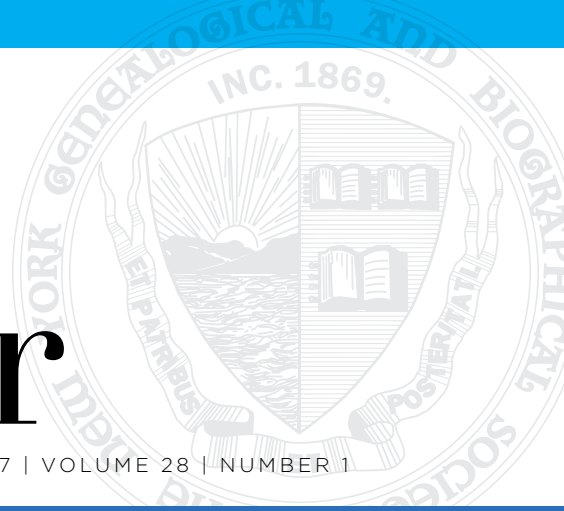


NEW YORK
Researcher

NEW YORK GENEALOGICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY | SPRING 2017 | VOLUME 28 | NUMBER 1



Happy 240th Birthday, New York State!

51. This convention therefore, in the Name & by the Authority of the Good People of this State doth ordain determine and declare that no Authority shall on any Pretence whatever be exercised over the People or Members of this State but such as shall be derived from and granted by them. &

52. This convention doth further ordain determine and declare that the Legislature of the State of New York shall be divided into two separate & distinct Bodies of men, the one to be called the Assembly of the State of New York the other to be called the Senate of the State of New York and together shall constitute the Legislature of the State of New York.

53. And whereas Laws inconsistent with the Spirit of this Constitution or with the public Good may be hastily & Unadvisedly passed; Be it Ordained that the Governor for the Time being, the Chancellor & the Judges of the Supreme Court, or any two of them, together with the Governor, shall be and hereby are constituted a Council to revise all Bills about to be passed into Laws by the Legislature. And for that purpose shall assemble themselves from time to time when the Legislature shall be convened; for which nevertheless, they shall not receive any Salary or Consideration under any pretence whatever. And that all Bills which have passed the Senate & Assembly shall before they become Laws, be presented to the said Council for their revision & Consideration; and if upon such revision & Consideration it should appear improper to the said Council or a Majority of

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

With spring in full bloom across New York, I am pleased to introduce you to the NYG&B's new look. While the pages of the *New York Researcher* might look a bit different, we promise to continue delivering relevant and inspiring content. Inside this issue you will find a celebration of New York's 240th birthday, insights on updates to the NYG&B website, and the introduction of "In Other Lines," a column focused on the incredible personal stories of our members.

The year began with the launch of our first NYG&B Week in January. A flurry of activity, the week included a reception honoring Francis J. Sypher, the newest NYG&B Fellow, a webinar focused on the New York state canal system (in honor of the Erie Canal's bi-centennial), a live Q&A with members of the NYG&B team, and a weekend dedicated to indexing and digitizing New York records as part of the New York Digitization and Indexing Project.

Supporting our mission to preserve and share the stories of New York, the NYG&B is committed to identifying and providing access to historical records from across the entire state. The launch of the New York Digitization and Index Project brought together more than 100 active volunteers from across the country. In just a few short months they have digitized more than 80,000 records and indexed 50,000 records. These materials will be added to the NYG&B's eLibrary where they can be accessed by members anywhere in the world. We look forward to continuing this project and providing even more resources for you to discover and share your New York story.

A few short weeks ago we launched an exciting new initiative to bring together technologists and genealogists to create new tools for New York research. With support from generous donors, NYG&B Labs will take on several projects each year. Under the new project, team members will work together to create digital resources available to the general public and NYG&B members.

While these initiatives will offer new tools, the NYG&B is also working to develop more efficient ways for you to

access our abundant resources. The redesign of our website, www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org, is the first in a series of enhancements that will be made over time. The new site provides easier access to the NYG&B eLibrary and materials throughout the website. Most importantly, resources are now interlinked between the eLibrary, the New York Knowledgebase, our blog, and other locations—allowing you to discover other tools relevant to your research.

We are also pleased to welcome Lorraine D. Bell to the NYG&B Board of Trustees. Ms. Bell is an active member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and is currently serving as Regent for the Knickerbocker Chapter in New York. Her esteemed background includes serving as Chair of the Young People's Theater in Toronto and Ambassador at Large for The American-Scottish Foundation. She has also served as a board member for multiple organizations including the Ontario Financing Authority and IBI Group. Please join me in welcoming Ms. Bell to the NYG&B's Board of Trustees.

Thank you for your continued support of the NYG&B. Your comments and thoughts are always welcome and appreciated.

Happy reading,



D. JOSHUA TAYLOR

NEW YORK RESEARCHER | VOLUME 28, NUMBER 1 | SPRING 2017

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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Both the *New York Researcher* and *The NYG&B Record*, quarterly publications of the NYG&B, welcome advertising. The members of the NYG&B receive both publications as benefits of membership, and about 300 libraries also subscribe. The *New York Researcher* is also circulated at conferences and special events.

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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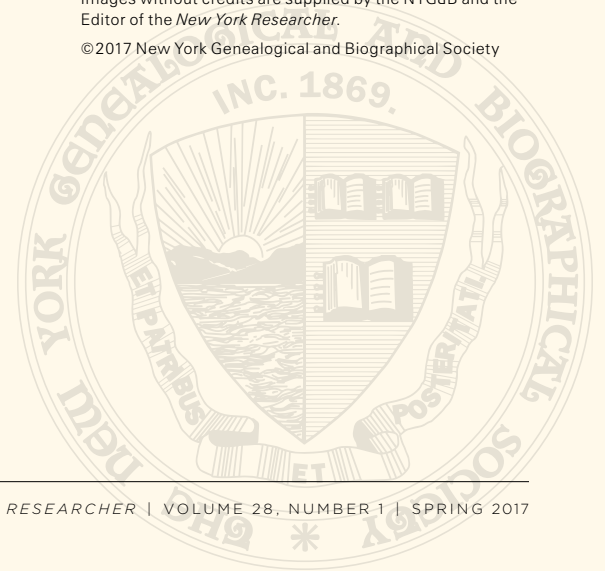
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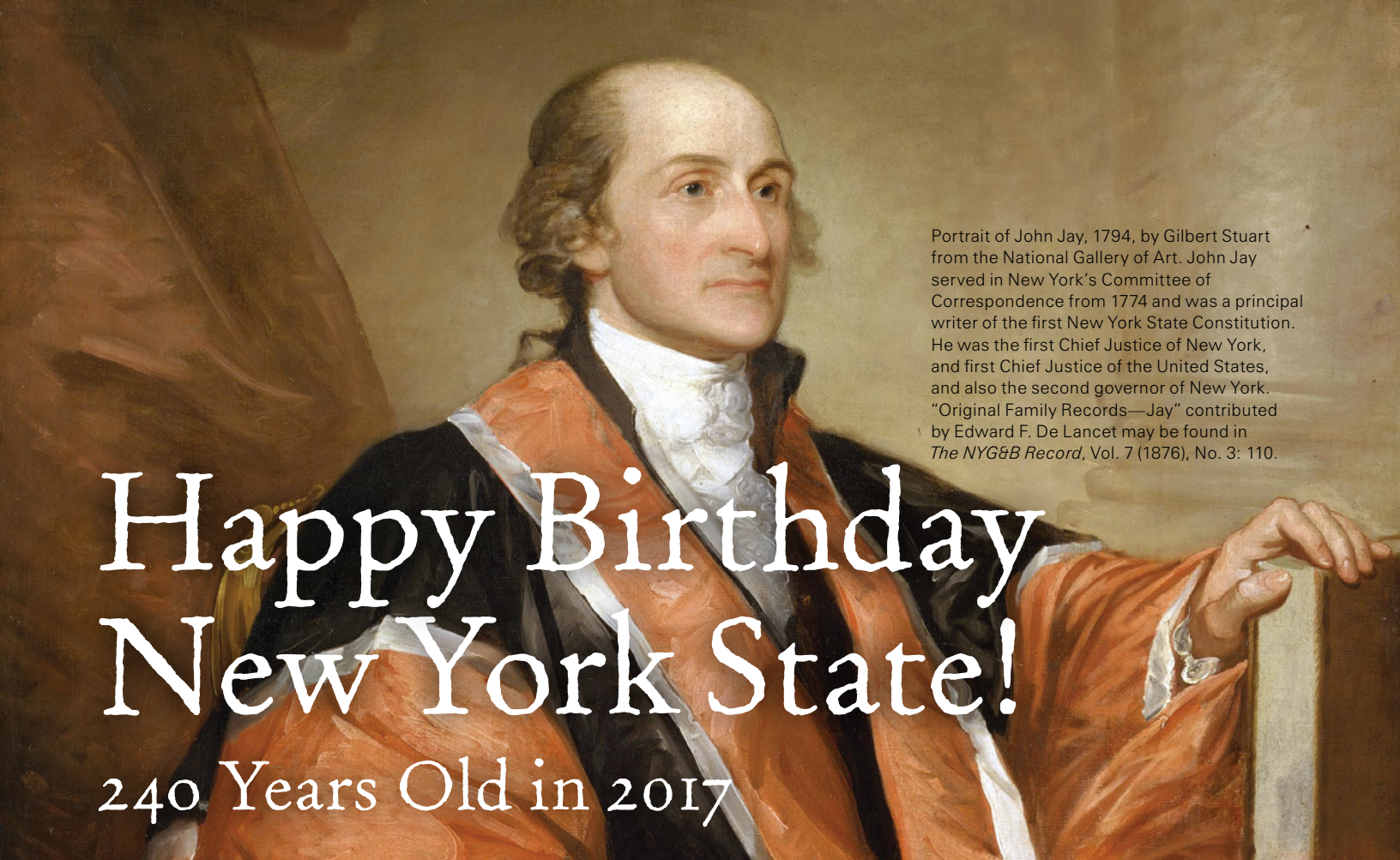
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A portrait of John Jay, a man with powdered hair, wearing a dark coat and a bright orange sash over a white cravat. He is looking slightly to the right of the viewer.

Portrait of John Jay, 1794, by Gilbert Stuart from the National Gallery of Art. John Jay served in New York's Committee of Correspondence from 1774 and was a principal writer of the first New York State Constitution. He was the first Chief Justice of New York, and first Chief Justice of the United States, and also the second governor of New York. "Original Family Records—Jay" contributed by Edward F. De Lancet may be found in *The NYG&B Record*, Vol. 7 (1876), No. 3: 110.

Happy Birthday New York State!

240 Years Old in 2017

By Bruce W. Dearstyne, PhD

New York State will reach a milestone birthday on April 22, 2017. On April 20, 1777, the Convention of Representatives of the State of New York approved the final text of New York's first constitution. Two days later, on April 22, the Secretary of the Convention, Robert Benson, mounted a barrel in front of the courthouse where the writers had deliberated in Kingston and read the new document aloud to assembled citizens. That day in effect became New York State's birthday.

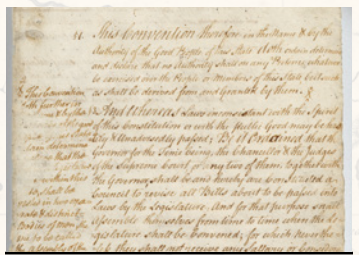
New York's birth in April 1777 was an against-the-odds, rushed, political miracle. Its largest city, New York City, was in the hands of the British. Its northern, western, and eastern borders were indefinite and insecure. Many New Yorkers were not committed to the patriot cause. New Yorkers elected their fourth Provincial Congress, 34 men, to take up the issue of independence in the summer of 1776. The Congress met in White Plains and voted for independence and then went on the run up the Hudson River as British forces advanced, moving from White Plains to Fishkill, and finally to Kingston, in the process changing its name to the "Convention of Representatives of the State of New York." That was an audacious, forward-looking move since the "State of New York" did not actually exist yet. That was what the Convention was aiming to create.

The Convention was busy, functioning simultaneously as an ad hoc governing authority, a war board, and a

constitutional drafting group. Working on the fly, the delegates, led by exceptionally able representatives such as New York City attorney John Jay, drafted and debated several draft versions of a constitution. The members of the group drew on New York's experience with colonial government as a British colony, the model of British government itself, and a few treatises on the nature of republican government. But the framers were mostly on their own, creating something entirely new. The concepts of "colony," "province," and "nation" were well known but the novel concept of a "state" was still being invented as New York and the other rebellious colonies fought for their independence. The members of the convention agreed on certain principles: they wanted a written document that would acknowledge deriving its authority from the people themselves; a two-house legislature (the two houses would balance and sometimes check each other); a strong

CANADA or PROVINCE OF QUEBEC

"A map of the Province of New-York, reduc'd from the large drawing of that Province, compiled from actual surveys by order of His Excellency William Tryon, Esqr., Captain General & Governor of the same:"; Wm. Faden London (1776); Library of Congress, ar104702.



ON THE COVER

Detail of the first constitution of the state of New York, adopted April 20, 1777. (New York State Archives, Secretary of State, series A1802-78, DMS ID Number 162615.)



New York's first senate met in Kingston, New York.
(Senate House, Kingston, Ulster County, NY, Library of
Congress, Historic American Buildings Survey, NY-4360.)

executive (but with appropriate constraints), and an independent judiciary.

Jay and other leaders of the group were exceptionally good in crafting language, trying out ideas on each other, leading debates, and then working for compromise and consensus.

The document they approved on April 20 declared that the convention, acting “in the name and by the authority of the good people of this State, doth ordain, determine and declare that no authority shall on any pretence whatever be exercised over the people or members of this State, but such as shall be derived from and granted by them.” But, given the perils the new state faced, it wasn’t practical to give the people a chance to vote on the new document that established their government. The convention simply approved it by vote on April 20 and proclaimed it in effect via secretary Benson’s public reading in Kingston on April 22. The whole process was so rushed that the final version of the constitution, the one Benson read aloud, included final strikeouts and words inserted between the lines.

The new state constitution was a brilliant document. The writers were skilled wordsmiths who did not waste words. The text is only about 6,500 words long (not counting the Declaration of Independence, which the writers included as a preamble). New York’s current state constitution, by comparison, is over 50,000 words long. It was written in clear, straightforward language that people could understand. Its writers intended it as a solid but concise foundation document to set the general parameters of state government. Implementation would come later through actions of the legislature and the courts.

The drafters might be called “conservative revolutionaries.” They were determined to achieve political independence but also wanted to protect landed interests and commercial rights and ensure social stability. The constitution provided for election of the governor and legislature, but only by men who held property or met other requirements (women were not enfranchised until 1917). The

legislature would have two houses. The Assembly was expected to represent the popular will but the Senate was intended to be smaller, more reflective of the upper class, more deliberative and more insulated from the tumult of the crowd. Passage of legislation required approval of both houses. That feature would mean that two houses would sometimes act as a check on each other.

The writers spent a good deal of time drafting and revising the section on the governor. They wanted a strong executive to take charge of the new state and organize the government. But they wanted to avoid the examples of colonial governors who had exercised arbitrary power. The constitution in the end created a strong governor, one of the strongest of any of the original 13 states. The document declared that “the supreme executive power and authority of this State shall be vested in a governor” who was charged to “take care that the laws are faithfully executed.” The governor was charged to inform the legislature annually about “the condition of the State” and “recommend such matters to their consideration as shall appear to him to concern its good government, welfare, and prosperity.” He was authorized to convene the legislature in extraordinary session when needed. The governor was charged to command the state’s armed forces and exercise other powers.

But the constitution also included two brakes on the governor’s power. It created a “Council of Revision,” consisting of the governor, chancellor, and judges of the supreme court, that could veto bills passed by the legislature. The Council’s veto could be overridden by a two-thirds vote of both houses of the legislature. The framers also included a “Council of Appointment,” consisting of four senators elected by the Assembly, to review and approve gubernatorial appointments.

Some issues were not addressed in the constitution or deferred. As noted above, giving women the right to vote and full equality before the law was not achieved until the 20th century. Slavery, an abomination that was legal in colonial New York, was not addressed in the constitution

and continued until a 1799 law mandated its gradual abolition. The constitution guaranteed the right to trial by jury but had no bill of rights, possibly because the framers thought it would inhibit the new government's flexibility in dealing with loyalists to the British cause. The legislature enacted a bill of rights in 1787.

The constitution said little about the courts; establishing them was left to the first legislature.

The convention quickly organized the first state elections in June 1777, and the new legislature and governor got to work in Kingston in September. But it was soon a state-government-on-the-run. A British force came up the Hudson and attacked Kingston on October 16. "[Kingston] being a nursery for almost every villain in the country," British General John Vaughan reported, "I judged it to be necessary to proceed to the town." After a skirmish, "I reduced the place to ashes, not leaving a house." But the members of the new government had been forewarned and scattered to avoid capture. The new government reassembled in February 1778, this time in Poughkeepsie. In the meantime New York had survived two other invasions. On August 6, 1777, General Nicholas Herkimer stopped an invasion from the west by the British and their Indian allies at the Battle of Oriskany. On October 17, 1777, the day after the British burned Kingston, British general John Burgoyne, who had been leading a major invasion force from Canada, with his supplies exhausted and evacuation routes blocked by patriot forces, surrendered to General Horatio Gates near Saratoga. That victory proved to be a major turning point in the war—emboldened the rebellious Americans and convinced the French to enter the war on the American side the following year.

New York State survived the trial-by-fire year of 1777. It had displayed what was to become one of its hallmark traits—resilience—which continues to the present day.

The first state constitution had staying power. It endured without major revision until the state constitutional convention of 1821. During that time the government became operational, the state's population expanded, the western part of the state was settled, New York City emerged as the nation's leading seaport city, the Erie Canal was begun, and the state became a leader in the areas of banking and commerce. Even in 1821 the changes that were made to the constitution were relatively modest.

New York's constitution served as a partial model for the United States Constitution a decade later. That is no surprise—Gouverneur Morris, one of the main writers of the New York document, drafted much of the U.S. Constitution. John Jay was a key advocate for its ratification. Along with Alexander Hamilton and James Madison, he wrote *The Federalist Papers*, a treatise on the proposed constitution that helped persuade the states to ratify it.

"THE AMERICANS ARE THE FIRST PEOPLE WHOM HEAVEN HAS FAVOURED WITH AN OPPORTUNITY OF DELIBERATING UPON, AND CHOOSING THE FORMS OF GOVERNMENT UNDER WHICH THEY SHOULD LIVE." —JOHN JAY

One of the reasons New York State got off to such a strong start was that some of the members of the convention emerged as leaders of the new state. John Jay, the lead drafter of the document, became New York's first Chief Justice. (Jay later served as first Chief Justice of the United States and as New York State's second governor as well as being an advocate for the

U.S. Constitution as noted above.) When the state's first grand jury assembled in Kingston in September 1777, Jay took the occasion to make a speech explaining the significance of the new document. It was such a well crafted speech that the new state government published it as an official document. He emphasized how truly revolutionary an act it was to assert the right to self-government: "The time will now never arrive when the prince of a country in another quarter of the globe will command your obedience, and hold you in vassalage," the new Chief Justice told the jurors, but with a broader New York audience in mind. "His consent has ceased to be necessary to enable you to enact laws essential to your welfare. Nor will you in future be subject to the imperious sway of rulers instructed to sacrifice your happiness whenever it might be inconsistent with the ambitious views of their royal master."

This was the beginning of a new era, Jay continued. "Your lives, your liberties, your property, will be at the disposal only of your Creator and yourselves. You will know no power but such as you will create; no authority unless derived from your grant; no laws but such as acquire all their obligation from your consent."

Going further, looking at the 13 rebellious colonies as a whole, Jay wrote that "the Americans are the first people whom Heaven has favoured with an opportunity of deliberating upon, and choosing the forms of government under which they should live."

New York has had several constitutional conventions since 1777, and in addition the constitution has been amended many times. The year, 2017, voters will again have a chance to vote at the polls on whether to authorize another convention. It is a very important decision. A convention could amend, revise, or entirely rewrite the current version of the constitution. We can expect there will be widespread public discussion of constitutional issues leading up to the vote in November. That discussion should include attention to New York's constitutional history, including the first constitution, which laid the historical foundation for New York State.



Bruce W. Dearstyne, PhD, is a historian in Guelderland, New York. He is the author of *The Spirit of New York: Defining Events in the Empire State's History*, published in 2015 by SUNY Press. This article is based on the first chapter in that book, "April 22, 1777: New York State Begins."



Don't Forget the Card Files!—Part 2

EDITOR'S NOTE: Card files like those described here may be found in many libraries, historian's offices, genealogy societies, and other places. Part 1 of this article may be found in the Winter 2016 issue of the *New York Researcher*.

Card Files at the Onondaga County Library, Syracuse, New York

By Holly Sammons

The Onondaga County Library's Local History and Genealogy Department has extensive card files. Those particularly relevant for genealogy are covered here.

Catalog Shelf List

This file is along the lines of the classic card catalog except it is categorized by call number. "Shelf lists" help locate hard-to-find materials, for example when an item is not in the expected location, researchers can refer to the shelf list for special instructions to find the item. Another use is for researchers who find browsing the shelves difficult. The shelf list can point to other records in physical proximity an item or in a subject area. With much of our collection only in staff accessible areas, this file is invaluable to many researchers.

Cemetery Index

Our genealogy collection has many books and manuscripts with cemetery records, transcriptions, etc. Many cover multiple cemeteries, and often the traditional cataloging does not or cannot list each individual cemetery—this card file does. The cemetery index lists the counties in New York State, and then within each county by town, cemeteries are listed with call numbers for each item.

Coat of Arms Index

This index, organized by surname, references books in the collection with Coat of Arms for the given name.

Genealogy Analytics

The genealogy analytic file is listed by surname and provides [titles or call numbers] to books and other records in the library that contain the research subject name.

Pioneer Index

This file was created in the 1930s and 1940s by a genealogy librarian to help researchers access hard to find information on families who lived in Onondaga County prior to 1850. It's a name index that points to resources in the department related to the family being researched. The cards can refer to multiple resources in the genealogy department.

Rolodex

This file is similar to today's FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions). Genealogy staff compiled answers to common questions. This file, still in use, affords quick lookups to questions about Central New York. It includes contact information and source citations to a wide variety of information

WPA Collection

This index was created during the Great Depression by Works Progress Administration, which compiled an index of newspaper items of general and historic value to Syracuse and Onondaga County. The material was obtained from newspaper files of the Syracuse Public Library and newspaper files of the Historical Scrap Books of the Onondaga Historical Association. The index covers the years 1814–1900 inclusive and are organized by subject, i.e., Deaths, Marriages, Politicians and more.

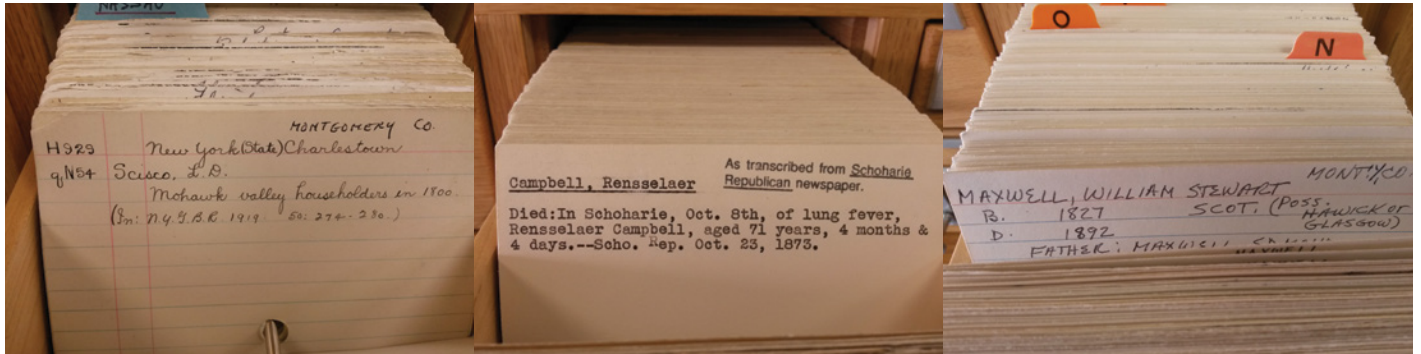


Holly Sammons is a genealogy librarian and former head of the Local History & Genealogy Department at the Onondaga County Public Library in Syracuse. She is also a board member of the Central New York Genealogical Society (CNYGS).

New York State Library Genealogy and Local History Card Files, Albany, New York

By Shawn Purcell

The New York State Library (NYSL) maintains helpful card file indexes on the public floor (7th floor in the Genealogy and Local History section) that were created and expanded by dedicated staff from the early 1900s to the 1980s or so. They point to entries within collection items and as such are often not searchable in the online catalog. If a researcher has limited time onsite at the NYSL, time spent using the card files would be a top priority.



Capital District Genealogical Society Card File (4 drawers)

Compiled by the Capital District Genealogical Society and donated to the Library. Arranged by surname, with more recent references.

City Directories (10 drawers)

An inventory of city directories and telephone directories in print, complete with many “See Also” references. A large part of this collection is also in microformat.

DAR New Project (21 drawers)

Indexes and often abstracts the New York State DAR New Project Grandparent Forms held in the collections.

Early Vital Records Card File Index (8 drawers)

Points to early unofficial vital records in the collections as found in church and cemetery records, newspaper obituaries, and many other sources. These are arranged by county, with county-wide records at the beginning and then town by town alphabetically.

Index to 1840 Census New York State Military Pensioners (2 drawers)

The 1840 federal census included a question for listing “Pensioners for Revolutionary or Military Services, included in the ForeGoing [household].” This card index is of those names.

Local History Articles

(7 drawers New York State and 5 drawers for the United States by place; 3 drawers by subject)

Referencing periodical articles relating to local history and genealogy.

Manuscripts Card Catalog (80 drawers)

This card file resides on the 11th floor with the State Library’s Manuscripts & Special Collections unit. Topics include Manuscripts, Maps, Musical Scores, Extra-Illustrated Books, and Prints.

New York State Revolutionary War Soldiers (21 drawers)

Points to many print resources, including DAR records.

Surname Card File Index (60 drawers)

Printed and hand-written references to published genealogies of direct and related lines, local histories, periodicals in those fields, New York State Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) records, the Pamphlet Collection (hundreds of boxes of loose genealogy and local history material), etc.

Shawn Purcell is a senior librarian at the New York State Library in Albany, NY, specializing in history and genealogy.

The *New!* NYG&B Website

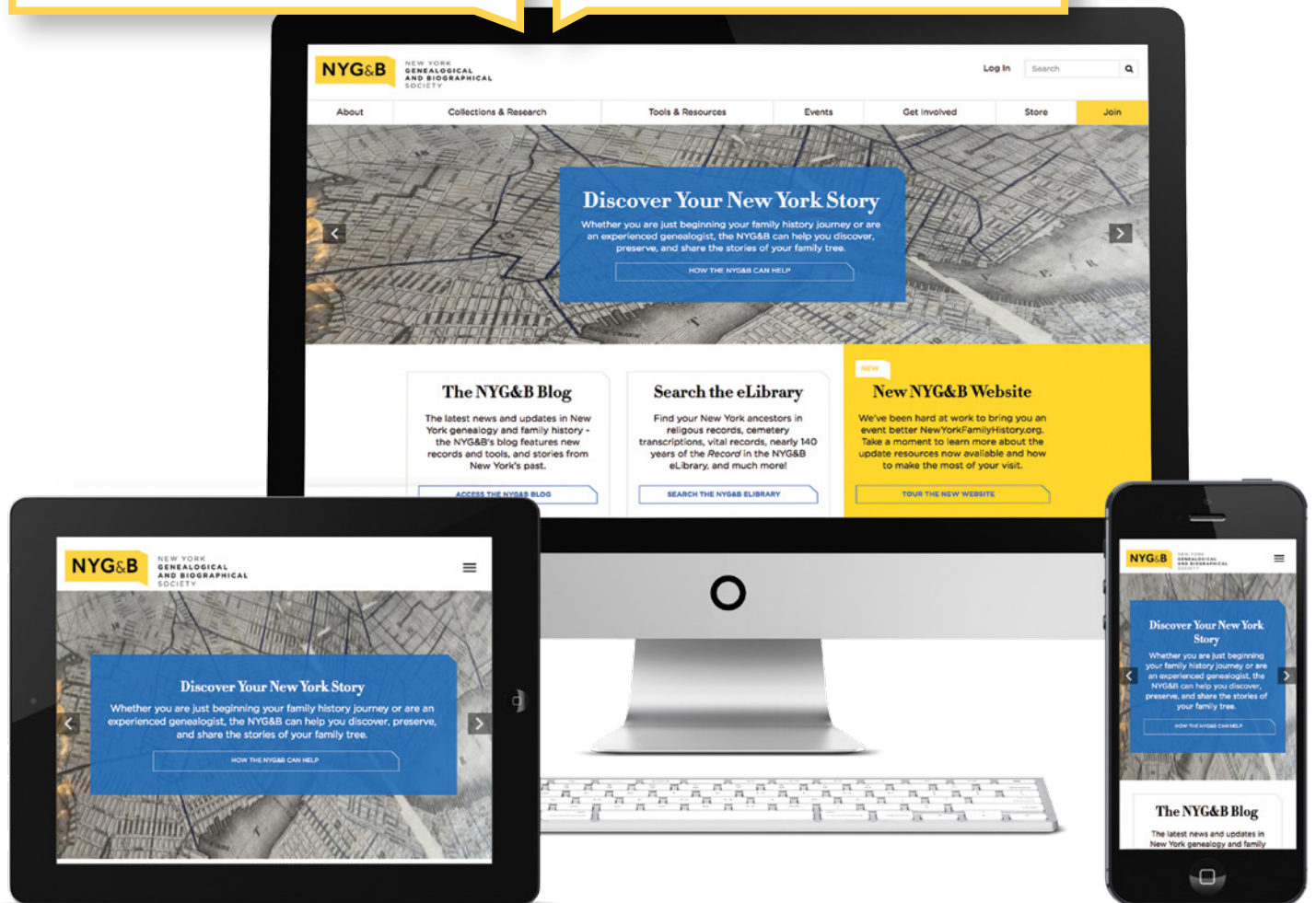
This spring, we launched a brand new version of our website, www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org. If you have not had the chance to explore it yet, we extend an invitation to visit!

Re-designed with our members in mind, the new website allows members to:

- Find essential information for research in our **New York KnowledgeBase** and improve your research skills
- Harness the full power of the new-look **NYG&B eLibrary**
- Explore New York genealogy from any device—computer, tablet, or smartphone.
- Easily sign up for events and conferences, purchase products, renew your membership and manage all aspects of your NYG&B membership

This launch is the first in a series of refinements to the website. Over the coming months, we would like to hear from you. Your suggestions and questions have helped formulate the new site and are sure to give us ideas and suggestions for the future.

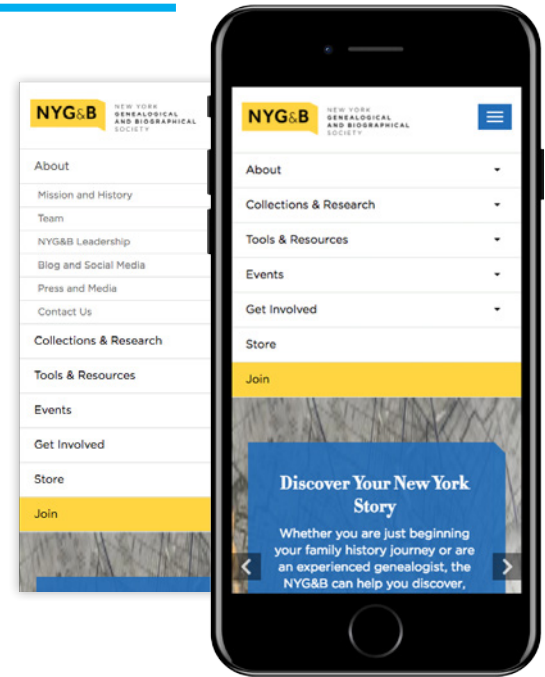
Read on for a detailed tour of the new www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org.



Easy navigation

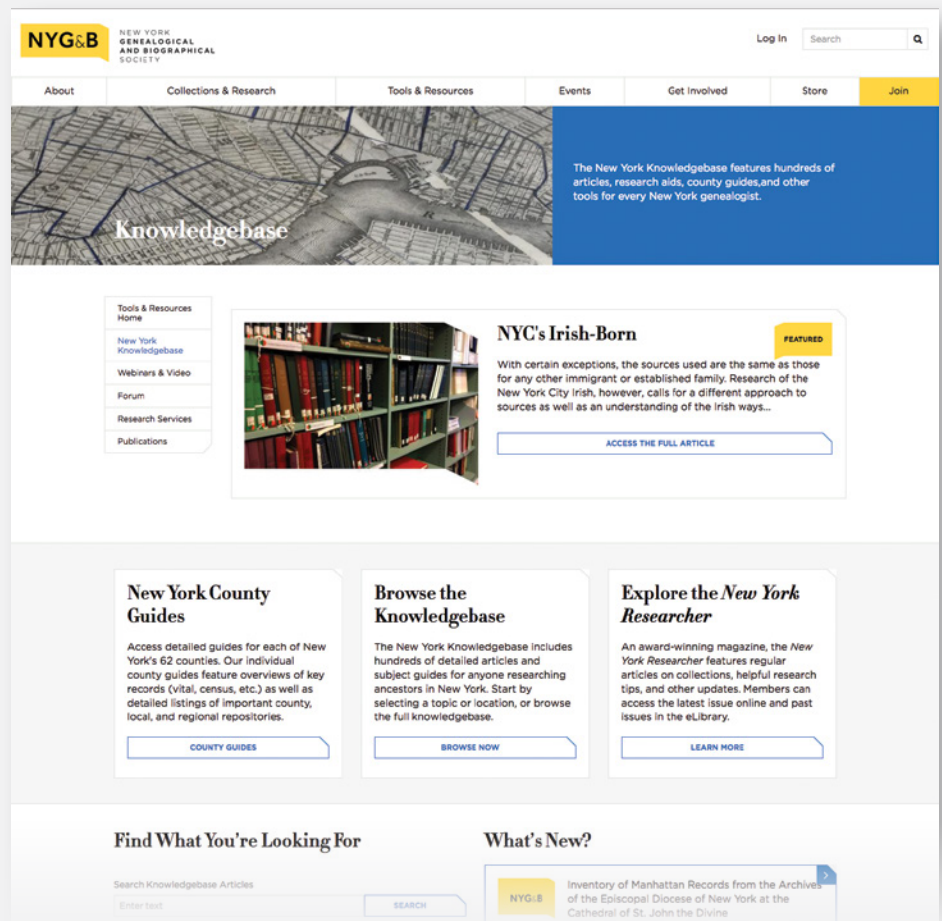
We designed the new website with easy navigation in mind—the new simplified menu structure ensures you are only a few clicks away from the most essential New York resources. Our new “**Add to Favorites**” feature allows you to quickly identify and save your favorite NYG&B resources within your **Member Dashboard**.

- **Collections & Research** contains the NYG&B eLibrary (including access to thousands of New York records) and guides to using the NYG&B collections at the New York Public Library.
- **Tools & Resources** is where you find our New York KnowledgeBase, recorded webinars and videos, the new member Forum, and useful information about NYG&B Research Services and Publications.
- **Events** has a calendar of upcoming NYG&B and community events that New York researchers will not want to miss.
- **Get Involved** offers ways to join and support the NYG&B community, including details on volunteering, internships, donations, and patron membership.



Tap into the knowledge of New York Experts

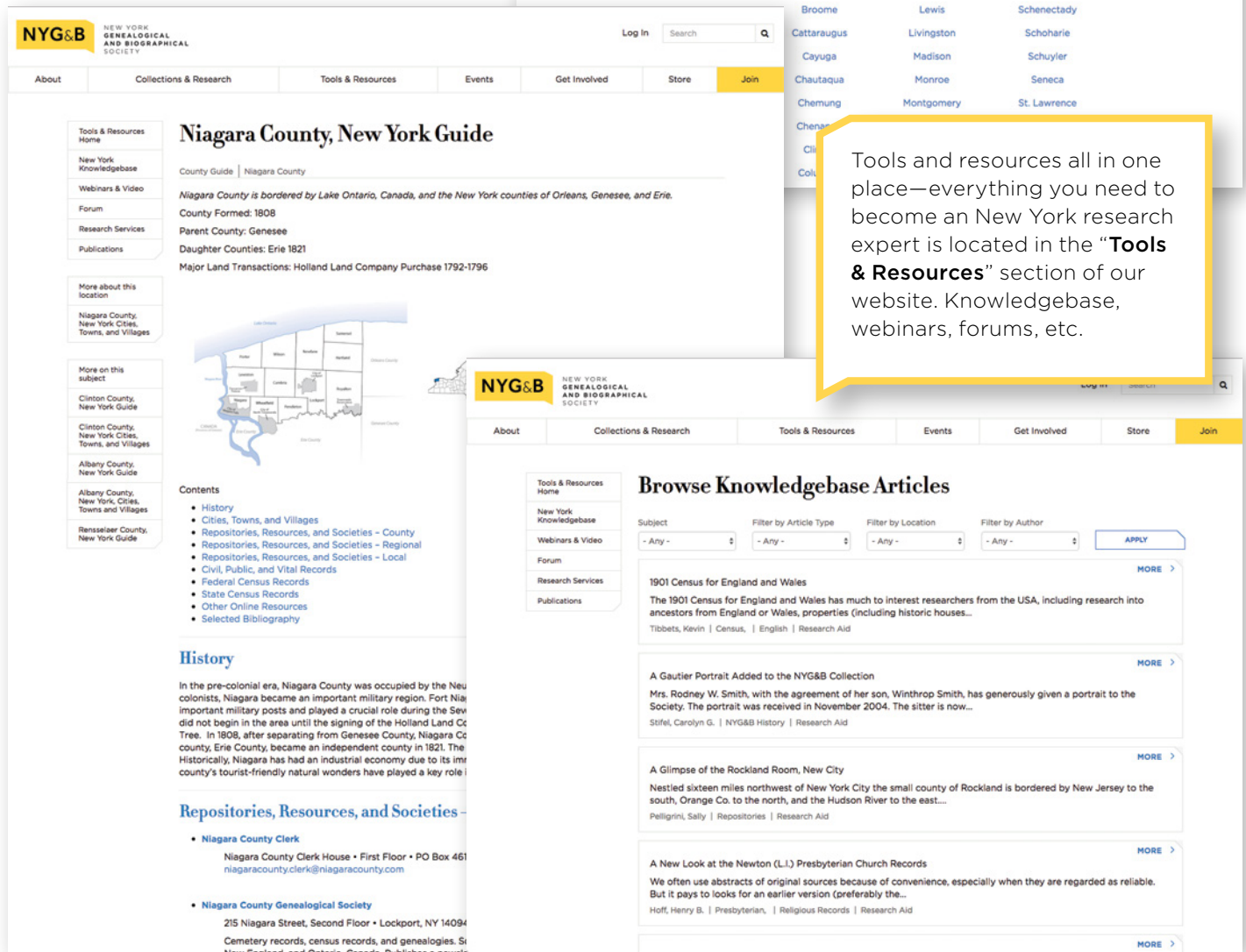
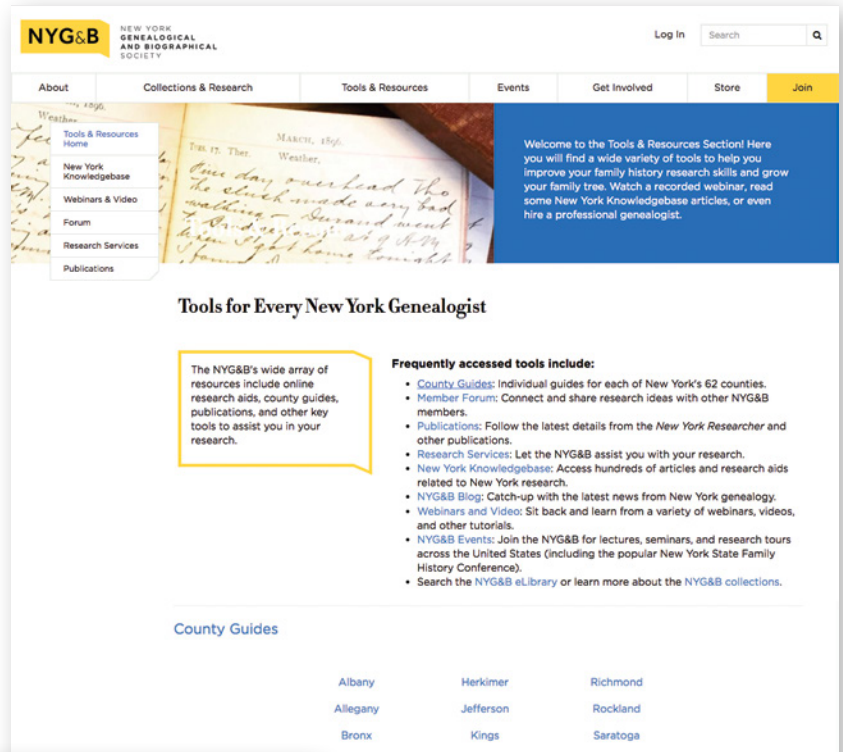
Our **New York KnowledgeBase** contains over two hundred articles written by some of the top experts in New York genealogy. New guides for each of New York’s 62 counties quickly guide you to other resources across the website (including the eLibrary) and provide details on key resources for your research. Topics from our subject guides and recorded webinars feature a variety of topics from researching German and Irish ancestors to learning more about the New York canal system.



Discover new tips, tricks, and resources on every visit

Our site, www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org, is full of essential resources, tips, and tricks for anyone researching their New York family. Resources can be easily browsed subject or location, or searched by keyword across the entire site.

For example, you can now discover everything the NYG&B has to offer about cemetery research (and online cemetery records) in just a few clicks, or you can view all our available resources for a specific county. Finding new resources is as simple as reading an article you are interested in—a list of other article links that are related by subject or location will appear on the left.



Unlock the full power of the NYG&B eLibrary

In the **Collections & Research** section, you can access all of your favorite digital databases, including the entire run of *The NYG&B Record* and the *New York Researcher*, are easily accessible. The full listing of eLibrary collections can be sorted by subject or location. You may even discover a record set you did not realize was available. Each record set page contains essential

information about the record set and points you to related content like webinars, KnowledgeBase articles, and indexes.

Unlock the full power of the **NYG&B eLibrary**—exploring our extensive digital resources has never been easier. The new NYG&B eLibrary has a brand new interface, which will help members explore and discover record sets.

Collection Name	Subject	Format	Action
Cemetery Abstracts, New York State	Cemetery	Searchable PDF	VIEW
Church Records Survey, New York State	Religious Records	Image only	VIEW
1748-1758	Colonial, Government & Laws, Vital Records	Searchable PDF	VIEW
1823-1842	Government & Laws, Vital Records	Searchable PDF	VIEW
1843-1849	Government & Laws, Vital Records	Searchable PDF	VIEW
Compiled Genealogies	Searchable PDF	VIEW	
1880-1956	History	Searchable PDF	VIEW

The NYG&B Record

Periodicals | Index and images | New York State

At a Glance:

The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record is the second oldest genealogical journal in the country and is full of valuable documentation to aid you in your family history research. These volumes span the years 1870 to present day and cover people and events from the seventeenth century and beyond.

You can browse the Record by issue, year or volume by clicking the "browse" button. Clicking the "search" button will bring you to a searchable version of the Record, which comprises PDF files of the original publication. There you can search across the entire collection by keyword or narrow your search by volume, issue, page number, publication year, or article title.

More About This Collection:

Published quarterly since 1870 by the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, the New York Genealogical and Biographical Record is one of the most distinguished genealogical journals in the country. The journal's entire run comprises nearly 600 issues and forms the largest single collection of published material on families that lived in New York State. The NYG&B Record publishes compiled genealogies documented to the highest standards, transcriptions of original records and other source material from throughout New York State, works that solve genealogical problems, and reviews of important scholarship in the field. An annual index is published as part of every October issue. However, the digital collection presents the index separately as the fifth issue of each volume.

The browsable collection of the Record allows the reader to select an issue and flip through the pages as if reading a book or to go to a specific page. It is comprised of JPG picture files of the original publication and does not allow full-text searching. The available information will vary depending on the nature of your search but you may discover the following:

- Biographical sketches
- Family genealogies, including lists of descendants

Share your thoughts

We invite you to share your thoughts on the new newyorkfamilyhistory.org. Simply send an email to webmaster@nygbs.org and let us know how we can help.

NYG&B Labs

In February the NYG&B announced the creation of NYG&B Labs, an exciting initiative to leverage the latest trends and developments in technology and digital humanities to assist in telling the stories of New York's families.

NYG&B Labs is a destination for aspiring digital professionals to advance their expertise in technology and its applications for the fields of history and genealogy.

How Does It Work?

Each quarter the NYG&B will welcome up to two NYG&B Labs team members who will work on a designated, pre-approved project that combines existing data and content from the NYG&B with digital services. As projects are completed, they may be added to our website or made available elsewhere.

NYG&B Labs team members will benefit from one-on-one interaction with experts in the fields of genealogy and technology as they work to creatively apply technology to traditional genealogical methods relating to New York's history.

A minimum of ten (10) hours per week is required during the quarter, and a quarterly stipend will be paid to each team member.

Team members can work from anywhere in the world, though it is preferred that they are able to work out of the NYG&B offices at least **eight hours** per week.

The launch of the project was made possible with funding from the NYG&B, individual donors, and support from



PHOTO: Software and systems engineer Margaret Heafield Hamilton standing next to the Apollo Guidance Computer source code that she and her team at MIT produced for NASA, 1969. She was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2016. (Charles Stark Draper Laboratory, MIT.)

commercial and nonprofit entities within the genealogical community.

How Can I Help?

NYG&B Labs is made possible through the generous donations of NYG&B members and friends. If you would like to learn more about how you can support this important initiative contact NYG&B President D. Joshua Taylor (president@nygbs.org). You are also invited to share any ideas you might have for future projects for the NYG&B Labs team.

The NYG&B is specifically seeking team members with an interest in technology, geo-coding, mapping, social media, website development, digital services, history, and other topics. Applications to join the NYG&B Labs team may be made at www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/labs.

NYG&B Indexing and Digitization Project

Our Indexing and Digitization Project Kickoff in January was a huge success! Hundreds of volunteers—at our offices in Manhattan and across the country via the internet—spent Friday and Saturday hard at work, and exceeded even our wildest expectations.

Volunteers indexed records from our New York State Religious Records collection, specifically Royden Woodward Vosburgh's expert typeface transcriptions, and a separate index card collection that links families together. New volumes from counties across the state are included, e.g. Columbia, Rensselaer, Schoharie, and Otsego. Each image was indexed by two different volunteers—this ensure accuracy and quality.

Additional collections were digitized and will be added to the NYG&B eLibrary later this year. We were joined by some members of the Findmypast team

who helped provide some excellent digitization expertise and equipment.

The indexing project is ongoing with some volunteers continuing daily. Here's the current count:

- More than 80,000 records indexed
- More than 50,000 records digitized

Many thanks to all the volunteers who participated in this project and made it such an amazing success! To join the project, sign up at www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/get-involved/volunteer/volunteering-opportunities.



Research in Albany

September 13–15, 2017 | Albany, New York

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

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

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

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

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.com 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

To register, visit the NYG&B website or call 212-755-8532 x211.

Early member registration	\$235 (through June 30)
Member registration	\$270 (July 1–October 26)
Non-member registration	\$295 (opens July 1)
Optional box lunch	\$26 / per box lunch, per day
Personal consultation	\$28 / 15-minute session*

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

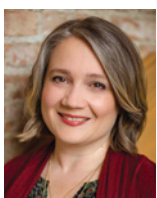
About Blaine Bettinger, PhD, JD



Blaine Bettinger, PhD, JD, is an intellectual property attorney by day and a DNA specialist by night. In 2007 he started *The Genetic Genealogist* (www.thegeneticgenealogist.com), one of the earliest blogs on the topic. Dr. Bettinger has been interviewed and quoted on personal genomics topics in *Newsweek*, *New Scientist*, *Wired*, and others. He is the author of *The Family Tree Guide to DNA Testing* and *Genetic Genealogy*, and co-author with Debbie Parker Wayne of the award-winning *Genetic Genealogy in Practice*, the world’s first genetic genealogy workbook.

Blaine frequently authors articles and gives presentations to educate others about the use of DNA to explore their ancestry. He is or has been an instructor for genetic genealogy courses at Excelsior College, the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research (IGHR), Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy (SLIG), Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh (GRIP), Virtual Institute of Genealogical Research, and Family Tree University. Blaine is a graduate of ProGen Study Group 21, a trustee for the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society’s Board of Trustees, and a board member for the Association of Professional Genealogists.

About Angie Bush, MS



Angie Bush, MS is the Region 1 Director for the National Genealogical Society and chair of its genetic genealogy committee. She’s also a full-time genetic genealogist researcher with AncestryProGenealogists in Salt Lake City. Angie has been interested in her genealogy since she was very young. After college, she spent several years working in biotech while continuing to hone her genealogy skills as a hobby.

With the introduction of autosomal DNA testing in 2012, she decided to combine her two loves into one career. Although she spends much of her time working on recent unknown parentage cases, her favorite type of research involves breaking through decades-old “brick walls” using a combination of traditional records and genetic evidence. She is a popular speaker and presenter, and she enjoys attending conferences where she can connect with others who share her passion for genealogy. Angie is a Utah native and lives with her husband and two descendants in Sandy, Utah.

DNA Program Schedule (subject to change)

FRIDAY, 27 OCTOBER

9:00 a.m.	Check-in, Coffee, etc.
9:15–10:15 a.m.	Overview: Types of DNA Tests, Testing Companies and Developing a DNA Testing Plan
10:30–11:30 a.m.	Understanding Ethnicity, Admixture, and Haplogroups
	Lunch break—on your own or <i>box lunch</i> (\$)
11:40 a.m.–12:10 p.m.	<i>Personal Consultation Sessions (15-minutes, additional registration and fee required*)</i>
12:40–1:10 p.m.	<i>Personal Consultation Sessions (15-minutes, additional registration and fee required*)</i>
1:15–2:15 p.m.	Genetic Networks (DNA Circles, NADs, GWorks and other tools for pedigree analysis)
2:30–3:30 p.m.	Third Party Tools
3:40–4:10 p.m.	<i>Personal Consultation Sessions (15-minutes, additional registration and fee required*)</i>

SATURDAY, 28 OCTOBER

9:00 a.m.	Coffee
9:15–10:15 a.m.	Chromosome Mapping and Visual Phasing
10:30–11:30 a.m.	The Genealogy Proof Standard and Writing
	Lunch break—on your own or <i>box lunch</i> (\$)
11:40–12:10 p.m.	<i>Personal Consultation Sessions (15-minutes, additional registration and fee required*)</i>
12:40–1:10 p.m.	<i>Personal Consultation Sessions (15-minutes, additional registration and fee required*)</i>
1:15–2:15 p.m.	Ethics and Standards
2:30–3:30 p.m.	The Future of Genetic Genealogy with a Rum-based Strawberry DNA Extraction
	Refreshments (following the final lecture)
4:15–4:45 p.m.	<i>Personal Consultation Sessions (15-minutes, additional registration and fee required*)</i>

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

Digitization Day

Thursday, May 18, 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. | New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, NYC

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

Repository Tours

The Genealogy & Map Divisions of the New York Public Library

Thursday, May 25, 10:30-11:45 a.m. | NYC

The New York Public Library is one of the world's great research libraries. NYPL staff will provide an overview of the rich resources of the Milstein Division of United States History, Local History and Genealogy, and the Lionel Pincus and Princess Firyal Map Division. A guided tour of the Milstein, Microfilm, and Map rooms will follow. The NYG&B tour will take approximately 75 minutes, after which, individual research may conduct their own research.

National Archives at New York City

Tuesday, June 13, 10:30-11:30 a.m. | NYC

Dorothy Dougherty, Director of Public Programs, will provide a tour of and an introduction to the NARA-NYC facilities in the U.S. Customs House near Battery Park, and an overview of the holdings. NYG&B staff will be available to assist with locating resources after the program.

Repository Tour Registration

Members: \$25 | Non-members: \$40

Advanced registration is required. Visit our events page on www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org to register, or call 212-755-8532 x211.

NYG&B Lecture (Presentation will be recorded)

Find Relatives with MyHeritage DNA Matching

**Thursday, May 4, 6:00 p.m. | New York Genealogical and Biographical Society
Presented by Daniel Horowitz, Chief Genealogist, MyHeritage**

Daniel Horowitz 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.

Registration

RSVP is required, but it is free. Email RSVP@nygbs.org, register using the link on the website calendar, or call 212-755-8532 x206. Members unable to attend in person will be able to view a recording of the program later.

Conferences

2017 New England Regional Genealogical Conference: Using the Tools of Today & Tomorrow to Understand the Past

April 26-29 | Springfield, Massachusetts

Thursday afternoon features a "Tristate Trifecta" with lectures on New York ("Tour of New York State General Research Repositories" by Jane E. Wilcox), New Jersey, and Connecticut. Saturday morning brings "New York, New York" with NYG&B lectures "NYC Municipal Archives: Undiscovered Collections & Vital Records" by Susan R. Miller followed by "The New York Gateway: Immigration, Emigration, and Migration" by Jane E. Wilcox. Visit us at the NYG&B booth #30-31 to pick up your member ribbon. Registration and conference details may be found at www.nergc.org.

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.

NYG&B Joint Program with Western New York Genealogical Society

October 7 | Buffalo, New York

Join the NYG&B in Buffalo for a day of genealogy lectures featuring, D. Joshua Taylor, Jane. E. Wilcox, and Blaine Bettinger. Registration will open in late April; watch our eNews and website calendar for details.

Highlights from Our Blog

The NYG&B blog keeps our community informed of events, articles, and timely news. Subscribe to our blog by visiting www.nygbs.org/blog.

Research Tips Q&A with D. Joshua Taylor and Susan R. Miller

During NYG&B Week, two of our New York genealogy experts held a live question and answer session, which was broadcast on YouTube. Members submitted questions via email, and were also able to ask questions and chat during the live broadcast. Josh and Sue had some great conversations and interesting questions—due to the positive feedback, we will definitely be doing another one again soon.

In case you missed the broadcast, our blog rounds up some of the most useful questions and answers, including advice on immigration and naturalization records, divorce records, land records and a very tricky German last name! The events calendar of our website will be updated as soon as the next live session is scheduled.

Read more at www.nygbs.org/blog

Some of New York's Oldest Records Moved for Future Preservation

January 5, 2017—Some of New York's most valuable genealogical and historical treasures, located on the 7th and 8th floor of the Surrogate's Courthouse Building in Manhattan, will soon move to new homes.

The move is great news for researchers everywhere. In their new homes the documents will be conserved and preserved for future generations, and in many cases, access will increase. Many of the documents, which date back to 1674, have been stored at 31 Chambers Street for centuries, and are at great risk of significant degradation. The documents contain a wide variety of records, including land records, immigration records and court proceedings that hold the intimate details of the earliest New Yorkers.

Some records will move to the State Archives in Albany [move completed in February 2017]; others will move to New York City's Department of Records.

Essential Resources for African American Research in *The NYG&B Record*

February 23, 2017—Are you researching African American families from New York State? If so, make sure to head over to our blog for a roundup of archived *Record* articles that could help you break through some brick walls. These articles are available digitally to all NYG&B members with just the click of a button!

Numerous articles from Henry Hoff, CG, FASG, cover the ins and outs of researching African American families in Colonial New York—including the most common challenges and ways to get around them. Useful sketches of early African American New Yorkers and a great case study filled with replicable methods for researching African Americans in the mid-Hudson Valley may be accessed by the links in the blog.



The Peterson family, c1920. Photograph courtesy of Fern Clemons

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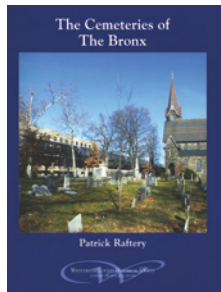
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Book Notes

The Cemeteries of the Bronx

By Patrick Raftery



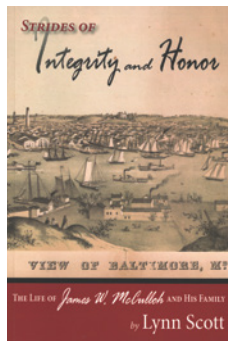
This excellent reference book makes fascinating reading and is a splendid complement to the author's three-volume work, *The Cemeteries of Westchester County* (2011). Originally part of Westchester County, between 1874 and 1895 the Bronx was ceded gradually to New York County before becoming a borough of New York City in 1898 and Bronx County in 1914.

Coverage is given to 50 cemeteries and burial places—some dating from colonial times—ranging from family, soldier, and slave burial grounds to the world-famous Woodlawn Cemetery to Potter's Field (City Cemetery) on Hart Island. For every entry a brief history is given, along with location, dates of use, alternate names, and removal information (if applicable). Miscellaneous burial places are described in Appendix 1, and the locations of surviving cemetery records is described in Appendix 2; a detailed list of sources is provided. Lavishly illustrated and thoroughly documented, the book is peppered with stories that provide a wealth of detail about individuals and families, as well as historical events.

Westchester County Historical Society. 2017. Softcover, 418 pages. Many black-and-white photographs, maps, and illustrations, plus index. \$40. Order at www.westchesterhistory.com.

Strides of Integrity and Honor: The Life of James W. McCulloh and His Family

By Lynn Scott



The first generation of the McCulloh family in America featured in this attractively designed, easy-to-read book consisted of John McCulloh (1747–1800), an emigrant from Scotland, and his wife Anna Todd (1747–1789), of Philadelphia. (His parents and siblings are named and briefly described.) Their youngest son was James William Benoi Todd McCulloch (1789–1861), the eighth

of eight children, who married Abigail Sears (1797–1864) of Baltimore. This book, providing a brief, topline overview, covers a wide range of John and Anna's descendants, but the family of James and Abigail gets the most attention. The family scattered about New England, New York State, New York City, and New Jersey, among other places. A number of family members achieved distinction in business

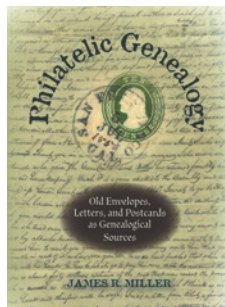
and other fields. Standard sources, many online, are cited for the listings. The most interesting sources for those wishing to research members of this family further are the McCulloh Family Papers at the Maryland Historical Society in Baltimore and family papers held by the author. A landmark court case, which reached the Supreme Court of the United States (James McCulloh vs. Maryland, 1819), and other activities pursued by James McCulloch in Maryland and elsewhere, generated plenty of records.

The author was a reference librarian and researcher for many years, and is now focusing on family history. She is a member of the NYG&B. The McCulloh family should offer her many opportunities for more in-depth research.

Self-Published, 2016. Softcover. 126 pages. Black and white photos and illustrations. Endnotes. Index. \$15 at Amazon.com

Philatelic Genealogy: Old Envelopes, Letters, and Postcards as Genealogical Sources

By James R. Miller



In this book the author explains how envelopes (even empty envelopes), letters, and postcards serve as sources for genealogists. Mr. Miller notes that these items have been collected by people interested in stamps, photographs of places, and themed topics (such as valentines), but not so much by genealogists. He believes that these ephemera are not fully appreciated for

their ability to uncover details of family history and relationships among people. He provides an introduction to using these kinds of materials in genealogical research. The bulk of the book provides a very wide selection of examples presented more like case studies in which philatelic resources can be combined with traditional kinds of research.

Ideally, families have postcards and envelopes in their "archives." But for those who don't, a bigger challenge than analyzing these materials is, obviously, finding them in the first place. The author provides some tips and names of dealers and online sources where, with luck, researchers could find relevant material.

The author has been involved in this topic for a number of years, and in 2009 launched Philgen.org, which provides articles and resources for researchers, much of which is arranged geographically. (See also *New York Researcher*, vol. 22 [Spring 2011], no. 4: 16–17.)

Self-published by Philatelic Genealogy, Inc., Caroga Lake, New York: 2016. Softcover. 363 pages. Black and white photos. Index. \$37 for the book, or \$4 for a PDF download, from the author's website, www.philgen.org.

In Other Lines

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

Joanna Franz Humphrey

Jackson Heights, New York; Member since 2003; NYG&B Volunteer

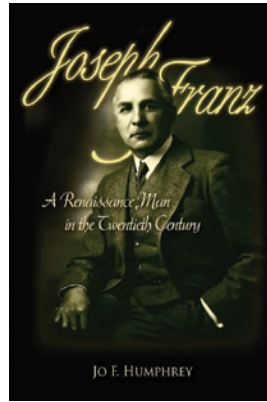
How did a girl from Stockbridge, MA, come to found a Chinese shadow theater company in New York City?

Two constants in my life have been my love of theater and Chinese culture. Growing up in New England I was captivated by artifacts from the China Trade that I would see in people's homes. I graduated from the University of Southern California and directed plays there and overseas (while my husband made educational films in Iran, Iraq, and Libya). When we returned home I taught communication arts and created a curriculum unit on Chinese shadow theater which was little known in this country. (Ironically, I had to use an Indonesian shadow figure because I could not get my hands on a Chinese one!) Several years later I attended an open house at the American Museum of Natural History that showcased their newly rediscovered collection of Chinese shadow figures assembled in 1902 by Berthold Laufer. I volunteered there for the next seven years to help document the collection and then help mount an exhibition and a performance. (This was at a time when the Chinese Cultural Revolution forbade the performance of traditional shadow theater in China.)

From there I founded the Yueh Lung (Joyous Dragon) Shadow Theater, and one of our first performances was at the United Nations. We made shadow figures modeled on



LEFT: Nineteenth century shadow players, Chinese, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, NYC; RIGHT: Joanna Franz Humphrey's biography of her father, Joseph Franz.



the ones at the Museum, and I wrote and directed scripts based on classic Chinese literature and folk stories. The theater eventually transitioned to become the Gold Mountain Institute, after we were given an important collection of shadow figures and added an educational outreach component.

You joined the NYG&B when you were writing a book?

My father, Joseph Franz, was an amazing man, and my mother felt he deserved more recognition so I decided to write a book

about him. He emigrated as a teenager from Austria around the turn of the century and was one of the great electrical engineering pioneers. He later designed and built the Jacob's Pillow Dance Theatre and the Music Shed at Tanglewood. I worked on his biography for five years and had lots of material. My father had told me many stories in his lifetime, and I was able to interview several older family members; he saved every letter and postcard he received, and he kept a diary during his first fifteen years in the United States. The diary is what slowed me down—he wrote in old-style (Suetterlin) German script and threw in some vernacular Austrian German from time to time. But eventually I translated every journal. I had a eureka moment when I discovered that *erdapfel*—which showed up all over the diary—is the Austrian word for potato.

William Francis Price, Jr.

Malibu, California; Member since 2003; Trustee emeritus

You have had an extraordinary career in Hollywood. How did you get started?

My favorite thing to do growing up was to read, and I took a job at CBS Television in New York City where I was actually paid to read and come up with story material for shows. I became a story editor and eventually a television producer.

I moved to Hollywood where I produced shows from *The Virginian* to *The Rockford Files*. Then I did movies and became head of Columbia

Pictures—twice—with a stint as head of Universal in between. Some of my most significant films were *Ghandi*, *Ghostbusters*, *Tootsie*, *Kramer vs. Kramer*, *Back to the Future*, *Out of Africa*, and *Groundhog Day*.



"Hollywood Sign" by raindog808 (www.flickr.com/photos/raindog808/354080327)

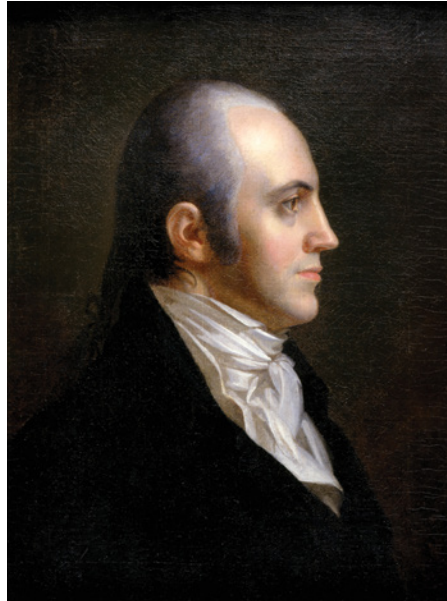
Several of your most notable films are biographies. What do you like about biographies?

I like stories of people. I read a biography of Napoleon when I was young that had a great impact on me, and I read a lot of historical novels in my teenage years. I liked to learn

about other people and the times they lived in. When I got started on my family history, I bought books to understand the context of their lives. Why did my ancestors move west? Because they ran out of farmland with each new generation.

Were you always aware of your family history and your connection to Aaron Burr?

My father told me that the Prices went back to the Mayflower. If not for the internet I would not have gone further. But I came across *Familysearch.org* and struck pay dirt with my great-grandmother Sarah Hull whose family history had been documented by the famous genealogist Donald Lines Jacobus. I found that I was Aaron Burr's first cousin, six times removed. I continued my research and applied to various lineage societies as a way to validate that my work was good. A colleague from Universal told me about the Society of the Cincinnati. Only one hereditary member can represent an individual at a time, and there had been a 30-year gap since Aaron Burr had been represented. And so I applied to join the Society and now chair its American Revolution Institute. I'm very proud of Burr and his commitment to women's rights and abolition, which was extraordinary for the period and was carried on by his descendants, notably the Reverend Moses Hull who



1802 Portrait of Aaron Burr (1756–1836)
by John Vanderlyn (1775–1852).
(New-York Historical Society.)

Washington's army and secretly operated three gunpowder mills in Orange County and Ulster County; he helped come up with the idea for the Chain across the Hudson; and he was part of the group that drafted New York State's constitution. I found that he was not listed in the *Encyclopedia of New York State* and I notified the editors that a great American hero from New York was missing, and they asked me to write the entry which I did.

nominated Frederick Douglass as Vice President, alongside presidential candidate Victoria Woodhull, at the 1872 convention.

Have you written up your research?

I am intellectually at work on a book but keep putting it off. I don't want to rule it out, but there is so much else to do. I am depending on guilt to motivate me. Clearly, the book I should write is about Aaron Burr. History books have been unfair to Burr; he was described by Jefferson and Hamilton people because he had no descendants to tell his story.

But I have published an article on someone I researched who turned out not to be an ancestor after all. Henry Wisner was a New York delegate to the Continental Congress. He supplied ammunition to George

New York Articles From Beyond Our Boundaries

New York-related articles in selected 2016 issues of some Non-New York journals

Contributed by Stanton Biddle, PhD

“Who Was Mariah, Wife of Jacob Lasher (1773–1857) of Germantown, Columbia County, New York?”

***National Genealogical Society Quarterly*, vol. 104, Julie Miller, CG, CGL, 3: 191–201 (Sept. 2016).**

Using the case of Jacob Lasher's first wife, the author illustrates the importance of identifying source records in resolving conflicts in later research.

“Researching New York at WRHS: The Case of John Wright (ca. 1753–1838) of New Windsor, New York”

***WRHS Genealogy Bulletin*, vol. 35, Jean M. Hoffman, CG, 3: 1, 8–11 (Fall 2016).**

The author was seeking the identity of the father of a 3rd great-great grandmother in New York State using records available through the Western Reserve Historical Society Library (WRHS) in Cleveland, OH. She had two candidates, David and John Wright, both living in New Windsor (Ulster County), New York

at the appropriate time. Although she has not found the father, her research revealed a great deal of useful information for others interested in the same time and place. The WRHS Library resources she used included books, online resources, and microfilm ordered from the LDS Family History Library.



Stanton Biddle, PhD, is a twenty-plus year member of the NYG&B and a member of our corps of volunteers. 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.

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