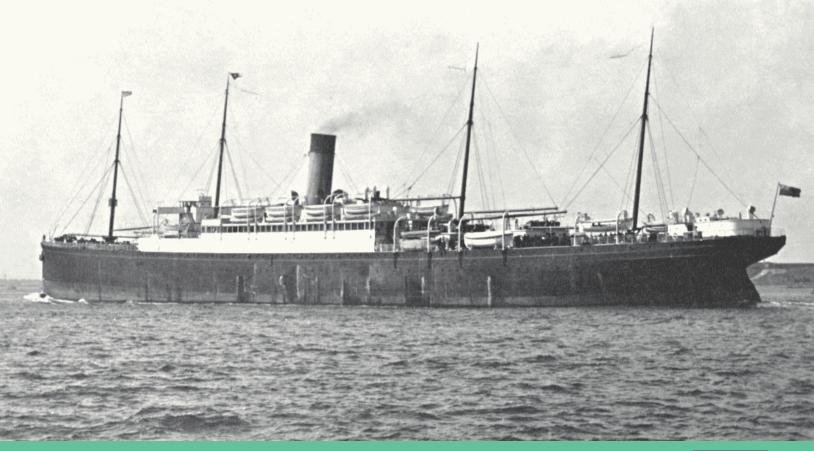
A PUBLICATION OF

The New York Genealogical and Biographical Society

The New York

Researcher

Winter 2016 • Volume 27, Number 4





Don't Forget the Card Files! Treasures Not Found in Online Catalogs

New Record Access, Indexes, and Databases

NYG&B Week-How You Can Help!

The New York Genealogical and Biographical Society

The New York Researcher

Volume 27, Number 4 • Winter 2016

The NYG&B publishes The New York Researcher and The NYG&B Record; both are quarterlies. Subscriptions to each are among the many benefits of membership. The NYG&B warmly welcomes new members; information on membership is on page 95 and on our website.

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ON THE COVER:

S/S Cymric, a steamship of the White Star Line, launched in 1897 (Harland and Wolfe, Belfast) and commissioned in 1898. The Cymric is found in the NYPL Ship Index file (see article on page 86). Photo credit: purchase from NorwayHeritage.com.

A B O U T G E N E A L O G I C A L C R E D E N T I A L S

FGBS designates fellows of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society. FASG designates fellows of the American Society of Genealogists.

The words Certified Genealogist are a registered certification mark, and the designations CG, CGL and Certified Genealogical Lecturer are service marks of the Board for Certification of Genealogists®. Accredited Genealogist and AG are certification marks of the International Commission for Accreditation of Professional Genealogists. Individuals are licensed to use the credential designations after meeting the competency standards of those organizations.

The mission of the NYG&B is to help people of all backgrounds discover their family histories (especially those aspects of their family histories which relate to New York City, State, and region) and find meaning by placing their own family's experience into the broader context

of American history.

We believe that all families are important, all family histories are worthy of preservation, and all families are essential parts of a larger historical narrative. We believe that linking families to the history of the nation is profoundly meaningful and is powerfully beneficial on many levels.

The New York Genealogical and Biographical Society

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Letter from the President

I

t has certainly been an exciting year at the NYG&B.

Throughout 2016 new publications, partners, and projects joined an existing impressive array of initiatives for New York researchers—



and we have big plans for 2017. In the previous issue of the *New York Researcher* I noted that the NYG&B was focused on three key areas for the future: access to content and resources, programs, and publications. While we made tremendous strides in each of these areas this year, there is much more to come.

In response to your feedback and encouragement, our top priority in the coming months is to release improvements to our website, *NewYorkFamilyHistory.org*. These important changes will make navigating (and finding) the many resources provided by the NYG&B easier and more efficient. Enhancements to the website will allow easier access to the eLibrary, Research Aids, and our growing library of on demand webinars and other tools.

To provide further expansions to resources, we have been active in fostering relationships within New York's heritage community. In partnership with the Knickerbocker Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the NYG&B held a successful benefit luncheon in November, which brought together members of the organizations for an afternoon of excellent company and delightful conversation. Additional events are being planned with lineage and heritage organizations across New York.

Our acclaimed programs are an excellent chance to expand your own research skills. Registration is now open for two special March events. Limited space is available for our in-depth writing workshop with Dr. Thomas W. Jones and our personalized research tour of New York City. These unique experiences allow you to tap into the breadth of expertise from some of the world's leading genealogists.

Recognition of scholarship is a cornerstone of the NYG&B as demonstrated by the recent election of Fellow Francis J.
Sypher, Jr. A noted scholar,
Mr. Sypher has published Liber
A of the Collegiate Churches of
New York (2009, and Part 2 in
2015), New York State Society
of the Cincinnati Biographies
of the Original Members and
Other Continental Officers
(2004), and numerous other
works relating to New York history.



Francis J. Sypher, Jr., FGBS

Each year we are grateful for the time and support so generously given to the NYG&B by our volunteers. From assistance with events and special projects to other tasks, our volunteers are a vital asset to the organization (and to New York researchers everywhere).

As we look to our future, there is still a great deal of work to be done—and we need your help! A few weeks ago we announced a call for volunteers to join new our initiative to digitize and index New York records. This project will officially begin as part of our first-ever NYG&B week, to be held January 9–14 (see page 82 for more details). Please consider taking a moment to join us for this exciting project.

And as the year draws to a close, I want to thank those members who have supported us by making a gift to our annual appeal or an additional gift with their dues. The generous support of our members is crucial to our success. And it's never too late. You may make a secure tax-deductible contribution at our website *NewYorkFamilyHistory.org*.

Together we can ensure that the stories of New York's families are preserved and shared for the future. \times

Until next time,

D. Joshua Taylor • PRESIDENT

Don't Forget the Card Files!

Treasures Not Found in Online Catalogs

Isn't everything online these days—or at least in an online catalog listing? If researchers make that assumption, they may be missing out on treasures within published and unpublished works that would not be easily discovered without "old fashioned" card catalogs. The series of articles in this issue highlight the types of card catalogs found all over New York State in libraries, historical societies, genealogy societies, and historian's offices. In your next visit to a repository, don't forget to ask the staff member about card catalogs.

Three Special Card Files in the NYPL's Milstein Division of U.S. History, Local History & Genealogy

BY RUTH A. CARR



ost libraries—including the New York Public Library—have replaced their old card catalogs with online catalogs. However, some special card files remain in the Milstein Division that are of

potential use to researchers.

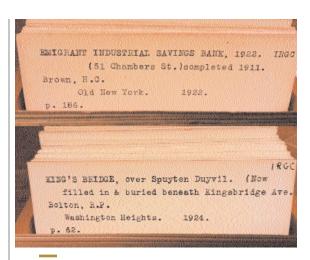
In the days before full-text newspaper and periodical databases and discovery tools such as Google Books, librarians at the NYPL created *indexes* to the contents of thousands of books and periodicals relevant to the subject specialties of their departments. While some of these volumes have been digitized, these indexes remain useful for sources not yet available online. Three card files in particular deserve mention.

New York City Picture File

(12 CARD DRAWERS LOCATED UNDER THE STAIRCASE OPPOSITE THE INFORMATION DESK)

This is an index to photographs and illustrations of New York City (NYC) that appeared in printed local histories, architectural histories, memoirs, government publications, and historical guidebooks. The file is arranged by topical subjects, e.g. banks, cemeteries, churches, clubs, hotels, institutions, museums, parks, public buildings, residences (both named multiunit buildings and personal abodes), schools, stores, and theaters, as well as by street (named and numbered).

The index provides a source citation for the image—author, title, page number, and call number. The location of the site and the date of the image are sometimes provided. An example under the HOTELS section reads "Broadway House, Broad-



Two cards from the New York City Picture File

way and Grand Street, 1822." This index is highly complementary to the renowned original photographic collections of the Milstein Division many of which are available online in NYPL Digital Collections http://digitalcollections.nypl.org.

The NYC Picture File card index is particularly useful for finding engravings and woodcut illustrations dating before the era of photography. Of the 12 card drawers, 11 are of Manhattan illustrations and one drawer is labeled "Outside Manhattan." There is an historical reason for the comparative lack of Brooklyn and Queens views. Those two boroughs have their own independent library systems,

and NYPL deferred to those institutions when it came to collecting images of those parts of the City. The bulk of the index was created before the 1970s but sporadic additions were made through the 1980s.

Ships Index

(27 CARD DRAWERS LOCATED UNDER THE STAIRCASE OPPOSITE THE INFORMATION DESK)

The Ships Index card file is an index to technical data about vessels, including photographs and illustrations when available. Although primarily of interest today to genealogists and historians, it was a creation of the NYPL Science and Technology Division. Thus it indexes contemporary scientific and technical periodicals and books, giving a citation of author, title, page number, periodical title and date, type of illustration (photograph, diagram, etc.) and call number.

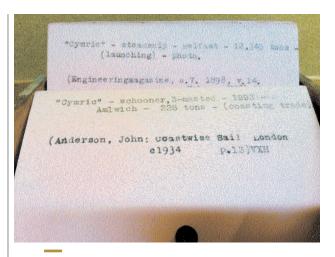
Over time many ships have borne the same name so the index usually specifies the type of ship (e.g. barque, brigantine, packet, schooner, steamship) and sometimes the year it was built. This file has not been added to since the 1960s and most of the sources indexed date from well before that time.

Military Index

(7 CARD DRAWERS LOCATED BEHIND THE INFORMATION DESK)

While the two above discussed indexes are located in a public area, researchers will have to ask Library staff for access to these card files. The Military Index provides citations to muster rolls, unit rosters, and name lists found in local histories, historical society journals, and government publications such as State Adjutant General Reports. Arrangement of the card file is by War or military engagement: Revolutionary War (2 drawers), Civil War (3 drawers) and Miscellaneous Wars (2 drawers). The latter includes King Phillip's War, French and Indian War, War of 1812, Mexican War, Indian Wars, Spanish American War. The last war in the file is Mexican Border War of 1916. Subsequent wars are not included in this card index.

Within each "war" arrangement is generally by state and locality within the state. When relevant the name ("Captain William Turner's Company") or number ("127th New York Infantry") of the military unit is also included. Citation includes author, title, call number and page numbers for



Cards from the NYPL Ship Index showing the vessel type and tonnage. See the image of the S/S Cymric on the front cover of this issue.

books, as well as periodical title, date, call number and pagination for journal articles. The Revolutionary War index includes sections for naval rosters, medical services personnel, privateer crews, lists of officers (Continental and British armies as well as French and Hessian officers), prisoner lists, and Loyalists. The three Civil War drawers are divided as follows: Alabama-Massachusetts; Missouri-Wisconsin; Miscellaneous. Union and Confederate units are included. Arrangement is by state/unit and state/locality depending on the source. The Miscellaneous file contains citations for such topics as Colored Troops, medical personnel, foreign participants and prisoners.

The inception of these card indexes was the early years of the NYPL and thus one must be cautious about the accuracy of some of the citations. Over the years books have been recataloged or replaced with new editions, and given new call numbers. Additionally, many periodicals have been reformatted to microfilm or online access so it is expedient to verify the citation in the NYPL online Catalog before filing a call slip.

Ruth A. Carr, MA, MLS, was Chief Librarian of the Milstein Division for 20 years. She retired from the NYPL as the Rose Librarian for Public Service in 2010 after 42 years on staff. She is a native of New York City. Ms. Carr is a member of the NYG&B's Family History Advisory Committee.

Card Files at the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library

BY RHONDA KONIG



he Buffalo & Erie County Public Library has not one, but nine card files of interest to genealogists. All are available in the Grosvenor Room at the Central Library (some by request).

Local History File

[130 DRAWERS, 1936–PRESENT (BULK 1920–1982). ACTIVE.]

The Library's most comprehensive Buffalo history resource is the Local History File (LHF). The LHF is a partial index to Buffalo publications such as newspapers, magazines, and history books. Also indexed are the Library's Local History Vertical File and Scrapbook Collection. Buffalo and Erie County people, places, events, and history are covered in the file. Some of its most popular topics include individual names, ethnic groups, neighborhoods, homes, clubs, churches, and businesses. Started in 1936 as a Works Progress Administration project, the LHF's citations go back to the late 1800s and references are still added, though more selectively than in the past.

Buffalo Business File

(60 DRAWERS, 1950s-1980s. INACTIVE.)

The eight counties of Western New York are covered in this business, science, and technology index to the *Buffalo Evening News* and the *Buffalo Courier Express*. It covers the late 1950s through the early 1980s. Science & Technology topics were added starting in October 1976. Headings are mainly commercial business names and business topics such as specific industries, but articles about nonprofits, local governments, Buffalo and Erie County neighborhoods, and personal names are sometimes listed.

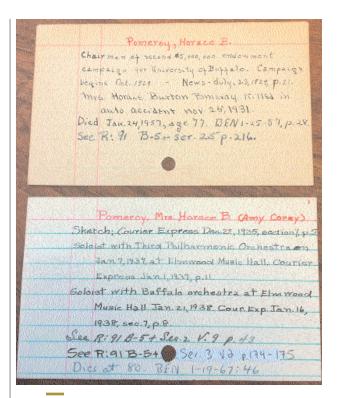
Coat of Arms Index

(5 DRAWERS. INACTIVE.)

Assembled by library staff many years ago, the file is arranged by surname. It lists the source(s) where a crest for a particular surname was found, and often a small picture of the arms.

Famous Visitors File

(20 DRAWERS, CIRCA 1870–1980. INACTIVE.)
Many professional performers came through
Buffalo. The Famous Visitors File is a partial index
to performers, production companies, and perform-



Cards from the Local History File of the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library

ances that occurred in Buffalo. Approximately 15,000 index cards provide event names, dates, and venues, and may cite newspaper articles. It includes entertainment genres such as plays, opera, music, lectures, dance, circuses, vaudeville, comedy and burlesque. The word "famous" is used liberally; your ancestor need not be a well-known celebrity to be cited.

Grosvenor Genealogy Catalog

(86 DRAWERS, 1871–1963. INACTIVE.)

This is a card catalog from the former Grosvenor Library, the former public reference library in Buffalo. At one time it was considered to house one of the largest genealogy collections in the country. Aside from listings of family and local history books, the file served as an index to surnames and other genealogical topics found in periodicals and books. The geographic coverage is mainly Mid-Atlantic and New England states but also includes other U.S. locations, Canada, and Great Britain.

EXAMPLE ENTRIES:

- Erie county N.Y. Cemetery inscriptions, In Niagara Frontier Genealogical Mag. V. 3, p. 185
- Sparr family, Information available from: Max Spahr, 428 North 12 Ave., Pocatello, Idaho 83201
- Westney family, In *Hist. of Langdon, N.H.* p. 726.

Pan-American Exposition Index

(3 DRAWERS, BULK 1901. INACTIVE.)

The Pan-American Exposition was a 350-acre world fair which was held in Buffalo for 6 months in 1901. The exposition gave Buffalo one of its greatest (showcasing Buffalo to the world) and most tragic events in history (President William McKinley was shot on September 6, 1901 by Buffalo anarchist Leon Czolgosz and died in Buffalo eight days later). This subject and name file indexes the expo-related articles that were published in Buffalo newspapers. References to exposition organizers, performers, events, exhibits, and reviews are commonly found.

Picture File

(33 drawers, late 1800s–mid-1900s, bulk 1920–1940. Inactive.)

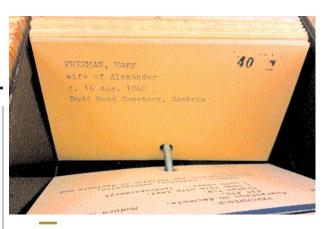
The picture file indexes images found in published local history sources such as books, government publications, and college and high school yearbooks. Most entries are personal names, more than half of which are references to high school seniors found in local yearbooks. Many other local topics are indexed, such as: buildings, Erie County cities and towns, houses, monuments, schools, and streets.

Prominent Black Buffalonians

(1 DRAWER 1950s—1990s. INACTIVE.) As its name exemplifies, this is a biographical file about Buffalo area African-Americans. The file was created in the 1980s, and includes references to newspaper articles, magazines, and books.

Ransom File (22 DRAWERS. INACTIVE.)

This is an index to the John E. Ransom Collection. Mr. Ransom (1841–1912), a Buffalo resident, spent the last 13 years of his life compiling the history of the Ransom family in America. He died suddenly, and his collection was given to the Grosvenor Library. The collection includes correspondence, military records, photographs, news clippings, pages from books, bibles and other family records. The Ransom File indexes the Ransoms and non-Ransom names included in the collection, as well as locations.



Mary Freeman card from Vital Index of Early Western New York Families in the June P. Zintz Memorial Library of the Western Genealogical Society

THE FOLLOWING FILES ARE FROM THE JUNE P. ZINTZ MEMORIAL LIBRARY OF THE WESTERN NEW YORK GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY (LOCATED IN THE GROSVENOR ROOM AT THE CENTRAL LIBRARY.)

Vital Index of Early Western New York Families

(30 DOUBLE-DRAWERS. INACTIVE.)

The Vital Index is a name index to 75 sources such as local histories, cemetery records, census records, deeds, newspapers, periodicals, and vital records. The Western New York counties featured are Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans, and Wyoming. Individuals listed in the file were born anytime between the late 1700s into the 1900s.

Bible Record Index (INACTIVE.)

This file is a surname index to the Western New York Genealogical Society's bible transcription collection.

Locality Finder (INACTIVE.)

An index of names of Western New York cities, towns, and villages, their dates of incorporation, and the starting dates of births, deaths and marriage records kept by the locality. The date of compilation is unknown.

Rhonda Konig has been a genealogy librarian for 14 years and currently serves as the Genealogy Specialist in the Grosvenor Room at the Central Library in Downtown Buffalo. She has a Master of Library Science from the University at Buffalo and a Bachelor of Arts in History from SUNY Geneseo. Rhonda enjoys sharing her genealogical knowledge through lecturing, assisting researchers, through her work as a board member of the Western New York Genealogical Society, and as editor of the Society's Journal.

continued on page 80

Municipal Historian Card Files

A

t the recent New York State Family History Conference, NYG&B staff spoke with a number of municipal historian who were attending the concurrent annual conference of the Association of Public

Historians of New York State (APHNYS). Some municipal historians have card files created by themselves or their predecessors. Check with the historians in locales of interest for treasures like these. To find a historian, check the APHNYS website, www.aphnys.org.

Broome County

The Broome County historian Gerry Smith, head of the Broome County Local History & Genealogy Center, has access to two large card files held at the center. The Name Index System (also called the Woodward Files) is estimated to number 335,000 cards in 206 drawers. This set was created by Shirley Woodward, the Broome County Historian in the 1960s, who took index cards with her whereever she went. The Obituary Collection, 1960s–present



Broome County Local History and Genealogy Center with card catalogs in use by patrons

(gaps), was given to the Historian's office and continues as an active file. The Obituary Collection is about 250,000 cards in 172 drawers. ×

In the Next Issue

The spring issue of The New York Researcher will continue this topic with information on the card files at:

- Onondaga County Public Library
- New York State Library

Tell Us about Your Favorite Card File

If you have a favorite card file, we would like to hear about it. And next time you visit a repository, historical or genealogical organization and find one, let us know. Email details to education@nygbs.org.

Has your email address changed?

Please notify us at membership@nygbs.org.

Registration at both the NYG&B website and findmypast.com is linked to the member's email address. And don't miss our important email updates.

If you have unsubscribed from our monthly enews, you have unsubscribed from all our emails.

New Record Access, Indexes, and Databases



ew Jersey Vital Record Indexes

The New Jersey State Archive has worked with FamilySearch and Reclaim the Records to put vital records indexes on Internet Archive

New Jersey Death Index – 1902, archive.org/details/NJ_Death_Index_1902

for New Jersey births 1901–1903 (https://archive. org/details/njbirthindex), New Jersey marriages for grooms 1901–1903 and brides 1901–1914 (https://archive.org/details/njmarriageindex), and New Jersey deaths 1901–1903 (https://archive.org/details/njdeathindex). See the New Jersey State Archive website for some earlier years (https://www.net1.state.nj.us/DOS/Admin/ArchivesDBPortal/index.aspx).

New York City Marriage Licenses 1930–1949

The New York City Municipal Archives (31 Chambers Street, Room 103) has received the 1930–1949 marriage licenses from the New York City Clerk's Marriage Bureau. These important materials are available publicly in the reference room. Previously researchers were required to request these records from the New York City Clerk's Marriage Bureau on Worth Street.

The marriage license records can contain a wealth of information as described by Leslie Corn in her article, "City Clerk's Marriage Licenses, New York City, 1908–1937: One of 20th Century Genealogy's Best Primary Sources." NYG&B Newsletter (now New York Researcher), Spring 1999. Members can view an updated version (2003) published as a Research Aid article on the NYG&B website.

Yizkor Books in Print

Memorial books called Yizkor books are those written by survivors and former residents of pre-World War II Jewish towns (shtetls) mainly in Eastern Europe. See *www.jewishgen.org/Yizkor* for information on the project, and click "Translations" to read many online. The Yizkor-Books-In-Print project has released it 50th book in the series. The volunteer project has translated many volumes into English.

	INDEX OF	DEATH	s in New J	ERSEY.	7,
		_			
Name.		Number.	Name.		Number.
Aaroe	Jehanis P.	2207	Ables	Anna	13741
Aaron	Emilia D.	26055	Aborini	Christina	14909
Aaronson	W. B.	812	Abraham	George	6749
Aartse	Adrian	8731	Abraham	Mary	28288
Aartsma	Jan	17449	Abrahamson	Cecelia	30525
Abahazi	Helena	21102	Abrams	Jane M.	26259
Abbett	Commel	1045	About	Thomas I	001

New York City Directories

The New York Public Library (NYPL) collection of city directories 1786–1923 is currently being digitized and put online in the NYPL digital collecitons. They will be free, and indiviual pages may be downloaded. The portal also has links for a permanent url (internet address) and citations. As of this publication date, 1849/50 through 1903/04 are available online. Read Phil Sutton's blog post here: www.nypl.org/blog/2016/09/21/new-york-city-directories-free-online. Access the collection here: http://digitalcollections.nypl.org/collections/new-york-city-directories.

New York City 1924 Voters Records

Another online record set is images of the List of Registered Voters in 1924 posted on Internet Archive by Reclaim the Records. To access these lists, go to *www.archive.org* and in the search box, type "List of Registered Voters in 1924." The resulting list will be by county, and also by individual assembly district in each county. The 1925 census may help to determine which assembly district to search for your ancestors, especially the women who may have recently registered to vote.

NYG&B Week– We Need Your Help!



- a live Google Hangout with NYG&B President
 D. Joshua Taylor on Tuesday, January 10 at
 4 p.m. EST;
- the induction of Francis J. Sypher, Jr. as the newest NYG&B Fellow on Wednesday, January 11;
- a free webinar by expert Pamela Vittorio about New York state canal system records on Thursday, January 12 at 7 p.m. EST;
- and the first Indexing and Digitization Weekend, Friday and Saturday, January 13 and 14, both remotely from your home or office, and in our NYG&B offices.

Be sure to follow our eNews, blog, and social media channels for the latest details on these upcoming events.

Adding New York records to the eLibrary is one of our key projects for 2017, and we need your help! The week will culminate with the NYG&B's first Indexing and Digitization event on Friday, January 13 and Saturday, January 14—where you can play an important role. Working with our partners and volunteers, we will officially begin capturing and transcribing New York records to enhance the eLibrary. Our partners at Findmypast will join NYG&B members far and wide to jump-start this exciting initiative.

How can you help?

You can play a part in this exciting project—in person or at home.

OPPORTUNITIES INCLUDE:

- Indexing (at home or onsite)
- Preparing files for indexing (at home or onsite).
- Digitizing materials (onsite) using equipment at the NYG&B.

To learn more or sign-up to help, go to *www.nygbs.org/volunteer* or email *volunteer*@nygbs.org. ×

Sign up to help us by going to www.nygbs.org/volunteer



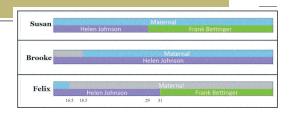
New Developments

Image determining grandparent DNA segments from "Visual Phasing: An Example, Part 5 of 5," November 27, 2016, www.thegenetic genealogist.com



enetic Genealogy Testing Affordability

A significant development for genetic genealogy is that it has becomes even more affordable. For the past several years, the standard price



for autosomal (atDNA) testing (genealogy only) was \$99 (in the United States; prices outside the U.S. vary considerably). Family Tree DNA recently lowered their standard atDNA price to \$79, and it's currently on sale (early December). AncestryDNA's standard price remains at \$99, but it is frequently on sale for \$89 or even \$79.

23andMe Adds Genealogy Only Option

23andMe reintroduced a genealogy only option called "Ancestry Service" at \$99, just half the price of the full "Health + Ancestry Service," which includes some health-related information as well. 23andMe has also completely revised the user interface; for a good summary of those changes, see the Legal Genealogist blog at www.legalgenealogist.com, including "Get ready for 23andMe change" article dated May 29, 2016.

MyHeritage Adds Functionality and Testing

One of the big four genealogy websites, MyHeritage (www.myheritage.com), now (temporarily) allows DNA test-takers to upload their autosomal DNA test results to their profile and attach them to their MyHeritage tree. The company also recently began offering autosomal DNA testing from the same lab used by Family Tree DNA. Pricing for their test is competitive at \$79. MyHeritage's Chief Genealogical Officer will be coming to the NYG&B on May 4 to tell us how it works (see the NYG&B website calendar for details).

Shared cM Project

NYG&B Trustee Blaine Bettinger has continued work on his citizen science project entitled "The Shared cM (centimorgan) Project," including publishing and updating the results on his blog The Genetic Genealogist. The amount of shared DNA (measured in centimorgans) is a key information item in determining possible kinship. More than 10,000 data points on known relationship are included in the study. To further explain the materi-

al, Dr. Bettinger has posted visual images that are understandable by those with some understanding of genetic genealogy.

Millions of Tests in Databases

AncestryDNA has more than 2 million autosomal DNA tests in its database; 23andMe has more than 1 million autosomal DNA tests, and Family Tree DNA has more than 800,000 DNA tests as of the publication date. Millions of test-takers means a greater chance to find close cousin matches with whom you can share information. A word of caution though, with the recent upswing in television and other mass market advertising, researchers may find more test-takers who simply "want their ethnicity pie chart" and are not very interested in genealogy (like the editor's niece and nephew).

Opportunities to Learn about Genetic Genealogy

Conference lectures, blogs, new books, and even a week long institute course may be on your holiday wish list. For those wishing to learn more about genetic genealogy, possibilities abound. The NYG&B is planning a two-day DNA course in October 2017—watch the eNews for the announcement. Online courses from the Virtual Institute of Genealogy or Excelsior College are taught by experts including NYG&B Trustee Dr. Blaine Bettinger.

Blogs

Blogs can keep researchers up-to-date with the latest developments about genetic genealogy. Several recent posts by the Legal Genealogist Judy Russell ("And more DNA doings," November 27, www.legalgenealogist.com), Jim Bartlett at https://segmentology.org, and the Genetic Genealogist Blaine Bettinger ("Visual Phasing: An Example," five-part post, November 21–27) will deepen the researcher's knowledge base, all for free! ×

Lessons from Recent Programs

esearch in Albany
More than 40 members and friends of the
NYG&B visiting Albany to join our New
York experts for three days of assisted
research in October. The camradarie was
tremendous, as were several of the discovereries.

Two members (who began the trip as strangers) realized they had both come to research 18th-century ancestors who worked on the "Great Chain" across the Hudson River, a barricade against British vessels. Working with one of our New York experts (who just happened to have exceptional knowledge of this fascinating episode of the American Revolution), both were quickly led to the same set of records. Thus began a golden opportunity to share information. For additional information on the Great Chain, see this article in *Hudson Valley Regional Review* (March 1990, v.7, no. 1, 44-57): www.hudsonrivervalley.org/review/pdfs/hvrr_7pt1_diamant.pdf

Sharing your research interests with others (and working with experts) can lead to new avenues of success. As one participant noted "... guidance led me to finding my elusive Peter Green in the ledgers of the Sterling Ironworks, which gave credence to family lore that he worked there."





Kenyatta Berry:

"From Virginia to Upstate New York . . . "

A host of *Genealogy Roadshow*, Kenyatta Berry recently spoke at the NYG&B, telling the tale of how her ancestors left Virginia shortly after the Civil War and become a part of an Upstate New York community. Her ancestor was recruited by the 108th New York Volunteer Infantry after his capture at Appomatox Bridge to move to their community in New York. The discussion reminded all those present of the importance of researching the stories behind the names and dates—as Ms. Berry started her journey with a photograph and ended up with an incredible legacy of stories.

To hear the full story, members may to access our recorded programs and webinars on this page of our website: http://newyorkfamilyhistory.org/research-discover/research-tools/webinar-series-and-past-programs.

Susan Rubenstein DeMasi: Puzzle of a Life—Using Genealogical Resources in Writing Biography

The NYG&B recently hosted author Susan Rubenstein DeMasi who wrote, *Henry Alsberg: The Driving Force of the New Deal Federal Writers' Project.* In describing her work Ms. DeMasi underscored the importance of using archival collections at colleges and universities when conducting biographical research.

Her experiences note the never-ending process of research and the exciting elements one can find in combining genealogical and biographcal approaches. By combining details relating to Mr. Alsberg's life and the creation of the Federal Wrtiers' Project, Ms. DeMasi was able to weave a narrative of a crucial moment in the history of the United States through the personal life of this little-known (yet incredibly important) individual. ×

top: West Point Great Chain, photo by Ahodges 7 via Wikimedia Commons (CC BY-SA 3.0) bottom: An attentive audience for Kenyatta Berry's talk.

Highlights from Our Blog

hoto Gallery: Knickerbocker DAR

Chapter and NYG&B Joint Luncheon
In early November the Knickerbocker
Chapter of the National Society of the
Daughters of the American Revolution
co-hosted a benefit luncheon with the NYG&B.
The event took place at Sarabeth's Park Avenue
South, and featured author Thelma Adams, who
spoke about her recently published book, The Last
Woman Standing, which told the tale of Josephine
Earp, a Jewish New Yorker who travelled out west
and married Wyatt Earp. Josephine's story was
covered in our blog post, "From Brooklyn to
the O.K. Corral: The Gripping Tale of Josephine
Marcus Earp." A slideshow of photographs from

New York City Thanksgiving Ragamuffins Remembered

the luncheon may be viewed on the blog.

"Anything for Thanksgiving?" This used to be a common refrain heard by New Yorkers on Thanksgiving Day. The forgotten tradition of Thanksgiving Masking, also known as Ragamuffin Day, originated in New York City in the early part of the twentieth century.



In a tradition reminiscent of (but preceding) Halloween trick-or-treating, youngsters would dress up in outrageous costumes and parade around the streets, begging adults for pennies, fruit or candy—adults who refused risked being on the receiving end of some good natured mischief. Ragamuffin Day eventually spread to other cities in the United States, but it was most celebrated in New York City and was often an odd sight for out-of-town visitors.

Our blog post details the tradition through photographs and newspaper articles. Readers also shared their memories of Thanksgiving Masking in the comments—make sure to contribute yours if you have any!

Unnatural Death in New York City: Coroner's Reports & Proceedings

On Halloween we took a look at one of the spookier record sets in our eLibrary—the NYC Coroner's Reports & Proceedings. Not only is this a deep and valuable genealogical resource, but it also contains some interesting facts about the ways some New Yorkers met their unfortunate ends centuries ago.

You might be surprised to hear that the most common cause of sudden death in Old New York was drowning. But considering the city's many waterways and the fact that it was one of the world's busiest ports, this makes sense. Sailors would fall from the rigging their vessels, drunken ship passengers would slip while disembarking, and many ships crashed, sunk and even exploded in the harbor.

Alcohol was also a common cause of fatality—the sale was completely unregulated, so drinks were sometimes literally poisonous. But even a wild night out could turn fatal if an over-enthusiastic merry-maker had too much to drink and fell asleep in the street—New York's frigid temperatures were difficult to survive.

Subscribe to our blog by visiting www.nygbs.org/blog. ×

Thanksgiving Maskers.
[between ca. 1910 and ca. 1915] Image.
Bain News Service, Publisher. Library of Congress,
www.loc.gov/item/ggb2004010002
(accessed November 22, 2016).

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NYG&B Programs

"Write It Up!": A Workshop for Family Historians

RESENTER: Dr. Thomas W. Jones, CG, CGL, FASG, FUGA, FNGS March 11-12, 2017 DATES:

Join fellow genealogists for this intensive two-day writing workshop at the NYG&B. Early registration is open for NYG&B members.

This hands-on workshop gives family historians practice in writing, experience in self-editing, and feedback on their writing samples. Topics focus on gearing up to write, writing processes, and structures and formats specific to genealogical writing (see the schedule below). Participants will bring a 500-word genealogical writing sample in an editable format. There is prereading and one overnight homework assignment.



Dr. Thomas W. Jones

REGISTRATION

Fee includes seven sessions, morning coffee, soft drinks, and an end-of-day social gathering. A lunch break is scheduled (neighborhood lunch options abound).

Early member registration \$225 (through Jan. 31) Member registration \$260 (after Jan. 31) Non-member registration \$290 (opens Feb. 1) Sign up at NewYorkFamilyHistory.org.

Please see our website for the cancellation policy.

THIS SEVEN-SESSION WORKSHOP INCLUDES:

Gearing Up and Getting Started

This session focuses on six essential tools for genealogical writers and the process of starting a writing project.

Shaping Your Writing

Participants will learn about word choice, structuring sentences and paragraphs, reducing word count, and other strategies to improve their genealogical writing's readability.

Infusing Structure and Flow

Students will learn techniques for structuring genealogical essays with sentences, paragraphs, and sections that flow from one to the next.

Self-editing Feedback I

The instructor will "live edit" student writing samples to demonstrate and apply the principles taught in sessions 1–3.

Self-editing Feedback II

The instructor will "live edit" student writing samples to demonstrate and apply the principles taught in sessions 1–3.

Documenting Your Writing

Students will learn how to answer five questions about each source supporting their research conclusions, and then to use those answers to craft citations to document their writing. Citing online sources will receive emphasis.

Creating Genealogy Compilations and Summaries

This session focuses on organizing, structuring, and numbering compiled genealogies and genealogical summaries.

Each session will include at least one hands-on writing activity.

Research in New York City: March 26–30, 2017

he New York City research trip is back! Join us in 2017 for four-plus days of intensive research as well as camaraderie.

Begin late Sunday afternoon with an introduction to research in New York City and an overview of research repositories. Our NYG&B New York experts will help you research at our partner repositories the New York Public Library, the New York City Municipal Archives, the New-York Historical Society, the Center for Jewish History, and the National Archives at New York City. Individual consultations and research assistance during the week are included. The week will include a tour of the historic Fraunces Tavern Museum followed by dinner its restaurant.

Trip with hotel accommodation and "commuter" options are available. Our hotel is the Hotel Mela, on W. 44th St. between 6th Ave. and Broadway, a block from the NYG&B offices, and two blocks from the New York Public Library.



New York Public Library, Manuscripts and Archives Division

REGISTRATION

- Early member commuter option \$1,550 (through January 2)
- Early member hotel option \$2,550 (through January 2)
- Nonmember registration will open January 3.
- Sign up today at www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org.

Please see the website for the cancellation policy.

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Sun. 3/26	late afternoon	Check in, orientation, preview of the week, discussion of major repositories and optional trips
Mon. 3/27	morning	Consultations begin as scheduled at NYG&B office Walk to NYPL (2 blocks) Orientation to NYPL Milstein Genealogy, Maps, and Archives divisions
	afternoon evening	Consultations continue, individual research begins NYG&B reception with wine and cheese
Tues. 3/28	morning late morning afternoon evening	Travel to NYC Municipal Archives Return from MUNI to NYPL/NYG&B NYC Municipal Archives and NYPL research Tour of Fraunces Tavern Museum and dinner at Fraunces Tavern
Wed. 3/29	morning afternoon	Assisted research in various research facilities (MUNI, NYPL, Center for Jewish History, NARA-NYC, and N-YHS)
Thurs. 3/30	morning	Assisted research in various research facilities (MUNI, NYPL, Center for Jewish History, NARA-NYC, and N-YHS) Wrap up lunch at NYG&B

Research in Albany • September 13–15, 2017

research, and is the time for next year's popular fall research trip to Albany, New York. Join the NYG&B in Albany on Wednesday, September 13 through Friday, September 15, 2017. The trip features three days of assisted research and genealogical camaraderie with the people who know New York best. One of the best features of the research trip is the research questionnaire participants complete before the trip. Consultants provide feedback to the attendees on not only their question, but how to focus the research question itself.

eptember is a wonderful month for

The Library and the Archives are both rich in material available nowhere else that pertains to people who have lived throughout New York State. The Library's has open stacks and holds extensive collections that include family genealogies, local histories, DAR records, church records, census records, early newspapers on film, and city directories, as well as archives and manuscripts.

The holdings of the Archives include State records relating to military service (War of 1812 through World War I); land records (mostly transactions involving the Colony or State of New York); court records (including colonial wills and early 19th-century civil cases); records of some correctional and custodial institutions; and indexes to New York state vital records (excluding New York City). Please note that the Archives and the Library have few resources specific to New York City (most of those are held in New York City), but they do have important statewide collections that include city residents (military records, land grants/patents, etc.).

The Library and Archives are conveniently located in the same building, along with the New York State Museum. The Albany Institute of History and Art is within walking distance. The trip will be most productive for research subjects other than those in the New York City.



New York State Archives and New York State Library

The State Capitol has weekday tours, so researchers may wish to plan extra time for one.

THE FEE INCLUDES:

- Orientation to the New York State Archives and the New York State Library by staff experts
- A private consultation with a professional genealogist and follow up as needed
- Access to professional genealogists for all three days of the program
- Welcome dinner on Tuesday evening, September 12 (guests not registered for the research experience may attend the dinner for \$49)
- Wine and cheese reception on Wed. evening
- Reduced rates at the Albany Hilton

REGISTRATION:

This program is always fully booked, with a waiting list. Register online beginning January 25 at *NewYorkFamilyHistory.org*; or call 212-755-8532, ext. 211. The program fee is \$360 for members and \$425 for non-members.

ACCOMMODATIONS:

We have arranged a special room rate at the Albany Hilton of \$144 per night, single or double. To make a reservation, please call the hotel directly at 866-691-1183 and mention conference code 1NYGBS to get this rate. \times

NYG&B Programs & Webinars

RE-RESEARCH SESSIONS Make your research time productive by attending these new sessions at the NYG&B office.

NYC Municipal Archives Basics: Birth, Marriage, and Death Records

Learn how to use the vital records collections at the New York City Municipal Archives. This session will cover the various indexes and how to search them, where to find the microfilms, and how to request copies. Also covered will be some procedures and rules of the research room.

• Wednesday, January 18, 6:00–7:00 p.m. Members free; Non-members \$25

REGISTRATION:

Advanced registration is essential. Sign up at NewYorkFamilyHistory.org or by calling 212-755-8532, ext. 211.

WEBINAR

Finding Their Routes: Navigating Records of the NY State Canal System

This webinar will provide background on the New York canal system. It will continue with a discussion of the different occupations that our ancestors might have had, the Canal Town folks' associations, where the repositories are located, and where some names may be found in online sources.

Registration required; sign up by using the website calendar link or go to https://goo.gl/l18EPE.

• Thursday, January 12, 7:00 p.m. PRESENTER: Pamela Vittorio

GOOGLE HANGOUT

Chat with NYG&B President D. Joshua Taylor Kick off NYG&B Week with D. Joshua Taylor

on a Google Hangout. You can send questions in advance to Josh at President@nygbs.org.

To participate in the chat, go to the NYG&B website calendar and click the link.

• Tuesday, January 10, 4:00 p.m. ET ×

Jointly Sponsored Programs at the NYPL

A genealogy project built with a sound

ECTURE

Essential Resources to Use When Starting Your Genealogy Project

foundation will stand up better than one built on random clicks. Learn about resources that will help build that solid foundation for your genea-logy projects, especially skills that endure. The lecture is free and open to the public. Seats will be available on a first come, first served basis. • Tuesday, February 28, 6:00 p.m. PRESENTER: Susan R. Miller LOCATION: South Court Classroom \times

Please see www.nypl/locations/divisions/milstein for more programs and to confirm the program times. These programs are free at the New York Public Library, Stephen A. Schwarzman Building, Fifth Avenue between 40th & 42nd Streets.

NYG&B Repository Tours



ational Archives at New York City

Dorothy Dougherty, Director of Public Programs, will provide a tour of and an introduction to the NARA-NYC

facilities in the U.S. Customs House near Battery Park, and an overview of the holdings. NYG&B staff will be available to assist with locating resources after the program.

A NARA-NYC program will be held at noon.

• Tuesday, June 13, 10:30–11:30 a.m. ×



Check our website and eNews for more programs as they are scheduled.

REGISTRATION:

Each program \$25 members/\$40 non-members. Advanced registration is required. You may sign up via our online store at NewYorkFamilyHistory.org or by calling 212-755-8532, ext. 211.

he Genealogy & Map Divisions of the New York Public Library The New York Public Library is one of the world's great research libraries. NYPL staff will provide an overview

of the rich resources of the Milstein Division of United States History, Local History and Genealogy, and the Lionel Pincus and Princess Firyal Map Division. A guided tour of the Milstein, Microfilm, and Map rooms will follow. The NYG&B tour will take approximately 75 minutes, after which, individual research may conduct their own research.

• Thursday, May 25, 10:30–11:45 a.m. ×



Save the Date for These Upcoming Events



ind Relatives with **MyHeritage DNA Matching**

• PRESENTER: Daniel Horowitz

• DATE/LOCATION: Thursday, May 4, 2017 at the NYG&B offices

One-day Joint Program with the Western New York Genealogical Society

• PRESENTERS: D. Joshua Taylor and Jane E. Wilcox

• DATE/LOCATION: Saturday, October 7, 2017 in Buffalo, New York

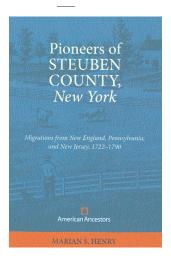
New York State Family History Conference

• DATES/LOCATION: Thursday, September 13-Saturday, September 15, 2018 in Tarrytown, Westchester County, New York

Book Notes

Pioneers of Steuben County, New York

By Marian S. Henry. New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2016. Softcover. 199 pages. Footnotes, bibliography, index. \$28.

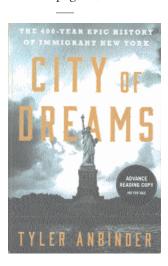


The introduction of Marian Henry's latest book will be of interest to researchers beyond Steuben County, giving a concise lesson on researching in central and upstate New York during the early national period. Given the perceived dearth of records for this area and time period, Ms. Henry demonstrates how to work with the available records. The genealogical and biographical sketches of thirty-six early settlers of Steuben County are well written and

documented (valuable footnotes). The bibliography is also useful beyond Steuben County. This book will be reviewed in a future issue of the NYG&B Record.

City of Dreams: The 400-Year Epic History of Immigrant New York.

By Tyler Anbinder. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2016. Black and white photographs and illustrations. Short bibliography. Extensive notes. Index. 768 pages. \$35.



This extraordinary book covers the story of immigration to New York City from the earliest days to the present time, but its focus is on the largest immigrant groups and on the periods of history when the largest numbers of immigrants arrived. Recent immigrant groups are lightly covered. The book is lengthy and densely written, but exceptionally readable.

This book is being widely reviewed; the *New York Times* published a very favorable

review in the regular paper (November 1, 2016) and the book review section (November 6, 2016).

Readers wanting a more comprehensive look at this book should turn to these reviews, which may be found at *NYTimes.com*. This book was selected by the *New York Times* for its "Best 100 Books of 2016" list.

This history of immigration provides historical context, both from the perspective of the countries of origin as well as the immigrant cultures established in New York City.

The first five chapters represent a comprehensive, 100-page review of the history of New Amsterdam and later New York City under the British, through the Revolutionary War period. Readers who believe that New Amsterdam and early New York were marvelously liberal places where national and religious diversity was accepted may be persuaded otherwise. Chapters 6 through 13 (almost 300 pages) cover the Early National period through the Civil War and mainly focus on Irish and German immigration and immigrant life in New York City. The author does not spare the reader its brutal details. Later chapters cover other immigrant groups, mainly focusing on Italians, Eastern Europeans, and Russians, including, of course, Jewish immigrants. Immigration reform, restrictions on immigration, and illegal immigration are covered in the final chapters.

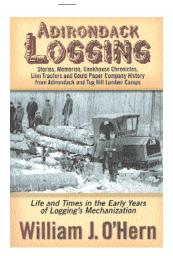
The author provides some statistical information available widely elsewhere but conveniently accessible in this volume. Since the author is writing as an historian and not a genealogist, there are no lists of websites or tips for family history research. The footnotes, however, are extensive, and the relatively short bibliography, which concentrates on the most recent scholarship, will certainly be immediately useful to any researcher.

The author, who earned a Ph.D. at Columbia University, has been a professor of history at George Washington University since 1994, and during some of those years he served as department chair. He is the author of two other books (among other publications) of interest to New Yorkers: Five Points: The Nineteenth-Century New York City Neighborhood that Invented Tap Dance, Stole Elections, and Became the World's Most Notorious Slum (New York: Free Press, 2001) and Nativism and Slavery: The Northern Know Nothings and the Politics of the 1850s (New York: Oxford University Press, 1992).

(continued on page 92)

Book Notes (continued from page 91)

Adirondack Logging: Life and Times in the Early Years of Logging's Mechanization By William J. O'Hern. In the Adirondacks: 2016. Softcover. 457 pages. Many black and white photographs, index, bibliography. \$29.



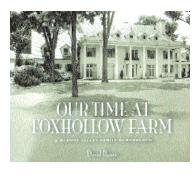
This book is a collection of over fifty short articles covering a wide variety of topics relating to the history of logging in the Adirondacks in the early to mid-twentieth century and the culture of logging and lumberjacks. The majority were written by William J. O'Hern. Other are reprinted from newspaper and other sources. The documentary photographs are exceptionally interesting. This is not a book prepared for family historians,

but it will be relevant for researching individuals connected with the industry if they happen to be mentioned (check the index) and for describing the historical and cultural context of people living in these communities. Of particular note is the bibliography drawing articles from very unusual sources,

such as the journal of the American Truck Historical Society. This book is not the first of its type by any means, but rather is part of a very extensive literature on the Adirondacks and logging. X

Our Time at Foxhollow Farm: A Hudson Valley Family Remembered.

By David Byars. Excelsior Editions, State University of New York Press, 2016. Hard cover. 313 pages. Black and white photographs.



This elegant, pictorial history of the Dows describes an eminent Hudson Valley family in the early decades of the twentieth century. Their privileged life is

documented through family photos of the striking architecture on the estate, the elegant social events held there, and glimpses into their interactions with Rhinebeck friends and neighbors such as the Astors and Roosevelts. ×

Print County Guides: Recent Releases

he final publications in the NYG&B's series of New York County Guides have been released. Each guide includes resources based upon the award-winning New York Family History Research Guide

and Gazetteer (NYFHRGG) and includes a list of towns with a chronology of selected events for the town, key records, important compilations, and other resources.

This last series includes two guides that are not counties: Long Island and New York City. Those areas have resources that span multiple counties, thus require separate guides as found in the NYFHRGG.

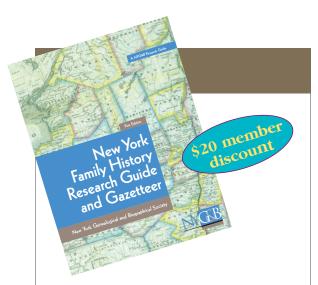
Guides are individually priced, and range from \$10.95-\$12.95 each. To order, visit the NYG&B online store at NewYorkFamilyHistory.org or call 212-755-8532. ×

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Volume 88 • 2016

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Trying to find your New York roots?

The NYG&B is the most authoritative resource for research on families with New York connections. Join us.

Membership in the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society is for you if you want to learn more about family members who lived in New York State or if you simply enjoy the community of people who share your interests. Individual membership: \$70 one year, \$120 two years; Joint membership: \$100 one year, \$170 two years.

See our website for information about Patron Membership and Life Membership.

Members receive:

- Print subscriptions to our two quarterly publications: the New York Genealogical and Biographical Record and the New York Researcher
- Remote, online access to the NYG&B eLibrary, hosted by Findmypast.com, including
 - The full run of the Record and the New York Researcher
 - Record abstracts from churches and cemeteries across New York State
 - Digital versions of books published by the NYG&B (through 2009)
 - More than 25 New York titles in the WPA Historical Records Survey series
 - And other digitized NYG&B collections
- Free access to the U.S. and Canadian Collections on Findmypast.com, including the complete U.S. Census, 1790–1940; U.S. marriage records; United Kingdom and Ireland census records; the PERiodical Source Index (PERSI); more than 150 New York newspaper titles; and more
- The ability to create an online family tree at Findmypast, use the Hints feature to see potential matches, access free webinars, and more
- Remote, online access to exclusive member resources at our website, www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org, including Research Aid articles on key topics in New York genealogy and original research guides
- Access to our Minisearch Service, which allows members to request document copies from major New York repositories in the greater New York City area, Albany, and Syracuse
- Early notification and discounts on programs with top speakers in the field, repository tours, and special events
- Discounts on NYG&B publications
- A 63% discount on the purchase of a Findmypast Premium Package subscription, plus other partner discounts from Family Tree DNA and JSTOR.



Happy Days by A. Mark Datz, 1940.

Smithsonian American Art Museum

The New York Genealogical and Biographical Society is a tax-exempt organization under Sec. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Patron Membership

Patron members provide annual, philanthropic support above and beyond basic membership dues, while enjoying enhanced benefits.

Benefactor \$250 (\$100 is tax deductible)

All the benefits of membership for one year for two individuals at one address, plus

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- Private tutorial with our webmaster on using our website and digital resources
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IMAGE:

Historic Fraunces Tavern, corner of Pearl and Broad streets, planned location of the research tour dinner. From Old New York: Yesterday and Today (New York, 1922).