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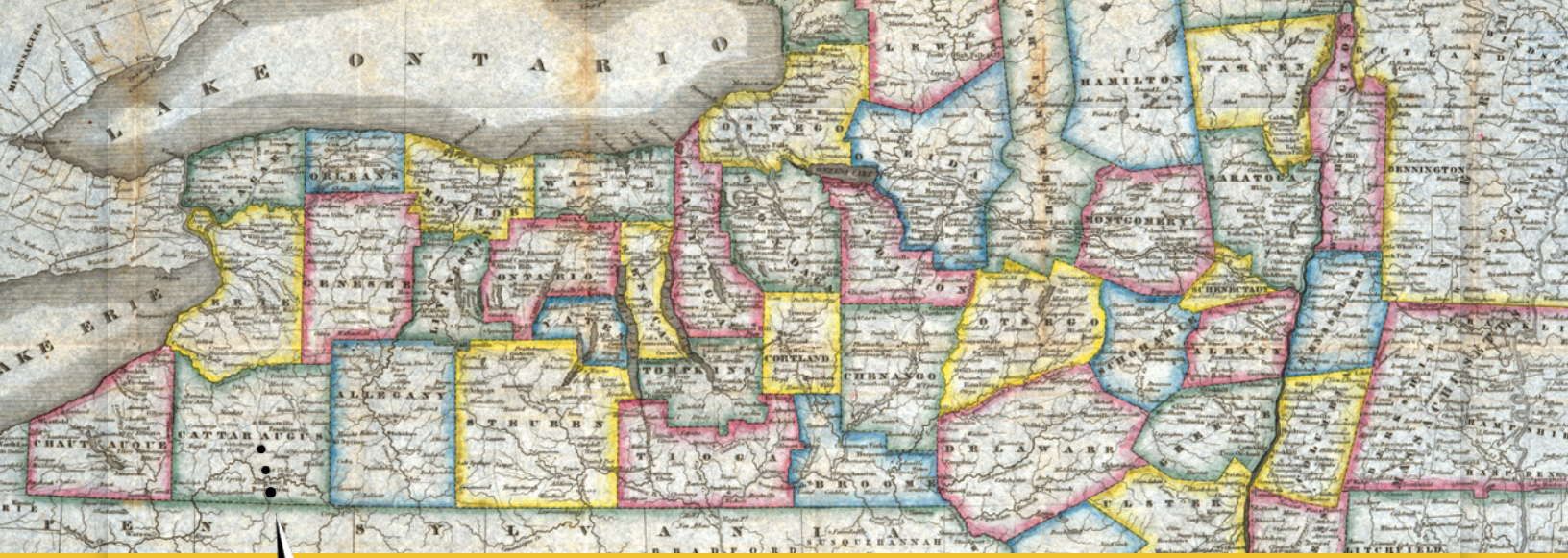
NEW YORK GENEALOGICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY | SUMMER 2017 | VOLUME 28 | NUMBER 2



Reversing the Course: Tracing My Family's Migration from Virginia to Upstate New York

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Western New York Genealogy Conference

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

For many, summer is a time for adventures and vacations with family and friends. Those of us who trace the past might find ourselves in a cemetery, courthouse, or library at some point as we work to piece together the details of the past. While each new discovery might lead to more questions, the thrill of the “adventure” never seems to wither. Here at the NYG&B we are continuing our own journey—and remain anxiously engaged in helping you preserve the stories of New York families.

The recent update to **newyorkfamilyhistory.org**—the first in a series of planned enhancements—has brought valuable content to the surface for thousands of our members. The feedback has been overwhelming positive and allows us to move forward with other initiatives.

While the launch of website kept us busy, we have been actively working on several other projects. In February we announced the creation of NYG&B Labs, and I am happy to report that to date we have begun two concurrent NYG&B Labs projects. The first will lay the groundwork for a new geographical approach to the NYG&B’s treasured resources. The second, in collaboration with professors and students from Manhattan College, will begin exploring the lives of African Americans who crossed the New York -Canada border. Both projects will deliver new, unique insights for our members and others researching New York’s past. I am deeply grateful for the generosity of our members who have enabled us to make NYG&B Labs a reality—thank you!

The NYG&B is pleased to welcome Jennifer A. Davis in the role of Director of Development and Membership to our team. Ms. Davis brings a wide range of experience to the NYG&B and will continue to expand membership benefits, while also ensuring our ongoing activities (such as NYG&B Labs, publications, and digitization projects) are soundly supported.

In May we were delighted to learn that Aaron Goodwin, author of the NYG&B’s *New York City Municipal Archives: An Authorized Guide for Family Historians* was the recipient of the Award for Excellence: Genealogical Methods and Sources from the National Genealogical Society (NGS). Susan R. Miller, NYG&B’s Director of Programs and Outreach, accepted the award on Mr. Goodwin’s behalf at the NGS 2017 Conference in Raleigh, North Carolina. While at the conference we were delighted to visit with so many members and friends (and even welcomed quite a few new members to the NYG&B).

What’s next? Thanks to the successful work of our volunteers across the country—and those who joined us in our New York City headquarters—we are working on adding new resources to the NYG&B’s eLibrary and the New York Knowledge Base on a more frequent basis. We greatly enjoyed working alongside members during our onsite indexing and digitization days this year and look forward to more in the future. We also enjoyed connecting with members during the Write it Up! workshop in March and those who joined us for the New York City Research Tour a few weeks later. If you have not had the chance to join the NYG&B on one of our programs there are plenty to choose from. Our annual trip to Albany in September is nearly sold-out, and we are already planning for the New York State Family History Conference in 2018.

All of these activities would not be possible without your generosity and support. Thank you for being part of the NYG&B!



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joshua".

D. JOSHUA TAYLOR

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Susan R. Miller, Editor

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About the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society

The New York Genealogical and Biographical Society (NYG&B) preserves, documents, and shares the stories of families across the state of New York. Through our programs, resources, publications, and services we actively engage with genealogists, biographers, historians, and organizations to establish the broader contexts of New York's past. The NYG&B actively fosters connections between New York's past and the present.

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 our website.

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The NYG&B's website includes detailed, current information on advertising sizes and rates. We offer combination rates for those advertisers wishing to appear in both the *New York Researcher* and *The NYG&B Record*.

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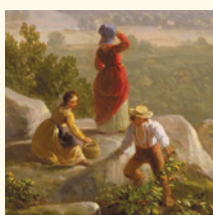
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ON THE COVER:

Dover Plains, Dutchess County, New York, 1848,
by Asher B. Durand, oil on canvas 42 ½ x 60 ½
in. (107.9 x 153.7 cm) in the collections of the
Smithsonian American Art Museum.

Reversing the Course: Tracing My Family's Migration from Virginia to Upstate New York

By Kenyatta D. Berry



Last fall, I had the opportunity to take a seven-week paid sabbatical. How did I come across such a wonderful opportunity? For the past eight years I worked in software sales for Cornerstone OnDemand based in Santa Monica California. After seven years, employees are entitled to a seven-week sabbatical. What would you do with seven weeks of vacation? Would you take the trip of your lifetime? Would you check something off your bucket list? For months I thought about going to Australia and New Zealand. Those thoughts began to wane when I realized I could further connect to my ancestors.

Second Baptist Church

The 125th anniversary of Second Baptist Church was a once in a lifetime opportunity. My family has been attending this church since its founding. I decided to attend the three-day celebration in Mumford, New York. This was my way of honoring my formerly enslaved ancestors from Virginia who migrated after Reconstruction to Upstate New York. On the six-hour train ride from New York to Rochester I thought about my ancestor's journey in search of better opportunities. How did it feel to leave behind family and friends? As someone who left my hometown

of Detroit more than fifteen years ago for the same reasons, I am sure it wasn't an easy decision. I had to prepare my mother for a year before I moved.

Virginia to New York

My 3rd-great-grandfather James Phillip Sellers was born a slave about 1847 in Charlottesville, Virginia. He married Emily Ann Carter the daughter of Lewis Carter and Martha Payne on March 7, 1867.¹ They were married on the farm of Dr. J. W. Taylor in Madison County, Virginia by Rev. James Garnett II. On January 8, 1866 Lewis Carter entered

PHOTO: The Second Baptist Church in Mumford, New York, photograph courtesy of the *Livingston County News* and Sally Santora (used with permission). The Church celebrated its 125th Anniversary in November 2016. www.thelcn.com/lcn05/mumfords-second-baptist-church-to-celebrate-125-years-20161103

a sharecropping agreement with Dr. John W. Taylor of Madison County.²

In 1880 James P. Sellers was living in Culpeper County, Virginia with his wife Emily, their five children, Martha, Delila, James, William, Metor and his mother Delila Green Sellers.³ To find work and better conditions for his children, James migrated to York, New York about 1887/1888. Emily left behind her parents and

siblings with the exception of her little sister Mary Blanche Carter. Mary was born about 1869, the same year as Emily's daughter Martha, my 2nd-great-grandmother. What made James and a number of African American men migrate to Upstate New York? According to oral history, the Harmon family of Wheatland, New York is responsible for the migration of African Americans to the area in the late 1880s and early 1890s.

"Frank Harmon, a Union army captain from Wheatland, is credited with encouraging the first significant post-Reconstruction wave. Harmon told newly freed slaves from Culpeper, Virginia, that they could get good wages on the farms in Wheatland. He even paid the cost of travel for some of the workers, who arrived on the farm of his brother Eugene Harmon. Soon, other freed slaves from that area came to Caledonia, Mumford, Scottsville, Avon and LeRoy."⁴

My great-grandmother Esther Lewis was born February 6, 1895 in York, Livingston County, New York. She was the daughter of Martha Marie Sellers and James William Lewis. She later migrated to Detroit where she met and married my great-grandfather Cecil Theodore Kendrick. Martha died on March 23, 1899 when her youngest daughter was just a year old. Esther and her sisters Emily and Martha were later raised by their aunt Delilah Sellers Bundy Lewis.

While growing up in Detroit, I knew my great-grandmother and recall hearing about LeRoy, New York which is where she lived until her death. However, I didn't realize the uniqueness of this African American community until I started doing genealogy research.

Anniversary Weekend

When I walked into Second Baptist Church in Mumford on the first day of the anniversary weekend, I felt an immediate connection. My 2nd and 3rd cousins greeted me and showed me the poster board display of early, local

“In a frantic pace I recorded as much information as possible. I heard them saying ‘do not forget about me, someone is looking for me and I am more than property, I am a human being.’ It was one of those genealogy moments when you realize this journey is bigger than yourself.”

African American families. The exhibit “A Heritage Shared: African American Families of Caledonia and Mumford” had photographs and histories documenting more than one hundred years of my family's history in the area. The exhibit is permanently housed at the Big Springs Museum in Caledonia, New York.

Founded in 1891 by Rev. Clayton Coles, Second Baptist Church of Mumford

is the oldest African American church west of the Genesee River. It has been the church home of prominent ministers throughout years, including Rev. Mordecai W. Johnson. Mordecai Wyatt Johnson was the first black graduate of Rochester Theological Seminary and later became Howard University's first black president. During his time in the greater-Rochester area, my 3rd-great-aunt Meta Sellers and her husband Lewis William Price hosted Rev. Johnson and his wife to dinner.

Family Social Activities

Many of the social activities of my family were chronicled in the “News of New York State” in the *New York Age*, a leading black newspaper. With these columns I have been able to reconstruct their lives and understand their involvement in the community.

On Sunday while sitting in the church pew, I imagined my great-grandmother Esther Lewis sitting in the same pew. Maybe she was sitting next to her Aunt Delilah later known as “Grandma Del” or her Aunt Anna who was only five years older. Later that evening I spent time with my cousins going through obituaries and hearing family stories. Like a sponge, I soaked up the stories about the black community and growing up with the descendants of the Harmon family. I felt a connection to my ancestors and cousins in Upstate New York that was lost after my great-grandmother died in 1983.

Research Journey Back to Virginia

After leaving New York, I journeyed to Charlottesville, Virginia by train passing through Madison and Culpeper counties where my ancestors were slaves and farm laborers. Prior to visiting Charlottesville, I received an email about the Sellers and allied families in St. Anne's Parish and Scottsville. The surnames of Dawson, Jones, Lewis, Moon and Scott were part of my research plan.



LEFT: Family Photo—Esther Lewis Kendrick—late 1970s in LeRoy, New York.



ABOVE: John William Lewis farm in LeRoy, Genesee County, New York. (Photo taken by Kenyatta D. Berry during a 2003 visit to the area.)

Finally arriving in Charlottesville where James Sellers started his life as a slave, I was inspired and excited to learn more about the Sellers families. It is believed that his father Phillip Sellers died before emancipation and Delila Green Sellers died prior to James' move to York, New York. I wanted to know if James had any siblings and who enslaved him and his parents prior to emancipation. I spent several days at the Albemarle Charlottesville Historical Society library searching books, indexes and other sources related to Slavery and Reconstruction in Charlottesville. However, I did not uncover any information about James and his parents.

The county courthouse's probate records did not prove fruitful. But typical of any genealogy research trip, with a few hours left before I headed back via train to Northern Virginia, I visited the courthouse and used the precious hours researching the early deed books for Dawson's who owned slaves. Turning each page with notebook in hand, the names began to leap off the page as if they wanted to be found. Unsure if they were related to me or not, I felt compelled to write down their names, children's names, owners, dates and source citations. In a frantic pace I recorded as much information as possible. I heard them saying "do not forget about me, someone is looking for me and I am more than property, I am a human being." It was one of those genealogy moments when you realize this journey is bigger than yourself.

Reflections

On the train headed to Alexandria, I looked out the window and reflected on twenty years of research. I had followed in the footsteps of my 3rd-great-grandparents James Phillip Sellers and Emily Ann Carter. Smiling as I stared out the window, I hoped that my ancestors

would be proud of my journey. This trip generated so many questions that I am excited to explore and it was one of the most satisfying trips of my life.

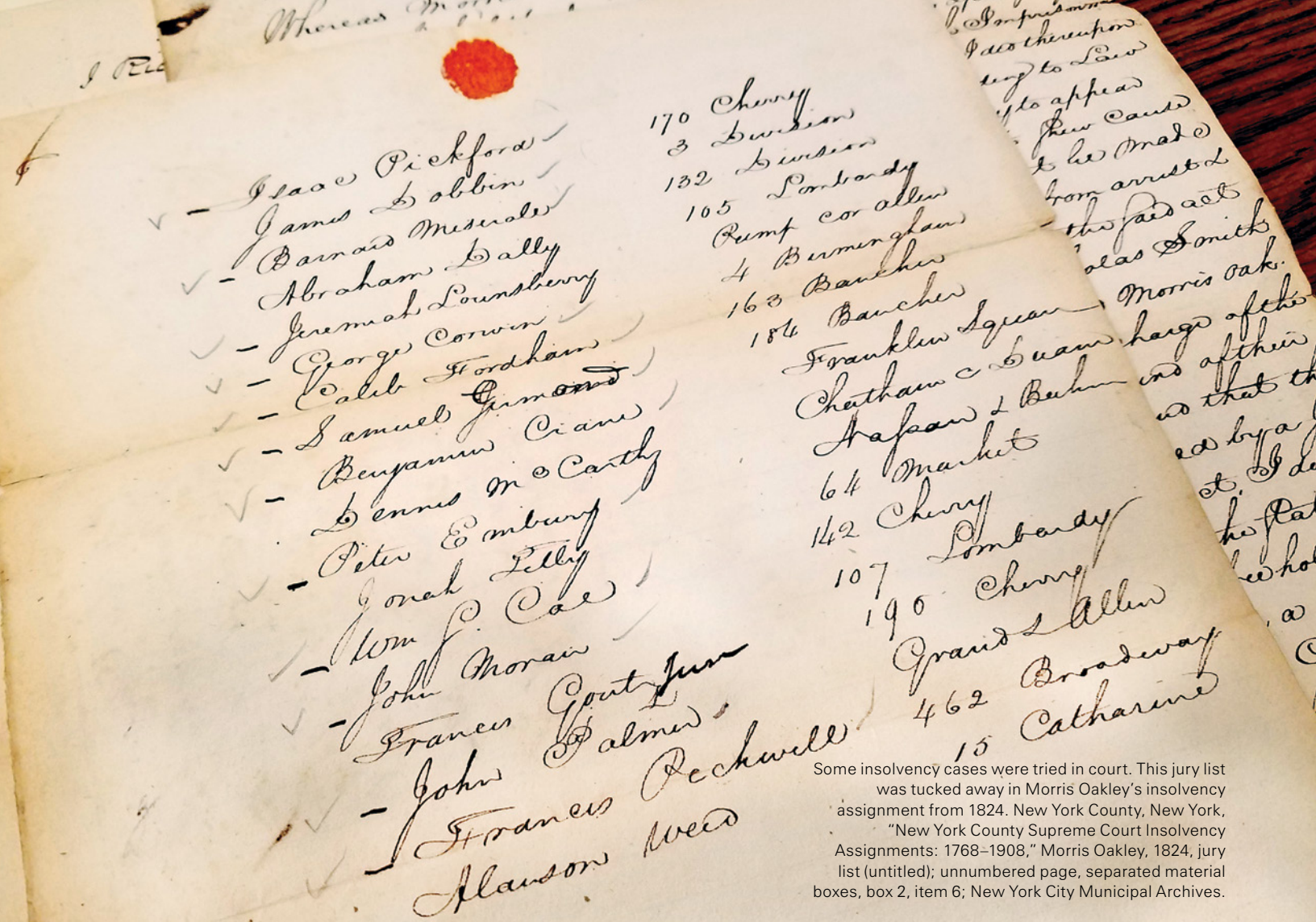
NOTES

- 1 Virginia Marriages, 1785–1940, *FamilySearch*, James P Sellers and Emily A. Carter, 07 Mar 1867; citing Madison, Virginia, reference p22 n15; FHL microfilm 32,595 (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X-RD9-XQ8> : 5 December 2014.)
- 2 Virginia, Freedmen's Bureau Field Office Records, 1865–1872, *FamilySearch*, Louis Carter; citing NARA microfilm publication M1913 (College Park, Maryland: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.); FHL microfilm 2,414,508, (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:FPVG-R6F> : 24 December 2014)
- 3 United States Census, 1880, *FamilySearch*, James P Sellers, Cedar Mountain, Culpeper, Virginia, United States; citing enumeration district ED 33, sheet 333D, NARA microfilm publication T9 (Washington DC: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.), roll 1361; FHL microfilm 1,255,361, (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MCPY-8F8> : 11 August 2016).
- 4 Ena L. Farley, "The African American Presence in the History of Western New York," in *The African American Presence in New York State History: Four Regional History Surveys: With a Selected List of African American Historic Sites for Each Region*, ed. by Monroe Fordham. (Albany, NY : New York African American Institute, State University of New York 1990) pg. 94.



Kenyatta D. Berry is a professional genealogist, entrepreneur and attorney with more than 20 years of genealogical research and writing experience. She began her genealogical journey whilst in law school studying at the State Library of Michigan in Lansing. A native of Detroit, Berry graduated from Bates Academy, Cass Technical High School, Michigan State University and Thomas M. Cooley Law School. She has deep roots in Detroit, the city her ancestors have lived since the 1920s.

A frequent lecturer, writer and television personality, Berry focuses on African American Genealogy, Slave Ancestral Research and DNA. Berry, Host on *Genealogy Roadshow* (PBS), has been featured on several morning news shows and made a splash with her appearance on *The Real*, where she revealed the DNA results of the hosts. Her recent appearance on *For Peete's Sake* (OWN) is generating a buzz surrounding her genealogy expertise.



Some insolvency cases were tried in court. This jury list was tucked away in Morris Oakley's insolvency assignment from 1824. New York County, New York, "New York County Supreme Court Insolvency Assignments: 1768-1908," Morris Oakley, 1824, jury list (untitled); unnumbered page, separated material boxes, box 2, item 6; New York City Municipal Archives.

New York County Insolvency Assignments at the New York City Municipal Archives

By Meryl Schumacker

Most researchers do not hope to find an insolvent debtor in the family. Even today, the words "insolvent debtor" suggest a moral failure of some kind, in addition to a financial one.

Perhaps due in part to this stigma, the New York City Municipal Archives' collection of New York County insolvent debtors' assignments, or case files, remains largely untapped. The documents are unmicrofilmed, take months to retrieve, and the collection goes by at least three contradictory names. In spite of these obstacles, case files can provide potentially invaluable genealogical information, and are absolutely worth the effort to retrieve.

A Brief History of Debt

The stigma surrounding personal debt, as opposed to business debt, is no accident. Current attitudes about debt and debtors are echoes of policies that originated hundreds of years ago. From 1786 until 1841, when Congress passed a federal bankruptcy law, New York operated under an insolvency system.¹ An English legacy, the insolvency system required a debtor to pay his or her debts or risk a penalty, such as imprisonment. Insolvency did not have the same protections or debt forgiveness as a bankruptcy system. For a time, the privilege of filing for bankruptcy was only available to businesses and merchants.² Congress passed and later repealed several bankruptcy acts during the nineteenth century before passing the Bankruptcy Act of 1898, which remained in effect until 1978.³

The insolvency system of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries was not kind to debtors. New York City's debtors' prison, the New Gaol, was notoriously brutal, and a debtor could not earn money to pay his

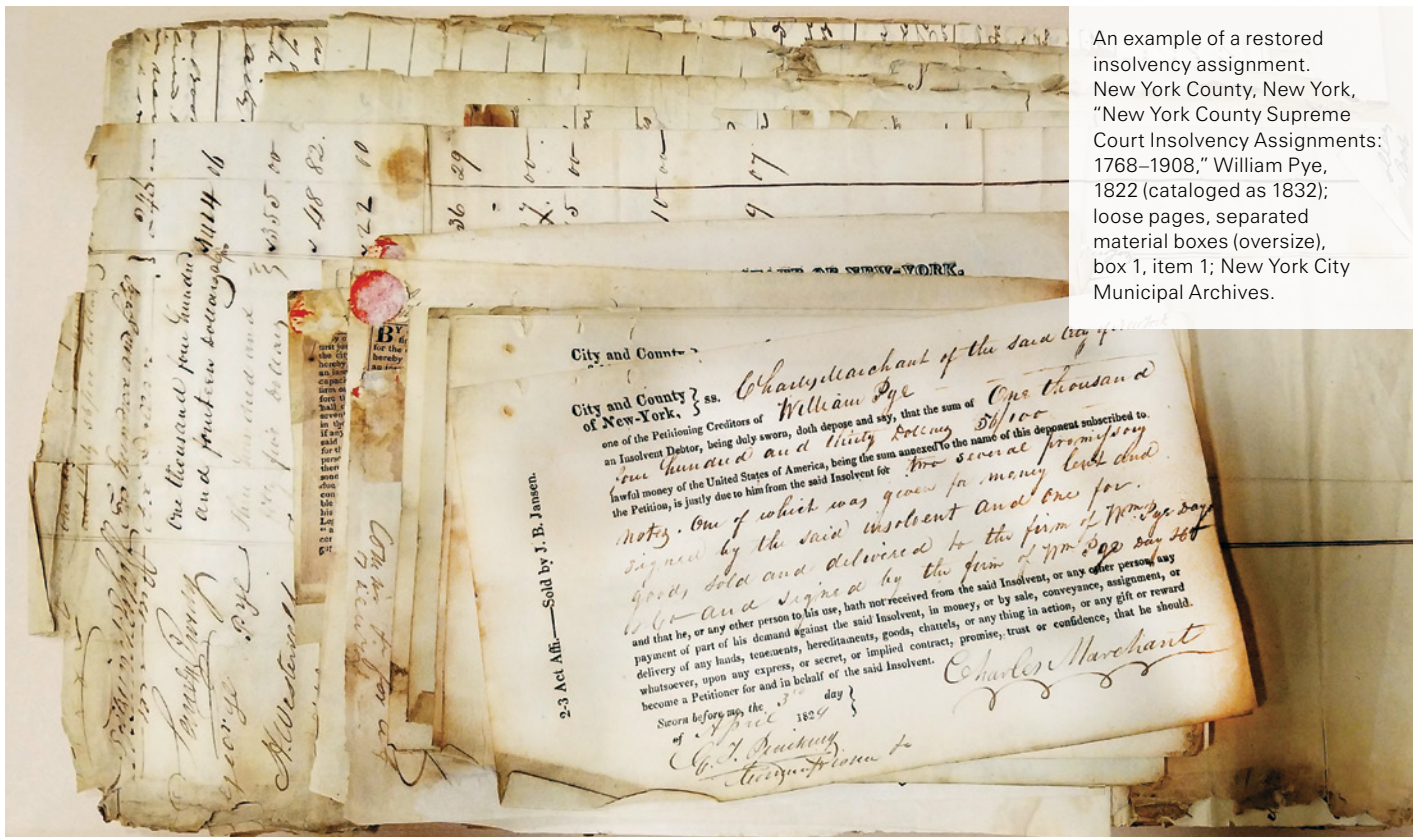
debts if he was imprisoned.⁴ According to estimates from The Society for the Relief of Distressed Debtors, over sixty percent of imprisoned debtors from 1787 to 1788 in New York City owed less than twenty shillings.⁵ Insolvency was hardly evidence of moral bankruptcy.

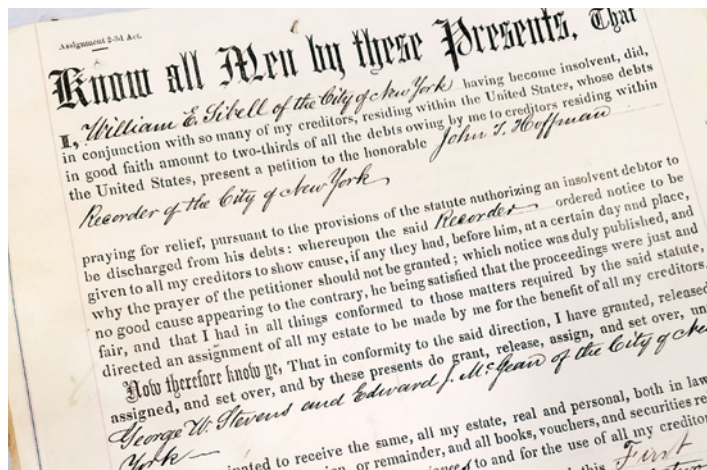
Debtors in New York City did not have many choices available to them. Prison was mandatory until 1819, when a New York State law allowed debtors to petition the court to avoid imprisonment.⁶ Prior to 1819 some debtors took a sneakier approach to avoid the New Gaol and employed a technique called "keeping close." The debtor would remain in his home to avoid being arrested for debt by the local sheriff. As is the case with process servers today, a sheriff could be invited inside or enter through an unlocked door or window; he could not enter by force.⁷ Depending upon the circumstances, the debtor could remain indoors until he earned enough money to pay his debts.

In 1831 New York State abolished imprisonment for debt. The New Gaol underwent repairs and was the site of the city's Hall of Records for many years.⁸

KEY DATES

- | | | | |
|-------------|---|-------------|---|
| 1759 | Debtors were imprisoned in the New Gaol, now City Hall Park. | 1831 | Imprisonment for debt abolished in New York State. |
| 1784 | New York enacted a bankruptcy system on limited terms. | 1841 | Federal bankruptcy law passed, offering protection to both businesses and individuals (repealed in 1843). |
| 1786 | New York returned to an insolvency system. | 1867 | Federal bankruptcy law passed, allowing debtors and creditors to negotiate repayment (repealed in 1878). |
| 1792 | Panic of 1792, the nation's first stock market crash | 1898 | "Modern" federal bankruptcy law passed (remained in effect until 1978). |
| 1800 | First federal bankruptcy law passed (repealed in 1803) | | |
| 1819 | New York State permitted debtors to petition to avoid imprisonment for debt | | |





LEFT: A box of unrestored case files from the eighteenth century. New York County, New York, "New York County Supreme Court Insolvency Assignments: 1768–1908," assorted case files, 1791; box 1, items 1–38; New York City Municipal Archives. RIGHT: A restored and flattened petition from the insolvency assignment of William E. Sibell. New York County, New York, "New York County Supreme Court Insolvency Assignments: 1768–1908," William E. Sibell, 1862, petition; p. 15 (upper left corner), separated material boxes (oversize), box 1, item 2; New York City Municipal Archives.

Anatomy of a Case File

The contents of insolvency assignments vary depending on the year and particular circumstances of the case. According to the Municipal Archives, most files contain the following information:⁹

- The name of the debtor
- The name of each creditor, with the amount owed
- Inventory of the debtor's real and personal estate
- Orders to advertise the sale of property (e.g., at public auction) and affidavits confirming the publication of such advertisements
- Newspaper clippings of the advertisement printed in local newspapers
- Orders relegating property to a trustee in preparation for sale
- Oath documents
- Records of confinement to debtors' prison
- Discharge paper assignments

Small items were occasionally omitted from debtors' inventories because, at different times, laws stipulated that a debtor could not be made to give up his/her bedding, clothes, or other household items deemed essential. Insolvency assignments also noted the exact location and dates of public notices that were posted in connection with a case. For example, an assignment might include proof that an advertisement for a sheriff's sale was posted on the door of the city jail for four weeks.

As legal documents, insolvency case files are inherently valuable to researchers. They can pinpoint an individual at a particular time and place with reasonable certainty, much like probate and property records. However, testators and landowners were largely restricted to the highest socioeconomic classes, whereas insolvent debtors were not. In that

regard, case files may prove more valuable than probate or property records, particularly to the study of less affluent New Yorkers.

These documents may include genealogically relevant information, including the names of family members and business associates, original signatures, and if the case went to trial, court documents and jury lists. Some fell into debt when they inherited or willingly took on the debt of a close family member. In this case, both individuals may be listed by name and relationship. If a creditor died before or during proceedings, his wife could be listed by name in his place. The inventory of assets can be used to trace family heirlooms and objects.

Accessing the Records

The original case files are maintained by the New York City Municipal Archives. The records are fragile and may require restoration through the Archives' Conservation Lab. Therefore, record requests may take several months.

Complicating matters, the collection appears under several names with conflicting dates:

- On the Archives' website, it is titled "New York County insolvent assignments (bankruptcy), 1800–1830" under "Court Records."
- The Archives' own description of the collection refers to it as, "New York County Supreme Court Insolvency Assignments: 1791–1926."
- The NYG&B's *New York City Municipal Archives: An Authorized Guide to the Archives* does not address the Archives' collection of insolvency assignments, although it does refer to two related collections from the Old Town Records (described below).

According to associate archivist Alexandra Hilton, the collection spans 1768 to 1908, with the bulk of the

collection from 1798 to 1886 and 1900. There are gaps in the collection prior to 1790 and after 1890. Therefore, the most accurate title for the collection is, “New York County Supreme Court Insolvency Assignments: 1768–1908.”

Researchers must request case files by name and date. The Archives has compiled an index of case files contained in their collection. This index, along with other resources, will be made available to researchers as part of the Archives’ new content management system, “ArchivesSpace,” in 2017. Until the system launches, there are several workarounds for identifying New York County debtors.

FamilySearch digitized a published index of case files as browsable images on their website. The index is arranged alphabetically by last name. Under the collection titled, “New York Land Records, 1630–1975” > New York [County] > Insolvent assignment index 1754–1855.¹⁰

The American Jewish Historical Society microfilmed entire case files from 1787–1861 with “Jewish or Jewish-sounding names.” Their microfilm collection is available onsite at the Center for Jewish History in Manhattan, and online via Ancestry.com.¹¹

The New York City Municipal Archives: An Authorized Guide for Family Historians lists two additional collections related to insolvent debtors among the Old Town Records: “Dock of Insolvent Assignments #5, volume 2 (1840–1863)” and “Dock of Insolvent Assignments of New York City, County, and State (1754–1863).”¹² These records may be duplicates of records recently sent to the State Archives in Albany. They are not entire case files and do not offer the same level of detail as the New York County Supreme Court Insolvency Assignments. Nevertheless, the “Dock of Insolvent Assignments of New York City, County, and State (1754–1863)” predates the Supreme Court Insolvency Assignments by fourteen years and may compensate for the latter collection’s gaps between 1768 and 1790. For the study of insolvent debtors in New York City, particularly prior to 1790, this dock may have information of value to researchers.

FURTHER READING

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Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1974.

Lepore, Jill. “I.O.U.: How We Used to Treat Debtors.” *The New Yorker*, 13 April 2009. Online archives. *The New Yorker*. www.newyorker.com/magazine/2009/04/13/i-o-u : 2016. An easy-to-read overview of debt’s history in New York City. Lepore expands upon this article in her book, *The Story of America: Essays on Origins* (Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 2012).

Mann, Bruce H. *Republic of Debtors: Bankruptcy in the Age of American Independence*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 2002. An in-depth

examination of debt in the United States, with an emphasis on the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

NOTES

- 1 U.S. Congress, *The Public Statutes at Large of the United States of America, 1789–1873*, 17 vols. (Boston: Little, Brown, and Company, 1845–73), 5:440, 19 August 1841, “An Act to establish a uniform system of bankruptcy throughout the United States,” chap. 9; image copy, Library of Congress, The Law Library of Congress: Statutes at Large (<https://www.loc.gov/law/help/statutes-at-large> : accessed 1 December 2016).
- 2 *Ibid.*, 2:19 (1800), “An Act to establish an [sic] uniform System of Bankruptcy throughout the United States,” chap. 19.
- 3 *Ibid.*, 14:517 (1867), “An Act to establish a uniform System of Bankruptcy throughout the United States,” chap. 176. Also, U.S. Congress, *The Statutes at Large*, 108 vols. (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1875–2011), 18:178, “An act to amend and supplement an act entitled ‘An act to establish a uniform system of bankruptcy throughout the United States,’ approved March second, eighteen hundred and sixty-seven, and for other purposes”; image copy, Library of Congress, The Law Library of Congress: Statutes at Large (<https://www.loc.gov/law/help/statutes-at-large> : accessed 1 December 2016). Also, *ibid.*, 20:99 (1878), “An act to repeal the bankrupt law.” Also, *ibid.*, 30:544 (1898), “An Act to establish a uniform system of bankruptcy throughout the United States.” Also, *An act to establish a uniform law on the subject of bankruptcies*, Public Law 95–598.
- 4 Jill Lepore, *The Story of America: Essays on Origins* (Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 2012).
- 5 I.N. Phelps Stokes, *The Iconography of Manhattan Island, 1498–1909*, 6 vols. (New York City: Robert H. Dodd, 1915), 5:1233; digital images, Internet Archive (<https://archive.org> : accessed 17 November 2016).
- 6 New York State Legislature, *Laws of the State of New York*, 42nd sess., chap. 101 (Albany, New York: J. Buel, 1819), 115.
- 7 Bruce H. Mann, *Republic of Debtors: Bankruptcy in the Age of American Independence* (Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 2002), 26–27.
- 8 Edward Hagaman Hall, *The Old Martyrs’ Prison New York* (New York City: The American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society, 1902), 14–15; digital images, *Internet Archive* (<https://archive.org> : accessed 19 November 2016).
- 9 “New York County Supreme Court Insolvency Assignments: 1791–1926: Scope and Content”; New York City Municipal Archives.
- 10 *Indices of Insolvent Assignments, Filed in the Office of the Clerk of the City and County of New-York, to December 31st, 1855* (New York, New York: Bowne & Hasbrouck, 1857); browsable images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org> : accessed 25 September 2016), New York Land Records, 1630–1975 > New York > Insolvent assignment index 1754–1855.
- 11 “AJHS Selected Insolvent Debtor’s Cases, 1787–1861,” browsable images, *Ancestry.com* (<http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=1614> : accessed 10 November 2016); citing New York County Supreme Court Insolvency Assignments: 1768–1908, Municipal Archives, New York City.
- 12 Aaron Goodwin, *New York City Municipal Archives: An Authorized Guide for Family Historians* (New York City: New York Genealogical & Biographical Society, 2016), 181.



Meryl Schumacker is a professional genealogist and writer living in New York City. She became interested in genealogy after growing up listening to stories about her immigrant ancestors. She holds a Certificate in Genealogical Research from Boston University and a BA from Carleton College. She was awarded the Birdie Monk Holsclaw Memorial Scholarship in 2017.

New Record Access, Indexes, and Databases

New Collections of Note for New York Researchers at Ancestry.com

United Methodist Church Records

The New York and Vicinity, United Methodist Church Records, 1775–1949 database contains nearly half a million records and covers parts of New York (Amenia, Brooklyn, Cornell, Long Island, New Rochelle, New York, New York City and Long Island, and Newburgh), New Jersey (Newark), and Connecticut (Hartford and Wethersfield). Name dense sections of the collection, e.g. registers of baptisms, marriages, deaths, and name lists, were indexes. Images (46,712) are from microfilm of the original records held by the New York Public Library—Manuscript and Archives Division.

The manuscript collection at the New York Public Library, titled Methodist Episcopal Church Records 1791–1945, contains records and information not indexed by Ancestry.com. To read about the full collection, go to <http://archives.nypl.org/mss/1978>.

To access the Ancestry.com database, go to <http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=9188>.

Episcopal Diocese of New York

New York, Episcopal Diocese of New York Church Records, 1767–1970, recently released on Ancestry.com, covers 873,345 searchable records from the Episcopal Diocese of New York archive's sacramental registers.

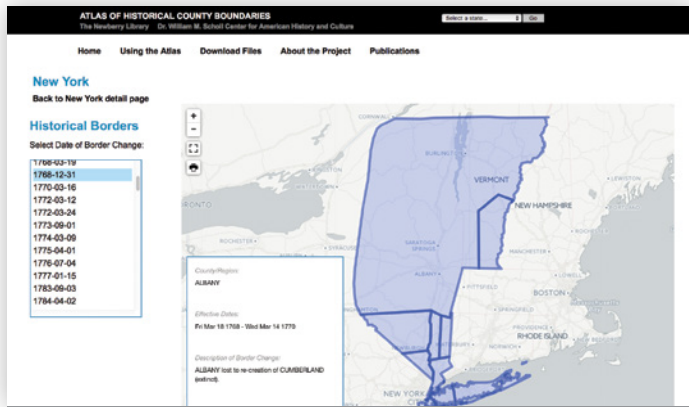
The diocese includes the boroughs of Manhattan, Staten Island, the Bronx; and Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster, and Westchester counties. For more information about the archives, see www.diocesenyny.org/the-diocese/diocesan-archives.

High resolution images on the Ancestry.com may also be browsed by parish, or when a index record is found researchers can view the image directly. But until the database is updated by Ancestry.com, take care when browsing a parish with a common name, e.g., St. Andrews in Poughkeepsie versus St. Andrews in Manhattan or St. Andrews (Harlem). To access the collection on Ancestry.com, go to <http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=61224>.

BELOW: St. Andrews Episcopal Church (Harlem, New York). "New York, Episcopal Diocese of New York Church Records, 1767–1970." Database with images. Ancestry.com: 2017. http://interactive.ancestry.com/61224/46919_420302988_0138-00143?pid=150151327. Path: New York, Episcopal Diocese of New York Church Records, 1767–1970 > St Andrews > Register 04 : Manhattan > 1867–1877 > Image 142.

Baptisms.				
Day and Date.	PLACE.	No.	CHRISTIAN NAME and SURNAME.	Place and Date of Birth.
1876 June 5	St. Andrews Church		Mary Edmond Howard	New York City June 25, 1876
* June 19	St. Andrews Monday		Chris Emment Simon	* date in book of Records
June 25	St. Andrews 2 ^d Cong. Ch. Church		William Clark	Born - 7 mo.? May 22, 1875
July 9 th	St. Andrews 2 ^d Cong. Ch. Church		Nathaniel Houston Perry	Dec. 29 th - 1875
July 10	269 W. 125 th Monday		Edna Grace Hill	Oct. 23, 1876
16 th of Oct. Oct. 1876	St. Andrews Church		Emma M. Howell	New York City June 14, 1876
23 rd Dec. 1876	St. Andrews Church		John Alfred Bourne	New York City Aug. 21 st 1876
29 th Dec. 1876	St. Andrews Church		Maudie Krummey Lyman	New York City Dec. 1876
Jan. 1 st 1877	St. Andrews Church		Annie Elizabeth Williamson	

Baptisms.		
PARENTS.	SPONSORS or WITNESSES.	Signature of Clergyman.
John Lee Eliza Lee	Mrs. Amelia Leonard	Rev. B. Dwyer
Ans. R. Clark Lizzie Jane Clark	Robert Wick Lizzie Quilley	Rev. B. Dwyer
Geo. D. Perry Mary B. Perry	Wm. S. Lockwood Charlotte J. Houston	Rev. B. Dwyer
Stephen J. Hill Victoria A. G. Hill	Private Baptism	Rev. B. Dwyer
Henry S. McHowell Emma McHowell	The Parents.	Saml. R. Moore.
Ann Lettie Bowen and Mary his wife	The Parents - and Richard Miller and Elizabeth Miller	Chas. Hale, Past.
James G. and Annabel Lyman	The Parents.	Chas. Hale, Past.
William Williamson & Mary his wife.	Joseph Broadbent Susannah Broadbent	St. Andrews Priest.



Newberry Atlas Back Online

One of our favorite interactive maps is back online. The interface has changed which may take some time to understand, but it provides a visual, interactive tool for understanding county border changes in New York State. The mapped changes include the colonial period when land was annexed and ceded to Massachusetts, Connecticut, and what would become Vermont, as well as between New York counties. Access the New York maps at <http://publications.newberry.org/ahcbp/map/map.html#NY>.

Suffolk County Civil War Draft Records - Records Search Results: 12 records found for query.

Click Column Headings to Sort on a column (click column heading again to toggle Ascending or Descending sort order)

Surname	GivenName	Age	Occupation	Remarks	Exempt	Town
Seaman	Isaac W.	30	Farmer			Brookhaven
Seaman	John C.	19	Farmer			Brookhaven
Seaman	Lewis	39	Mariner			Brookhaven
Seaman	Thomas J.	41	Mariner			Brookhaven
Seaman	Charles E.	19	Sportsman			Huntington / Babylon
Seaman	Ezra W.	36	Clerk	??		Huntington / Babylon
Seaman	Jacob V. M.	20	Clerk		Y	Huntington / Babylon
Seaman	Jesse R.	44	Yeoman	arm broken lame		Huntington / Babylon
Seaman	Samuel	30	Mariner			Huntington / Babylon
Seaman	John	35	Shoemaker			Islip
Seaman	Treadwell	40	Laborer			Islip
Seaman	Walter G.	29	Clerk		Y	Southampton

Page 1 of 1 Records per page: 20 Displaying 1 to 12 of 12 items.

[Suggest Data Correction](#)

GGG Suffolk County Civil War Draft

The new Suffolk County Civil War Draft Records database is completed and posted on the German Genealogy Group (GGG) website. Totalling 6,576 records the listing is for nine towns in Suffolk for records held at the Smithtown Library in the Richard H. Handley Collection of Long Island Americana (Long Island Room). To access the collections, go to www.germangenealogygroup.com/records-search/Suffolk_Cnty_CivilWar_Draft_records.php.

New Collections from Reclaim the Records at the Internet Archive

New York City Online Marriage Indexes 1930 to 1949-1953

Marriage license index images from the New York City Municipal Archives continue to be imaged and posted online by Reclaim the Records. Those for 1930 to the late 1940s/early-1950s recently were uploaded to The Internet Archive, joining the earlier sets. Search "marriage" and the borough name (not the county name) to find the clerk's indexes for that borough. The full set now includes:

- **Brooklyn:** 1908-1950
- **Bronx:** 1914-1949
- **Manhattan:** 1908-1956
- **Queens:** 1908-1953
- **Staten Island:** 1908-1950

<https://archive.org/details/reclaimtherecords>

New York State Death Indexes

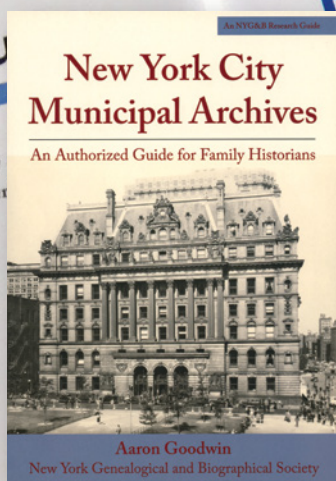
Coming online to the Internet Archive (by Reclaim the Records) as we go to press are images of the New York state death indexes. They had been available only on microfiche at 11 locations in New York. The indexes will be added to the NYG&B eLibrary soon. Please watch our blog and Facebook page for the latest updates. Go to <https://archive.org> and search "New York state death index."

DEATH INDEX

1 8 9 1

Adams James T.	19 Sep Springfield	39080	Adams Matilda W.	5 Jan Sea Cliff	829
Jane A.	26 Mar Haverstraw	12128	Matthew	1 May Cohoes	19316
John	7 Sep W. Greece	37391	Leanna	17 Mar Haverstraw	10751
John	17 Apr Ft. Jefferson	16076	Mary F. C.	11 Dec Sherburne	50936
John	28 Jan Sellersburg Harbor	3851	Norah	22 Jan Big Hollow	3006
John D.	23 Apr Fleming	17509	Jenny C.	26 Jan Windsor	3242
John L.	28 Oct Tachan	44985	Nathaniel	19 Oct Jamesville	43656
John Q.	20 Feb Rich.	7040	Civil	13 Apr Scipio	16751
Joseph C.	23 Sep Lawrence	39817	Patrick R.	14 Jun Dresden	25159

NYG&B 2016 Year in Review



65 Publications Released

NYG&B released 65 publications including the groundbreaking *New York City Municipal Archives: An Authorized Guide for Family Historians*, and stand-alone research guides for each of New York's counties as well as regional guides. In addition, we published 338 pages of original research and articles in the quarterly *New York Researcher* and *The NYG&B Record*.

3,000+

Engaged through
NYG&B Programming

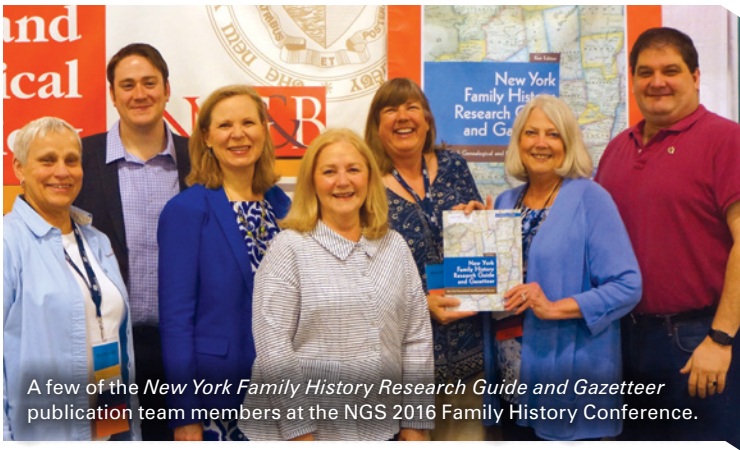
We reached more than 3,000 constituents through NYG&B programs, events, talks, and tours and launched a new webinar series on our website.

The New York State Family History Conference (NYSFHC), of which NYG&B is a co-sponsor, was held in September concurrently with the annual conference of the Association of Public Historians of New York State and had nearly 600 attendees.



91 New posts at
nygbs.org/blog

Our annual three-day Research in Albany trip was a sold-out success again in 2016!



A few of the *New York Family History Research Guide and Gazetteer* publication team members at the NGS 2016 Family History Conference.

2 National Awards of Excellence

Two NYG&B titles, the *New York Family History Research Guide and Gazetteer* and the *New York Researcher*, received awards from the National Genealogical Society at the society's 2016 Family History Conference in Fort Lauderdale, FL.

1,550 Survey Participants

Based on feedback from NYG&B members and the community the NYG&B formalized its strategic plan in 2016, giving a direction and focus for the organization's continued growth

28 Programs

The NYG&B increased its variety of programs and for the first time included live webinars. In addition to the New York State Family History Conference, the NYG&B sponsored sessions relating to accessing New York records, using the New York City Municipal Archives, tours of the New York Public Library, African-American research, and other hands-on activities.

THANK YOU TO OUR PATRON MEMBERS

Sandra E. Atkins	Betsy Hawley	Jon H. Miller
Stephen Beck	Kathleen Hendrickson	Dennis C. O'Dowd
Donna Brokken	Virginia M. Hillman	Renee Serlin
John F. Carpenter	David E. Kidd	McKelden Smith
Dell S. Dalton	Teal Krasnoff	Rebecca R. Taft
Jacqueline Dinan	Joan Malcolm	D. Joshua Taylor
Elizabeth Gibson	Noreen A. B. McDonald	Nancy Tela
Jan Golann	Jeanne McIlvaine	Jaan Vaino
Vincent W. Hartnett		Peter Norden Watt
Harry W. Havemeyer		Brenda Williams

For more information on Patron membership, please call Jen Davis at 212-755-8532 x208.

MEMBERS' FAVORITE 2016 WEBINAR

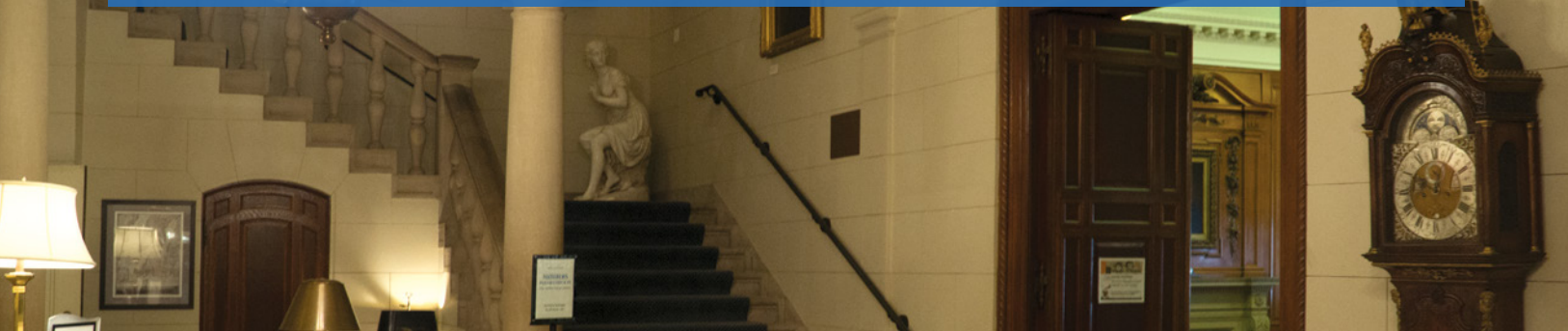
Hidden Treasures from FamilySearch

Presented by Robert Raymond,
Deputy Chief Genealogical Officer
of FamilySearch

Access it on-demand on our website!



We regularly partner with societies and organizations. Our fall luncheon benefit, held in conjunction with Knickerbocker Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, welcomed author Thelma Adams and raised more than \$3,000 for NYG&B educational and outreach programs.



Digital Material from the New York Society Library

The New York Society Library, a private, subscription library located in Manhattan, has added some significant new data to its website which is likely to be unusually helpful to researchers. To view the new digital collections, visit cityreaders.nysoclib.org.

The New York Society Library was founded in 1754 and is the oldest library in America still in existence. It is private, with limited services for non-members; however, the new online data is free and open to members and non-members alike.

Circulation Records, 1789–1805

Manuscript ledgers, known as “charging ledgers,” record the circulation of books beginning in 1789. The patron names and the books they selected are recorded. The two earliest surviving ledgers were digitized and are online covering 1789–1792 and 1799–1805. The Library also transcribed the ledgers. When book titles were recorded in a short-hand style, archivists supplied the full title and authors if known. Online visitors can scroll through the manuscript pages and the transcriptions. The transcriptions, of course, are searchable.

Noted Subscribers

Many well-known individuals were subscribers of the library when it reopened in 1789 following the British occupation of New York City. Among them were 42 “founding fathers.” George Washington, John Adams and Alexander Hamilton checked out books in 1789, and are listed on the Library’s website (cityreaders.nysoclib.org/Gallery/46). Other less well known city residents (temporary and permanent residents) were more voracious readers.

The circulation records of 57 women are also provided as a collection (cityreaders.nysoclib.org/Gallery/60). Surnames

include Jay, Varick, dePeyster, Livingston, and Verplanck, indicating the social milieu served by the library.

New York Society Library Catalogs

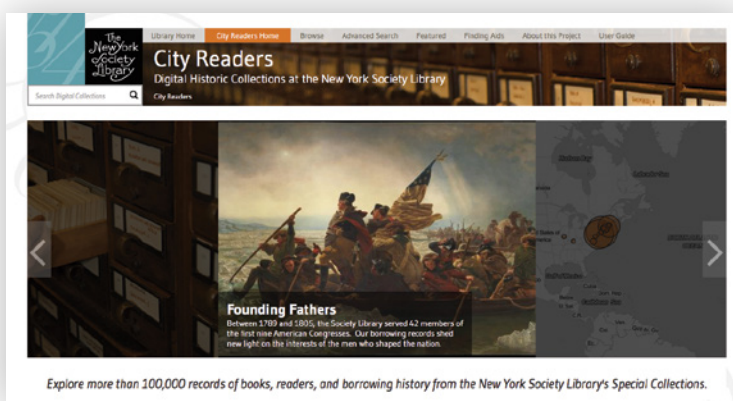
The website appears to offer twelve catalogs online: 1758, 1761, 1773, 1789, 1791, 1792, 1793, 1800, 1813, 1825, 1838, and 1850. Some of these list names of the library’s subscribers as well as the titles in the collection. The technology is at present difficult to use. In any case, it’s notable that these catalogs still exist and can be consulted at the library if they are not actually accessible online.

New York City Marriage & Death Notices

From 1836 to 1868, marriage and death notices were clipped from newspapers by Elizabeth Denning (Duer) King and assembled in three volumes. These volumes, now in the Library’s rare book collection, are online, including transcriptions. Both the manuscript volumes and the transcripts are available online or are downloadable

as PDFs from nysoclib.org/collection/nyc-marriage-death-notices. The three volumes cover years as follows: Volume I: 1836–1842; Volume II: 1843–1846; Volume III: 1857–1868.

TOP PHOTO: The New York Society Library.



In Other Lines

A column in which we ask NYG&B members to tell us their own stories.

Stanton F. Biddle, MLS, PhD

New York, New York; Member since 1989. Weekly NYG&B volunteer since 2011; author of the “Articles Beyond Our Boundaries” column in the *New York Researcher* and book notes.

What is your earliest genealogical recollection?

The earliest is trying to figure how I was related to various family members—aunts, uncles, cousins, and non-relatives (there were no African Americans to whom I was not related in Steuben, Allegany, and Cattaraugus counties). Occasionally, a non-relation might appear in the area, who by the next generation was related. In some cases, I’ve described needing a 3-D tree to describe the relationships. An aunt, my mother’s older sister, had lots of fascinating stories about the family.

How did you become a Librarian?

As a child, my uncle gave me books; I liked them and read them. I became the grade-school librarian in Friendship, Allegany County, New York. I am a librarian by profession (35 years in public and academic libraries) but I always maintained a special interest in African American history and culture, and from that, my own genealogy.

As soon as I was old enough to work, during my junior and senior years of high school, I worked as a page in the Rochester Public Library. And during my undergraduate years at Howard University I worked at the Library of Congress. I received a Masters in Library Science from Atlanta University and a Doctorate from University of California, Berkley. I also have a Masters of Public Administration from NYU.

In 1966, I began my professional career at the Municipal Reference Library run by the New York Public Library (NYPL) and also worked in the NYPL’s Schomburg Center. I made additional stops, including position at Baruch College, before wrapping up my professional career.

In the 1970s I was part of the founding generation of the Black Caucus of American Library Association; its mission being to make public libraries more responsive to the needs of the black community. I was treasurer of this organization for ten years and President for two years.

Your family is from Allegany and Cattaraugus counties?

My family is African American, but from early childhood I understood that we had lived in rural western New York State for many generations. We were also referred to as colored, Negro, mulatto, and mixed race because of apparent strains of white and Native American ancestry. As I grew older I decided that I wanted to find out more about my ancestors



Tombstone of John S. and Harriett A. Peterson.
(Photo credit: Stanton Biddle.)

John Peterson
Co. A, 5th Mass. Cavalry
1828–1864
Died at Point
Lookout, Md.

Harriet A,
His Wife
1837–1876

whatever their ethnicity, and when they came to the area, why they came, and from where.

Across the three county area (Steuben, Allegany, and Cattaraugus) where my family has lived for many generations, the population has always been less than one percent black. Nearly all of the African Americans in those counties are related to me, sometimes several times over (that’s where the 3-D tree comes in). As a child I was told that we were probably descendants of former slaves who moved up from the southern United States, and in fact we are.

Do you see many family members from Western New York?

The tradition of family reunions dates back to at least 1919 when my great-grandmother was the sergeant-at-arms of the reunion in Wellsville, Allegany County, New York. We published a souvenir reunion booklet in 2011 and again in 2013.

Family members are buried in a private cemetery on the grounds on the Peterson Farm in Town of Wirt, New York, now owned by St. Bonaventure University. During reunions we visit the cemetery.

What brought you to the NYG&B?

Shortly after my return to New York City back in 1984, my research on my family in the upstate counties of Steuben, Allegany, and Cattaraugus brought me to the collections of the New York G&B Society. There were books here that the NYPL did not have, and the NYG&B microfilm was more accessible than that of the National Archives Federal Record Center.

What are your most surprising discoveries?

- Slave ancestors
- Civil War ancestors (2nd-great-grandfather died at Point Lookout, Maryland)
- DNA connections (and disconnections)
- *Twenty-two Years a Slave and Forty Years a Freeman* by Austin Steward is an autobiography by one of the slaves who came to New York from Virginia with a group of my ancestors around 1803. He described life on the farm in Virginia, the trek north on foot, farm life in Steuben County, and his life when he moved on to Rochester and later Canada in the mid-1800s.

Highlights from our blog (nygbs.org/blog)

The NYG&B blog keeps our community informed of events, articles, and timely news. Visit nygbs.org/blog to read the full articles.

A little-known Civil War Era resource: The NYPL's United States Sanitary Commission Records

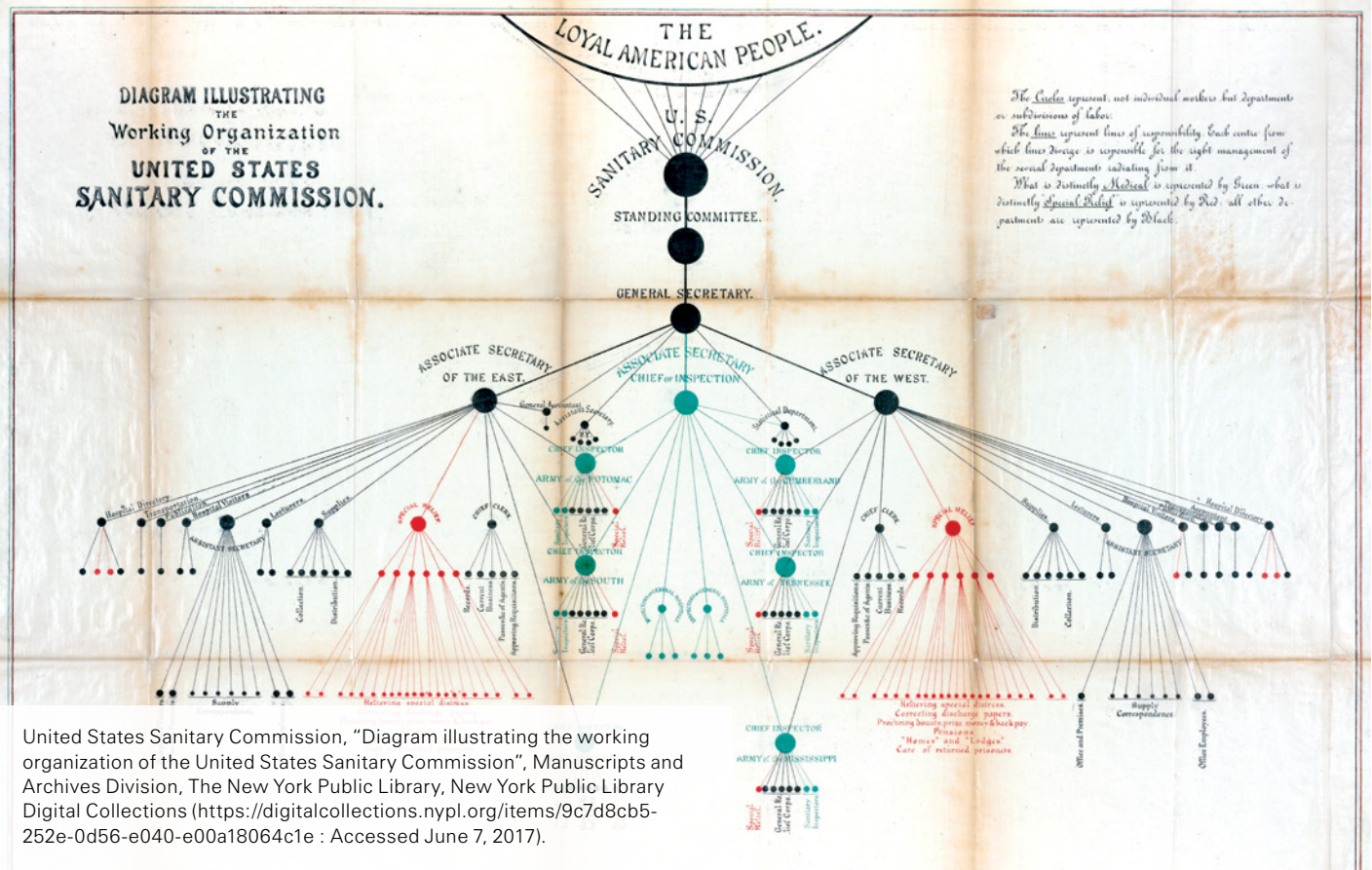
The NYG&B Luncheon at the National Genealogical Society conference in May featured Terry Koch-Bostic's lecture on navigating the invaluable United States Sanitary Commission (USSC) collection. This deep collection, which has only been accessible since 2013, captures the experience of many of our military and civilian Civil War ancestors. Due to the overwhelming response to information about this little-known resource, we added a comprehensive overview of the USSC collection to our New York Knowledge Base. Read our blog article for a general overview of the USSC records—including military pension claims, hospital records, and charitable contributions from citizens. Members also have access to the extensive Knowledge Base article full of valuable guidance, written by the New York Public Library Archivist in charge of processing and cataloging the collection.

Have you explored these five indexes to *The NYG&B Record*?

It is well known that *The Record* is one of the most powerful collections accessible in the NYG&B eLibrary and an essential source for anyone researching their New York State family. But did you know there are five indexes that will help you get even more out of this collection? *Worden's Name Index* has been turned into a search engine that contains more than one million names—this valuable tool can help those searching for last names that are also common words (Brown, Potter), that make searching in the eLibrary challenging. Harry Macy Jr. and Mrs. Jean Worden have compiled indexes based on article subject, and NYG&B volunteers

have indexed the entire run of *The Record* by author name and article title. All of these are available to search on our website and can be valuable tools to help anyone get the most out of this resource.

MORE BLOG ARTICLES NOT TO MISS!
"Images of the New York State death index, 1880–1956 are now online"
"Queens County research tips"
"A Kings County potter's field: The forgotten dead"
"Essential resources for African American research in *The NYG&B Record*"



United States Sanitary Commission, "Diagram illustrating the working organization of the United States Sanitary Commission", Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library, New York Public Library Digital Collections (<https://digitalcollections.nypl.org/items/9c7d8cb5-252e-0d56-e040-e00a18064c1e> : Accessed June 7, 2017).



Western New York Genealogy Conference

October 7, 2017 | Buffalo, New York

Sponsored by the NYG&B and the Western New York Genealogical Society

Join the NYG&B and the Western New York Genealogical Society (WNYGS) in Buffalo for a conference that celebrates Western New York as a unique place of shared history and community.

Researchers of all experience levels will:

- Attend informative, insightful, and engaging presentations that discuss research methods and strategies, statewide and regional resources, and local genealogical projects
- Network with other genealogists, historians, researchers, and genealogical society representatives
- Participate in optional pre- and post-conference tours in and around Buffalo

Conference Schedule (May be subject to change.)

TIME/SESSION	LECTURE TITLES AND SPEAKER(S)
8:30 a.m.	Registration
9:15 a.m.	Event Welcome
9:20 a.m. 1A	Pathways from New England to New York D. Joshua Taylor, MLS
9:20 a.m. 2B	Early Probate in New York: From Colonial Dutch and English to Statehood Jane E. Wilcox
10:20 a.m.	<i>Break</i>
10:50 a.m. 3A	A Tour of New York State Repositories Jane E. Wilcox
10:50 a.m. 4B	Understanding and Using Fulton History Dennis A. Hogan
11:50 a.m.	<i>Lunch Break</i>
1:15 p.m. 5A	Using Autosomal DNA to Explore Your Ancestry Blaine Bettinger, PhD, JD
1:15 p.m. 6B	Saving and Sharing Local Records Larry Lavery and James Paprocki
2:15 p.m.	<i>Break</i>
2:45 p.m. 7	The Future of Genealogy D. Joshua Taylor, MLS
3:45 p.m.	Closing with Q&A

Location

Embassy Suites, 200 Delaware Ave, Buffalo, New York 14202

Registration

Full-day registration is \$45 for WNYGS and NYG&B members and \$55 for non-members.

Register at www.nygbs.org/western-new-york.

A printed syllabus may be purchased during registration at a cost of \$10 per set. Meals are not included.

Optional pre- and post-conference tours and events are available for a fee or at no additional cost. See the event page on our website for details and registration links.

Society and Repository Hall (10:00 a.m.–2:45 p.m.)

Participating organizations include:

- Buffalo & Erie County Public Library—Grosvenor Room
- The Buffalo History Museum
- Chautauqua County Genealogical Society
- Forest Lawn Cemetery & Archives
- Iroquois Genealogical Society
- Italian Genealogical Society of Western New York
- New York Genealogical and Biographical Society
- Rochester Genealogical Society
- Western New York Genealogical Society

Hotel Reservations

A special single room rate of \$159 (plus applicable taxes of 13.75%) is available for conference registrants on Friday, October 6 and Saturday, October 7, 2017. Further details may be found on the website.

Research in Albany

September 13–15, 2017 | Albany, New York

Your dream trip of researching at the New York State Archives and New York State Library is possible if you join the NYG&B September 13 to 15—this year! In 2018 the research trip is scheduled for October 30–November 1, so if September is your preferred month, this is your year. 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.

Registration 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 Wednesday evening
- Reduced rates at the Albany Hilton

Registration

Register online at www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org or call 212-755-8532, ext. 211. The program fee is \$390 for members and \$455 for non-members. **Don't wait, this program usually sells out.**

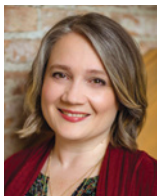
Accommodations

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.

DNA and Family History: A Seminar for Genealogists

October 27–28, 2017 | New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, New York, New York

Presented by Blaine Bettinger, PhD, JD and Angie Bush, MS



The NYG&B is proud to host “DNA and Family History: A Seminar for Genealogists,” featuring two of the world’s leading genetic genealogists, Blaine Bettinger and Angie Bush. Through the course of eight sessions, the seminar will cover the fundamentals of DNA testing for genealogists and quickly move to advanced tools for analysis, incorporating the DNA findings into your writing, and ethics and standards in DNA testing.

Registration—Visit the NYG&B website, www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org, or call 212-755-8532 x211.

Member registration	\$270
Non-member registration	\$295

Optional box lunch	\$26 / per box lunch, per day
Personal consultation	\$28 / per 15-minute session*

* A limited number of personal consultations will be offered to program participants (additional fee) on a first-come, first-served basis.

DNA Program Schedule

FRIDAY, 27 OCTOBER

Overview: Types of DNA Tests, Testing Companies, and Developing a DNA Testing Plan

Understanding Ethnicity, Admixture, and Haplogroups

Genetic Networks (DNA Circles, NADs, GWorks and other tools for pedigree analysis)

Third Party Tools

SATURDAY, 28 OCTOBER

Chromosome Mapping and Visual Phasing

The Genealogy Proof Standard and Writing

Ethics and Standards

The Future of Genetic Genealogy with a Rum-based Strawberry DNA Extraction

Personal Consultation sessions (15-minute sessions, additional fee) will be available both days. Schedule may be subject to change.



NYG&B New On-demand Programs

Integrating DNA with Family History

**Presented by Daniel Horowitz,
Chief Genealogist, MyHeritage**

MyHeritage has developed a new DNA Matching service that enables those who have been tested through different services to enjoy MyHeritage's exceptional matching capabilities for their family history research. For every DNA Match, MyHeritage displays the possible relationship between you and the other person, based on the quantity and characteristics of the DNA that you share with that person.

www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/video/integrating-dna-family-history

Genealogical Research at the New York Public Library

**Presented by Philip Sutton, Librarian, Milstein and
Map divisions, New York Public Library**

This webinar outlines the various ways you can use the New York Public Library's Stephen A. Schwarzman Building to research your family history:

- Basic information about the library
- Its genealogy collection (including online resources)
- How to access the various collections
- How to best prepare for a research trip to library
- A tour of the library's website, including how to use the research catalog and archive search engine

www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/video/genealogical-research-new-york-public-library

Digitization Days

**Thursday, September 28, 10:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m. | Wednesday, November 15, 10:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, New York, New York**

Help us digitize records to enhance our eLibrary. To register, see our website event calendar or call 212-755-8532 x206.

Repository Tours

For current tours, registration fees, and sign-up information, visit our events page on newyorkfamilyhistory.org to register, or call 212-755-8532 x211.

Conferences

Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS): Building Bridges to the Past

August 30–September 2 | Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Join us at the NYG&B booth and for the NYG&B-sponsored luncheon. Registration and conference details may be found at www.fgsconference.org.

RootsTech 2018

February 28–March 3 | Salt Lake City, Utah

Join us at the NYG&B booth. Registration and conference details may be found at www.rootstech.org.

See videos from the 2017 conference on the RootsTech website, including a panel discussion of unusual records with NYG&B President, D. Joshua Taylor at: www.rootstech.org/videos/rorey-joshua-rich.

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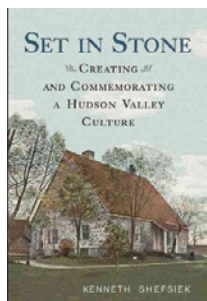
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Book Notes

Set In Stone: Creating and Commemorating a Hudson Valley Culture



By Kenneth Shefsiek

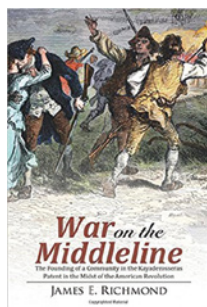
This scholarly book takes a fresh look at the Walloons who settled New Paltz in the late seventeenth century. The book opens with a critical review of twentieth-century research on this topic, which outlines the myths that have persisted about this community for decades. Family historians looking at New Paltz families will find this book essential. It

was not written as a genealogical resource, but the unusually detailed notes, the index, and the bibliography will be very useful. The text is highly detailed and densely written, which would not be a problem save for the typographical design which makes reading this book unnecessarily hard-going.

The author, who earned a PhD in history from the University of Georgia in 2010, is a professor of history at the University of North Carolina/Wilmington. From 2001 to 2003 he was curator of education at the Huguenot Historical Society in New Paltz.

State University of New York Press, Albany, 2017. Hardcover. 304 pages. Black and white photos and illustrations. Notes, bibliography, index. Both the print and Kindle editions are \$90 at www.sunypress.edu.

War on the Middleline: The Founding of a Community in the Kayaderosseras Patent in the Midst of the American Revolution



By James E. Richmond

The Kayaderosseras Patent, of about 400,000 acres, was granted in 1701. A settlement with the Mohawk Indians was concluded in 1761, and the first survey of the patent was completed in 1770. Most of the patent is in present day Saratoga County, with parts also in Montgomery, Schenectady, and Fulton counties. This book tells the story of the

area at the time of the Revolution. Researchers interested in this place and time should most certainly obtain this book, for detailed historical context. Family historians will be

interested in a table at the end listing the patent proprietors; a table of selected Ballston family members, with dates and places of birth and death and names of spouses, though without documentation; a list of settlers and their disposition after the 1780 Ballston raid, in which some were killed, some escaped, and others were taken to Canada; and the index of names and places. The author, who is retired, is a history enthusiast who lives in Ballston Spa.

Self published, Lulu Publishing Services, 2016. Available on Amazon.com or the author's website, jameserichmond.com. Black and white graphics. Notes, bibliography, index. Paperbound, 241 pages, \$18; Kindle version, \$8.

Nonstop Metropolis: A New York City Atlas



Edited by Rebecca Solnit and Joshua Jelly-Schapiro

This astounding publication belongs in every New York City lover's library. The third in a series of "atlases" by the editors, after volumes for San Francisco and New Orleans, the brilliant New York volume offers 26 maps with essays that tackle a range of subjects, which are historical, political, geographical, religious, literary, and just plain quirky. Many points of view,

occasionally inconsistent and irritating, often fascinating and delightful, are represented. The book is beautifully written and gorgeously designed. Funding for it came from a number of philanthropists and foundations, including the Samuel H. Kress Foundation. *The New York Times* provided an enthusiastic, critical review in December 9, 2016 which is available at NYTimes.com. This is not by any means an atlas in the traditional sense, nor is it a comprehensive source about anything in particular. It is certainly not a resource made for genealogists, but it will illuminate places and historical subjects in new and creative ways, and it will cause readers to see many things about New York City very differently.

Rebecca Solnit and Joshua Jelly-Shapiro are widely published writers. Ms. Solnit is an award-winning cartographer. Joshua Jelly-Shapiro is a geographer and author of *Island People: The Caribbean and the World*. More than two dozen others contributed text and graphics.

University of California Press, Oakland, 2016. 224 pages. Hardcover, \$50. Softcover, \$30 at ucpress.edu.

NYG&B

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New York City Municipal Archives: An Authorized Guide for Family Historians

By Aaron Goodwin

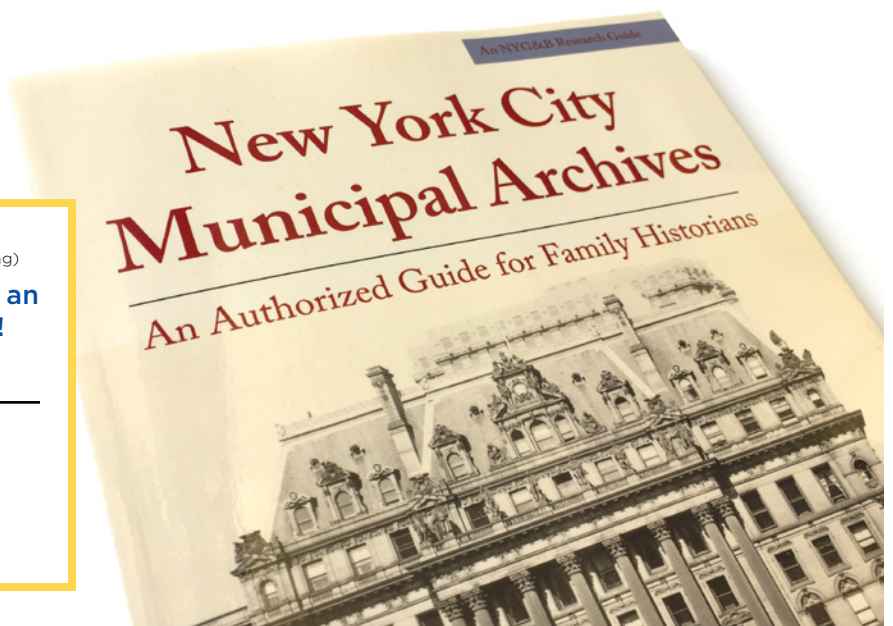
Harry Macy Jr., Consulting Editor
August 2016. Softcover, 7"x10". 245 pages.

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ebook version for an additional \$10!**

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