia; Poehler, Alvin H.; Pratt, Ernest C.; Reade, Grace; Reed, Cora L.; Roach, Frederick; Ross, Mary Antoinette; Rowell, George Hopkins; Rowell, Henry Hastings Sibley; Rowell, Mary Antoinette; Shelden, Walter Dewitt; Shillock, Anna F.; Shoppe, Frank; Stevens, Henry A.; Stockwell, Silvanus Albert; Thompson, Daniel R.; Truman, Minnie Gorton; Tuttle, Jessie Hale; Vanderburgh, William H.; von Ende, Edward; Wacks, Marie; Webster, Mary Powell; Woodworth, Elizabeth C.; Woodward, Edson, I. B.</p> <p>Index to Names, Minneapolis List, 1917-1918.</p> <p>Policy, 1937-1960.</p> |

| Location | Box | |
|-----------------|------------|---|
| 118.H.15.10F | 3 | <p>Procedures, [ca 1965]-1970. Cover General Services, Replacement Unit, Alterations and Delayed Registration, Current Registration, and Data Preparation.</p> <p>Procedures, [ca 1969]-1974. Cover Processing and Filing of Birth and Death Records, Correspondence, and Adoptions.</p> <p>Qualifications for registration executives, 1947.</p> <p>Questionnaire sent out by the Department of Vital Statistics to state registrars nationwide, 1938.</p> <p>Reports, undated, 1927–1965.</p> <p>Report to the Interim Committee on State Administration, 1943–1944. 2 folders.</p> <p>Requests for birth lists, July 1926–1962.</p> <p>Time study, 1946–1961.</p> <p>Travel sheet: Death records, 1964.</p> <p>Vital Statistics: Background and correspondence, 1945-1969.</p> <p>Vital Statistics Section, Summary of Activities, 1948-1961. Annual activities of the section's employees.</p> <p>Von Rothkirch case, 1946–1962. Includes correspondence and newspaper clippings relating to the application of St. Paul native Edward T'Kach to have his birth certificate changed to Eduard von Rothkirch. T'Kach/Rothkirch believed he had been born to a German spy (von Rothkirch) while he was in St. Paul and left with the T'Kach family. The files contain newspaper clippings documenting various legal problems, including conviction on fraud charges and a term in the Wisconsin Central State Hospital for the Criminally Insane in Waupun, and photostatic copies of birth certificates for both Rothkirch and T'Kach.</p> <p>Working Group on Promoting and Testing Completeness of Vital Registration, 1949–1951.</p> <p>World War II related vital statistics work, 1941–1943. 2 folders.</p> |