

From a letter written by Gerald Parsons explaining early NYS Vital Records

In 1847 New York State passed a law for births, marriages and deaths to be kept. This law was for five years and was never renewed. Many towns stopped keeping the records before the law lapsed in 1851. In 1880 a new law was passed and from 1881 to 1885 most towns' vital records began. Very few of the 1847 – 1885 records have survived so for all practical purposes New York State Vital Records start in 1881 or shortly thereafter. A useful guide to use is a "Guide to Public Vital Statistic Records in New York State", prepared by the Historical Records Survey, Work Projects Administration, Albany, NY, 1942, 3 vols. The only way you will ever get certification of the dates you listed is to find a family Bible.