

# NEW YORK Researcher

NEW YORK GENEALOGICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY | VOLUME 29, NUMBER 3 | FALL 2018

## New York Land Records Project PAGE 56







**NYG&B**

# NYG&B Fall Benefit Luncheon Featuring Russell Shorto

Please join us for this annual event supporting  
the mission of the NYG&B

Friday, October 26, 2018, 12:30pm

Down Town Association, 60 Pine Street, New York, New York

Russell Shorto's work has been praised as "first-rate intellectual history" (*Wall Street Journal*), "literary alchemy" (*Chicago Tribune*) and simply "astonishing" (*New York Times*). Please join us as he discusses his newest book *Revolution Song* and the ever-popular *Island at the Center of the World*. He will also discuss how he has become more interested in his own family history recently, the similarities and differences between writing history and family history, and the unique challenges of the latter.

Purchase *Island at the Center of the World* and pre-order *Revolution Song* now through our online store or call the number below. (Don't forget, members get a 10% discount.) Mr. Shorto will be signing books at the conclusion of the luncheon.

Tickets are available at [nygbs.org/fall-benefit](http://nygbs.org/fall-benefit) or you can call 212-755-8532 x208. Single tickets, as well as tables, can be purchased.

Banner Image: *Washington Crossing the Delaware* (1851) by Emanuel Leutze (1816-1868); Metropolitan Museum of Art (Artifact ID DP215410; <https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/11417>)





Photo credit: Andrea Watson, sailingpress.com

**FROM THE PRESIDENT**

**Dear Friends,**

It was terrific to see so many of you at this year’s New York State Family History Conference. The conference was truly a memorable experience, enriched by its attendees, sponsors, speakers, exhibitors, and volunteers. If you were unable to attend, I hope you will consider joining us in 2020 as the conference comes to Albany for the first time. With the New York State Archives and New York State Library just blocks away from NYSFHC 2020, I have no doubts there will be quite a few discoveries made during the event!

A few weeks ago the NYG&B announced the New York Lands Records Project—one of the most ambitious undertakings in our organization’s history. In coordination with FamilySearch, volunteers from across the world will collectively work to index millions of land records from across the state of New York. We look forward to working with societies throughout New York—and their members—over the next several years as we make these important records more accessible for researching the stories of New York families.

We’ve also announced exciting news that the NYG&B has begun work on a new, updated eLibrary experience. Harnessing recent advancements in technology, we look forward to hosting the new eLibrary once again on our website, [newyorkfamilyhistory.org](http://newyorkfamilyhistory.org). This major initiative will command much of our attention in the coming months, and we look forward to launching the new eLibrary sometime in 2019.

Our new eLibrary is just one of the exciting activities planned for 2019—our 150th Anniversary year. Mark your calendars now to attend our anniversary celebration

events, explore the rich history of The Netherlands and Amsterdam on our heritage tour, and join us on our research tours in New York City and Albany. See page 63 and visit our blog and website for additional details on other upcoming activities in conjunction with our 150th.

I am also extremely grateful to our Board of Trustees, who have generously agreed to participate in a Board Challenge this year. From now until the end of the year, new and increased gifts to the NYG&B will be matched by members of the Board of Trustees. These funds enable us to continue work on the new eLibrary, expand your membership benefits, and preserve and digitize more New York records. Thank you for your support.

Until next time,



**D. JOSHUA TAYLOR**

**NEW YORK RESEARCHER | VOLUME 29, NUMBER 3 | FALL 2018**

Susan R. Miller, Editor

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# About the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society

Since 1869, the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society (NYG&B) has been preserving, documenting, and sharing 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 and foster 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 and benefits may be found on our website, [newyorkfamilyhistory.org](http://newyorkfamilyhistory.org).

## CONTACT

New York Genealogical  
and Biographical Society  
36 West 44th Street, 7th Floor  
New York, NY 10036-8105  
212-755-8532  
[newyorkfamilyhistory.org](http://newyorkfamilyhistory.org)

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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*.

See [newyorkfamilyhistory.org](http://newyorkfamilyhistory.org), email [education@nygbs.org](mailto:education@nygbs.org), or call 212-755-8532, ext. 211.

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## ON THE COVER

"A Map of the lands of the late Johannis Trumpbour deceased, circa 1789." A copy of map of the lands owned by the late Johannis Trumpbour as divided amongst his children. The original map was made by John Cox and notes were added by William Cockburn Junior. Lots were east and west of Saw Kill in the Catskill Mountains. Roads and buildings are included on map. Scale [1:7 920]. New York State Library, New York State Archives Digital Collections, NYSL\_SC7004\_B9\_F20 ([http://digitalcollections.archives.nysed.gov/index.php/Detail/Object/Show/object\\_id/18243](http://digitalcollections.archives.nysed.gov/index.php/Detail/Object/Show/object_id/18243))

shall come Peter  
 Llyn in Kings County  
 native off a certaine  
Woorman off  
 inted allivate suffoud  
 low lying and stand-  
 ing the uttermost part  
 ide off the graves hill  
 as the vaine is  
 inclosed with a small  
 sen Vroom and  
 and assigns do  
 all island unto  
 and assigns  
 d Catharina gives  
 tiffe as he said  
 Husina the vaine

160

To All Christian People to whom this present shall come, Mary  
Largilliere relict off Jacob Largilliere deceased and Clas Largilliere here  
 and administratoe off said Jacob Largilliere deceased his estate, Sendeth Greeting  
 Whereas there are two lotts in ye New Lotts in Kings County uppon Long Island  
 uppon ye third hill being N<sup>o</sup> 13 and sit to ye east side ye land off Jacob  
Withusen Van Boorem and to the west side Peter Lotts greates exact thirty acres  
 according to the general patent, transported by Theodoros Pochemius to Largilliere  
 ye 4<sup>th</sup> March 16<sup>79</sup>, Then one lott salt meadow in Flatbush Patent having to  
 ye South side Gerrit Struyker and to the west side Stoffel Probasco lotts transported  
 by Lourens de Lean to ye said Largilliere and two lotts fresh and two ditto salt  
 meadow in Brouckland Patent lying att the Sea side adjoying Paulus Dickson  
 meadow and westerly Theunis Jansen touching ye gree wood greates as all ye lotts  
 161 that transported to ye same. by Pierre Salmoniere 31 May 1684 which premises  
 were formerly sold by ye said Jacob Largilliere deceased. Know See that offer  
 and in consideration off a valuable sum off money to us in hand paid by  
Gerrit Gerritse Doerland. where with wee are and acknowledge our selves  
 to be fully contented satisfied and had have assented transported and confirmed

# Land Records: A Critical Element of New York Genealogy

**Editor's Note:** We could publish a book on New York's land records, and that may happen in the future. For this issue, we touch on the highlights.

New York has a plethora of records for genealogical research that are often left untapped. While information gleaned from a birth, death, or marriage record can provide important data within a single document, genealogists know that other records are essential to any research project. New York's rich land records provide a resource that should be examined whenever possible. By tracing land, evidence may be accumulated that can lead to a conclusion. For example, a recent *NYG&B Record* article "Isaac Reynolds (1773–1850) of Bedford, Westchester County, New York" made full use of deeds and other land records as foundations to the proof.<sup>1</sup>

Some land records contain evidence of kinship, others do not. When land is transferred for a nominal amount, e.g. one dollar, it can indicate a familial relationship. While one or two land records alone may not establish kinship, when used in conjunction with additional evidence, they can be the proof's lynchpin.

In all land research, establishing who had jurisdiction at the time in question is critical to success. Because New York

State was settled over the course of several centuries and under several different regimes, patterns of land ownership and recordkeeping practices varied widely, depending on the time and geographic area in question. An understanding of the county creation is also needed for early deeds, especially of parent county/counties. Deeds executed prior to a county's creation may be found in the records of the parent county. The Land Records and Maps



chapter in the *New York Family History Research Guide and Gazetteer* (NYFHRGG) provides an historical overview, information on accessing records, and selected references and is a must-read for serious researchers. The county guides within NYFHRGG (also available individually) detail county formation and where land records may be found.

## Types of Land Records

Various records related to land are useful for genealogical research, including:

- Deeds (conveyances)
- Mortgages (which may be recorded even if the underlying deed is not)
- Patents and grants from governments (including bounty land grants)
- Maps, surveys, gazetteers, and other ancillary documents
- Land company papers
- Land owner's business records, agent records, rent rolls, leases
- Tax assessments and rolls

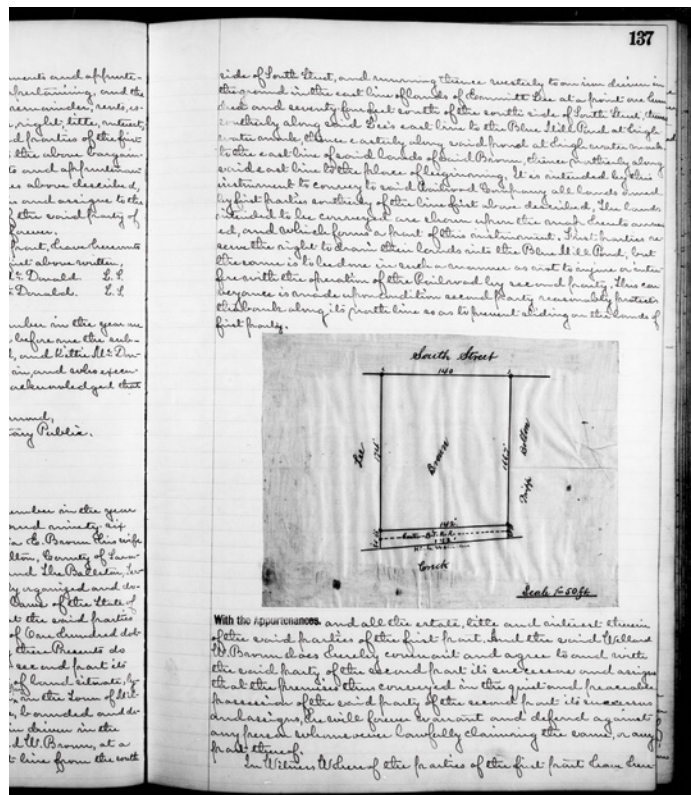
In addition to the above land record types, information about people and land can be found in court records

involving disputes, land confiscations, estates, and many other documents. Many of these records can also reveal those without land ownership, as can witnesses to transactions. Careful reading of documents for neighbors and the community may uncover those names.

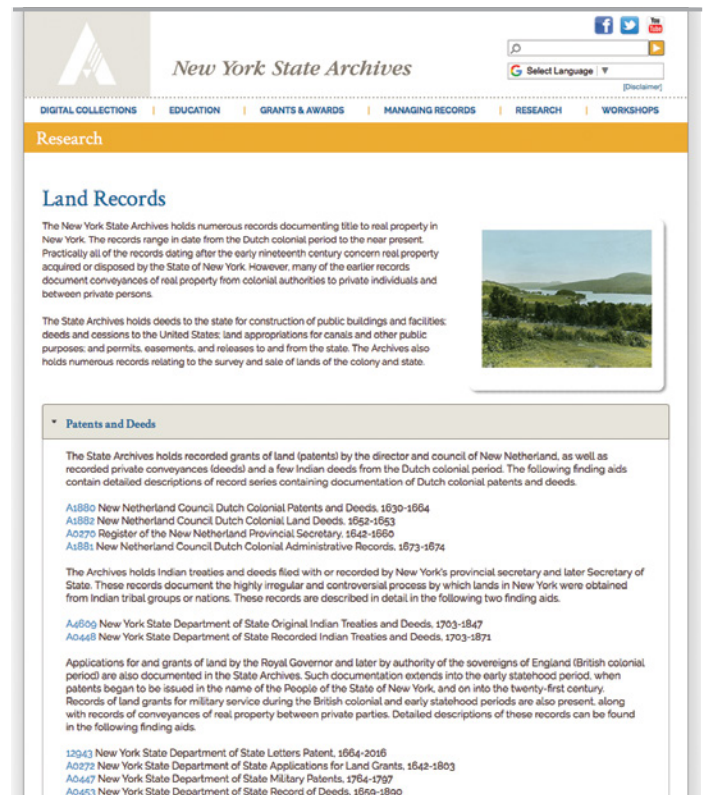
## Recording of Deeds

An 1830 statute mandated that specific information about all deeds be recorded by the county clerks, and in the newer counties of central and western New York, recording was required as early as the 1790s. Despite these laws there are deeds that do not appear in the county books, and some deeds were not recorded close to the time of the transaction. For example, transactions within a family might not be recorded until the land passed out of the family.

Some counties (Suffolk, for example) have unrecorded deeds given to the county clerk but never formally recorded. They might be bound into volumes or left as loose papers. Such deeds may also be found in the collections of libraries, archives, historical societies, and town historians. Remember that once a deed was recorded by a clerk, it was usually returned to the individual who brought it in. Therefore, some private copies of deeds exist in other places and can be accessible for research.



Detail of an indenture between Willard W. and Henrietta E. Brown and the Ballston Terminal Railroad Company for land in Ballston Spa, NY. Included in the deed book transcription is a pasted-in sketch of the parcel of land and neighboring plots. (FamilySearch, *New York Land Records, 1630–1975*, Saratoga, Deeds 1896–1897, vol 213–214, Image 83; <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-89WC-XVQZ?cc=2078654&w=M7C3-Z27%3A358460001%2C359282401>)



The New York State Archives provides a comprehensive overview on its website ([archives.nysed.gov/research/land-records-guide](https://archives.nysed.gov/research/land-records-guide)) of the types of land records in the collections. Records held by the Archives include those from the Dutch period onwards, including patents and deeds, through to near present day. Nearly all the records after the early 1800s pertain to transactions with the State of New York, with land acquired and disposed of for canals, highways, parks, public buildings, and other uses.

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## Locating Online Land Records

County clerks recorded deeds and mortgages and hold those records unless transferred to a county archive, records management center or elsewhere. Sixty of New York's 62 counties<sup>2</sup> allowed the Genealogical Society of Utah (precursor of FamilySearch) to microfilm many records. Those microfilms have been digitized and form the collection New York Land Records 1630–1975 (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/2078654>). This browsable collection has clerks' indexes created for local use. Current best-practice is to look for index books within the county collection or check for an index within the target volume.

No database index exists, *yet*. Please see the article on the following page about a new project to make these records more accessible.

Once a name is located in clerk's index, images of the volume can be accessed and searched for the documents. However, only some names are included in indexes. Remember that deeds can be recorded at a point in time after the actual transaction took place, so indexes should be thoroughly searched across wide timeframes.

Even with the enormous number of online images, not all documents from the counties were microfilmed and therefore digitized. More documents could be located at the county or local level. A research trip could be in order.

---

## Colonial and State Land Records

The major land records of both the colonial and state governments—patents, deeds, and land grant applications—can be found in the New York State Archives (NYSA) in Albany. See the NYSA website page Land Records | New York State Archives for a research guide, [archives.nysed.gov/research/land-records-guide](https://archives.nysed.gov/research/land-records-guide). This guide discusses record series by the type of transaction.

The New Netherland Institute (NNI) continues to transcribe and translate colony documents and publish them on their website. See Folts and Grey's "Dutch Records at the New York State Archives and the Current Digitization Project" and the NNI website, [newnetherlandinstitute.org](https://newnetherlandinstitute.org).

Many other original record and published sources for colonial and early state research are detailed in NYFHRGG, chapter 7.

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## Many More Land Records

This article has only scratched the surface for land research. For more information on land company papers, land confiscations, manors, and other topics, please see the *New York Family History Research Guide and Gazetteer*.

---

## Selected Bibliography and Further Reading

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**TIP:** While land record indexes offer an initial gateway for research, additional research is often required. Witnesses, for example, were not included in index entries. Therefore, a research plan may include searches for family, neighbors, and associates. Or it may be worth the time to browse the pages individually.

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## Endnotes

- 1 Wiener, Barbara Reynolds, and Frederick C. Hart, Jr., CG, FASG, FGBS, "Isaac Reynolds (1773–1850) of Bedford, Westchester County, New York," *The NYG&B Record*, vo. 149, no. 2 (April 2018): 85–99, no. 3 (July 2018): 190–208.
- 2 The two counties not microfilmed are Queens and Nassau. See [familysearch.org/search/collection/2078654](https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/2078654) for images from the 60 counties for various years.



# Introducing the New York Land Records Project

In September the NYG&B announced the **New York Land Records Project**, an initiative to make millions of New York's land records more accessible to researchers. Working with **FamilySearch**, the NYG&B will partner with volunteers and members of genealogical and historical societies throughout New York to complete this important project over the next several years. Once completed, indexes for individual counties will be available at [newyorkfamilyhistory.org](http://newyorkfamilyhistory.org) and elsewhere.

The screenshot shows the NYG&B website with a navigation bar (Home, About, Collections & Research, Tools & Resources, Events, Get Involved, Store, Join) and a search bar. The main content area features a large blue banner with the text "New York Land Records Project" and a "GET INVOLVED" button. Below the banner, there is a text block on the left and a yellow callout box on the right. At the bottom, there is a sign-up form for more information, a "SUBSCRIBE" button, and a blue banner with the text "Sign-up to receive notifications when projects go online!".

**NYG&B** NEW YORK GENEALOGICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

Members Click Here to Log In Search

Home About Collections & Research Tools & Resources Events Get Involved Store Join

## New York Land Records Project

Join this exciting initiative to index millions of land records from across the state of New York.

[GET INVOLVED](#)

FamilySearch has digitized millions of original pages from counties across the state of New York.

The majority of these records include deeds and mortgages from various county offices covering a wide range of dates, none of which have been digitally indexed before.

This crowd-sourced project will enable anyone with an interest in preserving the records of New York to **take part in the largest volunteer effort to index New York's state records to date.**

### The New York Land Records Project

Working with FamilySearch, the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society has partnered with volunteers and members of genealogical and historical societies throughout New York to complete this important project.

Once completed, indexes for individual counties will be available at [newyorkfamilyhistory.org](http://newyorkfamilyhistory.org) and elsewhere.

### How you can help

Millions of names are waiting to be indexed as part of this project, and the NYG&B needs your help!

Volunteers from across the country can participate in this exciting project using FamilySearch's indexing web-based indexing tool. Indexers will capture the name and date of recorded transactions and other information to allow for the eventual linkage of these records with original materials. Enter your email below to receive an alert when the project is officially open for indexing:

**Sign up for more information: We'll let you know as soon as you can start indexing**

Email Address

[SUBSCRIBE](#)

**Sign-up to receive notifications when projects go online!**



## The Project

FamilySearch has digitized millions of original pages from counties across the state of New York. The majority of these collections include deeds and mortgages from various county offices covering a wide range of dates, none of which have been digitally indexed before. This crowd-sourced project will enable anyone with an interest in preserving New York records to take part.

It will be the largest volunteer effort to index New York's state records to date. Volunteers from across the country (and around the world) can participate in this exciting project using FamilySearch's indexing web-based indexing tool. Indexers will capture the name and date of recorded transactions and other information to allow for the eventual linkage of these records with original images.

Land records from 60 New York counties are included and have been divided into 15 regions:

### Adirondacks

Hamilton  
Herkimer  
Lewis  
Saratoga  
Warren  
Washington

### Capital

Albany  
Columbia  
Greene  
Montgomery  
Rensselaer  
Schenectady

### Catskills

Delaware  
Otsego  
Sullivan

### Central

Chenango  
Cortland  
Fulton  
Madison  
Oneida  
Onondaga  
Oswego  
Schoharie

### Erie County

Erie

### Finger Lakes

Cayuga  
Livingston  
Ontario  
Schuyler  
Seneca  
Tompkins  
Wayne  
Yates

### Hudson

Dutchess  
Orange  
Putnam  
Rockland  
Ulster

### Monroe County

Monroe

### North County

Clinton  
Essex  
Franklin  
Jefferson  
St. Lawrence

### New York City—1

Bronx  
New York

### New York City—2

Kings  
Richmond

### Southern Tier

Broome  
Chemung  
Steuben  
Tioga

### Suffolk County

Suffolk

### Westchester County

Westchester

### Western

Allegany  
Cattaraugus  
Chautauqua  
Genesee  
Niagara  
Orleans  
Wyoming



## We Need Your Help!

Millions of names are waiting to be indexed as part of this project, and the NYG&B needs your help!

It is known that indexes created by individuals with a vested interest in the community and families they portray are often more accurate and detailed.

To learn more about how you can participate in the project visit [newyorkfamilyhistory.org/land](http://newyorkfamilyhistory.org/land), email [indexing@nygbs.org](mailto:indexing@nygbs.org), or call **212-755-8532**.

Once You Receive Your Link, Indexing is as Easy as 1-2-3...

# Getting Started with the New York Land Records Project is as Easy as 1-2-3

**1** Start from the project website [newyorkfamilyhistory.org/land](http://newyorkfamilyhistory.org/land), and select the part of the project you would like to work on. (If no links are active, please sign up with your email so we can send you an email when a new section goes “live.”) The link will take you through to the FamilySearch website, where you will need to log-in (free account) to work on the project.

**2** Once you receive the project link from the NYG&B or select a project from the project website ([newyorkfamilyhistory.org/land](http://newyorkfamilyhistory.org/land)), click on the link and sign-into your free FamilySearch account.

When logged into the indexing dashboard, an “indexing” icon will appear in the upper-right of the screen.

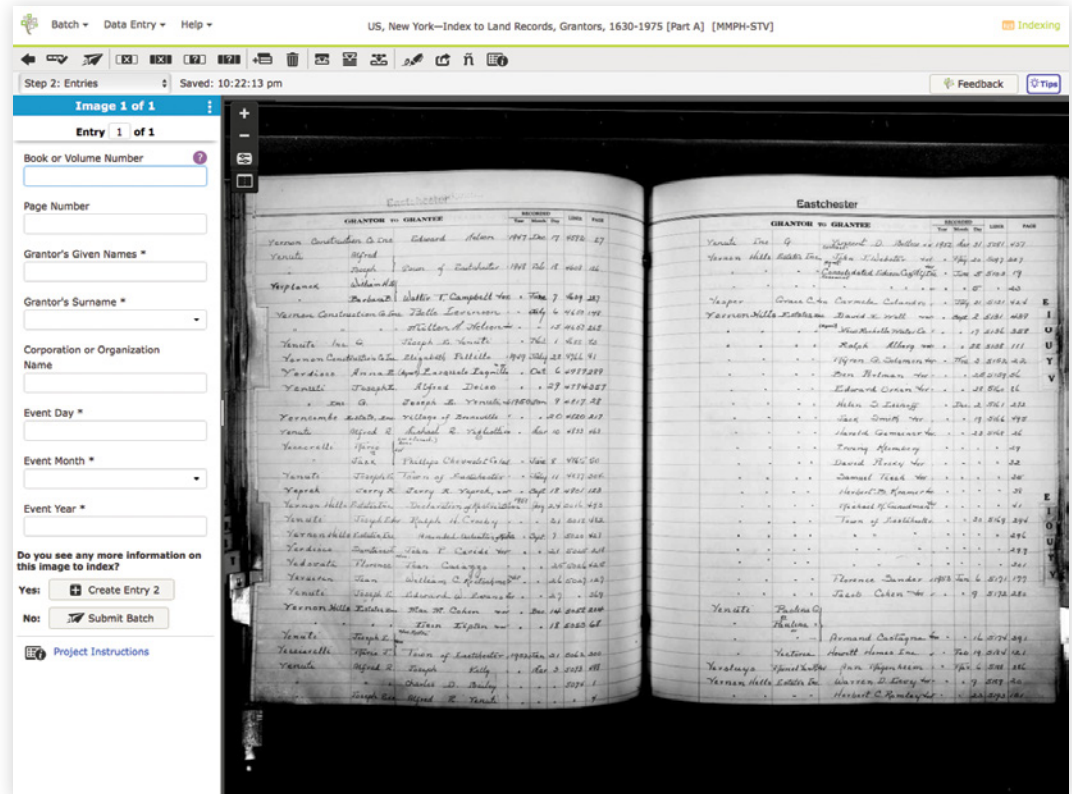
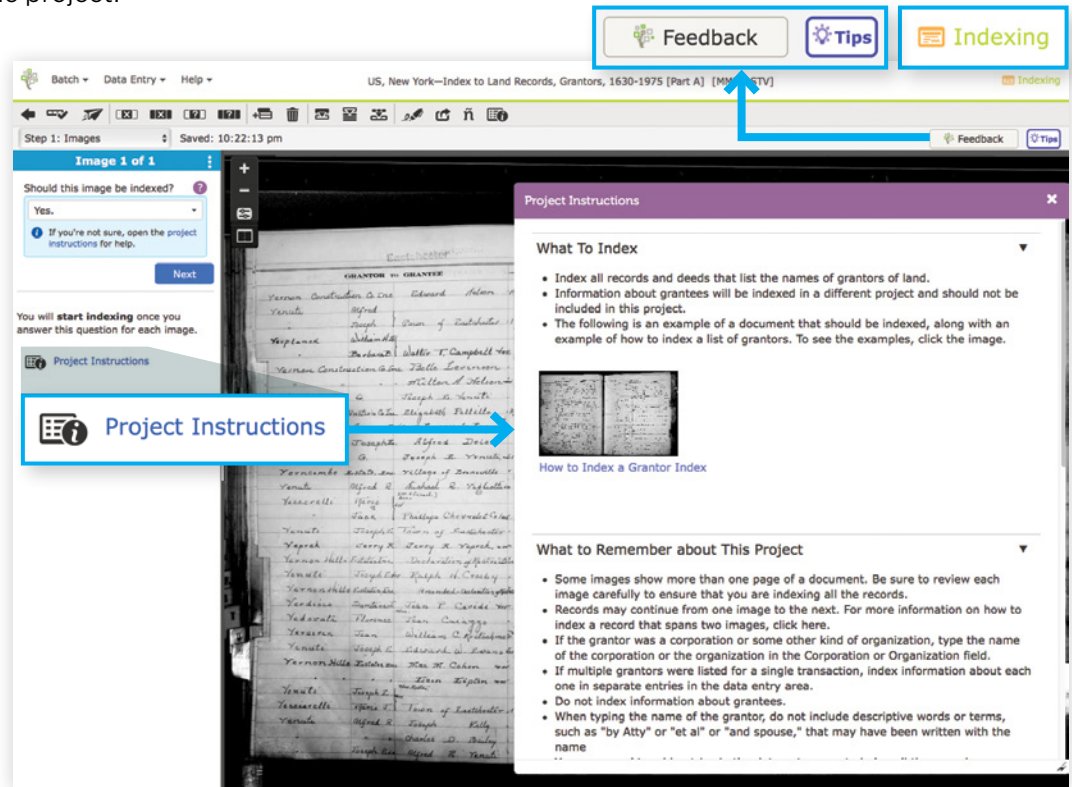
A welcome screen will introduce you to the project and provide key tips. Tips and instructions are also available in the left and top navigation bars.

**3** Using the fields provided, begin typing the information you see, with each line of information a separate entry.

The toolbar at the top of the image will give you options for viewing the page and making edits to the entry.

Once all lines on the page or pages have been entered, click on “Submit Batch” to complete the page. Note that some images contain two pages of data in the same image.

If you have questions, reach out to the NYG&B via email at [indexing@nygbs.org](mailto:indexing@nygbs.org), or call 212-755-8532.





# An Epitaph for Private Seth Grosvenor Cotton, War of 1812

By Stephan P. Clarke

Seth Cotton was a private who served with U. S. forces during the 1814 invasion from Fort Erie north to Fort George on Canada's Niagara Peninsula in Upper Canada, now Ontario. He was captured and sent to Quebec where he was imprisoned in a hulk anchored in the St. Lawrence River. He died there of dysentery and was buried in an unmarked mass grave in the cemetery of Quebec's protestant cathedral. Until the U.S.-Canadian bicentennial of the War of 1812 was observed, no one knew what happened to Seth after he left his family to serve his country at age twenty.

Laverne Cooley's genealogy of the Cotton family contained only Seth's date of birth and the notation that he went off to the War and was never heard of again.<sup>1</sup> Even his place of birth is open to discussion. Online sources are often equally incomplete. Given Seth's sacrifice for his country, it seemed appropriate to find out if possible what happened to him and to honor his memory. A veteran deserves a memorial.

To deal with this sort of situation it is always a sound practice to check all available and relevant reference publications for possible leads. The bicentennial of the War of 1812 brought to light many new and valuable research aids, but Eric Johnson's compilation of *American Prisoners of War Held in Montreal and Quebec During the War of 1812* proved especially helpful to fill the void of data in New York from the late-eighteenth to the middle-nineteenth century.<sup>2</sup> Seth Cotton's name appeared quickly.

As noted, Seth was in Cooley's genealogy, but that established only his birth and disappearance. His birth data are listed in the *Massachusetts Vital Records for Windsor,*

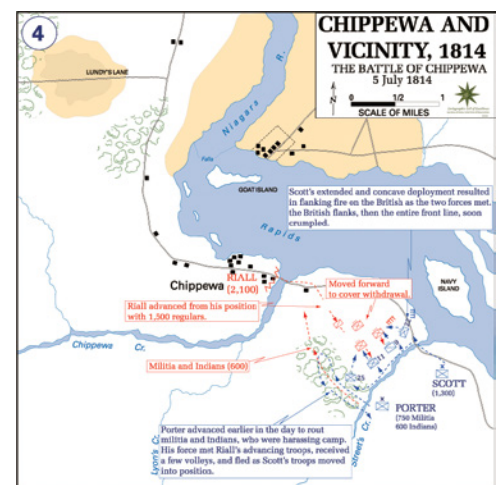
*Berkshire County, Massachusetts*<sup>3</sup>, but are listed elsewhere as Pomfret, Windham County, Connecticut where Cooley also places them.<sup>4</sup> Ross Cotton, lineage specialist and DNA coordinator for the Cotton surname worldwide, was equally vague about Seth's circumstances.<sup>5</sup> It is frustrating to see such open-ended entries in a genealogy, and many veterans find it upsetting to learn of a soldier who served honorably and suffered as a prisoner-of-war being forgotten in an unknown grave.

Johnson's book and an email exchange provided the information needed to solve the problem of Seth's disappearance. Johnson cites British records claiming Cotton was captured by British forces near St. Davids (there is no apostrophe) on the Niagara Peninsula during the U.S. invasion that began on 3 July 1814.<sup>6</sup> At that time U.S. regular troops, militia and Indians landed in Canada north of Fort Erie and overwhelmed a small group of British troops there to begin their advance on Chippawa.<sup>7</sup> (Chippawa is also spelled Chippewa.)

A View of the British Fleet Anchored at Quebec looking from Wolfe's Cove toward Cape Diamond, ca. June 1814, by Captain H. T. Davies, *H.M.S. Prince Regent*. The Citadelle of Quebec is seen atop the center bluff. (Archives and Library of Canada, R13852-3-5-E.)



Matthew Seelinger, Chief Historian, National Museum of the United States Army. "The Battle of Chippewa, 5 July 1814." Online. Available: <https://armyhistory.org/the-battle-of-chippewa-5-july-1814/>. Accessed April 8, 2018.



The Battle of Chippawa began on 5 July when some 2,650 U.S. regulars, militia and Indians engaged a similarly constituted British force of about 2,100 in a fight that lasted about half an hour, possibly the bloodiest 30 minutes of the War. British casualties totaled 415 men killed, wounded, captured or missing. U.S. casualties totaled 323.<sup>8</sup> The battle is notable because untested American forces defeated seasoned British troops of His Majesty's Army.

The British retreated toward Fort George at the mouth of the Niagara River, across the river from Fort Niagara in New York, with the Americans following them. Bilow's listing of the War's dead offers that Seth was captured on 15 July 1814 when U. S. forces were maneuvering throughout the area from Niagara Falls north to modern Niagara-on-the-Lake on the southern shore of Lake Ontario along the Niagara River.<sup>9</sup> It is assumed that Seth was somehow separated from his unit and captured trying to rejoin them. St. Davids (adjacent to a modern golf course) is on Queenston Heights opposite Lewiston in the U. S.<sup>10</sup>

It is unknown what unit Cotton was assigned to, but given the units involved in the campaign it seems likely he was assigned to either the 9th or 21st Massachusetts Infantry Regiments or the 23rd Infantry Regiment from New York. Units from Vermont, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Kentucky and Ohio filled out the New York division to establish a full complement of troops.<sup>11 12</sup>

Johnson's study of American prisoners-of-war cites the British records reporting Cotton's capture and captivity with the following entry: "Cotton, Seth Prisoner: 441 – Rank: Private – Source: Account of American prisoners of war who died at Quebec between 14 February 1814 and 23 December 1814 – Ship or Corps: Land forces – Vessel Taken: on shore – Place born: Massachusetts – Age: 20 – Where taken: St. David (*sic.*) – Date of death: 2 Sep 1814 – Disorder or casualty – Dysentery."<sup>13</sup>

It is often necessary to draw on special sources for the information needed to complete a project, in this case Canadian records. A request for guidance in Canadian

An Account of American Prisoners of War who have Died at Quebec, between the 14<sup>th</sup> of Feb<sup>r</sup> and the 23<sup>rd</sup> of December 1814. — 620

Serial Number	Number in the original list of Prisoners of War	Prisoners Names	Quality	Name of Prize	Man of War Prisoner or Merchant Vessel	When & Where taken	Place of Nativity	Time of Death	Disorder or Casualty
1	68	Joshua P. Lamb	✓ Corp <sup>t</sup>	Land force	taken here	19 <sup>th</sup> 29 <sup>th</sup> May Stony point	Byford Mass	23 14 Feb <sup>r</sup>	Dysentery
2	693	Rehob Hazard	Private	Do	Do	26 <sup>th</sup> June Beaver Dams	Phocet Island	24 25 <sup>th</sup> Do	Cataract from shot wound in the Head
3	1188	Thos <sup>t</sup> Libby	✓ Do	Do	Do	19 <sup>th</sup> Dec <sup>r</sup> Fort Niagara	Vermont	21 5 <sup>th</sup> March	Phtisis
4	1229	William Colwell	✓ Do	Do	Do	6 <sup>th</sup> June Stony point	Pennsylvania	21 22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec <sup>r</sup>	Pneumonia
5	381	Russel Welch	✓ Do	Do	Do	25 <sup>th</sup> Aug <sup>t</sup> Fort George	con	23 28 <sup>th</sup> Do	Phtisis
6	1082	Horace Hall	✓ Do	Do	Do	6 <sup>th</sup> June Stony point	Brookfield	26 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Debility
7	366	Amasa Lacey	✓ Do	Do	Do	19 <sup>th</sup> Dec <sup>r</sup> Fort Niagara	Vermont	24 25 <sup>th</sup> Do	Pneumonia
8	1245	John Burland	✓ Do	Do	Do	Do	Do	19 21 <sup>st</sup> Do	gun shot wound
9	1222	Sam <sup>l</sup> Bascom	✓ Do	Do	Do	Do	Do	19 21 <sup>st</sup> Do	gun shot wound
10	1194	Sam <sup>l</sup> Smith	✓ Do	Do	Do	Do	Do	14 28 <sup>th</sup> Do	Hæmoptysis
11	13	Plitha Goodnow	✓ Do	Do	Do	23 <sup>rd</sup> May Stony point	Sudbury Mass	27 13 <sup>th</sup> May	Debility
12	1315	Erastus Young	✓ Do	Do	Do	14 <sup>th</sup> Dec <sup>r</sup> Fort Niagara	Vermont	23 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Anasarca
13	1320	Chas <sup>s</sup> Penning	✓ Do	Do	Do	Do	Pennsylvania	26 5 <sup>th</sup> Do	Acetes
14	1491	Seth Cotton	✓ Do	Do	Do	15 <sup>th</sup> July 1814 St. Davids	Mass	20 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sept <sup>r</sup>	Dysentery
15	1935	Willm <sup>o</sup> Sudd	✓ Do	Do	Do	17 <sup>th</sup> Sept <sup>r</sup> 1814 Fort Erie	Vermont	20 7 <sup>th</sup> Nov <sup>r</sup>	Do
16	1934	Sam <sup>l</sup> Potter	✓ Do	Do	Do	Do	Do	16 7 <sup>th</sup> Dec <sup>r</sup>	Phtisis
17	1974	Isaac Coomb	✓ Do	Do	Do	23 <sup>rd</sup> Sept <sup>r</sup> 1814 Fort Erie	New Hampshire	20 22 <sup>nd</sup> Do	Erythras Nelson
18	1832	Sam <sup>l</sup> W. Squire	✓ Do	Do	Do	17 <sup>th</sup> Oct <sup>r</sup> Do	con	62 23 <sup>rd</sup> 54	Dysentery

For names Rempt Caplsen acting agent for Prisoners of War

"An Account of American Prisoners of War who have Died at Quebec," showing the entry for Seth Cotton (yellow underline). Navy Board and predecessors: Prisoner of War Department and predecessors: Registers of Prisoners of War. ADM 103/167-171, 173, 246, 248, 465, 571, 625. Records of Medical and Prisoner of War Departments. Records of the Admiralty, Naval Forces, Royal Marines, Coastguard, and related bodies. The National Archives, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, England; Ancestry.com. Canada, Registers of Prisoners of War. 1803-1815 [database on-line]. <https://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=3299>



research was sent to Ms. Guylain Petrin, a librarian and genealogist in Toronto, who does extensive research in the history of Upper Canada (Ontario).<sup>14</sup> About 45 minutes after the request was e-mailed, her reply provided all the hoped for details with citations and photographic verification. Even knowing where to ask relevant questions would not have been possible without the outburst of research brought on by the War's bicentennial observances.



St. Matthew's Chapel and cemetery circa 1860 (Ministry of Culture and Communications). The chapel was enlarged several times and completely replaced by the current structure, now a library, in the 1870s. The oldest gravestone in the cemetery dates to 1772 and the grounds were home to some of the earliest Protestant burials ([bit.ly/NYGB-St-Matthews](http://bit.ly/NYGB-St-Matthews)).

The data explained that the Anglican Cathedral of Quebec has a burial record for Seth as written by the British Chaplain at the time: "Cotton Buried} Seth George Cotton, a native of York County in the United States, prisoner of war, aged twenty years, died September the second and was buried September the third, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fourteen By Joseph Langley Mills, Chaplain to H.M. Forces."<sup>15</sup> Chaplain Mills was later rector of the Anglican Cathedral in Quebec City. The details are in the records of the Quebec City Clerk.<sup>16</sup>

It is probable that Seth contracted dysentery while incarcerated aboard one of the prison hulks anchored in Quebec harbor. Conditions aboard such vessels were notoriously overcrowded and disgusting, and very few assigned to them survived. Ms. Petrin added that St. Matthew's Protestant Cathedral Cemetery is large with few gravestones, so there is no hope of finding a specific grave or even of finding the mass grave where Seth was buried, but at last it was determined when and where he died, and approximately where his remains were interred.<sup>17</sup>

However, two assumptions apply: 1) That the chaplain had just a middle initial for Seth and guessed George, reasonably enough for an English officer in King George's Army, when, in fact, Seth's middle name is Grosvenor, his mother's maiden name, and 2) That York County refers to New York State as there is no York county in the western New England or New York where Seth and his family lived, and it is unlikely that the Rev.

Mr. Mills knew about or was concerned with such geopolitical distinctions. It is sad to note that even though Seth's family later settled in Buffalo, not far from where he was captured, none of them ever knew what happened to him and that neither Seth nor any of his siblings is known to have married or had children.<sup>18</sup>

While Seth's story is a terminal point, it was bothersome that this young man could serve his country, face the privations of a prisoner of war and give his life for his country, yet never earn any recognition for that sacrifice. To provide a kind of memorial for Seth Grosvenor Cotton was the motivation for this article. May he now rest in peace among the known.



**Stephan P. Clarke** served as a Naval Reserve officer, is a retired high school English teacher and the author of several books including five genealogies. He is a member of the NYG&B Society, the Rochester Genealogical Society and several lineage societies including the Order of First Families of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, the Sons of the American Revolution, and The General Society of the War of 1812. Steve's wife and daughter are members of the Daughters of the American Revolution and The General Society of Mayflower Descendants.

## Endnotes

- 1 LaVerne C. Cooley, *A Cotton Genealogy*, Batavia, New York: Privately printed, 1945, 50. This work was subsequently updated, but no change was made for Seth Cotton.
- 2 Eric Eugene Johnson, Translator and transcriber. *American Prisoners of War Held in Montreal and Quebec During the War of 1812*, Berwyn Heights, Maryland: Heritage Books, 2015, 114. LaVerne C. Cooley, *A Cotton Genealogy*, 50.
- 3 Seth Grosvenor Cotton, birth record, 20 Mar 1794, *Massachusetts, Town and Vital Records, 1620-1988*. Windsor Vital Records, 1778-1908, 26, [Ancestry.com](http://Ancestry.com) [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011. Accessed April 8, 2018.
- 4 Cooley, 50
- 5 Ross Cotton, Guild of One Name Specialists / Cotton; Coordinator, Cotton DNA Project Worldwide, e-mail to the author, 4 April 2015.
- 6 Johnson, e-mails to the author, 7-8 April 2015. Johnson provided details about Cotton's capture and incarceration with copies of An Account of American Prisoners of War Who Have Died at Quebec Between the 14th of Feb'y and the 23rd of December 1842, London: The Public Record Office; and "Crumbs of Canadian History," *Quebec Weekly Chronicle*, 18 July 1889, Vol. 42, No. 3,656; online; available: <https://quebeccityshistory.wordpress.com/tag/war-of-1812>.
- 7 Matthew Seelinger, Chief Historian, National Museum of the United States Army. "The Battle of Chippewa, 5 July 1814." Online. Available: <https://armyhistory.org/the-battle-of-chippewa-5-july-1814/>. Accessed April 8, 2018.  
Map of the Niagara Frontier—1814-1814." Online. Available:

- 8 Seelinger.
- 9 Jack Bilow, *A War of 1812 Death Register* (Plattsburgh, NY: Privately printed by the compiler, 2011), 353
- 10 "Saint Davids, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, Canada." Online. Available: <https://www.google.com/maps/place/St.+Davids,+Niagara-on-the-Lake,+ON,+Canada/@43.1564831-79.1139838,15z/data=!3m1!4m5!3m4!1s0x89d-35b0974a4d7a1:0x4860bac96b4b135b!8m2!3d43.1603239!4d-79.1040432>.
- 11 Seelinger.
- 12 "United States War of 1812 Infantry Units." Online. Available: [https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United\\_States\\_War\\_of\\_1812\\_Infantry\\_Units](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United_States_War_of_1812_Infantry_Units). Accessed April 8, 2018.
- 13 Johnson.
- 14 Guylaine Petrin, e-mails to the author. April 6, 2015. The first e-mail contains an attachment of records from the Cathédrale Anglicane de Quebec, Seth Cotton burial record, Registres Photographiques Au Greffe [Clerk of the Court] De Quebec, Drouin Collection, Ancestry.ca [database on-line]. The second e-mail provides further information about where Seth was buried.
- 15 Petrin.
- 16 Petrin.
- 17 Cooley.
- 18 Cooley, 50

# Announcing the Annual Fund Challenge Match



We are very excited to announce the NYG&B Board of Trustees Annual Fund Challenge Match for the Fall of 2018. Both current and previous Board members are **pledging a dollar-for-dollar match for all new and increased giving until the end of the year.** So your donation will go twice as far! Our Board is fervently committed to the work of the NYG&B, and they are willing to increase their own giving in order to encourage our constituents to give more as we prepare for our anniversary year in 2019.

## How the match will work:

**The Board is pledging funds that will serve as a 1:1 match** for all new Annual Fund monies raised in 2018.

If you regularly donate to NYG&B, the Board will match the increased portion of any donation. For example, if you gave \$10 last year and give \$20 this year, the Board will match the additional \$10. **So, your \$20 gift (\$10 increase) actually gives the NYG&B \$30!**

For new donations, the entire amount will be matched by Board funds. **So your \$20 gift actually gives the NYG&B \$40!**

**Annual Fund support is critical to supporting all the work of the NYG&B.** Your gift funds record preservation projects, classroom visits to local schools, education programs, webinars and workshops. Increased giving results in more records being digitized, and those record sets becoming available online.

Please join the Board of Trustees in supporting the NYG&B as we prepare to celebrate 150 years of preserving and protecting New York stories.

Call Jen Davis at **212-755-8532 x208** or visit [newyorkfamilyhistory.org/donate](http://newyorkfamilyhistory.org/donate).

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# NYG&B @ 150—You're Invited!

## National and International Conferences

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[April 3–6  
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New England Regional  
Genealogical Conference

[May 8–11  
St. Louis, Missouri](#)

NYG&B at the NGS  
Family History Conference

[May 30–June 2  
Burbank, California](#)

NYG&B at Jamboree—  
50th/150th celebration

[July 18–20  
Indianapolis, Indiana](#)

NYG&B at  
Midwestern Roots

[August 21–24  
Washington, DC](#)

NYG&B at the  
FGS Conference

[October 24–26  
London, England](#)

NYG&B at  
RootsTech London

## NYG&B 2019 Events

Mark your calendars  
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[January 24, New York City](#)

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Amsterdam and The  
Netherlands Dutch and  
Pilgrim Heritage Tour

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and Research Tour

## Symposiums

[March 15, New York City](#)

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[May 17 New York City](#)

Biographies

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NYG&B Week:  
Webinars and Indexing  
Weekend

[September](#)

NYG&B Week:  
Webinars and Indexing  
Weekend

## NYG&B 150th Year Celebrations

[February 7, New York City](#)

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Fellow's Reception  
at the NYG&B

[May, New York City](#)

Biographies

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NYG&B History

[November, New York City](#)

The NYG&B's Future

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[March 12, New York City](#)

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Immigration 1930–present

Help Us Celebrate  
150 Years of  
New York Family History!



Photo credit: Andrea Watson, sailingpress.com

# NYG&B News from the 2018 New York State Family History Conference

Exciting news was announced at the New York State Family History Conference

## The Launch of the New York Land Records Project

### Largest Index of New York's Historical Land Records Underway



The NYG&B and FamilySearch announced the

New York Land Records Project. This new initiative will create online indexes to millions of land records from across the state of New York from the 1600s to the 1900s. Working with FamilySearch, the NYG&B is marshaling volunteers, genealogical societies, lineage organizations, and other associates to create the largest crowd-sourced index of New York records to date.

D. Joshua Taylor, NYG&B President, noted the importance of this project for genealogists, biographers, and historians, "land records remain a crucial resource for anyone tracing the stories of New York's past, we are delighted to partner with FamilySearch on this extraordinary effort to bring new levels of access to these important records."

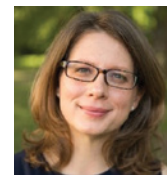
See the article on page 56 for more details.

## New eLibrary is Under Construction!

The NYG&B eLibrary is a cornerstone for researching New York families. We are making improvements to how you, our members, will access and search for records. Your many comments and inquiries are being listened to and have given the team great suggestions. The new eLibrary infrastructure is currently being built—the foundation is poured. Next we will create the databases and images to be attached. A select group of testers will review the project before launch. So stay tuned for updates as we get closer to launching the new eLibrary.



## Empire State Service Awards



Jennifer Liber Raines was honored with the first Empire State Volunteer Service Award for her work building relationships and partnerships between the Western New York Genealogical Society and numerous other organizations over the past several years.



Susan R. Miller was awarded the Empire State Professional Service award for building relationships and partnerships between New York's genealogical societies and repositories, and spearheading NYSFHC 2018.





# Did You Miss These eNews Items?

The NYG&B eNews keeps you informed about breaking news and upcoming events.

## New Record Collections Online: NYS Birth Index, NYC Almshouse Ledgers, and NYC Bodies in Transit.

Early August was a great time for researchers with ancestors anywhere in New York State. The New York state birth index came online for the first time ever at Ancestry.com. And many of the New York City Municipal Archives Almshouse Ledgers and Bodies in Transit collections were put online, too.

The **New York State Birth Index (1880-1942)** holds the birth certificate number for millions of people in New York State - a crucial piece of information for anyone seeking their ancestor's birth certificate.

The **New York City Almshouse Records (1758-1934)** cover a large time period and are excellent sources for tracking the urban poor, who can be notoriously hard to find in other records, especially in earlier times.

The **New York City Bodies in Transit (1859-1894)** collection is a unique record set that contains information about a wide range of individuals, including many Civil War soldiers (both Union and Confederate). Even the record of President Abraham Lincoln's body can be found in this collection.

Our blog article has links to the collections, along with some background and useful tips for researchers who plan to dive in.

See [nygbs.org/blog](http://nygbs.org/blog).

## NYG&B Announces a Guide to the New York State Archives

The New York Genealogical and Biographical Society has begun work on a guide to the New York State Archives, designed specifically for genealogists, local historians, and other researchers.

The groundbreaking publication is being produced in cooperation with the New York State Archives and will be authored by professional genealogist Jane E. Wilcox. The publication will feature more than 20 chapters outlining numerous materials from the New York State Archives collections key for tracing New York families.

Ms. Wilcox, a member of the New York State Archives Advisory Committee and the NYG&B Family History Advisory Committee, brings a wealth of experience to the project. A full-time professional genealogist and the founder of Forget-Me-Not Ancestry, Ms. Wilcox focuses on colonial and early national New York and area research.

"We are grateful that the NYG&B is working to improve access to and awareness of the collections of the New York State Archives," said New York State Archivist Thomas Ruller.

D. Joshua Taylor, President of the NYG&B noted the importance of the project and its "careful alignment to the NYG&B's mission of providing resources to those seeking to discover and share the stories of all New Yorkers."

The William G. Pomeroy Foundation, an organization dedicated to preserving local history throughout New York, is onboard as the project's platinum sponsor. "We are grateful for the Pomeroy Foundation's extraordinary support of this project," noted Taylor.

The publication is expected to be officially released in 2019, the 150th Anniversary of the NYG&B.

View Record	Name	Birth Date	Birth Place	View Image
View Record	Herbert W Church Smith	12 Aug 1940	Smithville	🔍
View Record	Henry A Church Smith	13 Jun 1942	Smithville	🔍
View Record	Anna De Smith	23 Feb 1901	Richmond	🔍
View Record	De Smith	18 Aug 1901	Phelps	🔍
View Record	Elmor M De Smith	8 Nov 1902	Richmond	🔍
View Record	Gladys M De Smith	8 Apr 1904	Richmond	🔍
View Record	Harvey W De Smith	15 Sep 1904	Richmond	🔍
View Record	Miller C De Smith	19 Nov 1905	Richmond	🔍
View Record	Wiline?rina X De Smith	10 May 1905	Sodus	🔍
View Record	De Smith	8 Sep 1906	Newark	🔍



New York State, Birth Index, 1881-1942 for Wiline?rina X De Smith  
1905

Name	Birth Date	Birth Place
De Smith, Wiline?rina X	10 May 1905	Sodus

Parents: De Smith, Wiline?rina X; De Smith, Elmor M.

# 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](http://nygbs.org/blog) to read the full articles.

## The 1911 Fire at the New York State Library and its Effect on Genealogy

Sooner or later, all researchers encounter the sad fact that a massive fire destroyed a crucial piece of evidence in their family history.

Almost everyone knows about the 1921 Washington, D.C. fire that damaged much of the 1890 federal census and which was later destroyed, and those of us with ancestors who served in the military are probably aware that a 1973 fire in St. Louis destroyed between 16 and 18 million official military personnel records.

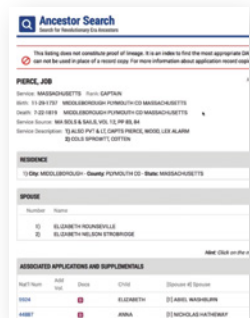
But did you know that New York State has its own infamous fire?

Our blog—which revisits an article written by Harry Macy Jr. in 1999—takes a look at one of the greatest library disasters of all time, which had an enormous impact on genealogy research. Read the full article to see vivid photos of the fire and the damage, and learn what was lost (and how to replace it).

[newyorkfamilyhistory.org/blog/fire-new-york-state-library](http://newyorkfamilyhistory.org/blog/fire-new-york-state-library)

**BELOW:** This is one of the only pictures taken that show the whole Capitol building on fire. As the fire was slowly extinguished, the tragic damage was done not only by the flames but by smoke exposure and the water required to put out the fire. (Photos reproduced with permission from the collections of the New York State Library, Manuscripts and Special Collections, Albany, New York.)

## The Daughters of the American Revolution: A Treasure for Genealogical Research



Have you ever explored the genealogical resources of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR)?

The DAR holds authoritative and exhaus-

ive databases of Revolutionary War soldiers and their descendants. The organization has safeguarded the lineage of America's founders over the past 125 years by identifying more than 144,000 Patriot ancestors. DAR resources are some of the best for tracing families before 1850.

NYG&B President D. Joshua Taylor authored a blog on the subject, which also contains the more in-depth video presentation. Josh dives into a number of important resources on the DAR website that are free and open for all to search.

This is a must-watch webinar for researchers investigating families prior to the mid-1800s!

[newyorkfamilyhistory.org/blog/daughters-american-revolution-treasure-genealogical-research](http://newyorkfamilyhistory.org/blog/daughters-american-revolution-treasure-genealogical-research)

## Living DNA Offers Exciting New Possibilities for Genetic Genealogy



Have you heard of Living DNA? Founded in 2016, this England-based company is a relative newcomer to the DNA genealogy testing scene and offers

some intriguing capabilities that all researchers will want to learn more about, especially those with ancestry in the British Isles.

One of the most intriguing aspects of Living DNA's genetic ancestry testing is their ability to pinpoint your heritage to a level of detail not yet achieved by other DNA tests. For example, the British Isles have been broken down into 21 distinct regions, and Living DNA is working on getting this level of detail for other parts of the globe.

Our blog takes a look at this exciting company and expands on the precise pinpointing offered by these tests.

Living DNA was an Excelsior-level sponsor of the 2018 New York State Family History Conference—if you joined us in Tarrytown this September, you had the chance to attend lectures from their experts and learn more about their DNA tests in our exhibit hall.

[newyorkfamilyhistory.org/blog/living-dna-offers-exciting-new-possibilities-genetic-genealogy](http://newyorkfamilyhistory.org/blog/living-dna-offers-exciting-new-possibilities-genetic-genealogy)







April 7-13, 2019 | Exploring Our Past:

# Heritage Tour of The Netherlands and Amsterdam

## NYG&B Visits The Netherlands—Amsterdam, Leiden, Rotterdam, and The Hague

Join the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society on our exclusive, guided tour of the Netherlands in 2019. Aided by onsite experts and anchored in Amsterdam, follow in the path-ways of New York’s past as we explore and learn through a week of private tours, educational events, and sightseeing. Highlights include lectures relating to trade networks between New Amsterdam and The Netherlands, the pilgrim tradition, private canal cruises of Amsterdam and Rotterdam, visits to the Historic Amsterdam Museum and Mauritshuis museum, and other unique experiences.

This tour includes an exclusive private guide for the five-day tour, hotel and breakfast each day, travel to attractions, and museum tickets. You’ll also have time to explore on your own.

### Pricing and Registration

Trip pricing begins at \$5,295 with a 50% deposit required on registration. Contact Jen Davis at **212-755-8532 x208** for additional details.

Personalize your tour with the assistance of our NYG&B genealogical researchers to make yours a truly unique experience. This option is available to a limited number of tour attendees at an additional cost.

Register online at [nygbs.org/events](http://nygbs.org/events) or call **212-755-8532 x208**.

### Tour Schedule (Schedule may be subject to change.)

<b>Sunday, April 7 2019</b>	Arrive in Amsterdam (anytime) Welcome cocktails and introductions
<b>Monday, April 8</b>	Museum tour, city walk, and private canal dinner cruise featuring the highlights of Amsterdam
<b>Tuesday, April 9</b>	Pilgrim experience in Leiden
<b>Wednesday, April 10</b>	Explore Amsterdam archives and museums
<b>Thursday, April 11</b>	Travel to Rotterdam, port of emigrant embarkation, and visit to Old Pilgrim Fathers Church
<b>Friday, April 12</b>	Visit The Hague for museums and historic quarters Group farewell dinner
<b>Saturday, April 13</b>	Group breakfast (optional) and departure

## 2018 NYG&B Week (Schedule may be subject to change.)

### W Mapping Your New York Ancestors

Monday, October 15, 7:00 pm | Webinar  
Presented by Frederick Wertz



Learn to use maps and online mapping tools to discover more and share the story of your New York ancestors. Maps can be used to discover new record sets to investigate and can also help to fill in some fascinating details about the lives of your ancestors. Researchers can also use many of the free online mapping tools available today to tell the story of their family in an exciting new way. We'll take a look at some crucial methods and tools, while exploring some interesting examples from around New York State.

### W Finding Ancestors in New York City Vital Records in the 1800s and Early-1900s

Tuesday, October 16, 7:00 pm | Webinar  
Presented by Susan R. Miller



Locating vital records is a foundational skill for genealogy. With New York City having a separate system from the state, knowledge of available resources will make your search more efficient. This webinar will explain the origins of the indexes to vital records at the New York City Municipal Archives, cover which indexes contain what years and record groups, and demonstrate best practices on how to use them.

### Digitization Day at the NYG&B

Tuesday, October 16, 10:30–4:00 pm  
NYG&B Office, Manhattan, NY

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

### W Western New York Land Records

Thursday, October 18, 7:00 pm | Webinar  
Presented by D. Joshua Taylor



Before 1840 thousands of settlers from New England, new immigrants to the United States, and others settled more than 3.2 million acres of land in Western New York. Tracing these settlers requires a thorough search of numerous records, including business accounts, surveys, deeds, mortgages, and other records. This webinar will explore the history and records of the Phelps and Gorham purchase, the Holland Land Company, and other large land transactions alongside other contextual sources necessary to trace individuals who acquired (or attempted to acquire) land in this period.

### W Using the NYG&B Website

Friday, October 19, 3:00 pm | Webinar  
Presented by Frederick Wertz



Our website, [newyorkfamilyhistory.org](http://newyorkfamilyhistory.org), has many resources that can help you discover your New York family history. In this webinar, we take a tour of the website and demonstrate how members and non-members can take advantage of our expertise. This is the perfect webinar for anyone new to the site, whether you are a brand-new member or an experienced researcher looking for the best ways to use member resources.

At the end of the webinar, you will know how to:

- Find and use the many free resources available to members and non-members
- Browse and search the digital record sets in our eLibrary
- Find expert-authored articles in our New York Knowledge Base
- View webinars, use the forum, and use the events calendar

Register for all at events at [newyorkfamilyhistory.org/events](http://newyorkfamilyhistory.org/events) or call **212-755-8532 x211**.

**W = Online Webinar.** Unless otherwise stated, the live broadcast of webinars are free and open to the public. On-demand recordings of webinars, and select other talks, will be available to NYG&B Society members.

## 2018 Colonial Dames of America Fall Benefit Honoring NYG&B



The 2018 Colonial Dames of America Fall Benefit will encompass four exciting events over two days, culminating in a dinner to be held at the Union Club in New York City on October 17 at 7 pm. The benefit this year honors the venerable New York Genealogical & Biographical Society (NYGB), founded in 1869. Proceeds will go to fund the initiatives of the [mvhm.org](http://mvhm.org) Mount Vernon Hotel Museum (built in 1799), which is wholly owned and operated by The Colonial Dames of America.

D. Joshua Taylor, NYG&B President, will be the featured speaker on the subject of "Old New York and Its Grand Dames."

Rebecca Madsen is Chairman of the benefit.

RSVP: Terri Daly at [t.daly@mvhm.org](mailto:t.daly@mvhm.org) or 212-838-6878





## 2019 Empire State Exploration

February 4-7, 2019 | New York Genealogical and Biographical Society

Join New York's largest genealogical society for four days of uncovering your New York ancestors. With a home base at the NYG&B headquarters you will be steps away from the NYG&B's statewide collections at the New York Public Library—and access to experts to guide you along your way. Empire State Exploration is an ideal setting for those just beginning their search and those seeking to answer longstanding New York research questions.

A personal, one-on-one consultation will enable you to begin your search immediately, with advice from an NYG&B genealogist at our office. In addition to social events, the program also includes topical lectures on tracing New York ancestors, using *The Record*, and other essential topics to help guide you throughout the week. You will enjoy easy access to millions of additional FamilySearch records through the NYG&B's Affiliate Library status, plus have access to some of the nation's best repositories for New York research including the New York Public Library (NYPL), the New York Historical Society, the Center for Jewish History, the National Archives at New York City and county and borough repositories for the New York City area.

This experience focuses on tracing ancestors from across the entire state of New York, not just within the NYC area.

Looking for more specialized assistance during your week? Additional consultations will be available for a small fee to program participants. Please note that this trip does not include individual tours of all the research repositories, though a general orientation to the resources available at the major repositories will be given Monday morning.

Visiting New York City? Hotel options include accommodations one block from the NYG&B's headquarters Sunday through Wednesday night. Participants may extend their stay at the group rate. Local to New York City? Commuter options are also available.

### Registration

	Early Registration (through Nov. 30)	Registration (after Nov. 30)
<b>Member-Commuter Registration</b>	<b>\$725</b>	<b>\$925</b>
<b>Member-Hotel Registration*</b>	<b>\$1,285</b>	<b>\$1,485</b>
Non-member-Commuter Registration	—	\$1,145
Non-member-Hotel Registration*	—	\$1,685

\* King room. Double room to share with a non-researcher at an additional \$150 charge.

Register at [newyorkfamilyhistory.org](http://newyorkfamilyhistory.org) or call Susan R. Miller at 212-755-8532 x211.

### Program Schedule (Schedule may be subject to change.)

<b>Sunday</b>	Arrive in New York City
<b>Monday</b>	
9:00–10:30 a.m.	Continental breakfast, followed by an orientation to New York State and New York City research repositories
11:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.	Individual Consultations at the NYG&B and research at the NYPL.
6:00–7:00 p.m.	Light dinner at the NYG&B
<b>Tuesday</b>	
All Day	Independent research and consultations <i>NYG&amp;B offices open 8:15am to 6:00pm</i>
9:30 a.m.	Lecture at the NYG&B (optional) <i>NYPL is open until 7:45 pm</i>

<b>Wednesday</b>	
9:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.	Independent research and consultations <i>NYG&amp;B offices open 8:15am to 6:00pm</i> <i>NYPL is open until 7:45 pm</i>
9:30 a.m.	Lecture at the NYG&B (optional)
6:30–7:30 p.m.	Reception at the NYG&B
<b>Thursday</b>	
9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.	Independent research and optional consultations <i>NYG&amp;B offices open 9:00am to 5:00pm</i>
12:30–2:30 p.m.	Wrap-up lunch at the NYG&B

# New York Articles from Beyond Our Boundaries

New York-related articles in selected 2017–2018 issues of some non-New York journals

“Notes and Documents:  
The Westchester Petitioners of 1656”

**Rebecca I.M. Walch, *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*, vol. 106, 1: 61-77 (March 2018).**

Using a 1654 boundary agreement between English colonists and Dutch authorities in the location now known as Westchester Square in The Bronx, New York, the author illustrates how old handwriting, derivative sources, and printer errors contribute to inaccurate and incomplete appreciation of historic events. Copy comparisons and historical context aid reconstruction of an important 1656 document.

REVIEW: *Who Should Rule at Home?  
Confronting the Elite in British New York City*

**Review by David N. Gellman, *William and Mary Quarterly*, 3d ser., vol. 75, 1: 161-164 (January 2018).**

Goodfriend advances a thesis that “Events are overrated in colonial New York City’s history. So too are imperial regimes, governors, and political factions. Social hierarchy requires more careful consideration and delineating a community’s social hierarchy has been a core concern of colonial social historians.

According to Gellman, “Rather than focus on social structure, however, Joyce D. Goodfriend’s nuanced, empirically driven study...emphasizes the ways in which an array of New Yorkers challenged the cultural authority of men—wealthy, white, not always English—who ostensibly held sway over

institutional and family life.”

*Who Should Rule at Home? Confronting the Elite in British New York City*, by Joyce D. Goodfriend, Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press, 2017.

REVIEW: *An Empire of Print: The New York Publishing Trade in the Early American Republic*

**Review by Carolyn Eastman, *William and Mary Quarterly*, 3d ser., vol. 75, 2: 382-385 (April 2018).**

Eastman critiques Smith’s discussion of the development of an American nationalistic voice in printing/publishing beginning in New York the 1780s. *An Empire of Print* follows the trade’s growth from printers to publishers to booksellers to marketers and to distributors of publications. It also deals with the men who built the publishing houses and their interactions that produced a new industry and made New York City the publishing capital of the nation.

*An Empire of Print: The New York Publishing Trade in the Early American Republic*, by Steven Carl Smith, University Park, PA: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2017.



Stanton Biddle, PhD, is a 20-plus year Member of the NYG&B and a an active volunteer. He recently retired as a professor and former chief librarian at Baruch College. He earlier held senior administrative positions at SUNY Buffalo, at Howard University Libraries, and at NYPL’s Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

## North River Research

**Sylvia Hasenkopf**  
Genealogist and Historian

518-821-3852  
Sylvia@northriverresearch.com

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## Book Notes

*Society of Daughters of Holland Dames: Historical Records 1895–2017*



**By Mary Woodfill Park and Eugenie Hoffmeyer Devine, Editors, with Elbrun E. Kimmelman**

The Society of Daughters of Holland Dames was founded in order to preserve the history and legacy of the first Dutch settlers in America in the early seventeenth century. In this book, the society has published

three *Historical Records* dating from 1907, 1913, and 1933. The records contain a registry of the original Dutch settlers in America, their place of origin in The Netherlands, and a record of the services they provided whilst living in New Netherland. *Records* also provide a list of all society members at the time of publishing.

As well as society record books, this publication contains a wealth of information on the society. Its history and achievements are chronicled from the society's inception in 1895 to the present day. Additionally, the historical poem "A Catch of Grandmothers," published in 2004 by member Firth Haring Fabend, PhD, is included. The poem tells the story of nine generations of Firth's grandmothers

dating back to the author's first grandmother born in New Netherland in 1641.

Though not specifically genealogy oriented, the book contains a lot of useful information for anyone looking to learn more about the first Dutch settlers in America, their origins, and their roles within the colony of New Netherland.

Otter Bay Books, Baltimore, 2018. Hardcover. Black and white illustrations, photographs, register of society members. 454 pages. Available for purchase from [HollandDames.org](http://HollandDames.org).

*Ancestors, Descendants and Related Family of: Jacob Smith, Sr. (1773–1834) and His Wife Margaret Smith (1777–1850)*



**By Albert E. Fiacre, Jr.**

This NGS-award winning book by NYG&B member Albert Fiacre, Jr., contains some New York content.

Otter Bay Books, Baltimore, 2017. Hardcover. Index. Bibliography. Charts and images. 494 pages. Available from the author, 25 Van Buren Ave., West Hartford, CT 06107.

**Melissa A. Johnson, CG**

mjohnson@johnsongenealogyservices.com

phone: 732-365-2680 • fax: 866-525-9606

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# Join the NYG&B for Special Research and Heritage Tours in 2019



## Empire State Exploration

**February 4-7, 2019,  
based at the NYG&B,  
Manhattan, New York**

(See page 69.)



## Amsterdam and The Netherlands Dutch and Pilgrim Heritage Tour

**April 7-13, 2019, based in  
Amsterdam, The Netherlands**

(See page 67.)



## Albany Heritage and Research Tours

**Albany, New York  
November 11-15, 2019**

Registration opens in November.