

**MINNESOTA STATE ARCHIVES**  
**Series Summary Sheet**

**Record Group:** Health Department  
**Subgroup:**  
**Series:** Death record cards,  
**Dates:** 1900-1907.  
**Quantity:** 62 microfilm reels; 16 mm.  
**Location:** [filed with the death certificates]

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Arrangement: Arranged by year of death; within each year alphabetically by county, followed by the cities of Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Duluth (in that order); and within each county and above-named city alphabetically by surname and given name. Ojibwe and Dakota names are filed by the first portion of the name. Cards for decedents with unknown surnames generally are at the beginning of the cards for each county or above-named city.

Summary: Cards and, occasionally, other documents containing information on deaths that occurred in Minnesota during the years 1900-1907, transcribed from certified copies of death reports sent to the state Board of Health and Vital Statistics (Health Department) by local officials and health officers. These are not the official death certificates; as of 1999 the official records were held by county registrars of vital statistics.

Each card gives some or all of the following information: date of death; place of death (local jurisdiction and county); primary cause of death, contributing cause of death, and duration of each condition; the decedent's name, age (years, months, and/or days), sex, color, birthplace (state or country), and occupation; father's name and birthplace; mother's full maiden name and birthplace; names and addresses of the undertaker and attending physician; place of burial and burial permit number; and name and address of the person who reported the death.

Related materials: See also the following records of the Health Department (cataloged separately): Registers of deaths, 1899; Death certificates, 1908-1955, 1956-2001; Delayed death certificates, 1887-1954 (bulk 1908-1915); and Native American death certificates, 1900, 1918-1947 (bulk 1928-1947).

Finding aids: A reel list and an expanded description for the death record cards are available in the repository; filed under Health Department.

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Acc. No(s). 2000-14  
PALS ID No. 0900321228 RLIN ID No. MNHV  
Main entry: Minnesota. Dept. of Health.

Microfilm producer: Saint Paul, MN : Minnesota Historical Society and Genealogical Society of Utah, 1999.

The originals (12 cu. ft.) were disposed of after microfilming.

Subject and author headings

Death records--Minnesota.

Microforms.

Vital statistics records--Minnesota.

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Acc. No(s). 2000-14

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## ROLL LIST

### 1900

- Roll 1. Aitkin County - Carlton County.
- Roll 2. Carver County - Faribault County.
- Roll 3. Fillmore County - Itasca County.
- Roll 4. Jackson County - Meeker County.
- Roll 5. Mille Lacs County - Olmsted County.
- Roll 6. Otter Tail County - Redwood County.
- Roll 7. Renville County - Sibley County.
- Roll 8. Stearns County - Waseca County.
- Roll 9. Washington County - Yellow Medicine County.
- Roll 10. Minneapolis, A-J.
- Roll 11. Minneapolis, K-Z.
- Roll 12. St. Paul, A-R.
- Roll 13. St. Paul, S-Z; Duluth.

### 1901

- Roll 14. Aitkin County - Fillmore County.
- Roll 15. Freeborn County - Morrison County.
- Roll 16. Mower County - Rice County.
- Roll 17. Rock County - Wilkin County.
- Roll 18. Winona County - Yellow Medicine County; Minneapolis, A-O.
- Roll 19. Minneapolis, P-Z; St. Paul.
- Roll 20. Duluth.

**1902**

- Roll 20-A. Aitkin County - Crow Wing County.
- Roll. 21. Dakota County - Marshall County.
- Roll 22. Martin County - Renville County.
- Roll 23. Rice County - Wilkin County.
- Roll 24. Winona County - Yellow Medicine County; Minneapolis, A-S.
- Roll 25. Minneapolis, T-Z; St. Paul; Duluth.

**1903**

- Roll 26. Aitkin County - Fillmore County.
- Roll 27. Freeborn County - Mower County.
- Roll 28. Murray County - Roseau County.
- Roll 29. St. Louis County - Winona County.
- Roll 30. Wright County - Yellow Medicine County; Minneapolis.
- Roll 31. St. Paul; Duluth.

**1904**

- Roll 32. Aitkin County - Douglas County.
- Roll 33. Faribault County - Mahnommen County.
- Roll 34. Marshall County - Pipestone County.
- Roll 35. Polk County - Stearns County.
- Roll 36. Steele County - Yellow Medicine County; Minneapolis, A-B.
- Roll 37. Minneapolis, C-Z; St. Paul, A-G.
- Roll 38. St. Paul, H-Z; Duluth.

**1905**

- Roll 38-A. Aitkin County - Big Stone County.
- Roll 39. Blue Earth County - Goodhue County.
- Roll 40. Grant County - Murray County.
- Roll 41. Nicollet County - Roseau County.
- Roll 42. St. Louis County - Winona County.
- Roll 43. Wright County - Yellow Medicine County; Minneapolis, A-T.
- Roll 44. Minneapolis, U-Z; St. Paul; Duluth, A-L.
- Roll 45. Duluth, M-Z.

### **1906**

- Roll 45-A. Aitkin County - Dakota County.
- Roll 46. Dodge County - Lyon County.
- Roll 47. Mahnomen County - Ramsey County.
- Roll 48. Red Lake County - Todd County.
- Roll 49. Traverse County - Yellow Medicine County; Minneapolis, A-H.
- Roll 50. Minneapolis, I-Z; St. Paul, A-M.
- Roll 51. St. Paul, N-Z; Duluth.

### **1907**

- Roll 51-A. Aitkin County - Brown County.
- Roll 52. Carlton County - Grant County.
- Roll 53. Hennepin County - Murray County.
- Roll 54. Nicollet County - Rock County.
- Roll 55. Roseau County - Watonwan County.
- Roll 56. Wilkin County - Yellow Medicine County; Minneapolis, A-M.
- Roll 57. Minneapolis, N-Z; St. Paul, A-K.
- Roll 58. St. Paul, L-Z; Duluth.

### DESCRIPTION OF THE DEATH RECORD CARDS

This microfilm reproduces 3" x 5" cards and, occasionally, other documents containing information on deaths that occurred in Minnesota during the years 1900-1907. The information was transcribed from certified copies of death reports that were sent to the State Board of Health and Vital Statistics by township clerks and by village, borough, and city health officers. These local officials were required by state law (*General Laws*: 1870, chapter 25; 1871, chapter 49; 1887, chapter 114; and 1889, chapter 337<sup>1</sup>) to maintain birth and death registries for their jurisdictions and to submit certified copies of the registries to the state board. Because the cards contain transcribed data, they are not the "official" death certificates for these years; those records currently (1998) are held by the county registrars of vital statistics. The Minnesota Historical Records Survey Project, which operated under the auspices of the Work Projects Administration (WPA), counted 440,431 cards for 1900-1907 when it conducted its survey of Minnesota's vital records during the Great Depression (*Guide to the Public Vital Statistics Records in Minnesota*, Saint Paul: 1941, p. 26).

The cards are arranged by year of death, thereunder alphabetically by county, and thereunder alphabetically by decedent's surname and given name. Cards for the cities of Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Duluth (in this order) follow the cards for Yellow Medicine County at the end of the county sequence for each year. The cards for each of these cities also are filed in alphabetical order by surname and given name. American Indian names in the Ojibwa and Dakota languages are filed alphabetically beginning with the first letter of the first portion of the name. Cards for decedents whose surnames were not known are filed at the beginning of the cards for each county or city, immediately preceding the alphabetical sequence. The cards within each county and city were not checked for precise alphabetical order prior to microfilming. Researchers who do not find a card with the name they are looking for in the expected alphabetical sequence should search the microfilm further.

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<sup>1</sup> The compiled texts of these laws are available in the Minnesota Historical Society library.

Not all of Minnesota's 87 counties were established by 1900. Clearwater County was formed from Beltrami County in 1902. In 1906 Koochiching County was formed from Itasca County and Mahnomen County was formed from Norman County. Pennington County was formed from Red Lake County in 1910, and Lake of the Woods County was formed from Beltrami County in 1922. Researchers should consult cards filed under the "parent" counties for death records that precede the establishment of the more recently organized counties.

Each card contains some or all of the following information: date of death (year, month, and day); place of death (local jurisdiction and county); primary cause of death, contributing cause of death, and the duration of each condition; the decedent's name, age, sex, color, marital status, birthplace (state or country), and occupation; father's name and birthplace; mother's maiden name and birthplace; names and addresses of the undertaker and attending physician; place of burial and burial permit number; and name and address of the person who reported the death.<sup>2</sup>

Information on deaths that occurred in 1900-1904 was recorded on forms that were pre-printed on the cards; there are no pre-printed forms identifying data elements on the cards for 1905-1907, but information appears in the same relative position on the later cards that it did on the earlier cards.<sup>3</sup> The names and addresses of attending physicians and reporters were recorded on the backs of the cards for 1900; other notations occasionally were made on the backs of cards for other years. The back of a card with information on it appears on the microfilm immediately following the front of the card; backs of cards were not filmed if they contained no filled-in information (1900) or were blank. There may be more than one card or document relating to a

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<sup>2</sup> See Appendix A (p. 4) for explanations of cause of death abbreviations used on the cards, Appendix B (p. 6) for archaic terms for many medical conditions and diseases and their modern names or definitions, and Appendix C (p.14) for explanations of non-medical abbreviations used on the cards.

<sup>3</sup> Appendix D (p. 15) gives an example of a pre-printed card. Appendix E (p. 16) shows an example of a non-pre-printed card with annotations identifying the data elements.

particular death. Therefore, researchers should examine the film frames adjacent to any frame containing an item relevant to their search.

The information on some cards may be difficult to read on the microfilm due to handwritten entries in faint and/or smudged pencil and/or ink, typed entries made with a worn typewriter ribbon, and stamped entries made with a worn, lightly-inked stamp, especially when recorded on cream or tan cards that darkened over time and dark-colored cards that were used for deaths caused by certain diseases. These conditions produce especially poor contrast between the color of the text and the color of the paper, making legible photographic reproduction especially difficult. In an effort to increase the legibility of these cards on the microfilm, some cards may be filmed more than once at different camera settings, with a target identifying the intentional duplicate exposure.

The cards for each year, each county, and the cities of Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Duluth are preceded on the microfilm by an introductory target. A target also precedes the cards for a group of letters or each letter of the alphabet in the cards for the three cities. A running target at the top of each film frame gives the microfilm frame number.

**APPENDIX A:**  
**CAUSE OF DEATH ABBREVIATIONS**  
**USED ON THE CARDS**

Abs	abscess
Ac	acute
Accid	accident, accidental
Calc	calcification
Capy	capillary [as in capillary bronchitis]
Cereb	cerebral
Chol	cholera
Chol Inf	cholera infantum
Chol Morb	cholera morbus
Chr	chronic
Cong	congestion [e.g. of the brain]
Cong	congenital [deformity of heart]
Convuls	convulsions
Degen	degeneration [e.g. fatty degeneration of the heart]
Del	delivery [of child]
Del	delirium [as in tremens]
Dil	dilation [e.g. of the heart]
Dis	disease
Ent	enteritis
Ent Col	entero-colitis
Exh	exhaustion
Exh folg opr	exhaustion following operation
Folg	following
Frac	fractured
Gen'l	general [as in general debility]
Hem	hemorrhageHt heart
Inf	infection
Inf	infantile [as in infantile convulsions]

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Inf	infantum [e.g. cholera infantum]
Inflam	inflammation
Inj	injury
Insuf	insufficiency
Interst	interstitial [as in interstitial nephritis]
Memb	membranous [e.g. membranous croup]
Mel	Mellitus [as in diabetes mellitus]
Mil	miliary [as in miliary tuberculosis]
Obs	obstruction [of the bowel]
Org	organic [e.g. organic disease of the heart]
Prem	premature
Prem B	premature birth
Prob	probable, probably
Prog	progressive [as in progressive anemia]
Puerp	puerperal [as in puerperal eclampsia]
Pul	pulmonary
Pulm	pulmonary
Rheum	rheumatic; rheumatism
R.R.	railroad [accident]
Rupt	rupture
Soft	softening [e.g. of the brain]
Sp'l	spinal
Strang	strangulation; strangulated
Tuberc	tuberculosis
Un	unknown
Unk	unknown
Val	valvular
Valv Dis	valvular disease [of the heart]
Whoop	whooping [as in whooping cough]