2023 New York State Family History Conference Syllabus

Inside: Session syllabi and speaker biographies

## About the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society

Founded in 1869, the New York Genealogical & Biographical Society (NYG&B) is a nonprofit organization that preserves, documents, and shares family history and stories from across New York State. As the second-oldest genealogical society in the United States, NYG&B serves members both nationally and internationally through its extensive records and resources; educational programming; and landmark publications, including its scholarly journal *The NYG&B Record*, quarterly issues of the *New York Researcher*, and the award-winning *New York Family History Research Guide and Gazetteer*. Its comprehensive records and collections encompass genealogical and historical materials from all 62 counties in New York State.

Learn more at **www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org.**

CONTACT

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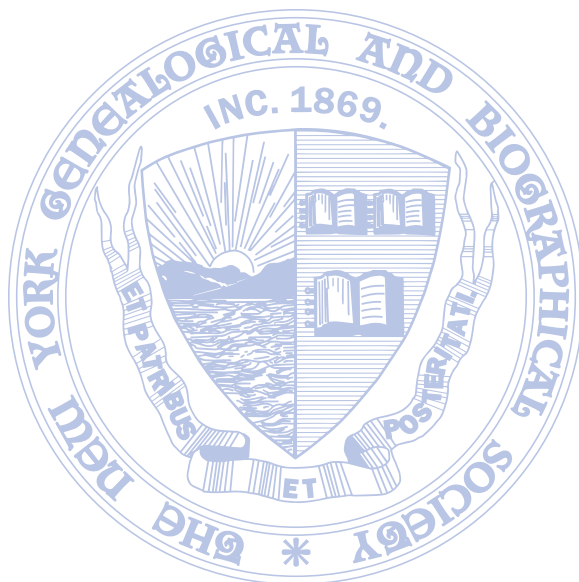
Contents

Bio Acromyns:

APG   Association of Professional Genealogists
GenFed Genealogical Institute on Federal Records
GRIP   Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh
IGHR   Institute of Genealogy & Historical Research
ProGen   ProGen Study Group
SLIG   Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy
VIGR   Virtual Institute of Genealogical Research

About Genealogical Credentials:

FGBS designates fellows of the New York Genealogical
       and Biographical Society.
FASG designates fellows of the American Society of
       Genealogists.
FNGS designates fellows of the National Geological
       Society.
FUGA designates fellows of the Utah Genealogical
       Association.
CG is a registered trademark of the Board for
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Individuals are licensed to use the credential designations
after meeting the competency standards of those
organizations.

# NYSFHC Sessions Syllabus (handouts)

NYSFHC Sessions Syllabus (handouts)

Speaker Bios

A'Lelia Bundles is the author of *On Her Own Ground: The Life and Times of Madam C.J. Walker*, a New York Times Notable Book about her entrepreneurial great-great-grandmother and the inspiration for *Self Made*, the fictional Netflix series starring Octavia Spencer. *The Joy Goddess: A'Lelia Walker and the Harlem Renaissance*, the first major biography of her great-grandmother, will be published in summer 2024 by Scribner. Bundles is the founder of the Madam Walker Family Archives and brand historian for MADAM by Madam C. J. Walker, a line of hair care products developed in partnership with Unilever's Sundial Brands and Walmart. She serves on several nonprofit boards, including the Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America at Harvard's Radcliffe Institute; the March on Washington Film Festival; Indiana Landmarks; the Women's Suffrage National Monument Foundation; and the Smithsonian's American Women's History Initiative. A former network television executive and Emmy Award-winning producer at ABC News and NBC News, she is chair emerita of the National Archives Foundation and a vice chair emerita of Columbia University.

Session Speakers
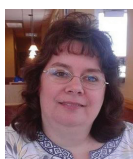
Melissa Barker is a Certified Archives Manager and Public Historian currently working at the Houston County, Tennessee Archives. She is affectionately known as The Archive Lady to the genealogy community. She lectures, teaches and writes about the genealogy research process, researching in archives and records preservation. She conducts virtual webinar presentations across the United States for genealogical and historical societies. She writes a popular blog entitled, *A Genealogist in the Archives*, and is a well-known published book reviewer. She has been a Professional Genealogist for the past 19 years with expertise in Tennessee records. She has been researching her own family history for the past 33 years.

Blaine T. Bettinger, PhD, JD, is a professional genealogist specializing in DNA evidence. In 2007 he started *The Genetic Genealogist.* Blaine 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*. He also co-authored "Genetics for Genealogy" with Judy Russell in 2018's *Professional Genealogy: Preparation, Practice & Standards* (ProGen PPS) (Elizabeth Shown Mills, aauthor and editor). Blaine is or has been an instructor for genetic genealogy courses at IGHR, SLIG, GRIP, and VIGR. Blaine is a graduate of ProGen 21 and a trustee of the NYG&B.

Jesse Brown is a supervisor of research services at the New York State Archives in Albany, New York. He received his Master of Library & Information Science degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He first joined the New York State Archives in 2007 as a project archivist.

Lara Diamond began researching her own family around 1989. She has traced all family branches multiple generations to Eastern Europe using Russian Empire-era and Austria-Hungarian Empire records. Most personal research is in modern-day Ukraine, with a smattering in Belarus and Poland. Her client research leads to ancestors in many parts of the former USSR, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Romania and more. She is president of the Jewish Genealogy Society of Maryland and is JewishGen's Subcarpathia Research Director. She lectures on Jewish and Eastern European genealogy as well as genetic genealogy. She also runs multiple district and town-focused projects to collect documentation to assist all those researching ancestors from common towns.

Skip Duett is a professional genealogist specializing in Upstate New York research and Y-DNA analysis. He is actively researching post-Revolutionary War land companies along with grants and patents in New York. Skip serves on the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society Family History Advisory Committee.

Speaker Bios _(CONTINUED)

Alec Ferritti is a New York City-based professional genealogist, who works for the Wells Fargo Family & Business History Center, researching family histories for high net worth clients. He is a graduate of NYU and LIU's dual masters program, with degrees in archives and library science. Throughout his studies, he worked in various capacities in archives throughout New York City, including the Tamiment Library and the New-York Historical Society. Alec specializes in the genealogy of 20th century immigrants to the United States alongside Italian genealogy. Alec serves on the Board of Directors of the Association of Professional Genealogists, and on the Board of Reclaim the Records, a nonprofit dedicated to wrangling public records from restrictive government agencies.

Joshua Hauck-Whealtond is an archivist, research services, at the New York State Archives in Albany, New York. Joshua received his Master of Library & Information Science degree from the University at Albany, SUNY. He worked as an archival assistant at the Museum of Innovation and Science for more than 10 years before joining the team at the New York State Archives. He brings more than 15 years of experience working with museums, historic sites, libraries, and institutional archives.

Todd M. Hirsch oversees the development and implementation of educational programming at the NYG&B as well as cultivates partnerships with other organizations to engage with and grow the NYG&B community. He plans and executes all aspects of the NYG&B's diverse programming, including lectures, research tours, conferences, and workshops. A lawyer by training, Todd has served nonprofits both as in-house counsel and in development roles. Prior to the NYG&B, he was the associate counsel and, subsequently, the vice resident of development for the Tunnel to Towers Foundation. He has also held associate legal positions in the private sector. Todd holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from Columbia University and a joint J.D./LL.M. in taxation from Boston University School of Law.

Jean Wilcox Hibben, PhD, MA, is a native of the Chicago suburbs and a former Board Certified genealogist. She now resides in Southern California where she was a college professor for 13 years, teaching Speech Communication. She retired from teaching in order to pursue her passions: family history and folklore (with a doctorate in the latter). Jean is a national speaker, the former Director of the Corona (CA) Family History Center, President & webmaster of the Corona Genealogical Society, & Past-President of the Southern California Chapter of APG. She has also been on the boards of the Genealogical Speakers Guild, International Society of Family History Writers & Editors, and APG. Jean was also the lead researcher for the first season of *Genealogy Roadshow.*

Rhonda Hoffman, MLS, currently serves as the Genealogy Specialist for the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System in New York. She has a Master of Library Science degree from the University at Buffalo and a Bachelor of Arts in History from SUNY Geneseo. Rhonda has been researching her own genealogy for over two decades and is an active member of the Western New York Genealogical Society.

Annette Burke Lyttle owns Heritage Detective, LLC, providing professional genealogical services in research, education, and writing. She speaks on a variety of genealogical topics at the national, state, and local levels and loves helping people uncover and share their family stories. She has a master's degree in English and a bachelor's degree in journalism. She is coordinator of the Fall Virtual Intermediate Foundations course for the SLIG and leads Best Practices Study Groups for a number of organizations, providing in-depth education on the genealogical research process in an interactive setting. Annette is also president of the Association of Professional Genealogists and editor of *The Florida Genealogist.*

Speaker Bios

Susan R. Miller oversees the NYG&B's print and digital publications. She is the editor of the *New York Researcher* magazine and a managing editor of the *New York Family History Research Guide and Gazetteer* and the NYG&B county guide series. Susan also presents genealogical lectures on a national, regional, and local basis. Prior to her genealogical career, Susan worked in the sailing industry and for Emigrant Savings Bank in New York City for 23 years. A graduate of Brown University, she is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists and several other genealogical and historical societies. Susan is a lifelong sailor (racing and cruising) and past commodore of the Manhasset Bay and Frostbite Yacht Clubs.

Jill Morelli, CG®, CGL℠, is t a writer and lecturer specializing in the Midwest and Scandinavia research. She is a founder of the online Certification Discussion Group and Applied Genealogy Institute.

Bryna O'Sullivan, PLCGS, is the owner of Charter Oak Genealogy and a lineage society application specialist. She has assisted clients in joining the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, the National Society Colonial Dames of America, and many others using family trees that extend across North America and through difficult to document regions. Based in Middletown, Connecticut, she holds a BA in History and French Literature from Tufts University, an MA in History from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and an MA in Theology from Holy Apostles College and Seminary. She has also completed the Boston University Certificate in Genealogical Research, the National Institute for Genealogical Studies Professional Learning Certificate in Genealogical Studies, the ProGen Study Group, the DAR Genealogical Education Program, and more.

Pam Ricciardi Paschke has been researching her family history since she was a teenager. She is a life member of the National Genealogical Society and Ohio Genealogical Society, and is a member of many other societies, including the Association of Professional Genealogists and First Families of Ohio. Pam is a 2018 graduate of the Genealogical Institute on Federal Records and has completed courses at the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy, Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research, and Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh. She is a manager for four projects at FamilyTreeDNA, has written articles for the New York Researcher and Maryland Genealogical Society Journal, and published her first book in September 2018. She concentrates on colonial and early U.S. conundrums, immigration, and DNA relationship analysis.

Brian Rhinehart is a genealogical researcher and speaker specializing in on site research and record retrieval for Civil War, War of 1812, and federal land records at the National Archives in Washington DC. Brian is a graduate of the Boston University Genealogy Research Certificate program and also completed the 18-month ProGen and GenFed at the National Archives in Washington DC. In addition to having expertise in military records, Brian also has experience with traditional genealogy research and DNA analysis and completed the Advanced DNA Evidence course at the GRIP.

Jeanette Sheliga, CG°, is co-editor of the *Minnesota Genealogist*, immediate past president of APG Northland Chapter. Liz has received awards for her three books and society activities.

Speaker Bios (CONTINUED)

D. Joshua Taylor, MA, MLS, FUGA, is the president of the New York Genealogical & Biographical Society (NYG&B). A nationally known and recognized genealogist, Joshua was named president of the NYG&B in 2016 and is an officer, trustee ex officio, on NYG&B's Board of Trustees. Previously, Joshua held senior leadership positions with Findmypast and the New England Historic Genealogical Society and has volunteered in leadership positions for the Federation of Genealogical Societies and other organizations. A prolific author and popular speaker, Joshua has been a coordinator for courses at SLIG and GRIP and is the recipient of RootsTech's Distinguished Presenter Award. He has been a featured genealogist on *Who Do You Think You Are?* and was a host on the PBS series *Genealogy Roadshow*. Joshua holds a Master of Library Science degree in archival management and a Master of Arts degree in history from Simmons College. In 2017, Joshua was named as one of *Library Journal*'s Movers and Shakers, and in 2022, he was named as a Fellow of the Utah Genealogical Association.

Rich Venezia is a New Jersey native who now calls Pittsburgh home, with roots in Italy, Ireland, England, Wales, and Prussia. He founded Rich Roots Genealogy in 2013. He is one of the foremost experts on twentieth-century immigration records in the genealogical field. He was a member of the research team of *Genealogy Roadshow* (PBS) for two seasons, and also consulted on *Follow Your Past* (Travel Channel). He holds a Certificate in Genealogical Research from Boston University. He is an IGHR, GRIP, and SLIG coordinator, TEDx alum, and a records access advocate.

Pamela Vittorio, PLCGS, is a historian (M.A.) and professional genealogist. She received a certificate in genealogical research from Boston University and a PLCGS from the International Institute of Genealogical Studies (Toronto University). Among Pamela's research interests are artifacts, DNA, land, military, and transportation history, as well as various ethnic groups, including African American, Canadian, English, French, German, Irish, Italian, Jewish, and Scottish ancestors – many of whom were travelers, workers, or businessmen associated with New York State Canals.

Jane E. Wilcox serves on the NY State Archives Advisory Committee and the NYG&B's Family History Advisory Committee. She specializes in colonial and early federal New York research, as well as researching people and their times and writing their stories. Her degrees in history, journalism, and education provide an academic foundation for her work in genealogy. She previously served as an editorial board member of *The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record*. Jane is the author of a forthcoming book on New York State Archives collections that will be published by the NYG&B.

Jo-Ann Wong currently employed as a Librarian II at Lionel Pincus and Princess Firyal Map Division at the New York Public Library. She has working experience in both public and association libraries. She has experience in providing reference and reader's advisory services for both circulating and special collections, as well as creating library programs for all ages. Jo-Ann is a graduate of Pratt Institute's School of Information, with a Master's Degree in Information and Library Sciences and Certification in Archives.

10 Things Genealogists Should Do Before Leaving a Library or Archives

Melissa Barker, The Archive Lady
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Those brick and mortar buildings that we call libraries, archives, courthouses, genealogical societies, historical societies and museums are all around us. They hold the records that we are searching for as genealogists. Do you know how to use these repositories for the utmost benefit to your research?

This presentation will give 10 action items to do before you leave a library or archives to help make your visit a success!

#1 Ask about Vertical Files or Subject Files:

-Vertical Files, sometimes called Subject Files, are a collection of miscellaneous records usually stored in filing cabinets and cataloged by surname and/or subject. These files are a hodge-podge of all kinds of records such as newspaper clippings, compiled family histories, business letterheads, etc. The archive should have an index of what is contained in their Vertical Files.

#2 Ask about Manuscript Collections:

-Manuscript Collections are some of the most valuable and useful records to the genealogist. Again, the repository should have an index or master list of their Manuscript Collection.

-Each collection is assigned a specific name such as "The John Smith Papers 1648-1772".

-Ask to see the Finding Aid for the specific collection which will give you a box by box, folder by folder description of what is contained in the collection. Be aware that not every document will be listed in the Finding Aid. A listing will look something like, "Box #1, Folder #3: Correspondence 1762-1772".

#3 Ask about School Records (even for your ancestors that did not go to school)

-School records are a great resource for finding your ancestors. Whether the records include school registers, yearbooks or school photographs, these records are a must for any genealogists. Do not discount these records if your ancestors did not attend school.

It's quite possible that they could be mentioned in the School Board Minute Books for various reasons.

#4 Ask about Scrapbooks

-Scrapbooks are a gold mine for genealogists. They are one-of-a-kind records source that are unique to the person who compiled them. Even if your ancestor didn't make a scrapbook, maybe their neighbor or friend put one together and mentioned your ancestor or clipped a newspaper item and pasted it in their scrapbook. It's always a good idea to scour scrapbooks of local people from where your ancestors lived.

#5 Ask about Diaries or Journals

-Diaries and journals can be a great place to find your ancestor or to learn about their community to add to your ancestor's story. These records are in every archive and contain some wonderful genealogical and historical information that genealogists should be seeking.

#6 Cite Your Sources

-Citing your sources can be a tedious task for some but a necessary one. Before you leave the research repository be sure to record the source information for the documents you have retrieved. That way, when you get home you will know where you found them and you can do a complete source citation. If you need help with source citations, you can consult the excellent book by Elizabeth Shown Mills entitled *Evidence Explained: Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace, Third Edition, published by Genealogical Publishing Company.*

#7 Ask for a Tour of the Facility

-Each archive is different. They hold different kinds of records depending on what was saved, preserved and housed in that particular archive. One of the ways to get to know that archive and what they hold is to ask for a tour of the facility. Most of the records are housed in back rooms and we may not know what the archive has unless we ask about the records or ask for a tour of the archive itself.

#8 Leave Your Contact Information and Surnames

-Once you have completed your time at an archive and you are ready to leave. It's always a great idea to leave your name, contact information and the surnames your researching with the archives staff. Many archives have sign-in sheets or books where you can leave this information. Because you have left your surnames, it's possible that researchers can come behind you and see your surnames and want to contact you and

connect. Also, please leave this information with the archives staff or person you worked with so if they happen to run across records after you are gone, they can contact you and let you know what was found.

#9 Get a Contact Name and Email Address of the Facility and Staff

-After you have left your name and contact information, get the name and contact information of the archivist that you worked with while you were visiting. It is always a great idea to have this point of contact so that once you get home you can reach out to that person if you need something else looked-up or researched.

#10 Ask about Unprocessed Collections

-All archives have unprocessed records collections. These are records that have been transferred or donated to the archives and are sitting on shelves in backrooms waiting to be processed. These records are not normally open to researchers but if you talk to the archivist and show how serious you are with your research, you may just gain access to unprocessed records collections that could have records about your ancestor that are not online or microfilmed.

So, the next time you get to visit an archive, be sure to do these 10 things and hopefully your genealogy visit will be a successful one!

Here is where you can find Melissa Barker!

A Genealogist in the Archives Blog
http://agenealogistinthearchives.blogspot.com/

The Archive Lady on Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/TheArchiveLady/

Melissa Barker on Twitter
https://twitter.com/TNArchivist

Legacy Family Tree Presenter Page
https://familytreewebinars.com/melissabarker

Notes

Alien Registrations in America

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Alien Registrations from 1798 – 1828

- Naturalization Act of 18 June 1798 [1 Stat. 566] mandated that all white aliens register upon their arrival into the U.S., and that all aliens currently resident in the U.S. register
- Information to be included: "…place of birth, age, nation, place of allegiance or citizenship, condition or occupation, and place of actual or intended residence within the U.S.…"
- Individuals under 21 were to be registered by their parent or guardian
- Further codified in 1802 [2 Stat. 153] and 1816 [3 Stat. 258]
  - Repealed by the Act of May 24, 1828 [4 Stat. 310]
- Most records from this time period have long since been lost or destroyed, with a few notable exceptions:
  - Eastern District of Pennsylvania Landing Reports of Aliens, 1798-1828 [Philadelphia-area]: familysearch.org/search/collection/1908383
  - US Circuit Court for the District of Maryland, Registry of Aliens, 1816 - 1828: catalog.archives.gov/id/3431527 (held on-site at NARA Philadelphia and also at familysearch.org/search/catalog/548751 - see Film 1704291 and also indexed at ancestry.com/search/collections/61200/; mainly appear to be residents of the City of Baltimore, found within three volumes)
  - New York City, 1815 – 1828: catalog.archives.gov/id/171392425 (at NARA NYC)
  - Naturalization records between 22 March 1816 – 24 May 1828 should also include a copy of the naturalizing alien's registration information

Civil War Alien Exemptions [NARA Record Group 110]

- All men between the ages of 18 and 45 were subject to the draft under the Enrollment Act of 1863 [12 Stat. 731].
- Individuals could be exempted **if they were an alien who had not declared his intent to become a citizen**.
- These records, in Record Group (RG) 110 [Records of the Provost Marshal General's Bureau (Civil War), 1861 – 1907] consist of enlistment lists and alien exemption statements. Many don't contain much additional information, but may yet be helpful.
- A few examples of the records that exist:
  - **Missouri: Exemption Lists and Related Papers, 1863 – 1865**
    - catalog.archives.gov/id/2751635 – at NARA Kansas City
    - Many include length of time in US, year of immigration, places of residence in the US, and to which foreign sovereign they owed allegiance
    - Series includes both lists and individual applications

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- o **Pennsylvania, Register of Aliens and Persons Having Conscientious Scruples Against Bearing Arms, 1862**
  - ▪ catalog.archives.gov/id/5049412 – at NARA Philadelphia
  - ▪ Includes name, nativity, residence town, date of application/discharge
  - ▪ Indexed at genpa.org/public-collections/pennsylvania-civil-war-conscientious-objectors/
  - ▪ These records should be cross-referenced with other records at the Pennsylvania State Archives: gencat.eloquent-systems.com/pennsylvania-state-archives/permalink.html?key=coll8919
    - • Other states may have similar records at state archives available
- • Generally located by Congressional Districts – so it may be that additional information is needed to locate the records of interest.
- • To find records of interest, do an advanced search in NARA Catalog for "alien" in RG110 and sift through results, but note these types of records may also be found in exemption lists not specifically for aliens, so that search is not all-encompassing.
- • These records have various arrangements – such as by county, name, date, etc.

WWI Enemy Alien Registration Affidavits
- • During WWI, enemy aliens were required to register with the government
  - o Men 14 and over required to file "Registration Affidavit of Alien Enemy"
  - o Women 14 and over required to file "Registration Affidavit of Alien Female"
- • Enemy aliens were US residents who remained nationals of Germany or the Austro-Hungarian Empire (i.e., they were living in and the U. S. but un-naturalized)
- • Affidavit was a 4-page application that included photograph, names, birthplaces, and residences of parents and siblings, date of arrival, former military service, etc.
- • Includes records of American women married to men of enemy alien nationalities and lost their American citizenship
- • These records exist quite sporadically – most have been lost or destroyed
- • Kansas: All of the state's records have been digitized and are available at catalog.archives.gov/id/286181
- • New Mexico's records indexed in *World War I Era Alien Enemy Registrations for New Mexico – 1918*, published by the New Mexico Genealogical Society
- • Remaining states are few and far-between; records are also known to be extant for enemy alien residents of eastern North Carolina, Phoenix, San Francisco, Shreveport, Allen County (Indiana), Yonkers (New York) and Frankfort (Kentucky), with a few others.
- • For a listing of all known records, see Julie Miller's article in the "Further Reading" section.
- • Other related WWI enemy alien-related records at various NARA branches:
  - o Kansas – Alien Application Permits, 1917 – 1918 (available online): catalog.archives.gov/id/5917758
    - ▪ Required for residents or workers within restricted zones
  - o Minnesota - Reports on aliens, 1917 – 1919: catalog.archives.gov/id/5821666
    - ▪ Investigations into draft evasion, enemy alien loyalty, etc.

- o Nebraska – Correspondence relating to enemy alien and espionage act violations (available online): catalog.archives.gov/id/5917191
  - ▪ Investigations into possible threats to national security

Minnesota Alien Registrations, 1918

- All aliens aged 14 and over to register between 25 February 1918 – 1 March 1918
- A 2-page form that includes information on birthdate and birthplace, port of entry and date of arrival, names and ages of children, male's draft status, male relatives participating in WWI, and property ownership information (in and out of Minnesota)
- Records held at the Minnesota Historical Society & also on microfilm at the Iron Range Research Center (ironrangeresearchcenter.org/)
- Records fully indexed on Iron Range's website, as well as on *Ancestry.com*
- See also libguides.mnhs.org/naturalization/s5
- Many of these records are also available on *FamilySearch*, restricted to FSCs or LDS log-in

Alien Applications for Permission to Depart from the U.S. (1918 – 1920)

- Alien immigrants who wished to depart the United States between 1918 – 1920
- A 4-page application that includes a photograph, immigration information, and names, birthplaces, and residences of parents; spouse and children under 14 included
- Nearly all have been destroyed – but they are a goldmine for those found
- This unique record set exists only for a handful of aliens in Kansas 1918 – 1920 (about 70) and also Pennsylvania (about 2500, below)
  - o Aliens residing within jurisdiction of U. S. District Court, Third Division, Ft. Scott
  - o Digitized and available online at catalog.archives.gov/id/6051597
  - o Indexed at archives.gov/kansas-city/finding-aids/alien-departure-applications.html
- Also extant are records of 2577 immigrants in the Philadelphia area from 1918 – 1919
  - o Held by NARA Philadelphia – catalog.archives.gov/id/567234) and also (browse-only) at ancestry.com/search/collections/2717/ - choose "Court – Bureau of Immigration, District 4"
    - ▪ Indexed at genpa.org/public-collections/public-collections-alien-apps/

North Carolina Alien Registrations, 1927 – 1940s

- Bolich Alien Registration Act of 1927 ("re-opened" in 1940): required aliens to register with Superior Court within 90 days of arrival/passage of act
  - o only lightly enforced; some intermittent years also exist, depending on county
- A 1-page form that includes a photograph, date of birth, place of residence before NC, registrant's children's information, foreign passport details, possible A-number
- Fully online and indexed at the North Carolina State Archives (digital.ncdcr.gov/collections/alien-registration-and-naturalization)
- Many of the records are also available (less easily) via *FamilySearch*

Maine Alien Registrations, June – July 1940

- Governor's Proclamation of June 14, 1940 required all aliens to register
- A 1-page form that includes length of time in country and state, name and address of employer, birthdate and birthplace, previous military service information
- Fully online and indexed at the Maine State Library: digitalmaine.com/alien_reg/

AR-2s (Alien Registration Forms): 1 August 1940 – 31 March 1944

- **All** aliens over 14 resident in or arriving into the US had to register with the government.
  - Once registered, each alien was given a unique A-number.
- A 2-page form containing all names an alien was known by, his/her birthdate and birthplace, a physical description, arrival information, occupation information, etc.
- A-numbers can generally be found on the bottom of naturalization index card or petition for naturalization (after about 1942), or an original alien registration receipt card
- Note that an A-number which also corresponds to an AR-2 will have seven digits and be below 7.75 million.
- AR-2s may also be found in an A-File or consolidated C-File.
- See also: uscis.gov/history-and-genealogy/genealogy/alien-registration-forms-microfilm-1940-1944

Other Records:

- WWII-era Alien's Personal History and Statement forms
  - RG 147, held at various NARA branches (mainly NARA St. Louis)
- Alien Files (A-Files)
  - RG 566, held at NARA Kansas City or NARA San Bruno,
  - OR held with USCIS Genealogy Program OR with USCIS FOIA Program

Further Reading

Burnes, Elizabeth. "Friend or Foe? Documenting Alien Ancestors during Times of War." 2014 NARA Virtual Genealogy Fair. Session 16. youtube.com/watch?v=d74Y4JJfPOc. (Handout located at archives.gov/files/calendar/genealogy-fair/2014/handouts/session-16-handout-2of3-burnes-records-from-othe-national-archives-facilities.pdf.)

Miller, Julie. "Enemy Alien Registrations during World War I." *NGS Magazine* 44:2 (April–June 2018), 21–27.

Venezia, Rich. "Native-Born Aliens: The Laws and Records of Expatriated Women." *NGS Magazine* 46:3 (July–September 2020), 42–49. recordsnotrevenue.com/RecordsNotRevenue_-_Native-Born_Aliens_The_Laws_and_Records_of_Expatriated_Women_-_Rich_Venezia_-_NGS_Magazine_2020.pdf

All URLs valid as of 29 July 2023.

Beyond the Pastoral Register:
Family Papers of Circuit Ministers in Nineteenth-Century New York State

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Introduction

Finding evidence of an ancestor's baptism, marriage in church records is a highly coveted discovery. Knowing where a family resided and if they were members of a specific denomination or church, helps us determine where to look. In some cases, other than civil registrations in towns and states across the U.S. and Canada, we might find the names and dates of ancestors' vital information in unexpected places.

In many denominations of Christianity, pastors who served church members in several communities and rode horseback to provide service were known as "circuit riders." Wesleyan Methodist ministers are probably the best known among the "saddleback preachers."

Brief Timeline

1770—Early ministry arrive in North America (U.S. and Canada).
Major leaders of the "circuit" ministry:
- **Thomas Coke** (1747—1810) b. Brecon, South Wales; one of Wesley's assistants, and helped spread Methodist missionary efforts as far as E. Indies and Africa, but also in the U.S.
- **Thomas Rankin** (1736—1810) b. Scotland; served as a circuit rider in England, was responsible as a superintendent for overseeing American Methodist work.
- **Francis Asbury** (1745 – 1816) b. Staffordshire, England – had an important role in development and spread of American Methodism through the ministry of circuit riders. During the American Revolutionary War, Asbury was considered to be the "main leader" of the circuit rider ministry.

1773—Birth of the American Circuit Rider Order—ten preachers in the Thirteen colonies.
1784—The first church chartered in U.S. (John Wesley)
1787—The (Free) African Methodist Episcopal Church begins/
1815—More than seven hundred circuit riders were serving in the U.S.
1816—The AME church officially forms
1824—Cazenovia Seminary (formed from Genesee Conference)
1828—Onondaga, NY Conference
1829—Oneida Conference (E. of Cayuga Lake, later, the Central NY Conference in 1869).
1832—Troy Conference, NYS and Vermont
1835/6—Black River Conference

1836—Erie Conference (no. part of PA & Western Reserve) Jamestown & Fredonia in 1853.
1844—Methodist Episcopal Church separates
1848—E. Genesee Conference splits and then later merges in 1876 with Western NY Conference as Genesee
1852—Wyoming Conference (split from Oneida Conference).

Circuit Riders and the concept of "itinerancy":

Among their duties to the congregation was also the task of preaching scripture, distributing bibles or pamphlets, and encouraging conversion.

Online Canadian Repositories

Emmanuel College Library

Ministers of the Wesleyan Methodist Church Fonds

library.vicu.utoronto.ca/archives/holdings/f2092_ministers_of_the_wesleyan_methodist_church

The United Methodist Church set up a registry in 1843 and holds Baptismal records (1825 to 1910). https://bowergenealogy.ca/resources/methodist/IndexS.htm

Wesleyan Methodist Baptismal Register and Master List (Canada)

https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/1464913

The Wesleyan Church Archives and Historical Library. wesleyan.org/communication/archives

United Church of Canada Archives, has a very detailed history of Methodist Church in Canada, and digital collections. catalogue.unitedchurcharchives.ca

Select Online and Archival Resources for the Methodist Church:

Circuit ministers from New England and NY State traveled or relocated in various states to continue their mission. Many sites have minute and conference books, and digitized records.

Brooklyn Methodist Episcopal Churches.

bklyn-genealogy-info.stevemorse.org/Worship/Meth.html

Chronology of Events in Upper New York Conference

unyumc.org/images/uploads/Chronology_UNY_-_illustrated.pdf

Minutes of the New York East Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church: (1850 to 1919)

onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/webbin/serial?id=mecnyeastconf

Minutes of the Session of the Northern NY Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church

archive.org/details/minutesofsession3819meth

The United Methodist Church. General Commission on Archives and History. gcah.org

Has information for finding family histories and excellent historical information.

The GCAH guide for Methodist Records: catalog.gcah.org/publicdata/gcah810.htm

Boston University. School of Theology Library. library.bu.edu/sthmissions/wmmsarchives

Cornell University. First Wesleyan Methodist Church of Seneca Falls Records 1843–1911
rmc.library.cornell.edu/EAD/htmldocs/RMM06049.html © Pamela Vittorio 2023

Great Plains United Methodists (Kansas & Nebraska). greatplainsumc.org/archivesandhistory

Hope College. Second Wesleyan Methodist Records of Laketown, Allegan County, Michigan, 1885–1908. arcspace.hope.edu/repositories/2/resources/1368

Michigan University Wesleyan Methodist Church, Conference Records Finding Aid is on the website. findingaids.lib.umich.edu/catalog/umich-bhl-86289

Oregon / Archives West (Portland, OR).
Methodist Church Collection 1848–1979.
archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv58832/op=fstyle.aspx?t=i&q=0&f_mattypes=Church+records

West Virginia United Methodist Archives. Has digitized much of the collection starting in 1848.
amplibrary.wvwc.edu/c.php?g=335087&p=2254193

ARCHIVEGRID is a well-known resource for genealogists and historians with over 7 million archival materials, family histories, historical records, manuscripts, personal papers, and more. researchworks.oclc.org/archivegrid/. Note: Some records and categories may be in French.
1. Type in key words, (e.g., circuit rider, Methodist) and use "Summary View" for the results. This enables you to sort information.
2. Sort by People, Group, Place, Archive, Archive Location, &Topic.
3. If you sort by **Topic**. you will see a category for "Circuit Riders" as well as "Clergy." In some cases, the phrase "circuit rider" has a specific state attached to it (e.g., Circuit-riders-Ohio)
4. If you sort by **Places**. Click on the place for which you would like to locate Family Papers. (E.g., New York).
5. If you choose "New York State," at this time the collection has two items.

Use ListView for more records of ministers with NY roots who migrated across the U.S.
researchworks.oclc.org/archivegrid/?q=circuit+rider%3B+papers%3B+New+York&ft=1

New York State Library . **Finding Aids: nysl.nysed.gov/msscfa/**
New York State Library on 222 Madison Ave, Albany NY is located in the same building as the Museum (first floor) and State Archives (11th floor). The main library with reference materials occupies the seventh floor – but access to manuscripts and special collections is on the eleventh floor. Make sure to make an appointment by emailing MSColls@nysed.gov at least two or three days ahead of time.
** The Rev. James Atwell Family Papers are currently being processed. MS Collection SC23670.

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Records, Manuscripts, & Special Collections in Online and Physical Repositories

Grace United Methodist Church Records. nysl.nysed.gov/msscfa/sc17397.htm
This collection begins in 1860 and includes nearly a century of records: registers of baptisms, marriages, pastoral and historical records, and records of probationers, including residences.

Historic Huguenot Street
Galeville ME Church Records.
huguenotstreet.org/finding-aids

New York Public Library
Glenham, Dutchess County. *Record Book of the Methodist Episcopal Church*
archives.nypl.org/mss/18050

NY Heritage (Hempstead & Queens)
nyheritage.org/collections/methodist-episcopal-and-methodist-protestant-church-records-hempstead-jamaica-rockaway

American Methodism Project
archive.org/details/americanmethodism?tab=collection

Select Bibliography

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Cartwright, Peter, *Autobiography of Peter Cartwright*. [Nashville]: Abingdon Press, 1956.

Eggleston, Edward. *The Circuit Rider: A Tale of the Heroic Age.* New York: J.B. Ford & Co, 1874.

Harris, Corra. *A Circuit Rider's Wife.* Philadelphia: Henry Alternus Co., held by U. of Georgia Libraries, Digital Libraries of Georgia; 1910/ (dlg.galileo.usg.edu/georgiabooks/pdfs/gb1004.pdf)

Maser, Frederick E and Robert Drew Simpson. *If Saddlebags Could Talk: Methodist Stories and Anecdotes,* [Providence]: Providence House Publishing, 1998.

Mason. *Brother Mason the Circuit Rider, or Ten Years as a Methodist Preacher.* Cincinnati: H.M. Rulison, Queen City Publishing House, 1856.

Morehouse, A.C. *Autobiography of Reverend A.C. Morehouse, an Itinerant Minister of the New York and New York East Conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church.* New York: Tibbals Book Co., 1895.

Pearne, Thomas Hall, D.D. *Sixty-one years of Itinerant Christian Life in Church and State.* Cincinnati: Curts & Jennings, 1898.

Powell Jr., William A. Methodist circuit-riders in America, 1766 1844, Master's Thesis. University of Richmond. UR Scholarship Repository (scholarship.richmond.edu/masters-theses/813/)

Tipple, E. S. *Francis Asbury, the Prophet of the Long Road*. The Methodist Book Concern, 1916.

Xhemajli, Remi. *The Supernatural and the Circuit Riders: The Rise of Early American Methodism.* Eugene: Pickwick Publications, 2021.

Buffalo, the Queen City: The Rise of an Erie Canal Boomtown, 1825 to (1918)

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Three Canals, 100 Years

Canal	I. Original Erie Canal "Clinton's Ditch"	II. Enlarged Erie Canal "Old Erie Canal"	III. The NYS Barge Canal, aka, The New York State Canal System "1,000 Ton Barge Canal"
Size	40 ft x 28 ft x 4 ft	70 ft x 40 ft x 7 ft	120 ft x 75 ft x 12 ft
Length	363 miles	360 miles	524-mile system
Construction Began	1817	1834	1905
Completion	1825	1862	1918
Terminus: Approximate closing and Notes	• Terminus at Buffalo • After 1840, some sections were closed; 1862-1870s (filled in) • Only small sections still exist.	• Terminus at Buffalo • Closed in fall 1917 • Home to "colonies" at end of era • Sections filled in to create NYS Thruway.	• Terminus at Tonawanda • Open to navigation

The original **Erie Canal (**1817-1862) was a controversial part of New York State's transportation industry. Despite its monikers—from "Clinton's Ditch," to "the Grand Canal"–it opened up a gateway to the west, provided a new form of passenger transportation for a burgeoning immigrant population, and stimulated the emergence of boomtowns throughout New York State. Enlargement of the Erie Canal began in the mid-1830s (completed in 1862). NYS canal commissioners left behind a vast collection of maps and records of that tell a fascinating story.

In the canal's western division, Buffalo, or, "Ol Buff" was the victor over Black Rock in the 1822 decision of where the terminus of the canal should be located. Between 1825 and 1918, the population in all canal towns boomed because of this novel way of travel and its convenient "Twenty-four-seven" system of transportation. The Barge Canal bypassed major boomtowns like Syracuse and Buffalo, and populations began to decline.

> **Key points:** Packet boats traveled in central NY from 1819. Canal completed at Buffalo by 1825; lateral canals also used packet boats for travel; cost was one to three cents per mile, could include meals and sleeping accommodations; boats left in morning & evening and traveled all night; Seasonal: May to December.

Railroads were known as "canal killers" but propelled western migration. Passenger travel on the canals began to dwindle as the packet boats could not compete with the speed of trains. Buffalo became a hub for many railroads – particularly the NY Central RR.

> **Key points:** Passenger travel on the canals begins to dwindle by 1848; connections with canals and a network of stagecoaches facilitated the trip. Trains could travel anytime regardless of factors that affected pedestrian or stagecoach travel (e.g., weather, age, baggage).

The Peopling of NYS via Erie Canal

After construction of the Erie Canal was begun, advertisements highlighting new canal companies appeared in various newspapers. Passengers on the packet boats of the original Erie Canal were typically local businessmen, farmers and their families, or tourists who had heard about this "wondrous waterway" and wanted to experience packet boat travel.

Because of its harbor and primary location on Lake Erie – the goal of the canal commissioners and DeWitt Clinton in 1825 – the canal facilitated making connections westward. There were certain ways a person could travel to and from Buffalo, including stagecoaches and later, steamships across the lake.

Buffalo and Erie Canal Transportation: Gateway to the West

Though many boatmen and their families tied up in the Buffalo harbor, they might not appear in the census unless they also owned a farm. Since U.S. census was usually taken in the spring or summer, and the Hudson River and the NY State canals were open from May to November or December, we can estimate when boatmen might have arrived at a certain place in their migration pattern-- A to B to C to D, such as Ireland to New York City to Albany to Buffalo.

Canal Culture

Boatmen and "canallers" throughout the nineteenth century were often viewed negatively because they worked on Sundays, spent time in taverns and pubs, and often frequented "red light districts." They had their own hierarchy of who was in charge of whom, or who was viewed as "higher class" – this came from internal perception that an owner or captain ranked above the steersman, and the steersman in turn, above the mule driver (sometimes a child or teen).

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Canal folk ("canallers") took their culture with them – dialect and jargon, traditions, customs, behavior and style of dress—because they were usually in transit. Children might be born on the boats and often did not go to school until the boats were tied up for winter—either in Buffalo's Erie Basin or another basin, like in Brooklyn or NYC, but other boom towns as well.

Canal boatmen and laborers, particularly in the eras of the original and enlarged canals, were of all ethnic backgrounds – Dutch or English heritage, German, Irish, and many other groups. Italian and Eastern European arrived during the construction of the Barge Canal in the early twentieth century, and many settled in Buffalo when work was completed.

Buffalo in Travelers' Sources

Tourists' journals or diaries espousing opinions of Buffalo varied. A few writers found that Buffalo had sprung up "too fast." They believed this was due to pressure to keep up with the rapid transportation revolution (canals and railroads) and subsequent influx of people.

Gazetteers and Guides

Horatio Gates Spafford.

A Gazetteer of the State of New York. archive.org/details/gazetteerofstate01spaf

A Pocket Guide for the Tourist and Travellers along the line of the Canals and the Interior Commerce of the State of New York. New York, 1824.

General information: Erie and Other NYS Canals

Canal Corporation of NY State	canals.ny.gov/history/history.html
Erie Canal National Heritage Corridor	eriecanalway.org/explore/plan-your-visit/category/historic-and-cultural-sites-and-museu
Hofstra University	people.hofstra.edu/geotrans/eng/ch2en/conc2en/eriecanal.html
Sadowski, Frank Jr	Erie Canal.org; eriecanal.org/

1. **New York State Archives** (Canal Collection) "The Mighty Chain: *A* Guide to Canal Records in the New York State Archives." New York State Archives. Publication #FA05. 1992.
   The majority of canal-related records are contained in this vast collection at the New York State Archives. The bulk of the records are for the years 1817–1926, including passenger lists for 1828-1832, laborers' receipts, weigh masters' and lock tenders' oaths, boat registers, and records of the canal commissioners.

Land Surveys (NYS Archives):

NYS Archives has digitized the Holmes Hutchinson Series. This includes names of land owners living within close proximity to the canal.
Buffalo: digitalcollections.archives.nysed.gov/index.php/Detail/objects/42956

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2. **New York State Historical Association** (Cooperstown).
nysha.org/library/online/eriecanal.htm
Also **New York Heritage Digital Collections:**
cdm16694.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/srr_ecm
3. **New York Public Library**, Main Branch, New York, NY. Various holdings.
4. **New York Historical Society, Museum & Library**, New York, NY.
   - Artifacts, Broadsides, Drawings, Images, Objects, Paintings, Portraits, Relics, Souvenirs.
   - Archival material relating to Erie Canal Enlargement (special archival collections, papers, and some manuscripts).
5. **Queens College**, Digital Culture of NY State, Waterways of New York
dcmny.org/islandora/object/waterways%3Acollection?page=22&display=grid
6. **NARA**: archives.gov/research/guide-fed-records/groups/036.html
7. **Other University Archives**: Cornell, Hofstra, NYU, Syracuse University, University of Virginia.

8. **SUNY Oswego, Penfield Library.** Has many boat registrations and canal documents.
oswego.edu/library/sites/www.oswego.edu.library/files/penfield-library-genealogical-resources.pdf

For information on today's harbor:
Canalside in Buffalo: Development (21st C): buffalowaterfront.com/canalside

Partial List of Local/Smaller Archives with Canal-Related Materials

Eastern Division	Middle Division	Western Division
- Fonda (Montgomery County) - Schenectady County Public Library (Digital History Archive) - Rome (Jervis Library and Rome Historical Society) - Utica (Oneida County History Center) (Chenango and Erie Canal info at NYS Archives and NY Heritage Digital Collections)	- Chittenango Landing Canal Boat Museum (maps, journals, diaries, artifacts, photographs, architectural plans, etc.) - Erie Canal Museum, Syracuse (day books, journals, artifacts, maps, objects, etc.) - Fayetteville Public Library - Onondaga Historical Society (boat registers, diaries, letters, log books)	- Seneca Museum of Waterways and Industry - Tompkins County Public Library - Rochester: Monroe County Library - Buffalo Historical Society

County Courthouse Records of New York State

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Overview

Most courthouse records are kept by the County Clerk. An internet search will often return a homepage for the Clerk's Office with the Clerk's name, address, office hours, etc. About one-third of the Clerk's Offices will not allow for photos to be taken.

As Clerk's Offices run out of space, older books are disposed of or moved to other places such as basements, off-site storage, and County Historian's Offices or Historical Societies. Calling ahead before a visit can help to have records pulled from off-site storage to the Clerk's Office for viewing.

Select common collections found at Clerk's Offices:

Assignments	Doing Business As	Miscellaneous Records
Censuses	Hospital Liens	Mortgages
Civil Actions	Incorporations	Naturalization
Coroner's Inquests	Indentures	Oaths
County Marriages	Licenses	Power of Attorney
Court Minutes	Lis Pendens	Satisfactions
Criminal Records	Maps	School Reports
Deeds	Military Discharges	And so much more!

Probates, Wills, Letters of Testamentary, etc. are kept by the Surrogate's Court. Many of the older Surrogate's Court records have been microfilmed and can be found on FamilySearch and Ancestry. Most counties have also been digitizing their records and those can be found at: websurrogates.nycourts.gov.

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FamilySearch Catalog

Many court record books have been microfilmed and made available at FamilySearch in the Card Catalog. The following table shows _some_ of the court records that are available under the "Court Records" category.

> **United States, New York, Chemung - Court records (4)**
>
> County Court minutes, 1836-1906
> Author: New York. County Court (Chemung County)
>
> Lis pendens, 1837-1903; indexes, 1836-1913
> Author: New York. Supreme Court (Chemung County)
>
> Miscellaneous records, 1836-1906
> Author: Chemung County (New York). County Clerk
>
> Supreme Court minutes, 1836-1900
> Author: New York. Supreme Court (Chemung County)

Be sure to check the catalog for many other types of records including: naturalization, probate, maps, land records, and more.

	Circuit Court	Court of Common Pleas	Court of General Sessions	Court of Oyer and Terminer	County and/or Supreme Court	Judge-ments	Lis Pendens	Misc.
Albany					X	X	X	
Allegany		X		X	X			
Bronx								
Broome	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Cattaraugus		X			X		X	
Cayuga		X		X	X		X	X
Chautauqua								
Chemung					X		X	X
Chenango		X	X			X	X	X
Clinton		X					X	
Columbia					X			
Cortland	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
Delaware	X	X	X		X			
Dutchess	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
Erie								X
Essex							X	
Franklin							X	
Fulton								
Genesee							X	
Greene								

	Circuit Court	Court of Common Pleas	Court of General Sessions	Court of Oyer and Terminer	County and/or Supreme Court	Judge-ments	Lis Pendens	Misc.
Hamilton							X	
Herkimer				X	X		X	X
Jefferson	X	X	X	X	X		X	
Kings								
Lewis					X		X	X
Livingston		X		X				
Madison				X	X			
Monroe							X	
Montgomery		X	X					
Nassau								
New York		X	X	X	X			
Niagara							X	
Oneida								
Onondaga		X		X				
Ontario		X		X	X		X	X
Orange		X					X	
Orleans							X	
Oswego							X	X
Otsego		X		X				
Putnam							X	
Queens					X			
Rensselaer		X						
Richmond	X	X	X	X	X		X	
Rockland					X	X		
St. Lawrence	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
Saratoga				X	X		X	X
Schenectady		X			X			
Schoharie		X						X
Schuyler							X	
Seneca			X	X			X	X
Steuben					X			

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	Circuit Court	Court of Common Pleas	Court of General Sessions	Court of Oyer and Terminer	County and/or Supreme Court	Judge-ments	Lis Pendens	Misc.
Suffolk			X					
Sullivan				X	X		X	X
Tioga		X		X			X	X
Tompkins							X	X
Ulster	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Warren				X	X	X		X
Washington					X			
Wayne				X	X			
Westchester			X		X			
Wyoming					X			X
Yates		X	X	X			X	X

Resources

Dollarhide, William. *New York State Censuses & Substitutes.* Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2005.

New York Genealogical and Biographical Society. *New York Family History Research Guide and Gazetteer.* New York, 2017, revised edition.

New York State Archives. *"Duely & Constantly Kept" A History of the New York Supreme Court and an Inventory of its Records.* Albany: New York State Court of Appeals and The New York State Archives, 2022, 2nd edition.

Remington, Gordon L. *New York State Probate Records.* Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2011, 2nd edition.

Rose, Christine. *Courthouse Indexes Illustrated*. San Jose: CR Publications, 2006.

———. *Courthouse Research for Family Historians: Your Guide to Genealogical Treasures*. San Jose: CR Publications, 2019, 2nd edition.

Many New York City families with Connecticut roots chose to bury their ancestors in family plots in Connecticut. That process created records which may provide insights into their ancestors' history available nowhere else.

The Hale Collection:

- Between 1932-1935, Charles Hale headed a WPA project to record information on gravestones in Connecticut cemeteries.[1] The project transcribed only personal information and did not include epitaphs. It captured most burials marked with headstones through the 1920s. Many Connecticut headstones are made of brownstone, which is a highly porous and extremely fragile sandstone. Numerous headstones have become unreadable or have been lost entirely since that period.
- The resulting transcriptions are organized into volumes by town and then by cemetery.
- These volumes are stored by the Connecticut State Library.
- They have been digitized by *FamilySearch* as "Hale Collection" (familysearch.org/search/catalog/18917). This collection is not fully searchable but includes index cards, which can be used to find the appropriate volume and page for an ancestor.
- They have been digitized by *Ancestry* as "Connecticut, U.S., Hale Collection of Cemetery Inscriptions and Newspaper Notices, 1629-1934" (ancestry.com/search/collections/2900/). While the collection is fully searchable, the results list does not differentiate between newspaper abstracts and cemetery inscriptions. Cemetery inscriptions will have a cemetery name listed in the appropriate column.

Sexton's books or burial books:

- Even graves without headstones may be recorded in the sexton's books or burial books.
- Since 1852, Connecticut has required a list of those buried in a town's cemetery be provided to the registrar of vital statistics. The legislation reads:
  "[…] every sexton or person having charge of any public or private burial place, shall, during the first week of each month, deliver to the registrar of the town, in which such burial place is situated, a list of the names and dates of burial of the persons buried therein, during the month next preceding […]"[2]
- In most municipalities, the registrar of vital statistics is the town clerk or a member of their staff. In some municipalities, it is a member of the Health Department or another office.
- A summary of these reports will be transcribed in a bound book. Depending on the location, the book may be arranged by date or by cemetery. Some communities may have two sets of books, one by date and one by cemetery.
- These books are generally still in the registrar's office but may have been stored in an overflow vault.
  - Godfrey Memorial Library has digitized Middletown's books. (Accessible for a fee.)
  - To date, no other set of books has been digitized.

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[1] "Cemetery Inscriptions," *Connecticut State Library* (http://libguides.ctstatelibrary.org/hg/vitalrecords/cemetery: accessed 8 October 2017).
[2] *Revision of 1875: The General Statutes of the State of Connecticut* (Hartford: The Case, Lockwood & Brainard Co., Printers, 1875), 29.

- These books are considered public records. Expect to pay copying fees of about $1/page or a daily scanner fee.

Burial transit permits:

- Burial transit permits (also called removal permits) are required every time human remains are brought into Connecticut for burial or cross municipal lines within the state.
- They have been required since 1884. The legislation reads:
  - "Sec. 113. No person shall remove the body of any deceased person from or into the limits of any town in this State otherwise than for immediate burial in the cemetery adjacent to the town in which such person died, unless there shall be attached to the coffin or case containing such body, a written or printed permit signed by the registrar of deaths in said town, certifying the cause of death or disease of which said person died[…]"[3]
- The permits often contain nearly as much information as a death record – and sometimes more. They should include at minimum the date of death, cause of death, and funeral home. Older records tend to be more detailed.
- They are stored by the office of the registrar of vital statistics in the town in which the *burial* occurred. Typically, this is the town clerk or health department.
- Because there is a gap in the statewide death index between 1850-1897, the permits can assist in locating a death certificate.
- Permits are generally still in the town clerk's office but may have been stored in an overflow vault. To date, none have been digitized, which means that they can be harder to access. Clerks may not know where they are stored. They are considered public records. Expect to pay copying fees of about $1/page or a daily scanner fee.

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[3] *The General Statutes of the State of Connecticut, Revision of 1887* (Hartford: The Case, Lockwood & Brainard Co., Printers, 1887), 27.

Digging into Finding Aids: The Road Map to Any New York Manuscript Collection

Melissa Barker, The Archive Lady
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Manuscript Collections or Fonds can be a genealogical rich resource for the genealogist. If you do not know about these collections and are not accessing them in the repositories where your ancestors lived, you could be missing a gold mine.

A manuscript collection could be as small as one box and as large as 200 boxes or larger. Most manuscript collections are materials donated by individuals or organizations.

What are Manuscript Collections?

> -A collection of various documents, photographs and artifacts related to one person, family or organization arranged in a box-by-box, folder-by-folder method with a Finding Aid.

Where are Manuscript Collections Located?

> -Very few Manuscript Collections can be found digitized and online. Usually, the best you can do is locating the Finding Aid to the manuscript collections online or an index of the collections that a repository holds.

> -Manuscript Collections are found in archive collections, library collections, historical society collections, genealogical society collections and university collections. You will have to contact the repository by phone or email, or you will have to visit the repository to find out what they have if it's not online.

> -It is possible that the repository has an index of what is contained in their Manuscript Collections. An entry in the index would look something like

"John Smith Papers 1700-1774". This is not a specific title, that is why the Finding Aid is so very important.

How Do I Get Started Searching for Manuscript Collections?

-Always check the repositories website for an index of what is contained in their manuscript collections. Make notes of the collections that interest you and that you think will contain information to help you with your genealogy research.

-If a downloadable Finding Aid is available, download it and look at the "Contents Listing" which is a box-by-box, file-by-file listing of what is contained in the collection.

-If the repository does not have an online index of their Manuscript Collections or Finding Aids, you will have to contact the facility by phone or email or visit the repository to access these indexes.

What Is A Finding Aid?

-The Finding Aid is the most important part of the Manuscript Collection. Every collection should have a finding aid.

-A Finding Aid will help the genealogist determine if there is something in the specific manuscript collection that could be of help to you and your genealogy research.

Parts of a Finding Aid

-Title Page: The beginning of the finding aid includes the name of the archival repository, the title of the archival collection, finding aid creation information, and a date range for the materials in the archive.

-Summary Information: This section lists the creator of the materials in the archive, the size and extent of the collection and a brief description of the collection contents.

-Access and Use: If there are any restrictions places on a collection, they will be noted here. Other information could include how the archives received the collection, and copyright and citation information.

-Background Information: This section details the history or biographical information relating to the collection and how it was created.

-Scope, Content and Arrangement: This part provides an overview of the types of materials in the collection and how they have been arranged.

-Related Materials: This part points the researcher to other items in the archives or elsewhere that are closely related to the collection described in the finding aid.

-Contents Listing: Sometimes also called "container contents". This is a box-by-box, folder-by-folder listing of the materials stored in the collection. The amount of detail in this part may vary depending on the collection and individual repository practices.

<u>More about the Contents Listing</u>

-As mentioned before, the Contents Listing is the most important part of the Finding Aid and the Manuscript Collection. The Contents Listing is where you will decide whether you want the repository to pull records for you to look at.

-Remember, this is a box-by-box, folder-by folder listing of what is in the collection.

-Unfortunately, most contents listings are not specific. For example, a listing could read "Box #1, Folder #1 Correspondence 1700-1777. This means that contained in this one folder are letters and correspondence dating from 1700-1777 and could be written by anyone to anyone.

-Most repositories do not have the staff or time to list every document by name at the folder level, so you will have to decide whether the folder of information could be important to your research.

-Manuscript Collections may not be easily accessible to those that are not able to travel but don't let that deter you from using this most valuable records collection.

Manuscript Collections or Fonds can be a gold mine of records and information for every genealogist. Literally anything can be found in this collection of records to help tear down long-standing brick walls.

Doing a Deep Dive into Ancestry's New York Collections
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Ancestry has over 11 billion records in its collections—and is adding more all the time—but putting an ancestor's name into a search form only skims the surface of these collections. We can dig deeper and more efficiently into Ancestry's resources to uncover genealogical gold mines.

Searching on Ancestry

When we enter an ancestor's name, birth date, and location in a search form on Ancestry, we may think we're accessing all the available records, but it's simply not possible for Ancestry's search engine to "touch" all of those 11 billion records and return results to us. So we're really only getting results from a small percentage of their collections. Once we've done enough research to have found the basic records and we're on to looking for the more advanced ones, the general search form is not going to help.

The most efficient way to find these other records is to search by location or collection and to use the Browse function.

FIND COLLECTIONS: SEARCH BY LOCATION

1.   Click on Search on the Ancestry toolbar. On the drop-down menu that appears, click on All collections.

2.   Ignore the search form at the top of the page. Scroll down to Explore by Location.

3.   Click on a state either on the map or the list of states.

The collections page for that state will appear. You can also follow this process to search in Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, Oceania, and South America.

Data collections

Data collections on Ancestry's state research pages are organized by type. These are typical collections available on a state's research page:

- Census and voter lists
- Birth, marriage and death
- Military
- Immigration and emigration

- Newspapers and periodicals
- Directories and member lists
- Court, land, wills, and financial
- Dictionaries, encyclopedias, and reference
- Maps, atlases, and gazetteers
- Stories, memories, and histories

Using the New York (or any state's) research page

The state research page provides links to each collection, along with the number of records in each collection. At the bottom of each category, is an option to "View all" collections in the category, since the data collections lists only show up to five of the collections in the category.

On the right side of the page are boxes that allow you to call up a search form to search all the state's collections, to select the research page of another location, to select a region within the state that has unique collections, to view the state's collections in the card catalog, and to access "More Help," which usually includes maps, state-specific message boards, and state specific member directories.

Searching individual collections

When you click on the link for a particular collection, you'll be taken to a search form that allows you to search for an ancestor in just that collection. The search page also allows us to browse in individual collections. Both approaches can be useful and both should be used. We also get source information for the collection and an "About" box that tells us what's in the collection and gives additional information and assistance on using the collection.

FIND COLLECTIONS: USE THE CARD CATALOG

1. Click on Search on the Ancestry toolbar. On the drop-down menu that appears, click on Card Catalog.

2. Enter a title or keyword in the search box.

3. If desired, filter by category, location, and/or dates

If you know the title of a collection, then use the Title search box, but I've found it's more useful to search by Keyword or words. A keyword can be a location, a record type, a religion, just about anything. Experiment with keywords because different versions will give you different results.

BROWSING COLLECTIONS

Browsing records is an excellent way to find information not only about your ancestors but about the sources themselves that you're looking at in each collection. When you select a collection to look at, the "Browse this collection" box on the right side of the collection's home page allows you to drill down to particular records in the collection and look at any part of their content. For instance, when you're looking at a collection of city directories, you can choose a particular directory to look at and inspect its front and back matter for information, as well as looking at the entry for the person of interest.

Some collections on Ancestry are browse-only. They are not indexed, so they have no search form. In that case, we have to look through individual images of the collection's contents to see if our person of interest is mentioned.

Searching by location and using the card catalog to locate individual collections on Ancestry will open up a goldmine of records that can't be accessed in a general search using a search form. The ability to browse in a collection will further expand your ability to access and understand records relating to your ancestors. You'll find many of your "brick walls" falling when you know how to find records beyond just the basic ones delivered by Ancestry's search engine.

Resources

"How to Search Ancestry," https://support.ancestry.com/s/article/How-to-Search-Ancestry

"Free Research Guides," https://support.ancestry.com/s/article/Free-Research-Guides

"Searching by Location," https://support.ancestry.com/s/article/Searching-by-Location

"Browsing Records on Ancestry.com [video]," https://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/2013/07/25/browsing-records-on-ancestry-com-video/

"How to Find and Browse Unindexed Records at Ancestry—The Better Browsing Checklist," https://lisalouisecooke.com/2019/11/17/browse-only-records-at-ancestry/

"How to Find the Collections for Your Area," https://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/2016/07/06/how-to-find-the-collections-for-your-area/

"Using the Card Catalog to find a specific record," https://support.ancestry.com/s/article/US-Getting-Started-Lesson-5-Search-Tips

"How to Browse the Census by Location on Ancestry and FamilySearch [video]," https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rwIaGho1vy8

"Ancestry has Thousands of 'Invisible' Records You Can't Find with a Search," *Family History Daily*, https://familyhistorydaily.com/genealogy-help-and-how- to/ancestry-records-browse-only/

Notes

Don't Be Afraid of New York Land Records—Mastering the Basics
By Skip Duett   skip.duett@gmail.com

New York land records can be complex and confusing. By 1810, New York, a "State Lands" state, was already mostly surveyed using a hodgepodge of systems that can be difficult to understand. But land records can provide critical evidence toward breaking through your brick walls. Master the basics so you can start using this valuable resource.

Objectives - By the conclusion of this presentation, you should
- Understand how land records can help you.
- Understand the basic types of land transfer in New York land systems—grants, patents, manors, land contracts, & private sales.
- Be familiar with the basics of metes & bounds surveys and some of the township & grid survey systems used in New York.
- Understand the basic structure of a deed used in New York, including the genealogically relevant data.
- Understand how to find basic New York land records.
- Be familiar with some potential problems with locating deeds of interest.
- Be familiar with the basic terms used with New York land records.

How can land records help you?
- Occasionally provide direct evidence of relationships.
- Occasionally provide indirect evidence of relationships.
- Can provide clues on prior residence to help link individuals as the same person.
- Support cluster research – identified neighbors, same day purchasers, witnesses.
- Identify marital status and given names of wives.
- Can support deconfliction of same-named individuals through boots on the ground dates, occupations, spouses, FAN Club members.
- In conjunction with mapping out the location, it can:
  - Provide geographic context to our ancestor's lives.
  - Support determining our ancestor's location with respect to former and present-day boundaries.
  - Helping us locate nearby churches that might have records of interest.
  - Lead us to potential nearby cemeteries where family members might be buried.

Basic types of land transfer in New York

- Crown/State to individuals
  - Manors – a feudal holdover that was tried in colonial New York, there were seventeen established.
  - Patents – multi-step process.
  - Bounty land – usually for military service, Military Tract in CNY.
- Land Contracts
  - A dominant method in parts of New York first settled from 1790s to 1840s.
  - Articles of Agreement – a contract to buy land over time.
  - No title transfer until all terms satisfied.
  - Holland Land Company, Phelps & Gorham, William Constable, etc.
- Public sales/auction (government to individual)
  - Land Commissioners.
  - Sheriff sales for back taxes or other debt through the courts.
  - Sale at auction of state-owned land for revenue (States 100s, Surveyors 50s).
- Private sales (individual to individual) – once in the private domain
  - Most common method.
  - Documented via an indenture (deed) recorded normally with the County Clerk.
  - Not always recorded in a timely fashion.
  - Changing county boundaries need to be considered when looking for the deed.

Survey Systems

- What we don't have – the Public Land Survey System (PLSS), a uniform rectangular grid system using baselines and meridians that divide the land by township and range.
- New York is a "State land" state using an older survey system called metes & bounds.
  - Starts at a reference point and defines a closed shape through a series of "calls" specifying a compass direction and a distance to the next point.
- In some areas, Townships were designated then sub-divided into lots. Some areas with townships were somewhat irregular in shape (for example, Scriba's Patent) while most were based on a rectangular grid system (for examples the Holland Purchase and Phelps & Gorham).
- Various grid systems – these varied but a significant portion of central and nearly all of western New York was surveyed using a grid system.
- But let's be clear, townships in New York are a survey structure. Towns are governmental entities. Sometimes they align, sometimes they used to align before the Town boundary was changed, sometimes they never aligned.

Basic Elements of a New York Deed

- Date
- Parties
- Consideration
- Parcel description

- Signature(s) & Witnesses
- Attestation
- Recording annotation

Finding the Deed

County Clerk's Office

- Recorded, indexed, and maintained by each County Clerk
- Assembled into Libers
- Grantor/Grantee indices
- Check each county clerk's website for their digitizing efforts.

FamilySearch

- Most historical deeds have been filmed by *FamilySearch* and available online "United States, New York Land Records, 1630–1975" [familysearch.org/search/collection/2078654]
- Exceptions:
    - Albany Co. – Deeds in system but doesn't display with "New York Land Records" collection. [familysearch.org/search/catalog/247679]
    - Franklin Co. – Deeds in system but locked – only viewable at FSL or affiliate. [familysearch.org/search/catalog/234773]
    - Nassau Co. – not on *FamilySearch* in any form – currently being digitized by NYG&B.
    - Oneida Co. – Deeds in system, comingled with Herkimer Co. in "New York Land Records" collection. [familysearch.org/search/catalog/318293]
    - Queens Co. – Deeds in system but locked – only viewable at FSL or affiliate. [familysearch.org/search/catalog/528322]
- Filming cutoff date varies by county, most 1865 to 1900.
- Don't rely on *FamilySearch* Indexing – Grantor/Grantee Indexes also filmed.

Other Places

- New York State Archives for colony & state deeds, patents, and grants
- Probate Records
- Private Records

Why Can't I Find the Deed?

- You are looking in the wrong place in the index.
- You are looking at the wrong time period.
- It wasn't recorded at all (not required by law or law ignored).
- It was recorded in a different county due to changing boundaries.
- It's indexed under another party.

- It was recorded in probate or other court records, vice deeds.
- It was recorded with the Secretary of State.
- It was obtained via a patent or grant vice a private sale.
- They never gained title because the contract was not satisfied.

Key Terms for Land Records

- **Articles of Agreement** – a contract to purchase land over time (differs from a mortgage)
- **Attestation** – the witnessed certification at the bottom of a deed by the seller that they are truly selling the property. Wives signed to release their dower rights.
- **Call** – a direction and distance in a metes and bounds description, e.g. N20W 100 chains
- **Chain** – a survey device for measuring distance, 100 links, 66 feet, four rods
- **Chain carrier** – surveyor's assistant who cleared the path, marked waypoints, and extended the chain to measure the distance. (Not often identified in New York surveys.)
- **Consideration** – the sale price, usually monetary
- **Grant** – a transfer from the Crown or State to an individual(s) usually in exchange for military or other service to the Crown/State
- **Grantor** – the seller
- **Grantee** – the buyer
- **Indenture** – the transfer document between individuals in private land sales; the deed
- **Letters Patent** – the transfer document in a patent, essentially the deed
- **Link** – the smallest unit in a surveyor's chain, 7.92 inches
- **Manor** – a feudal land holding system of landed estates carried over to New York where the proprietor retained ownership of the land and those living there paid annual rents.
- **Mortgagee** – the lender in a mortgage
- **Mortgagor** – the borrower in a mortgage, who pledges the real estate as collateral on the loan
- **Metes and bounds** – a survey system that defines property boundaries by starting point and direction and distance (the metes) to the successive points (the bounds), as a series of calls defining a closed shape
- **Party of the first part** – first named person(s) in the deed, usually the seller
- **Party of the Second part** – second named person(s) in the de, usually the buyer
- **Patent** – a transfer of land from the Crown or State to an individual(s) at their request
- **Platting or Plat out** – the process of drawing the shape of a parcel from the meets and bounds description
- **Pole/Rod/Perch** – 16.5 feet, 0.25 chains, 25 links
- **Public Land Survey System (PLSS)** – the common survey system used in public (Federal) land states, created in 1785. New York does NOT use this system
- **Range** – a grid survey structure running horizontally, i.e. East-West or the rows. In New York, range grids only run from east to west.
- **Sheriff's sale** – the sale of private land, usually by auction, supervised by a county sheriff, normally directed by a court, often for back taxes or to satisfy a court judgement
- **State Land State** – the early forming states that already had significant land surveys before the PLSS was created
- **Surveyor's chain** – the survey tool
- **Township** – a grid survey structure running vertically, i.e. North-South or the columns. In New York, township grids only run from south to north. Note that townships may also be designated outside of the township & range grid and simply numbered or named.

East to West, North to South:
Canals and the Peopling of NY State, 1817–1918

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Introduction

The substance of the following extract is taken from *Harper's Magazine* of 1875, Article: "The Growth and Distribution of Population:" In one sense, substantially all the white inhabitants within the present United States were at one time foreigners. But in the days when the population was mainly recruited by immigration, the word "foreigner" was never applied to an Englishman, nor generally to a Scot or Welshman, nor always to an Irishman. Thus we find it recorded of the Rhode Island colony in 1680: "We have lately had few or no new-comers, either of English, Scotch, Irish, or *foreigners*."

–1880 Census. Volume 1. Statistics of the Population of the U.S. (https://www2.census.gov/library/publications/decennial/1880/vol-01-population/1880_v1-14.pdf).

Timeline:

1790s. The transportation revolution begins.

1797. Trade in the New York harbor increased. New York City, though no longer the state capital, became the leader in imports and exports.

1807. Robert Fulton's innovative steam-powered craft *Clermont* ran up the Hudson River.

1812. Transatlantic transportation of people and commodities came to a standstill during "Mr. Madison's War."

1815. After the Treaty of Ghent, New York's governor, DeWitt Clinton, and the legislature voted in a bill for the construction of a 363-mile canal across the state. It would change how people began to travel and where they would settle in New York State.

1817. The first shovelful of earth –digging the Erie Canal began at Rome, NY.

1825. Fanfare began with a ceremony of 'the marriage of the waters" as Governor DeWitt Clinton, aboard the packet boat, *Seneca Chief,* mixed the waters of the Atlantic Ocean waters with those of Lake Erie. This celebration did not hold the same excitement for the canal boatmen and the people of the towns and villages that dotted the banks of the Erie Canal.

1825. Construction on the privately-owned **Delaware and Hudson** Canal began; opened in 1828.

Eminent Domain and Internal Improvements

The Appalachian ridge formed a wall between western farmers and the eastern seaboard – so carving a canal from Albany to Buffalo was a solution.

It took **eight years** of blasting through rock and clearing forests—designed by amateur engineers.

The government was legally bound to compensate the farmers and landowners for "expropriation" by eminent domain of any property through which the canals would be constructed.

> **Eminent Domain:**
> The right of the government to usurp private property for public use. The Fifth Amendment states that the government may exercise this right, provided they offer fair compensation.

Who Built the Canals?

◊ Farmers and settlers in the Mohawk Valley – many of them from old Dutch families or Palatine Germans took on work when their farms were transected by the artificial river.

◊ Among the earliest records we find people with surnames of Dutch, English, French, German, Irish, Scottish, and Welsh origin.

New York State Canals

Northeastern	*North and Eastern Central*
Champlain Canal **Length**: 66 miles **Opened**: 1823 (still active as part of the NYS Erie Canal System) **Number of Boats by 1824**: Over 1,000 **Junction** at Waterford with the Erie Canal; terminus at Whitehall, NY	**North and East Central Route** **Black River Canal** **Length**:35 miles **Opened**: 1844 **Closed:** 1925 **Junction** at Rome, New York to Watertown, Jefferson County & Lake Ontario
North and Central	*East to West*
Oswego Canal **Length:** 23.7 miles **Opened:** 1828 **Junction** at Syracuse, New York with the Erie Canal	**Erie Canal** **Length**: 363 miles, enlarged between 1834 and 1862. Passenger travel stopped around 1850. **Opened:** 1820 (parts) **Completed**: 1825 **Number of Boats by 1824**: Over 1,000
Eastern Central to Southern Tier	*Western Central to Southern Tier*
Chenango Canal **Length:** 97 miles **Opened:** 1836 **Closed:** 1878 **Junction** at Utica, New York with the Erie Canal, terminus at Binghamton	**Chemung Canal** Length: 16 miles **Opened**: 1833 **Closed**: 1878 **Junction:** Connected Seneca Lake (Watkins Glen) to Chemung River, Elmira

Western Central to SW	Western Central to SW
Cayuga-Seneca Canal Length: 20 miles Opened: 1818 to 1821 (part of NYS Erie Canal System) **Junction** at Syracuse, New York with the Erie Canal	**Genesee Valley Canal** Length: 124 miles Completed: 1852 Closed: 1877/78 **Junction** at Rochester, New York, Olean to Mt. Morris

The "Peopling" of New York State via the Erie Canal (1817 to 1850)

◊ Credit for construction for 'Clinton's Ditch" had mistakenly been applied to the Irish immigrants, yet receipts from canal records tell a different story: laborers were of descended from English, Dutch, German, Irish, Scottish, or Welsh families who had been in the U.S. for at least two or more generations.

◊ Many workers moved with the work as itinerant laborers who would continue with construction and working under specific contractors.

◊ Several men who supervised construction on the canals had been veterans of the War of 1812.

Canal passenger travel was rare after 1850. The railroads diverted passenger travel on packet boats—it was a faster, more effective means of moving people. Certain emigrant groups arrived via the arrangement of a padrone (agent/boss) who secured contracts with companies involved in public works and internal improvements: ship canals, railroads, and highways. Padrones took a certain cut of a laborer's pay. The laborer did not necessarily remain in the U.S. or gain citizenship.

Canal Boomtowns

By 1821, nearly 4,000 people were working on the canal. The 1840s and the industrial revolution saw a shift in the workforce from agricultural to factory workers, businesses, and other types of industries, including transportation.

◊ On the 1840 census, information was collected on "number of persons in each family employed in mining; agriculture; commerce; manufacture and trade; navigation of the ocean; navigation of canals, lakes and rivers; and learned professional engineers." [1]

◊ Genealogical researchers should remember to consult the second page for details on their ancestors' professions, as this is the first time the government recorded data pertaining to professions. Of particular interest is the category relating to "navigation of the ocean, canals, lakes and rivers."

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[1] United States Census. Census.gov; "History." Index of Questions for 1840.
census.gov/history/www/through_the_decades/index_of_questions/1840_1.html

Native Americans

◊ Haudenosaunee people were often observed by tourists on packet boats en route to various New York State boomtowns;

◊ Both Native American men and women took passenger boats on the canal for travel, though it was rare that the captain wrote down their names.

Post-Civil War Migration patterns: African Americans

African American men were part of canal construction teams, and many communities of free people of color lived and worked along the Erie, Champlain, and Oswego Canals.

◊ The use of the Erie Canal as part of the Underground Railroad has been contended by various historians, mainly because of a lack of documentation. Some first-hand accounts and maps point to the hidden history of the canal system's role in the abolitionist movement and helping to bring escaped enslaved people to safety.

◊ Many African American men and women arrived in central New York after the American Civil War, from places such as Maryland, Georgia, and Florida. In Central New York,

◊ Some men found work as carpenters or masons, in ceramic factories, lumber mills, restaurants, or local farms near the Erie Canal.

◊ In Onondaga County African American men worked in the salt industry, while women held jobs as domestics and housekeepers.

◊ African Americans were also a big part of the workforce on the New York Central Railroad system, and other rail company lines. Pullman Company's Palace Car employed African American men as baggage handlers/ porters, dining car waiters, janitors in the luxury sleeper cars, and many African American women were employed as maids.

The Third Canal: Barge Canal Construction (1906–1918)

◊ The NYS Barge Canal was a ship canal and marked the end of the canal boat era.

◊ Construction began in 1906 and was completed in 1918.

◊ It was built by a new immigrant workforce: Southern Italian & Sicilian laborers, who were recruited by padroni (agents) for a cut of their wages.

◊ Eastern European workers and Greek laborers were among them, though smaller in number. As the Barge Canal work ended and WWI began, many workers returned home.

◊ Others moved on to construction work on the railroads or public highways, and settled in central and western NY when work was complete.

Selected Reading:

Bernstein, Peter. *Wedding of the Waters: The Erie Canal and the Making of a Great Nation.*
   New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 2005.
Kelly, Jack. *Heaven's Ditch: God, Gold, and Murder on the Erie Canal.* NY: St. Martin's Griffin, 2017.
Sherriff, Carol. *The Artificial River: The Erie Canal and the Paradox of Progress, 1817–1862.*
   New York: Hill & Wang, 1997.

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Exploring Unlinked Family Clusters

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Have you experienced this? You've identified a very clear cluster that includes numerous DNA matches that all descend from a single family, but you have no idea how this family links into your family tree. Try as you might, and despite building numerous trees, you can't seem to figure out how these DNA matches and this single ancestral family link into your family tree. If this sounds familiar, you have an Unlinked Family Cluster!

Defining "Unlinked Family Cluster"

An Unlinked Family Cluster is a very specific phenomenon in genetic genealogy, one that is becoming increasingly common. We see more and more of these clusters for various reasons; the matching databases get larger and larger meaning that these clusters get larger and easier to identify. Additionally, the more we work with our closest DNA matches, the more we have "left behind" matches that don't fit into our known ancestry.

So, what is an Unlinked Family Cluster? This is how I define it:

1. **Forms a cluster** – The cluster may be formed by shared matching (without segment data), triangulation (with segment data), or a combination of the two.

2. **Not recent ancestry** - The cluster does not represent recent ancestry (no parents, grandparents, great-grandparents).

3. **No close matches** – Related to the previous point, the matches in the cluster are distant matches in the range of about 20-50 cM. Although a very small number of matches in the cluster can be higher or lower, if there were many closer matches then placement of the cluster in the family tree should be solvable.

4. **Large number of matches** – The cluster includes a large number of matches, typically in the range of 25 or more DNA matches, sometimes 50 or more. While a cluster may have a smaller number of people, it may be difficult to reliably determine that a hypothesized common ancestor/couple of the cluster is actually the common ancestor/couple responsible for the cluster. Further, DNA matches from as many lines of descent from the identified common ancestor/couple (preferably through multiple different children) is preferred to lend further support to the identification. Many Unlinked Family Clusters have members from more than one testing company, but this isn't a requirement.

5. **Same ancestral family** – The members of the cluster have trees (that they built or that you built!) that include the same ancestral ancestor/couple. While it's rare that all members of

the cluster can track their ancestry back to the identified common ancestor/couple, usually most members of the cluster can do so.

6. **Not in your tree** – The identified common ancestor/couple is not found in your known family tree. If they were, this would be a Linked Family Cluster!

I want to emphasize again that an Unlinked Family Cluster can be formed by either shared matching, triangulation, or a combination of the two. Also, it is important to note that none of these methods of forming a cluster are better than another. Especially considering the size of these clusters, a shared match cluster is just as valid as a triangulation cluster. Both methods can help you identify members of the cluster, and then the genealogy steps in to solve the rest of the mystery!

Working with Unlinked Family Clusters

There is no magic tool when it comes to Unlinked Family Clusters. Sometimes a new match will come along and allow you to tie in the family. For example, if I found shared matches to the Blanchard family in the Zufelt cluster, that might suggest they tie in there. Or if I'm able to map the segments on chromosomes 1 or 7 to the Stevens family, that might suggest the Zufelts tie in there.

Often, however, we don't yet have that new magic match and we can't yet map the segment. So what can we do?

1. **Genealogy, genealogy, genealogy.**

The *single* most important thing you can do with an Unlinked Family Cluster is to research the family and build out their descendants. Discover everything you can about the identified common ancestor or ancestral couple, and build out the tree **forward**. The goal here is to find a branch of the family that could conceivably tie into your known family. Hopefully you will get lucky and find a direct connection (for example, a great-grandchild married your great-grandfather).

Of course, it is possible that your link to the family is via an MPE (misattributed parentage event), in which case tree building may not directly lead to an answer. However, it will still help you locate the various branches of the family in time and space, which may be very beneficial as you continue the investigation.

2. **Work across companies**

There's no reason to limit a cluster to matches found within a single testing company. There are multiple ways to find relevant matches at other testing companies. The goal is to find as many matches to the cluster as possible, with the hope that new matches will reveal the unknown link to your family tree.

Let's assume you've identified this cluster at company X, and you've identified the hypothesized common ancestor/couple of the cluster. You can search for this family among the trees of company Y (obvious, if the family is Johnson or Smith or a common family, this is going to be more complicated; however, you're looking for a *specific* Johnson family so this method can work. It

will just require more tree review and building). I found the Zufelt cluster at Ancestry, and I've found members of this Zufelt family at MyHeritage and Family Tree DNA. If you're *really* lucky, you might even find some of the same test-takers from company X (in the known cluster) in company Y. You can then exploit this to use tools like shared matching to identify matches that are shared by you and that match.

If you're working with segment data from company Y, you can look for matches that share that segment(s) at company X (remembering of course that overlap does not equal triangulation).

3. **Find the commonality**

Researching the identified common ancestor or ancestral couple in great detail, and tracking the descendants forward, will also help you identify any commonality that could explain how you link to the family. For example, does a branch of the family end up in one of your ancestor's towns or counties?

In my example, many descendant lines from the Zufelt ancestral couple end up in Upstate New York where my mother's father's family is from. If I didn't already know that they tied into his ancestry at some point, this would be extremely helpful information.

4. **Walk back the cluster.**

Jim Bartlett coined the phrase "walking back" to refer to pushing a segment or shared matching back one generation at a time. Here, walking back may refer to mapping the segment(s) back in generations to help identify the link between the known family and the Unlinked Family Cluster. For example, I've mapped back the Zufelt segments to my maternal grandfather, but that's as far as I've gotten. If I can find a way to map the segments back further, I might be able to push that back another generation or two. Since I've tested my mother and several of her siblings, I could do Visual Phasing to possible push the segment back. Otherwise, I can continue to map matches as they come in (at 23andMe, Family Tree DNA, and MyHeritage) and hope that eventually I find matches with both the matching segments and the tree I need.

Similarly, I can walk back the shared match cluster by passive or active shared matching means. Passive means would be waiting for shared matches to show up on the cluster that provide a clue to the connection (for example, a descendant of a known line in my tree that is also a shared match to the Zufelt Unlinked Family Cluster). Active means would be testing descendants from different lines in hope of finding a new shared match to the cluster. This is, however, a bit of a gamble unless I have a reason to suspect a particular line (and even then it remains a big gamble as to whether they share any DNA with the Zufelt line).

5. **Examine the branches**

Although I haven't had much success with this approach, it's a reasonable hypothesis that the line of descent with the closest matches, if statistically significant, could be the line of descent that ties into your ancestry. For example, let's say that the Unlinked Family Cluster is the Snodgrass family and there are four grandchildren. The average shared cM for the descendants of grandchildren #1, 2, and 4 is about 20 cM. The average shared cM for the descendants of grandchild #3 is 40-50 cM. This might suggest that you are more closely related to this line and thus could focus your research on this line. However, it could just as easily be random chance that you and these descendants

inherited a larger segment from the ancestral couple. So you might pursue this, but don't put too much emphasis on this possibility.

Are these pile-up clusters?

A "pile-up" is a region of your DNA that statistically shares more matches in a database than is expected, usually due to old shared ancestry. Given the randomness of DNA and the randomness of who tests at any given database, we expect our matches to be evenly distributed along our chromosomes. However, there are huge spikes in matches, sometimes 10s or 100s of matches, that stick out like sore thumbs. Working with a match at this location can be problematic, as it likely to be a smaller segment/match and much older common ancestry (usually not identifiable due to spotty trees, poor records, etc.).

It is possible, therefore, that a cluster of shared matches (which VERY often form around a single segment or two, as with the Zufelt example) could be the result of a pile-up region rather than very recent shared ancestry. However, the fact that every match in my Zufelt cluster tracks back to the same Zufelt family suggests that rather than being a segment that is common within a population, this segment is more specific to Zufelt descendants and relatives and is therefore not just a pile-up region. Regardless, I will consider this possibility as I continue to search for a possible genealogical connection to the Unlinked Family Cluster.

Other Approaches?

What approaches have you found helpful as you work with an Unlinked Family Cluster?

Finding Our Ancestors by Researching the Neighbors
Annette Burke Lyttle
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Neighborhood research, also known as cluster research or the FAN[1] (family, associates, and neighbors) principle, allows researchers to think widely about records that may include information on target ancestors for a research project. Our ancestors created records, but the people around them also created records that our ancestors are mentioned in. Finding the neighbors' records can often give us information we can't find any other way. Neighborhood research can be a secret weapon for solving difficult problems.

Neighborhood research involves assembling information about the people surrounding an ancestor, especially those who would have been important to him or her.
- Family. Including siblings, aunts, uncles, cousins, in-laws—any family members outside the person's direct line.
- Associates. Including members of the same church, area merchants, work colleagues, customers—anyone the person would have associated with regularly.
- Neighbors. Including those who live close by but aren't relatives.

This initial assembly populates our ancestor's neighborhood with candidates for research. We then research those people surrounding our ancestor to discover facts and background information about our ancestor's life.

Why do neighborhood research?
As Elizabeth Shown Mills says, "Biographical research on people from the past is a gamble."[2] Our ancestors may have left many records or may have left very few. Especially—but not exclusively—for those ancestors who left few records, neighborhoods expand the scope of our research on that ancestor and give us more opportunity to find important information on him or her. Neighborhood research increases the number of records in which we may find our ancestor.

Neighborhood research can help us flesh out the lives of any of our ancestors, but it can be especially helpful for research problems like these:
- Complex questions of identity and/or relationship
- Questions of identity and/or relationship concerning women ancestors
- Questions of identity and/or relationship concerning landless ancestors
- Questions about separating individuals of the same name
- Questions about ancestral migration

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[1] Elizabeth Shown Mills, "QuickLesson 11: Identity Problems & the FAN Principle," *Evidence Explained: Historical Analysis, Citation & Source Usage,* (https://www.evidenceexplained.com/content/quicklesson-11-identity-problems-fan-principle).
[2] Ibid.

- Questions requiring research in locations with record loss
- Reconstructing a rich history of an ancestor's life

Finding neighbors

For ease of reference, we're going to refer to family, associates, and neighbors simply as neighbors, so when we talk about finding neighbors, we're talking about all those folks our ancestors would have come into contact with regularly.

Neighbors in the census

We can hypothesize neighbor relationships from the census, though there is no guarantee that families listed next to each other actually lived next to each other. It is often the case that they did, but sometimes the enumerator listed families as census neighbors who were not physical neighbors. But the census is an excellent place to start.

Map neighbors

Plat maps are a more reliable way to find physical neighbors, and plat maps and atlases are available online for many locations and times. Comparing the census to a plat map helps us see which families were indeed close neighbors.

Religious neighborhoods

Religious communities also created neighborhoods that can be useful for us. These neighborhoods are based less on physical proximity of residence, though the members of the community may be physical neighbors, as well. Church membership rosters, sacramental records, church histories, and the like can help us find members of a religious neighborhood.

Tax neighbors

Neighbor relationships can also be discerned from real property tax rolls because they include the description of the property. Property descriptions in rural areas allow us to find neighbors. Property descriptions in towns and villages include the lot and block numbers, which can be used to plot land ownership on a map of the village. For small villages, though, we can assume that everyone knew each other and would be part of our neighborhood research.

Military neighborhoods

Military service creates associations that can be very close and long-lasting, so when we research an ancestor with military service, we should look at their military comrades as part of their neighborhood. Many records can reveal our ancestor's military neighborhood, including

- Militia lists
- Muster rolls
- Military transportation lists
- Military pension records
- Military unit histories
- County histories

Fraternal neighborhoods

Many of our ancestors belonged to fraternal organizations, which existed for both men and

women. We can learn about our ancestors' affiliations from many sources: local histories, artifacts we've inherited, obituaries, even tombstones. Local histories can be used to assemble fraternal neighborhoods by looking at biographies contained in them. City directories often list fraternal organizations in the front matter of the directory and include the officers of the organization. Newspapers can also help us assemble fraternal neighborhoods by reporting on organizational activities. An example of a record collection for a fraternal organization is Ancestry's "Massachusetts, U.S. Mason Membership Cards, 1733–1990":
https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/5061/

Occupational neighborhoods

Those who work together form neighborhoods, as well. Censuses, city and county directories, employment records, and other resources can help us place ancestors in occupational neighborhoods. An example of occupational records is "Iowa, Muscatine, Pearl Button factory employee cards, 1930–1955," found on FamilySearch:
https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/4158721

Commercial neighborhoods

People who did business with each other also formed neighborhoods. City and county directories can help us understand these interactions, as can newspaper ads.

Techniques for Neighborhood Research

Neighborhood research requires us to muster all our research skills to be successful. It requires patience, persistence, and an inquiring mind, but the results can really be worth it. All elements of the Genealogical Proof Standard come to bear on our efforts, as they always do, but in particular, reasonably exhaustive research and critical tests (analysis and correlation) of relevant evidence are a particular focus.

Reasonably exhaustive research

Reasonably exhaustive research ensures examination of all potentially relevant sources. It minimizes the risk that undiscovered evidence will overturn a conclusion.[3] When we are researching a difficult problem or when we are trying to uncover all the rich detail we can about an ancestor, reasonably exhaustive research should include appropriate neighborhood research.

Reasonably exhaustive research involves finding "at least two independently- created evidence items [that are] in agreement."[4] Independently-created means that the two items had different informants for the information they provide.

Critical tests of relevant evidence

Critical tests of relevant evidence through processes of analysis and correlation facilitate sound interpretation of information and evidence. They also ensure that the conclusion reflects all the evidence, including the best existing evidence.[5]

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[3] Board for Certification of Genealogists, *Genealogy Standards*, 2nd ed. rev. (Nashville, Tenn.: Ancestry, 2021), 2.

[4] Thomas W. Jones, *Mastering Genealogical Proof* (Arlington, Virginia: National Genealogical Society, 2013), 23.

[5] Board for Certification of Genealogists, *Genealogy Standards*, 2nd ed. rev. (Nashville, Tenn.: Ancestry, 2021), 2.

Analysis of sources, the information they contain, and the evidence they produce involves determining reliability and accuracy. Correlation involves looking at evidence from different sources to determine whether evidence is independent or not and to see what evidence means in relationship to other evidence.

Correlation and its management
In neighborhood research, we gather a lot of information that needs to be correlated and managed so we can use it effectively. Several tools can help us.

Timelines. Putting the information we gather into a timeline to show a chronology of events and activities is a powerful way to organize and correlate the information we find. Timelines can be brief, like the example in Table 2 of the Baty article (see Resources), or very, very long if we are following a neighborhood over time.

Tables. Tables can also be an important tool for organizing and comparing information. See the example on p. 30 of the Baty article. For neighborhood research, tables can help us see, for example, who appears most frequently in an ancestor's neighborhood, so we can determine whom to research first.

Maps. Mapping out the residences of people helps us visualize our ancestor's neighborhood.

Lists. As we're researching, we may come across more neighbors, and making lists of these new people, along with what relationship they have (or seem to have) to our ancestor can help us understand whether they need to be researched as well.

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Finding American Women's Voices through the Centuries: Letters, Diaries, Journals, Newspapers, and Court Records

Jane E. Wilcox, Forget-Me-Not Ancestry, Albany, NY
4getmenotancestry.com

Women from the seventeenth through the twentieth centuries are challenging to uncover, but we may hear their voices in the documents that recorded their lives.

Where to Look for Sources: Everywhere You Can Think of. Dig for Them!

Here is a list of resources with some examples.

NATIONAL RESOURCES
- **Library of Congress** for letters and journals
    - In Washington DC with online catalog, catalog.loc.gov/
      Some records are digitized at this website.
    - American Women: A Gateway to Library of Congress Resources for the Study of Women and Culture in the United States (manuscript division catalog), memory.loc.gov/ammem/awhhtml/awmss5/index.html
- **Presidential Libraries** for letters written to presidents, archives.gov/presidential-libraries
  Contact each site individually.
- **National Historic Sites**
    - National Parks List, nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/index.htm
    - Women's Rights National Historic Park, Seneca Falls, N.Y., nps.gov/wori/index.htm
- **National Museums**
    - National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, Cincinnati, Ohio, freedomcenter.org/
- **Manuscripts**
    - National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections a.k.a. NUCMC, loc.gov/coll/nucmc/
    - ArchiveGrid from OCLC WorldCat, researchworks.oclc.org/archivegrid/
    - Andrea Hinding, ed., *Women's History Sources: A Guide to Archives and Manuscript Collections in the United States* (R.R. Bowker, 1979). Extensive resource for women's manuscript sources with very detailed index.
- **Church Archives/Libraries**
    - Reformed Church in America archives, https://www.rca.org/about/history/archives/
    - Primitive Baptist Library, pblib.org/pbl.html
    - The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Church History Library, history.churchofjesuschrist.org/section/library?lang=eng
- **Heritage Society Archives/Libraries**
    - Daughters of the American Revolution, dar.org/library
    - Holland Society of New York, hollandsociety.com, with most of the library and manuscripts now at the New York State Library in Albany and digital copies of vertical files and inventory at the NYG&B.

- **Library of Congress Chronicling America** for newspapers
  - U.S. Newspaper Directory from 1690 to the present and where to find them, chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/
  - Some digitized newspapers from 1836 to 1922 at this website.
- **Subscription Websites** for newspapers
  - newspapers.com/
- **Free Historic Newspaper Websites**
  - Old Fulton Post Cards, fultonhistory.com/ Upstate New York and other locations
- **List of Online Newspapers,** en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:List_of_online_newspaper_archives
- **Religious Newspapers**
  - Gaylord P. Albaugh, *History and Annotated Bibliography of American Religious Periodicals and Newspapers Established from 1730 through 1830: With Library Locations and Microform Sources* (American Antiquarian Soc., 1994). 2 volumes.
- **Women's Suffrage Newspapers**
  - *Woman's Journal and Suffrage News,* catalog.loc.gov
- **Temperance Newspapers**
  - The State Historical Society of Missouri, shsmo.org/research/guides/social-reform
- **Abolitionist Newspapers**
  - libraryweb.org/rochimag/roads/locally.htm
- **Ethnic Newspapers**
  - Yale University Library, Historical Newspapers Online: U.S. and British History: African American Newspapers, guides.library.yale.edu/afam
  - German language newspapers in the U.S., en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_German-language_newspapers_published_in_the_United_States
- **LGBTQ Newspapers**
  - Yale University Library, Historical Newspapers Online: U.S. and British History: LGBTQ Periodicals, archives.yale.edu/repositories/12/resources/4018
- **National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)** for federal district and circuit court records and territorial courts, archives.gov/ and at regional branches.

STATE RESOURCES
- **State Libraries** for manuscript collections, court records and newspapers on microfilm and digital newspapers
  - New York State Library Newspaper Collection Project, nysl.nysed.gov/nysnp/
  - Connecticut State Library for colonial court records, libguides.ctstatelibrary.org/hg/colonialresearch and for digital collections at cslib.contentdm.oclc.org/digital?page=1
- **State Archives.** List of state archives, archives.gov/research/alic/reference/state-archives.html
- **State/Regional Historical/Genealogical Society Libraries and their periodicals**
  - List of state historical societies, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_U.S._state_historical_societies_and_museums

- New England Historic Genealogical Society and its *Register,* americanancestors.org/index.aspx
- New York Genealogical and Biographical Society and its *Record,* newyorkfamilyhistory.org/
- **State Historic Sites/Museums**
  - New York sites, parks.ny.gov/historic-sites/
  - New Jersey sites, nj.gov/dep/parksandforests/
- **State Courts**
  - See "Court Records" chapter in *The Source* for different types of courts and where they are located. Find *The Source* in Resources at the end of the handout.

LOCAL RESOURCES
- **University/College Library Manuscript Collections** for letters and journals.
  - Yale University Library Manuscripts and Archives, web.library.yale.edu/mssa
  - Brigham Young University Library L. Tom Perry Special Collections, lib.byu.edu/special-collections/
  - Also see NUCMC in Manuscripts above
- **Local Historical/Genealogical Societies.**
  - List of historical societies, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_U.S._state_historical_societies_and_museums
  - National Genealogical Society local societies (formerly FGS), ngsgenealogy.org/society-organization-resources/
- **Local Historic Sites/Museums**
  - D&H Canal Museum, High Falls, N.Y., canalmuseum.org/
- **Town/County Historians**
  - New York Public Historians list, aphnys.org/Find-A-Historian
- **Local Public Libraries** for manuscripts, photos, and microfilms of local community newspapers.
  - List of libraries, americanlibrarydirectory.com/
  - Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center, genealogycenter.org/
  - See Chronicling America in National Sources above for newspaper titles.
- **Local Public Libraries for** digitized newspapers available for everyone
  - *Red Bank (New Jersey) Register*, digifind-it.com/redbank/views/home.php
  - Regional library network like Northern New York Historical Newspapers, nyshistoricnewspapers.org/
- **County and Local Courts**
  - *Cyndi's List,* cyndislist.com/us/ for lists
  - *FamilySearch,* familysearch.org/en/ for some digitized court records
  - See "Court Records" chapter in *The Source* for different types of courts.
- **Churches/Synagogues** – Check with the pastor/rabbi, secretary, historian, or even a member who has records at home. Then check the local and state libraries, historical societies and genealogical societies. Some churches have donated all their records, including correspondence, to a library.
- **Grandma's Attic** – Someone in the family is a family historian and/or a packrat. Find her!

Read (and Learn) More about It: Some Resources

Letters

- Thomas Dublin, ed., *Farm to Factory: Women's Letters, 1830-1860* (Columbia U Press, 1993).
- Lisa Grunwald & Stephen J. Adler*, eds., Letters of the Century: America, 1900-1999* (Dial Press, 2008). Good resource for examples of 20th century letters.
- Judy Barrett Litoff and David C. Smith, eds., *Since You Went Away: World War II Letters from American Women on the Home Front* (Oxford U Press, 1991).
- Lynn A. Bonfield and Mary C. Morrison, *Roxana's Children: The Biography of a Nineteenth-Century Vermont Family* (U of Mass. Press, 1995). The story of a family told through their letters.
- In the Dead Letter Office, inthedeadletteroffice.wordpress.com/2010/07/24/a-short-history-of-letter-writing/ The website takes a fun look at different types of letters.

Journals/Diaries

- Laura Arksey, Nancy Pries, Marcia Reed and William Matthews, *American Diaries: An Annotated Bibliography of Published American Diaries and Journals* (Gale Research Co., 1983 and 1987). Excellent resource for American diaries written from 1492 to 1980 in 2 volumes.
- Peter Benes, ed., *In Our Own Words: New England Diaries,1600 to the Present,* vol. 32 (Dublin Seminar for New England Folklife, 2009).
- Margo Culley, ed., *A Day at a Time: The Diary Literature of American Women from 1764 to the Present* (Feminist Press, 1995).

Newspapers

- David A. Copeland, *Colonial American Newspapers: Character and Content* (U of Delaware Press, 1997).

Court Records

- Alice Eichholz, ed., *Red Book: American State, County, and Town Resources,* 3rd ed. (Ancestry).
- Cornelia Hughes Dayton, *Women before the Bar: Gender, Law, and Society in Connecticut, 1639-1789* (U of NC Press, 2012). Excellent source for understanding law as it applied to women in colonial Connecticut.

General

- Loretto Dennis Szucs and Sandra Hargreaves Luebking, eds., *The Source: A Guidebook to American Genealogy* (Ancestry, 2008)*.* Chapters on Court Records and Newspapers.

Repositories and Their Records

- Jane E. Wilcox, *A Tour of New York State Research Repositories: The Best Part 1* and *The Best Part 2* (2016)*,* Legacy Family Tree Webinars. legacy.familytreewebinars.com/?aid=1455

All websites checked on 24 July 2023.

The Great Rebellion of 1766 –
Tenant Farmers Riot Against Landlords

presented by Pam Ricciardi Paschke   contact: genpaschke@yahoo.com
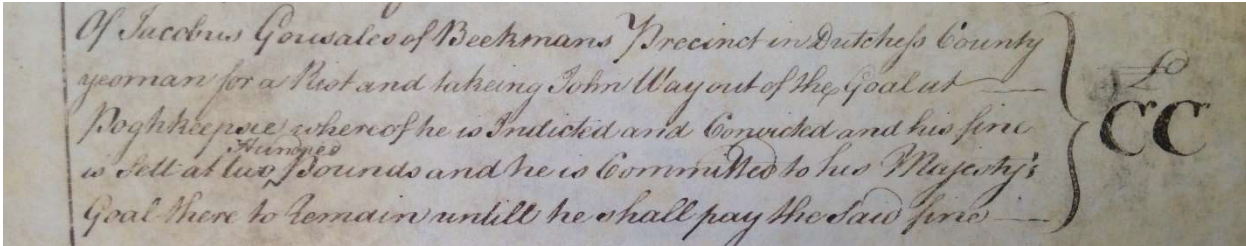
New York State Supreme Court of Judicature, Judgment Rolls and Other Documents on Parchment, 1684-1848, New York State Archives series JN519-17, box 207 (218 012), indictment and fine of Jacobus Gonsales, dated 29 July 1766.

The Colony of New York issued patents to large landowners who rented farm lots to tenants. Conflicts between tenant farmers and proprietors (landlords) culminated in a rent riot in 1766. Learn the causes of the conflict, how it affected migration in and out of Dutchess County (in particular), and clues to determining if your ancestor participated.

Three things to be learned:

1. Understanding the history of an area helps explain migration pushes and pulls.
2. Manuscript collections contain a wealth of information on landlords and tenants in the Colony.
3. County histories can reveal documents extant in the late 1800s that can be tracked down and examined for additional information.
2. Loyalist landlords may have provided tenant information to the Crown in claims for reimbursement of property confiscated by New York.

Manorial and Proprietor system in Eastern New York

- Early patents (late 1600s/early 1700s) were often vague, resulting in "overlapping" land claims with the Native Tribes and other patents.
- Proprietary records belonged to the proprietor, not the Colony (if extant, are now found in manuscript collections).
- Most tenants' farm-lots are not identified by recorded deeds or leases, though some maps or surveys survive.
- Colonial NY government was dominated by large landowners and their families, with a need to keep the system going – they would ignore or re-interpret original agreements and patents to their advantage, capitalizing on vague descriptions, and taking Native land without paying.

The rent riots of 1766 primarily involved Dutchess, Albany, and Westchester Counties. Dutchess was the center of it all due in large part to the actions of landlord Beverly Robinson (Philipse). The Philipse Patent and the Manors of Livingston, Rensselaerwyck, and Cortlandt each had discontented tenants.

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Confrontations in the 1750s between tenants and proprietors

1751-1757 saw Albany County conflicts of Livingston and Rensselaer with Manorial tenants who claimed their farms were under the sovereignty of Massachusetts Bay, and so did not have to pay Livingston and Rensselaer rent. There were several armed confrontations with the landlords and their men.
The conflicts culminated in a "riot" on 7 May 1757, where four men were killed.

> 8 June 1757, Governor issued a proclamation saying instigators from Massachusetts Bay had set Livingston's tenants against him, calling for apprehension of the leaders and their associates, and directing residents of Albany and Dutchess Counties to assist their Sheriffs.

The action of the Governor of NY combined with the commencement of the war against the French in 1758, muted the complaints of the Albany County tenants – for the duration of the war.

Disputes with the native tribes

Heirs to the Philipse Patent (led by Beverly Robinson) made an aggressive land grab in Dutchess County while Native Americans were away (fighting in French & Indian War), angering both tenants and Natives. Upon their return, the Wappinger Tribe proclaimed ownership of their land, and began issuing leases in direct conflict with purported claims of the Philipse heirs. They also petitioned the Governor for action.

Tenant complaints

Beverly Robinson's aggressive tenant ejectments and large rent increases with no consideration of tenant land and building improvements angered long-standing Dutchess County tenants.
Tenants learned of the small quit rents paid by the Proprietors to the Crown, sometimes less that what even one tenant was charged for rent – this fueled their anger. The tenants began to band together to resist the ejectments, rent increases, and unfavorable lease terms.

What happened in 1766?

About 2,000 men participated in the Great Rebellion of 1766; there were many confrontations, meetings, protests, marches. Finally, the Philipse heirs summoned the British Army. The Dutchess "rioters," realizing they could not fight the Army, surrendered in early July.

Were men prosecuted?

William Prendergast, of Beekman Precinct in Dutchess County, was convicted of Treason and sentenced to a gruesome death. Seventy other Dutchess County men were arrested, charged, tried, and found guilty of rioting, assault, battery, and other charges.

Where did some tenants go?

Many Dutchess County rioters fled east to Connecticut or Massachusetts, north or west into other NY counties, or up into Vermont territory -- to avoid arrest or to find better living situations.
Extant Dutchess County tax lists provide before (June 1766) and after (June 1767) lists of residents.

Tips on finding records of residents at the time of the riot,

Manuscript collections, county histories penned in the late 1800s, American Loyalist Claims of landlords whose properties were confiscated by New York, and historical articles and books are excellent sources.

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    "New-York. The New York Account is as follows, viz. Extracts of Letters from Claverack,
        (near Albany) June 27," p. 3, col. 3, 14 July, 1766, issue 589.
    " New-York, July 21," p. 2, col. 1, 28 July 1766, issue 591.
    "New-York, July 28. A Special Commission we are told has been given out for the Trial of
        Some of the Rioters in the Upper Counties...," p. 2, col. 2-3, 4 August 1766, issue 592.
    "New-York, August 11,", p. 2, col. 2, and "Extract of a letter from Egremont, in this
        Province dated July 30, 1766," p. 3, col. 1, 18 August 1766, issue 594.
The New York Gazette:
    "By the Honorable Cadwallader Colden, Esq;His Majesty's Lieutenant Governor... A
        Proclamation," p.1, col.2, 8 Mar 1762, issue 168. [regarding "Indian" lands]
    "By the Honorable Cadwallader Colden, Esq; His Majesty's Lieutenant Governor, ... A
        Proclamation," p. 1, col. 3, 10 May 1762, issue 177. [regarding unlawful assembly]
    "By His Excellency Sir Henry Moore, Baronet, Captain General, and Governor in Chief, ...
        A Proclamation," p. 2, col. 1, 5 May 1766, issue 369. [regarding unlawful riot]
    "New-York, July 7, Extract of a Letter from Claverack, (near Albany) June 27," p. 2, col.
        3, 7 July 1766, issue 378.
    "Boston, July 14, Same Day an Express came to Town from the Westward...," p. 3, col. 1,
        21 July 1766, issue 380. [Rensselaer, Nobletown and Spencertown]
    "New-York, August 11," p. 3, col. 1, 11 August 1766, issue 383. [Noble, Pendergast (sic)]
    "New-York, September 1, To William Weyman, in New-York. Mr. Printer, Poghkeepsie,
        August 25, 1766," p. 3, col. 2, 1 September 1766, issue 386. [results of the trials]
    "New-York, September 29," p. 2, col. , 29 September, 1766, issue 390. [Prendergast]
The New-York Gazette or, The Weekly Post-Boy:
    "By the Honourable James DeLancey, Esq, His Majesty's Lieutenant-Governor, ... A
        Proclamation," p. 1, col. 1-2, 4 July 1757, issue 755. [riots near eastern border]
The Pennsylvania Gazette [has many of the same news articles]

Some Manuscript Collections with information on Proprietors or Tenant Conflicts
Livingston-Redmond Papers, Franklin Delano Roosevelt Library, Hyde Park
Livingston papers, New York Historical Society, New York City
Philipse-Gouverneur family papers, Columbia University Libraries, New York City
Philipse-Gouverneur family property records, New York Historical Society, New York City
Rensselaerswyck Manuscripts, New York State Library, Albany
Van Cortlandt Family Papers, New York Historical Society, New York City
Van Rensselaer-Forte Papers, New York Public Library, New York City
John Tabor Kempe Papers 1678-1782, New York Historical Society, New York City
Sleepy Hollow Restorations Library, Tarrytown, NY (Cortlandt and Philipsburg Manors)

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The Grosvenor Room: The Gateway to Buffalo Research

1. **The Grosvenor Room** is the special collections department of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library. The collections include genealogy, local history, maps, music scores, and rare books. Most materials do not circulate. buffalolib.org/research-resources/special-collections

   - The department is located at the Central Library in Buffalo, is open the same hours as the rest of the library, and is open to the public. An appointment is not necessary to visit, except for viewing items in the Rare Book Room's collection. The library's online catalog will state whether something is a rare book. Few genealogy materials are rare.

   - **Online Catalog** – Grosvenor Room materials (not including the WNYGS and PGSNYS collections) are in the library's online catalog. bepl.ent.sirsi.net/client/en_US/default

   - **Visiting Us** – The Grosvenor Room has special policies that you may like to be aware of before you visit us. buffalolib.org/special-collections/visiting-us

2. **Genealogical Partners of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library**

   - *Buffalo Genealogical Society of the African Diaspora (BGSAD)* – BGSAD has a collection of funeral programs from Buffalo's African American community. **This collection is available at the Frank E. Merriweather Library and is also available online.** Library: buffalolib.org/locations-hours/frank-e-merriweather-jr-branch ; Society: facebook.com/groups/213233678768299

   - *The June Partridge Zintz Memorial Library of the Western New York Genealogical Society (WNYGS)* – The society maintains an expanding reference library that primarily focuses on the eight counties of Western New York — specifically Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans, and Wyoming. The collection includes more than 3,000 books and 700 rolls of microfilm. **This collection is available in the Grosvenor Room.** wnygs.org/library

   - *The Michael Drabik Memorial Library of the Polish Genealogical Society of New York State (PGSNYS)* – The PGSNYS collection includes local church histories and is rich with secondary materials on Poland and the Polish American immigrant experience. **This collection is available in the Grosvenor Room.** pgsnys.online/our-library/

3. **Microfilmed Records**

   - **Vital Records** – Erie County marriage records, 1877–1935 (WNYGS); Buffalo Justice of Peace records, 1837–1876 (WNYGS); Buffalo birth records, 1881–1913 (WNYGS, not indexed); City of Buffalo delayed births from 1864–1913 (dates of birth) (WNYGS); Erie County Medical Examiner records, October 1878–June 1902. buffalolib.org/special-collections/guides-publications#13

   - **Church records** – The library carries church records (over 200 churches) for a variety of denominations, most of which are on microfilm. Those materials include almost 40 churches whose records were microfilmed by WNYGS and are not available through the Family History Library or online elsewhere. buffalolib.org/special-collections/guides-publications#6

- **Newspapers** – Buffalo area newspapers from the early 1800s to the present. Some are ethnic and religion specific. buffalolib.org/special-collections/guides-publications#newspapers

4. **Card Files**

- **Vital Index of Early Western New York Settlers** (WNYGS) – Indexes names found in over 70 sources of vital records information. The sources are held in the WNYGS collection.

- **Bible Records** (WNYGS) – A surname index to member submitted bible records. The bible record transcriptions are available in the WNYGS library collection.

- **Local History File** – This is a partial index to Buffalo newspapers, local periodicals, scrapbooks, and Buffalo history books. Topics include Buffalo & Erie County people, places, events, and history. It mainly covers 1920 through 1982, but some citations date to the late 1800s and some periodicals are still indexed today. Be sure to search under both your ancestors' names and the organizations/businesses/cause/etc. that they were involved with.

5. **Scrapbooks** – These consist mainly of newspaper clippings pertaining to numerous Buffalo area topics. The Local Biography set is of particular interest to genealogists as it includes obituaries and articles about individuals. buffalolib.org/special-collections/guides-publications#scrapbooks

6. **Archival Collections** – Some of our archival collections pertain to family history. Examples:

- **Buffalo Central High School Registers, 1865–1909** – These often list students' names, guardians, religion, where they previously attended school, age, place of residence, honors, and exams passed. Lists of teachers and the courses they taught are also recorded.

- **Troop I, Post 665** – Troop I (all men from Buffalo) was first called into service for the 1916 Mexican Expedition. The group also served in WWI as part of the 102nd Trench Mortar Battery and later the 52nd Field Artillery Brigade of the 27th Infantry Division. After the war, its members formed an American Legion post, which existed until its closure in 2022. The collection consists of scrapbooks, meeting minutes, photographs, a visitors register, correspondence, and member cards. Membership cards may list date and place of birth as well as military service details. grosvenorroom.wordpress.com/2023/04/18/troop-i-post-665-a-generous-donation-and-a-past-cornerstone-continues/

7. **Buffalo Collection** – This collection includes books on just about anything related to Buffalo & Erie County such as histories of towns, churches, businesses, institutions, organizations, sports, and clubs; periodicals; and annual reports (government, institutions, businesses, organizations).

- **Yearbooks** – The library carries numerous Erie County high school and college yearbooks, some which are not online. Buffalo had many high schools and technical schools. If you don't know where your ancestor went to school, check our "picture file" which indexes images found in local publications. Yearbook list: buffalolib.org/special-collections/guides-publications#14

- **Erie County Voter Registrations (1926–1971)** – These list voters' addresses and are a great substitute for city directories. Many Erie Co. towns did not have directories until the 1950s.

- **Annual Reports and Periodicals** – Of clubs, institutions, organizations, local government, etc.

i. **Church newsletters** often list vital events and new members.

ii. **Annual reports of charities** may list institution residents and their deaths as well as charity activities, practices, and information about their physical buildings.

iii. **Local government reports** such as the Erie County Supervisor's Proceedings often detail financial transactions between the government and its departments, local organizations, and individuals. Example: listings of coroner's reports which name the deceased and the items they had with them when they passed away.

iv. **Business publications** often print employee births/deaths/marriages; social columns; descriptions of departments/jobs; and photographs of employees and buildings.

8. **Digitized Collections** – These are freely accessible to the public. A library card is not necessary. buffalolib.org/research-resources/digital-collections

- **Buffalo African American Funeral Program and Obituary Collection** – This BGSAD collection includes funeral programs, newspaper articles, and death notices. nyheritage.org/collections/buffalo-african-american-funeral-program-and-obituary-collection

- **Buffalo Birth Records, 1850–1881 (gaps, few records before 1878)** – Images of over 9000 indexed Buffalo birth returns. Children's names are often not given, but parents' names and addresses are provided. digital.buffalolib.org/collections/show/28

- **Buffalo City Directories, 1832–1913** – Our Buffalo city directory collection starts thirty years earlier than those found in popular genealogy databases, and the library's images are excellent. African American listings are sometimes found in the back of the earliest directories. nyheritage.org/collections/buffalo-city-directories

- **Buffalo Neighborhoods Exhibit** – This collaboration highlights resources of the B&ECPL and local genealogical societies. The exhibit tells the story of Buffalo's evolution and the diverse groups that made an indelible imprint on the city. nyheritage.org/exhibits/buffalos-neighborhoods-exploring-our-migrant-immigrant-heritage

  i. *Memorial Album and Business Directory of the Polish Settlement in Buffalo and Vicinity* – This Polish language directory is mainly comprised of business owner biographies. It is partially translated, and through a generous donation, the translation is being continued.

    1. Directory: nyheritage.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/VHB001/id/8922/rec/54

    2. Translation: nyheritage.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/VHB001/id/9137/rec/16

  ii. *Trinity Old Lutheran Church Funeral Records, 1837–1850* (Buffalo, N.Y.) – Handwritten obituaries (in German) are part of these richly detailed funeral records. Information often found includes foreign place of birth, family member names, occupation, foreign migrations, immigration details, marriage information, age, and cause of death.

    1. Records: nyheritage.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/VHB001/id/8343/rec/25
    2. Translation: nyheritage.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/VHB001/id/9136/rec/73

- **Erie County Poorhouse Records, 1829–1952 (with gaps)** – Registers: Children, intake, death, hospital. Details given: names, dates admitted/released, who left with (children), nativity, age, cause of death, date of death, and place of burial. digital.buffalolib.org/collections/show/5

- **"The Why of This Book"** – A listing of early Buffalo newspaper marriage announcements from 1811 to 1833. A name index is at the back of the book. digital.buffalolib.org/document/2038#

- **Other Content** – Newspapers, photographs, atlases, scrapbooks, diaries, oral histories, more.

9. **Grosvenor Room Guides & Publications** – The Grosvenor Room's guides are essential in planning your visit. They provide detailed information about the Grosvenor Room's holdings, including WNYGS materials. Name indexes to some library resources are also listed by topic. buffalolib.org/special-collections/guides-publications

10. **The Grosvenor Room's Research Services** – Staff conducts basic remote reference such as obituary lookups (with exact death date) and Erie County marriage record lookups (1877–1935, with close estimate of marriage date). buffalolib.org/special-collections/research-services

11. **Genealogy Classes** – Grosvenor Room staff offer a variety of free genealogical presentations to organizations. Class list: buffalolib.org/genealogy/grosvenor-rooms-genealogy-classes ; Class request form: buffalolib.org/form/genealogy-presentation-request-f ; Recorded classes (Genealogy Programs & Resources playlist): youtube.com/c/buffaloeriecountypubliclibrary

For More Information about the Grosvenor Room's Collections:

Buffalo & Erie County Public Library. *The Grosvenor Room: Genealogy, Local History, Maps, Music & Rare Books* (blog). grosvenorroom.wordpress.com/.

Hoffman, Rhonda. "Classified: School Days." *The Western New York Genealogist*, June 2023.

———. "Classified: Buffalo Magazines: Business, Club, School, and General Interest Publications." *The Western New York Genealogist*, September 2022.

———. "Classified: Finding Your Female Ancestors," *The Western New York Genealogical Society JOURNAL*, March 2022.

———. "Classified: City Directory Substitutes." *The Western New York Genealogical Society JOURNAL*, December 2021.

———."Classified: Researching Crime and Law Enforcement." *The Western New York Genealogical Society JOURNAL*, September 2021.

Konig, Rhonda. "Buffalo and Erie County Public Library." *The New York Researcher*, Winter 2014.

———. "Card Files at the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library." *The New York Researcher*, Winter 2016.

Van Ness, Cynthia. "Is There a Buffalo in Your Family Tree?." *The New York Researcher*, Spring 2006.

Buffalo & Erie County Public **LIBRARY**

The Grosvenor Room, Buffalo & Erie County Public Library
1 Lafayette Square, Buffalo, NY 14203, (716)-858-8900
Rhonda Hoffman, Genealogy Specialist, hoffmanr@buffalolib.org

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IDENTIFYING THE NYC PARENTS
OF AN 1890 IOWA ORPHAN TRAIN RIDER

Jill Morelli, CG®
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https://theCDGseries.wordpress.com
https://genealogycertification.wordpress.com
https://appliedgen.institute

The removal of orphan or released children from New York City began in 1854 and continued until 1929. Over 250,000 children are thought to have been removed from New York City, with upstate New York taking approximately 33,000 children, and the Midwest a similar number. Only a few states received none. One researcher noted the number may have reached 370,000 or even 500,000.[1]

The program had as its genesis in the nexus of the industrial revolution and high immigration, which encouraged low wages, child labor, and provided no social safety net for families. Any familial crisis would precipitate action, often detrimental to children. Parents could not afford to feed and clothe them or were too sick to care. Unwed mothers were encouraged to place their children in the orphanages of the religious organizations of the city. Children were abandoned by parents to the streets.

The our-placemet program was comforting to those in authority as an answer to a systemic problem. Published sources describe the desire to move the "dangerous classes" out of NYC,

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[1] Tom Riley, "The Orphan Train Era, 1854-1929, part 1," lecture given 2021 to Irish Heritage Club (Seattle, WA), https://airfoil.net/irishweek/project/tom-riley-the-orphan-trains/.

educate the children elsewhere and relieve future elections of the votes of the lower classes when the children grew up.

While the migration of children out of the city by train was considered innovative, it actually was a continuation of an answer that had been used for centuries in the United States and continues today -- forced indenture during colonial times, slave family separations, Native American de-culturization of children, and the separation of 3500 Hispanic children from their families at the Mexican border, of which 545 are still yet to be repatriated to their families. Russia removing Ukrainian children by the thousands into Russia is another example.

SELECTION PROCESS

Two processes were devised for the distribution of children. Potential foster parents could request a child with a particular gender, age, and/or ethnic background. The charitable organization would identify a candidate child and assign that child to the family in advance. But most children were distributed more randomly. Not yet called "orphan trains" until the early 1900s, the charitable organizations of New York City informed a community they were coming with children at some undesignated date. The town created a committee to accept requests for the out-placed children and the program was announced in the local newspaper. In Hamilton County, Iowa, candidate families were to submit an application of interest and the committee handled the allocation process. On the day the train arrived, the selected applicant family representative would select a child from the group of available children.

In 1890, the successful foster parents were to provide clothes, room and board, and education until the child reached the age of 15; and clothes, and room and board until age 18.[2]

In Hamilton County, applications exceeded the number of children. For example, in the August 1890 "delivery" to Hamilton County, Iowa, by the Children's Aid Society (CAS) of New York City, 50 applications were received and 18 children arrived, 14 boys and 4 girls. Attesting to the popularity of the program, only six weeks later with the anticipation of another delivery of children over 60 applications had been received, but only 13 children arrived. Because there were so many individuals who did not receive a child, Superintendent Trott of the Children's Aid Society promised a quick return with more children, which he did in November.

Generally, the children ranged in age from 5 to 13. Boys were more desirable than girls, as they could work on the farm. Girls were often placed in homes with older couples or a single older individual.

ONE of the boys from the Chrildren's Aid Society, of New York, about five years old, can be secured by a good family if called for at once. Enquire of N. H. Hellen.

The charitable organization was to visit the families once a year, but rarely did. Children were sometimes assigned to one family and then moved to another. The latter occurred when the foster parent died, or the relationship didn't work out.

[2] "Boys Wanting Homes," *Webster City [IA] Freeman*, 20 August 1890, p. 1, col. 5.

For example, in 1890, Mr. N.H. Hellen, real estate broker, advertised for someone to take a unnamed child just weeks after the child's arrival.[3] (See above.) Neither the child, or the previous or future foster parents have been identified.

Some observations:
- The program removed children from the responsibility of the aid agencies in New York to rural Midwest where farming families were facing a labor shortage.
- By the time the child was 17 or 18, they usually worked outside their foster home.
- Few were formally adopted.
- The female orphans, when of age, tended to marry, have children and fill traditional roles. With few exceptions, they stayed in the geographic area where initially placed.
- All children attended school, but most stopped at 8th grade or earlier. The men became farmers or were day laborers.
- Some children struggled as children and as adults. Contrary to popular literature, not all stories had happy endings.

An Orphan Train Rider and their foster family might exhibit the following characteristics:
- Usually the foster child was:
    - Between the ages of 3 and 13 at the time of the trip;
    - Born in New York (City);
    - Enumerated in the census with a birth location different than the rest of the family;
    - Recorded as boarder (an older child), adopted or a foster child;
    - Identified with their birth name, if older or the surname of their foster family if younger;
    - Reported in newspaper articles as adopted or part of the program;
    - Encouraged, sometimes forcibly, by the charitable organization to forget the past, resulting in young children having difficulty in identifying the birth parents.

- Usually the ffoster amily was:
    - An older couple;
    - A farm family needing a farm hand;
    - Enumerated as being born in a location different than that of the child;
    - Without children, with only a few or with all grown children;
    - Identified as an acceptor of a child in newspaper article.

Using the profile above and conducting research of the child's life after arrival, children can sometimes be identified as Orphan Train Riders. For an Orphan Train Rider coming into Hamilton County, Iowa, in 1890, primarily nine record sets provided evidence of their lives and assisted with identifying them as riders:
1. 1895 Iowa state census (https://familysearch.org)
2. 1900 U. S. census (https://www.ancestry.com)
3. 1925 Iowa state census (https://familysearch.org or https://ancestry.com)
4. Newspapers, (http://hamiltoncounty.advantage-preservation.com/search)

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[3] "One of the boys…" *Webster City (Iowa) Tribune*, 28 November 1890, p. 5, col. 2.

5. IAGenWeb (http://iagenweb.org/hamilton/)
6. FindAGrave (https://findagrave.com)

And for New York research:
7. Italian Genealogy Group (IGG), index to the NYC Historic Vital Records (https://www.italiangen.org/databases/search)
8. NYC Historic Vital Records, crude index, original BMD (https://a860-historicalvitalrecords.nyc.gov/browse-all)
9. 1900 U.S. census for New York and New York City special censuses.

Any document that would usually record the parent's names is a candidate for identifying the birth parents—marriage, death and church membership records, 1925 Iowa state census, etc.

There are challenges to finding the New York City parents of an orphan train rider, including

- their given name or surname may not be their NYC name;
- the birth date may have been assigned to them or wrong;
- often the child would assume the birth location information of their foster family;
- and sometimes only an unusual middle name may be a clue as to the name of the parents.
- Sometimes the stigma of being an orphan train rider, caused the child to obscure the NYC facts.
- Sometimes the child didn't become interested in their NYC connections until later in life.

PROCESS

To find the NYC parents:
1. Identify the rider.
2. Gather all evidence available about their life in their geographic area(s) where they were raised and lived.
3. Correlate all information concerning the identifiers of their life in NYC: including their birth dates or year; location of birth; location of birth of NYC parents; any names used that did not emanate from the foster family; and any indication of parent's names.
4. Using the information from no. 3, obtain the certificate numbers of candidates. The *Italian Genealogy Group* (IGG) has a more comprehensive database than does *Ancestry,* but if one doesn't work, try the other.
5. You will probably have multiple candidates, but record them all;
6. Review each certificate for parents' names, ages, and location of birth. Remember: the given name of child may not match the given name they used in Iowa.
7. Find each family in the 1890 Police census or in the 1900 census (better). If the family and the child are found in either, then the child is not a candidate for the orphan train rider who arrived in Hamilton County in 1890.

Remember the database you are using is incomplete and you may not find them. I have found possible certificates for about 25% of my identified riders.

RESOURCES
Links checked July 2023.

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Brace, Charles Loring; ed. Brace, Emma. *The Life of Charles Loring Brace: Chiefly Told in his Own Letters* (London: Sampson, Low, Marston, & Company, 1894), https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=iau.31858048585008&view=1up&seq=26

Children's Aid Society, "The Orphan Train Movement," (Protestant) https://www.childrensaidnyc.org/about/orphan-train-movement

The City Museum of New York City, "Jacob Riis Collection," photographs of New York City, https://collections.mcny.org/Explore/Highlights/Jacob%20A.%20Riis/ .

Coble, Janet. "Partial List of Institutions that Orphan Train Riders Came from," USGenweb/Brooklyn, http://bklyn-genealogy-info.stevemorse.org/Orphan/Inst.Orphan.Train.html

Dervin, Dan. "Children's Lives as History's Pawns." *Journal of Psychohistory* 46, no. 4 (Spring 2019): 310–22.

Google Scholar, numerous articles, for "orphan train riders," https://scholar.google.com

Grossman, Ron, "The Orphan Train: A Noble Idea that Went Off the Rails." *Chicago Tribune*, 19 July 2018. Academic login link: https://www.chicagotribune.com/opinion/commentary/ct-perspec-flashback-orphan-train-children-separated-immigrants-0722-20180718-story.html

IAGenWeb, "Orphan Train Riders to Iowa," http://iagenweb.org/history/orphans/index.htm . Check other states; they may have their own program.

Ingle, Cyndi, *Cyndi's List,* " Railroads" > "Orphan Trains",

National Orphan Train Complex, Concordia, Kansas. https://orphantraindepot.org

New York Historical & Museum, finding aid "Guide to the Records of the New York Foundling Hospital, 1869-2009." http://dlib.nyu.edu/findingaids/html/nyhs/foundling/ (Catholic)

O'Connor Stephen. *Orphan trains: The Story of Charles Loring Brace and the Children He Saved and Failed.* Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2001. The best book on the topic.

Public Broadcasting System (PBS). Documentary, American Experience, "Orphan Trains." 2006. Personal stories of outcomes.

Schlott-Gibeaux, Rikki. "Orphan Trains: A Brief History and Research How to." NYG&B. blog, to find this search on their website, search for blog > orphan train. You do not need to be a member to read this article. https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/blog/orphan-trains-brief-history-and-research-how

Spellen, Suzanne. "Past & Present: The Home for Destitute Children. *Brownstoner.* 31 May 2013. https://www.brownstoner.com/history/past-and-present-the-home-for-destitute-children/
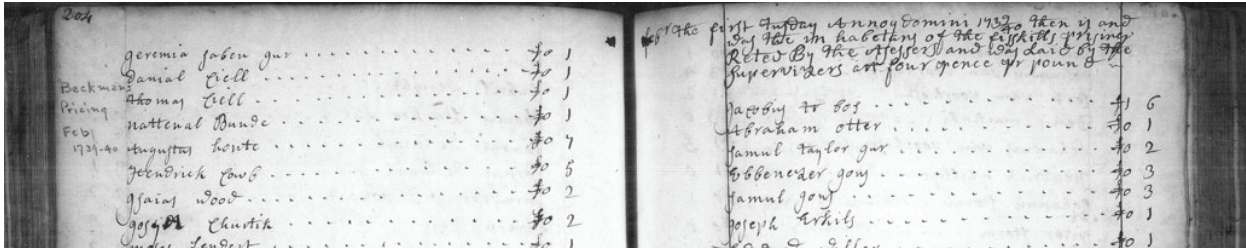
SEARCH | LEARN | TEACH

Notes

Locate and Use 18th Century Tax & Militia Lists to Identify Ancestral Migration

presented by Pam Ricciardi Paschke   contact: genpaschke@yahoo.com

top of page 204-5, *Book of Taxes* vol. C (1729-1748), Dutchess County, NY, February 1739/40, partial for the Beekman (left) and Fishkill (right) Precincts (*FamilySearch.org* DGS 8136136, film 925054)

Tax and militia lists for non-landowner residents of the Colony of New York in the 1700s provide family members, associates, neighbors, and friends for genealogical cluster research. Find out how to interpret tax lists and use tax and militia lists to identify neighbors and extract migration clues for your ancestor.

Three things to be learned:
1. In the absence of land ownership and probate documents, persistence and creative searching can lead to records of your tenant ancestors.
2. Colonial NY tax records are not like census records, and do not suggest neighbors, but can indicate recent migration or breaking from the parental home.
3. Militia lists identify associates, neighbors, and family members who can help fill-out the history of your ancestor's family, migration, and residences.

"FAN Club"* (*term coined by Elizabeth Shown Mills)

Underlying premise: researching Friends, Associates, and Neighbors (and family) can lead to information about your research subject.

Locating extant tax records for the Colony of New York

Tax records were created by the counties. First step is to identify the counties that existed for your time frame of interest. (see bibliography)
Then, determine what tax lists are available. Consider:
- Family Search Catalog https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog
- NewYorkFamilyHistory.org/online-records for *New York Researcher* or *New York Record* or "knowledgebase" articles.
- *New York Family History Research Guide and Gazetteer*
- County Histories from the 1800s, other published works, and manuscript collections.

Note that Dutchess County has the most extensive set of colonial tax records of any NY County.
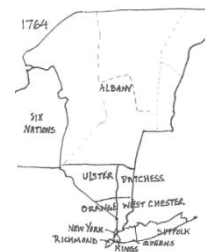
© Pam Ricciardi Paschke   Genpaschke@yahoo.com

Finding the relevant law indicating what and who is taxed and when

Duke of York's Laws, 1665-75 had specific provision for "Publicke Charges." Each "inhabitant" (male age 16 and up) was to contribute proportionately to his ability (assets). Specific values were set for livestock, etc. The subsequent General Assembly was not so specific.

Authority to assess and collect tax was established by Provincial laws in the late 1600s. The Colonial General Assembly (18th century, pre-Revolution) passed Acts regarding taxes.
- The County Justices of the Peace or Supervisors or Assessors determined the taxable values by individual, and the tax rate that would provide the required funds.
- No *one* law of the New York General Assembly (GA) defined who was to be taxed or how the taxable value was to be determined. The GA passed Acts for *some* counties in various years attempting to achieve "more equal taxation." (see bibliography for law ref.)

The Supervisors took an oath:
> "I [name] Do Swear that I will not pass any Account or any Article thereof Wherewith I do not think the County Justly Chargeable, nor will I Disallow Any Account or Any Article Thereof Wherewith I Think the County Justly Chargeable. So help me God."

Analyzing tax records

A case study of migrants from Connecticut settling in Dutchess County from 1742-1744, along with examples from tax lists, demonstrate the organization and meaning of the tax list entries, using the lists to find associates and neighbors, and cautions about errors and inconsistencies..

Finding militia lists

Nearly all militia muster rolls were destroyed in the 1911 fire at the NY State Library. Fortunately, they had been transcribed and published in 1897 and 1898. (see bibliography). Muster roll fragments (few and far between) that "survived" the fire are on microfilm at the New York State Archives in Albany.
Also consider checking for manuscript collections of officers at libraries or archives.

Relevant Colony laws regarding militias in mid 1700s

Militia units were assembled at the County and Precinct "beat" level. Eligibility began at age 16 and continued through age 50 or 60 (depending upon the law in effect).
Revolutionary War Company officers were from the same area of the County as the privates, so can be considered as associates and neighbors for cluster genealogical research.
Certain occupations were exempt from militia duty at different times (check the law).
Keep in mind that Militia soldiers were enrolled at the Colony level, in contrast to soldiers serving in the British or Continental Armies (a more "federal" level).

Analyzing militia records

Consider ways to analyze the Militia lists to identify (for research) associates and neighbors. (e.g., if a list has enlistment dates, see who enlisted the same day; compare muster rolls with tax rolls; for Revolutionary service, identify those paid from certain Companies of your area ...)
Everyone who served in a unit together is a potential source of information on a soldier.

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Kinship Books, various titles, available at NYG&B store under Tax Records and Tax Lists.

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Navigating the Records from The War of 1812

Brian Rhinehart

Brian@CivilWarRecords.com
www.CivilWarRecords.com

Knowing the laws and acts helps understand what to look for and puts the records into context.

Bounty Land Acts:

1812 era:

> These acts were used to encourage enlistment
> They had to meet requirements:
>> Aged 18-45 (age restriction eliminated in 1816)
>> Five year enlistment (didn't have to serve the full five years)
>> Honorably discharged and no deserters
>> Non commissioned officers and soldiers
> Soldiers were entitled to 160 acres at first, in 1814 it was doubled to 320 acres.
> Heirs of those who were killed in action were eligible

Act of 1850

> Changed from enticement to a reward
> ALL officers were now eligible
> Land was given in 40 acre increments

Enlisted for twelve months, served nine	160 acres
Enlisted for six months, served four	80 acres
Any enlistment, served one month	40 acres

> Widows could still apply, but not the children
> A small change a couple years later. Every 20 miles traveled counted as one day's service.

Act of 1855

> Anyone serving at least 14 days could get 160 acres
> Again, no deserters or dishonorably discharged soldiers
> Soldiers who had already gotten land under the previous act could get the remaining amount
> Most soldiers ended up with 160 acres due to this act

Pension Acts:

The 1812 era
> Covered soldiers who were disabled or killed during the war
> Called "Old War" pensions

Pension Act of 1871
> Soldiers who served at least 60 days and were honorably discharged
> Widows had to have been married before the signing of the peace treaty on 17 February 1815
> Anyone who had aided the Confederacy was disqualified

Pension Act of 1878
> Soldiers who served at least 14 days
> Widows could have been married at any time

Where to find the records

Compiled Military Service Records: Indexed on Fold3, originals are at the National Archives

Bounty land applications: some are in the pension files, some are filed separately. The ones filed separately are indexed on Fold3.

Bounty land warrants: indexed at the Bureau of Land Management website. (https://glorecords.blm.gov/search/) Most are not online, only at the National Archives.

Pensions: A-S are on Fold3, S-Z are only at the National Archives. The digitization is a work in progress, and they will all be on Fold3 eventually. They are indexed on Fold3. Old War pensions are indexed on FamilySearch.org

Where are the Bounty Land Applications?

Pension — No pension

In the pension file — Filed separately

A-S are on Fold3 (free access!) — S-Z are at the National Archives — Most aren't online, only available at National Archives — Indexed on Fold3 (A-L)

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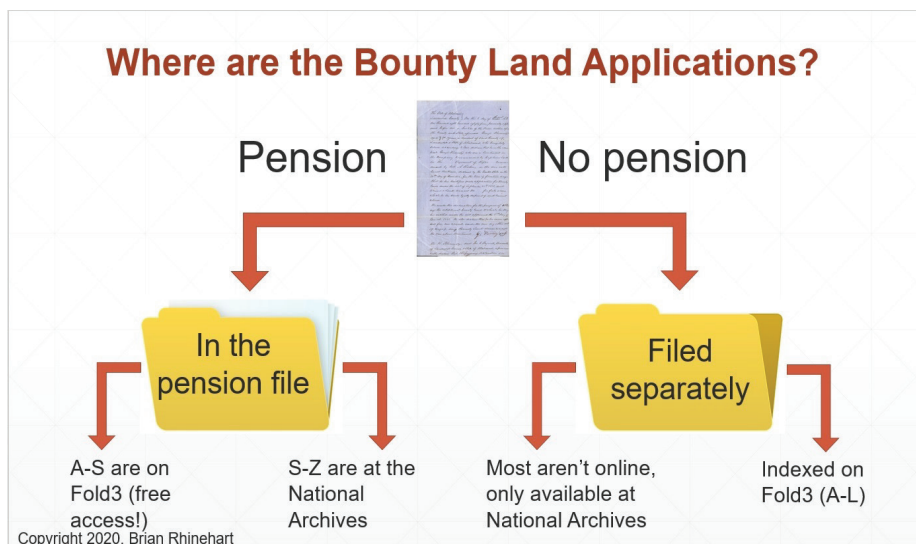
Enlistments: Many enlistment *papers* were destroyed in the 1814 fires. Enlistment *registers* are on Fold3 and Ancestry. These exist only for regular army soldiers.

Discharge papers: There are about 2,250 on file at the National Archives. More information, as well as links to the list of soldiers is at
https://www.archives.gov/research/military/war-of-1812/1812-discharge-certificates/discharge-certificates.html

Prisoner of War: Many POW records are on Ancestry.

New York Farms & the Ancestors who Worked them: Were they yours?
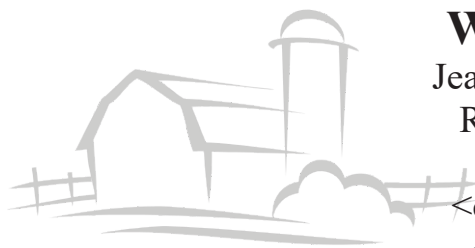
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<www.circlemending.org>

Farmers were our first settlers. They created the first towns, invented implements that touched other industries, & established a unique approach to life in general.

> In other countries, farms were maintained by groups within the community; in the new country, farms were maintained by individual families, making America a country of individualists (as opposed to the collectivist cultures of "back home").

RESEARCH TOOLS TO LEARN ABOUT FARMING ANCESTORS

- Plat maps of the community
- Deeds
- Court records
- Wills and inventories
- Tax lists
- Extension Service Annual Reports (microfilms through NARA)
- Federal and state censuses
- Agricultural censuses (1850, 1860, 1870, 1880)
  - Often two pages of information – don't forget to "turn the page"!
- City directories (farms are sometimes listed in the back)
- History books/websites for the region

ENEMIES OF THE FARMER

- Bad weather
  - Tornadoes
  - Flooding/torrential rain
  - Drought
  - Hail
  - Devastating winter
  - Dust storms
- Insects
- Unscrupulous/unsympathetic bankers

> "Civilizations are born when the people start farming" – Josh Gates

FARMING TERMINOLOGY (per US Census Bureau)
- Farmer = rents or owns (OA – "own account")
- Farm laborer = works on a farm, but may not be his/her family's
- "works on farm" = may be a sharecropper or working a neighbor's farm as a paid laborer
- In 1880 (US Census), supposed to be listed as "owner," "tenant," or "sharecropper"

A (very) little NY FARM HISTORY
- NY soil formed from glacier "residue"
- Iroquois were the farmers beginning in the 1300s – crops were the "3 sisters":
    - Beans, corn, & squash
- The Seneca & Wyandots planted apple & peach orchards
    - Assumed or destroyed by Colonists after the Revolutionary War
- During 1600s, labor was a form of indentured servitude
- Throughout the 1800s, some migrant laborers were brought in from other countries
    - Africans
    - Asians
    - Mexicans
- In mid-19th Century, dairy farms provided milk for the eastern region via the RRs
    - Making NY state a major producer/supplier of dairy products
    - From the 1870s into the early 20th Century, the dairy business changed over time to become part of big business
- The NY Farm Bureau was formed in 1911
    - Until 1955, the NYFB served as educator & advocate for farmers
(source: Wikipedia, Timeline of Agricultural Labor & New York Farm Bureau, see resource list)

The most sought after "crop": MAPLE SYRUP
- First makers of the syrup: Iroquois
    - Believer in the curative properties
    - Shared the "harvest" method with early settlers
        - Modernized the techniques of processing the sap
(source: *Adirondack Almanack* – see resource list)

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new york state
archives

New York State Archives Researcher Services
Cultural Education Center 11A42, 222 Madison Avenue, Albany, NY 12230
Telephone 518/474-8955 ~ E-mail archref@nysed.gov ~ www.archives.nysed.gov

NEW YORK STATE ARCHIVES ONLINE RESOURCES

Research Topics Pages: Guides to specific types of records at the State Archives.
https://www.archives.nysed.gov/research/featured-topics

Pathfinders: Guides for determining where to locate commonly requested records, either at the Archives or at other institutions.
https://www.archives.nysed.gov/research/res_tools_pathfinders.shtml

Ancestry.com New York: Page showing how to create a free Ancestry.com account to view records in the New York portal.
https://www.archives.nysed.gov/research/how-to-video-ancestry

FamilySearch: Digitized documents and family history data from various collections of New York historical records. Accessible at the State Archives and at public libraries and historical repositories around the state.
https://www.familysearch.org/search/location/united-states-of-america/new-york

Name Indexes: Search for names found in selected State Archives record series.
https://www.archives.nysed.gov/research/name-indexes-search

Finding Aids: Descriptive guides to series or collections of records at the State Archives.
https://iarchives.nysed.gov/xtf/search

Digital Collections: Search and browse for digitized documents at the State Archives.
https://digitalcollections.archives.nysed.gov

Researcher Services Overview: Information on how to do research at the State Archives, how to schedule a visit, links to online tools, and contact information.
https://www.archives.nysed.gov/research/researcher-services-overview

The New York State Archives is a program of the State Education Department.

Notes

New York State Archives:
A Focus on 19ᵗʰ and 20ᵗʰ Century Immigrants

Jane E. Wilcox, Forget-Me-Not Ancestry
4getmenotancestry.com

The New York State Archives (NYSA) holds the records of the state government. With a focus on those records that contain 19th and early 20th century immigrants and their children, this talk will discuss new as well as familiar state-level resources to assist in your family history research.

New York State Archives

A unit of the Office of Cultural Education within the NY State Department of Education

Located on the 11ᵗʰ floor of the Cultural Education Center, Madison Ave., Albany

archref@nysed.gov or (518) 474-8955

archives.nysed.gov

The NYSA preserves and makes accessible records from the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of New York state government that document New York State's history, governments, events, and peoples from the 17th century to the present.[1] It holds more than 6,000 record series, most of which are available to family history researchers.

Key Events Impacting NYSA Holdings

- 1818 State Library established.
- 1911 New York State Capitol fire, including the state library housed in the Capitol.
  - Destroyed: state copies of the state censuses 1825-1905
- 1971 State Archives established for state governmental records.
- 1978 Cultural Education Center completed.

The NYSA and the New York State Library are now separate units in the Office of Cultural Education.

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[1] "New York State Archives," *Wikipedia*, wikipedia.com, accessed 20 Jun 2018.

The Records

This talk is based on research for *New York State Archives--A Guide: For Family Historians, Biographers, and Historical Research*, published by the New York Genealogical & Biographical Society in cooperation with the NYSA. The book is designed specifically for genealogists, local historians, and other researchers. It features more than 20 chapters on different types of records and includes specific examples which are noted by record series numbers and titles as designated by the NYSA. For updates on the publication of the book: newyorkfamilyhistory.org/new-york-state-archives-guide

Some of the record types and examples of record series are highlighted in this talk. They are listed in order of presentation, with NYSA titles, series numbers, and date range of the records listed here.

Some NYSA Records with Immigrants and Their Children

Census: New York State 1925
Series A0276 State Population Census Schedules, 1925,
"New York, U.S., State Census, 1925," *Ancestry.com*, ancestry.com/search/collections/2704/

Citizenship: Declaration of Intention
Series J1061 Court of Chancery (5ᵗʰ, 6ᵗʰ, and 8ᵗʰ Circuits) Naturalization Papers, 1830--1847
[*Ancestry.com*]
Naturalization also in the Supreme Court of Judicature minutes at NYSA prior to 1847.

Citizenship: Alien Depositions
Series A1869 Alien Depositions of Intent to Become U.S. Citizens, 1825–1913
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Institutional: Examinations of Dependents
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Institutional: Admission Application
Series A3222 Special Schools Bureau Correspondence and Subject Files Concerning Schools for Indians, the Deaf, the Blind, and Other Special Populations, 1906—1925

Military: Muster Roll Abstracts
Series 13775 Civil War Muster Roll Abstracts of New York State Volunteers, United States Sharpshooters, and United States Colored Troops, 1861--1900;
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www.ancestry.com/search/collections/9281/

Military: National Guard Muster Rolls
Series 13726 National Guard Muster Rolls, 1878–1941

Military: Civil War State Military Agency
Series A4136 Register of Soldiers Who Visited the Washington Office, 1863–1865

Military: State Veterans' Home
Series A0710 NY Veterans' Home Resident Case Files, 1897--1963,
"New York, U.S., Veterans' Home Resident Case Files, 1897--1963," *Ancestry.com,*
ancestry.com/search/collections/8915/

Occupational: State Employment Cards:
Series 15029 State and Local Government Civil Service Employee History Cards, 1894–1954
"New York, U.S., State Employment Cards and Peddlers' Licenses, 1840--1966," *Ancestry.com,*
ancestry.com/search/collections/61644/

Occupational: WWII "Nurse Census"
Series A4277 Recruitment and Classification Files, Subseries 2, 1942—1945

Occupational: Licenses
Series B1074 Register of Licensed Midwives, 1914--1962

Occupational: Licenses
Series A0352 Peddlers' Licenses, 1840-1896, 1949-1956
"New York, U.S., State Employment Cards and Peddlers' Licenses, 1840--1966," *Ancestry.com,*
ancestry.com/search/collections/61644/
Also in A0005 Journals, ledgers, and registers of receipts and payments by the state, Treasurer's receipts

Penal: Prison Admission Register
Series B0143 Sing Sing Prison Inmate Admission Registers, 1842--1852, 1865--1965, 1970--1971,
"New York, U.S., Sing Sing Prison Admission Registers, 1865--1939," *Ancestry.com,*
ancestry.com/search/collections/8922/

Penal: Pardons
A0597 Executive Clemency and Pardon Case Files, 1859--1965

Penal: Inmate Record Card
Series B1273 New York State Prison for Women Inmate Record Cards, 1921--1933

Penal: Monies Received by Inmates
Series B0073 Auburn Prison Daily Report of Moneys Received by Prisoners, 1907–1909

Penal: House of Refuge Inmate Admissions
Series A2088 New York House of Refuge Inmate Admission Registers, 1882--1932

Penal: House of Refuge Indenture Agreements
Series A2066 New York House of Refuge Indenture Agreements, 1825--1904

Restrictions on Record Accessibility:

Prisons, Juvenile Detention, Asylums/Hospitals, among others.

- Look for newspaper notices and county Board of Supervisors proceedings on *HathiTrust* and *FamilySearch*.

Finding Aids

Finding Aids: archives.nysed.gov/xtf/search?

***Ancestry.com* New York**

archives.nysed.gov/research/how-to-video-ancestry

This page is the portal into the NYSA finding aids. Use series title or number, or keywords such as naturalization, citizenship, aliens, almshouses, civil service, personnel records, licensing, occupational, also institution or prison name.

All URL links checked on 18 July 2023

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New York County Miscellaneous Records: They May Be What You're Looking For

Miscellaneous Records

County clerk miscellaneous record books are, just as their name implies, a variety of record types intermixed in a set of volumes. The kind of records they contain varies from county to county, though there is overlap. State laws may dictate the categories of records to be kept, and laws may be specific to a particular county. It is important to note that many document types found in miscellaneous records already have dedicated record books.

What Might be Found in Miscellaneous Records

Adoptions

Before New York State adoption records were closed in the 1930s, they were often documented in miscellaneous record books. These agreements between the adopting parents and the child's birth parents or legal guardians provide the names and places of residence of the parties involved and what is known about the circumstances that led to the adoption. The names of the adoptive parents and the child being adopted are usually indexed. Occasionally these are listed as 'consents and agreements.' Surrenders of children to institutions may also be found. Be sure to also look for name changes of adopted children.

Apprenticeships, Binding Out, and Indentures

Apprenticeship and indenture agreements are a rare find. They typically provide the child's name and age, the parent or guardian, the length of the contract, the child's duties and expected behavior, the skills to be learned, and the payment to be received by the apprentice upon the contract's completion. Poorhouses and orphanages often bound out children to families in the area. These agreements may be included in miscellaneous record books.

Establishment of Churches, Organizations, and Businesses

Documents establishing a church or organization name trustees, include signatures of petitioning members, list previous names of the church or organization, and may note the group's regular meeting place. Articles of association (or incorporation) detail a business's purpose, provide the methods of appointing a company's leadership and their duties, and name stockholders.

Government Appointments and Records Associated with Occupations

An ancestor's profession or appointed duties may be revealed in miscellaneous records. It is common to find appointments of sheriff deputies, jailers, and deputy clerks. Occupational licenses are less commonly found and usually pertain to physicians. Leases may reveal an ancestor as a business owner. Liquor licenses may name an ancestor's business and ferry licenses may state specifically where an ancestor's ferry could operate, details about the ferry's capacity, and regulations regarding ferry rates. Exempt certificates or discharges for volunteer firemen are also often filed in miscellaneous record books.

Land, Property, and Estates

Land deeds, cemetery deeds, probate documents, leases, dower releases, mortgages, and rights of way are commonly found in miscellaneous record books. Leases may come in many forms, such as a typical land rental, an oil or gas lease, or a life lease. In a life lease, an individual or couple usually deeds land to another individual or couple in return for their care for the duration of their lives. Those receiving the property typically provide meals, pay for medical care, and maintain the household for the grantor. The individual deeding the land also retains the right to occupy it for the remainder of their life. Family connections may be found between those entering into these contracts.

Powers of attorney are commonly associated with property sales, and many can be found in miscellaneous records. Historic powers of attorney are usually given to lawyers. Though they are not often given to family members as in modern times, powers of attorney will provide the locations of residence of those involved. This may help track family members who have moved out of the area.

The recording of annuities paid to Native American nations may be found in records of counties in which treaties were made for Native American lands. Native leaders' names are generally spelled phonetically in the records.

Military Records

Military discharge papers are frequently recorded. Details for Civil War and Spanish American War service includes the soldier's military unit, enlistment and discharge dates and locations, and whether the soldier was eligible to reenlist. A soldier's age, physical description, occupation, and place of birth will likely be recorded. World War I and II service details may also be found. In addition to the aforementioned details, brief information about marksmanship, horsemanship, battles and engagements, wounds, health reasons for discharge, decorations, military and civilian occupation, marital status, and absences from duty may be noted.

Name Changes and Naturalizations

Name changes can be abundant with data. Researchers may learn the reason for the change, the town of birth, and family members' names and residences. Name changes often pertain to immigrants. Early naturalization papers are not usually detailed but they occasionally provide a foreign place of birth (more specific than a country name).

Vital Records

Though rare for most counties, births, marriages, and deaths may be documented. When they are found, they are usually minimal in detail but may prove important relationships during timeframes when vital records were not widely kept. Town vital records are more likely to be found in areas that follow a New England tradition (on eastern Long Island and some towns in Westchester). Records of children born overseas or a marriage taking place abroad may also be registered in a miscellaneous record book.

Navigating Miscellaneous Records

Indexes to miscellaneous record books are either dedicated volumes or located at the beginning or end of individual books. Names of individuals, businesses, and institutions are indexed and the document type associated with the indexed names is usually noted.

Access

In-Person

County clerk's offices provide access to print volumes, and libraries may carry miscellaneous records on microfilm. Some counties store miscellaneous record books off site. In these cases, counties may have an archival research center, which can be visited in person or if there is no research center, the books will need to be requested in advance.

Online

Some county governments offer digital record portals on their websites. Available images are usually more recent records and access as well as per document download fees are generally required. The inclusion of miscellaneous record books is not common, but clerk's websites are a possible access method.

FamilySearch is the best website for county miscellaneous records. The following is a comprehensive listing of records available.

County	Record Title and URL
Broome County	Miscellaneous Records, Vols. 1-2, 1863-1908 familysearch.org/search/catalog/423065
Cattaraugus County	Miscellaneous Records of Cattaraugus County, New York, 1800-1911 familysearch.org/search/catalog/423061
Chemung County	Miscellaneous Records, 1836-1906 familysearch.org/search/catalog/19736
Chenango County	Miscellaneous Records, Insolvent Discharges, 1799-1895 familysearch.org/search/catalog/235990 Miscellaneous records: wills, mortgage satisfaction, 1824-1841* familysearch.org/search/catalog/235998
Clinton County	Miscellaneous Civil Records, 1885-1921 familysearch.org/search/catalog/276838
Cortland County	Miscellaneous Record, 1830-1919; Index, 1830-1960 familysearch.org/search/catalog/19728
Erie County	Miscellaneous Records, 1808-1907 familysearch.org/search/catalog/17718
Essex County	Index to Miscellaneous Papers Filed or Recorded Essex County, N. Y. familysearch.org/search/catalog/286435
Genesee County	Assignment of Mortgages, Miscellaneous Records, 1802-1905 familysearch.org/search/catalog/236581
Herkimer County	Miscellaneous Records, 1882-1901 familysearch.org/search/catalog/296329
Jefferson County	Miscellaneous Records, 1857-1903 familysearch.org/search/catalog/87497
Lewis County	Misc. County Records, v. 1-2, 1805-1901 familysearch.org/search/catalog/89877

Monroe County	Miscellaneous Record Index, 1821-1923* familysearch.org/search/catalog/235895
New York County	Miscellaneous Filed Papers Index, 1812-1934 https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/235844
Niagara County	Miscellaneous Records, 1821-1901; Index to Records, 1800-1936 familysearch.org/search/catalog/235760
Onondaga County	Miscellaneous Civil and Church Records of Onondaga Co., New York, 1799-1866 familysearch.org/search/catalog/78097
Ontario County	Miscellaneous Court Records, 1790-1915 familysearch.org/search/catalog/187762
Orleans County	Miscellaneous Records, 1825-1902 familysearch.org/search/catalog/39813
Oswego County	Miscellaneous Records, 1816-1866 familysearch.org/search/catalog/380701
Otsego County	Miscellaneous County Records, 1865-1907 familysearch.org/search/catalog/63992
Saint Lawrence County	Miscellaneous Civil, Court, and Military Records, 1844-1902 familysearch.org/search/catalog/189374
Saratoga County	Miscellaneous Records, 1792-1916 familysearch.org/search/catalog/55445
Schoharie County	Miscellaneous Records, 1851-1901 familysearch.org/search/catalog/39797
Seneca County	Miscellaneous Record, 1804-1924 familysearch.org/search/catalog/73865
Sullivan County	Miscellaneous Records, 1850-1924 familysearch.org/search/catalog/89111
Tioga County	Miscellaneous Records, 1829-1964 familysearch.org/search/catalog/38656
Tompkins County	Miscellaneous Records, 1817-1905 familysearch.org/search/catalog/77668
Warren County	Miscellaneous Records, 1813-1925; Mortgage Tax Record, 1873-1906 familysearch.org/search/catalog/252137
Wyoming County	Miscellaneous Records, 1841-1929 familysearch.org/search/catalog/79571
Yates County	Miscellaneous Records, 1823-1913 familysearch.org/search/catalog/213412

Table Date: September 15, 2023
*It is unclear if this pertains to miscellaneous record books, but records often in miscellaneous books are represented.

The Grosvenor Room
Buffalo & Erie County Public Library
1 Lafayette Square
Buffalo, NY 14203
(716)-858-8900

https://www.buffalolib.org/research-resources/special-collections

Rhonda Hoffman, Genealogy Specialist
hoffmanr@buffalolib.org

Buffalo & Erie County Public
LIBRARY

Novel New York City Records
Alec Ferretti: AncestorArchivist@gmail.com

Coroner's & Office of the Chief Medical Examiner Case Files

- Autopsies and similar files, as indicated by death certificate or index
- OCME records 1918-1951 can be ordered from the Municipal Archives
- OCME records after 1951 are still held with the OCME and may be provided to close relatives via FOIL
- Coroners records before 1918 are at the Municipal Archives and also unindexed and restricted on FamilySearch

Burial Transit Permits

- Filed with the Town Clerk of the municipality in which individual is buried
- NYC only retains permits for 5 years
- Other places should have saved them
- Useful for instances in which death certificate cannot be located but burial location is known
- State Health Department imposes arbitrary restrictions on these records
  - Clerks are instructed to only release records older than 50 years, unless applicant is a direct descendant

Marriage Records +

- DORIS recently located tens of thousands of marriage license applications which had been filed separately from the regular licenses
- The certificate portion had never been returned so they were considered invalid marriages
- The genealogical part still survives
- DORIS also recently indexed about 10,000 marriage contracts from the first decade of the 1900s that had previously been inaccessible

Voter Registration Records

- Voter registration records are public in New York State
- The City Record published a list of all registered voters from 1883-1974
  - All lists can be viewed at Municipal Archives, but 1924 has been digitized
  - NYU has digitized a few others in clunky formats (1880s, 1907)
  - This list indexes an underlying registration form that asked for detailed info
- Brooklyn & Bronx registrations are available at Board of Elections via FOIL
  - Most Bronx books were destroyed in Hurricane Sandy
- Manhattan, Staten Island, Queens registration available at Municipal Archives through 1956
  - Ancestry is scanning the Manhattan records

- Voter Registration "Buff Cards" exist with the BOE from 1957 on, but unless the voter was still active in the 1980s, they are nearly impossible to get
- The BOE maintains a database of all NYC voters (including Buff Cards) from the late 1980s-present

Licensing Records

- New York State has had occupational licensing since the 1890s
- Licenses are generally public records and subject to FOIL
- There is a searchable database for licenses going back to the early 20th century
- Older records are held by the NYS Education Department on microfilm

Education Records

- The City DoE typically gives records of deceased individuals to family members who prove relationship
- Must provide the name of the high school individual graduated
- 20th century records often survive but records are not centralized

Government Employment Records

- Survival is haphazard
- MTA only retains records for 7 years
- Other agencies sometimes have old records
- Submit a FOIL request to the requisite agency
- NYPD is known to have 20th century records
  - Personnel Resource Unit, 1 Police Plaza Room 1014A,New York, NY 10018
- Civil Service Record Cards Exist

DA Records of Cases

- Index to all felony indictments in NY County
- Mostly scanned but not online
- DORIS will emails select years if asked
- The index leads to a case file

DA Indictment File

- DORIS will scan these files for a few dollars as long as the file is in decent shape
- Case file will discuss the alleged crime
- There may be witness statements, records of the disposition of the case

Almshouse Records

- Records for inmates at the poorhouse on Roosevelt Island
- Admissions, discharges, deaths, censuses, children…
- Restricted on FamilySearch
- Municipal Archives recently started to digitize them

Property Records at the City Register's Office

- Property records after 1966 are online at ACRIS
- Many earlier records are on FamilySearch but they are difficult to weed through
- City Register's Office has better indexes
- Can also submit FOIL request for records

WWI Military Census

- Everyone who registered for the WWI Draft reported the same info to their county clerk
- New York and Kings County records survived
- Each volume is organized by first letter of surname
- No further organization or index
- Ask about prior military service, in the US and abroad

1890 Police Census

- NYPD took a census of New York County
- Images are on FamilySearch and an index was recently released
- Index does not group members of a household together
- Images are restricted

Brooklyn Old Town Records

- Various records originally maintained by the clerks of the former municipalities of Kings County
- Complicated set of inventories and finding aids
- Recently digitized by Municipal Archive, after RTR lawsuit
- Records date from 1600s to 1800s
- Deeds, tax lists, jury censuses, slave records, licenses…

Bodies in Transit Records

- From 1859-1894, New York recorded information about bodies transported through the city
- FamilySearch has indexed these records within their NYC Deaths index
- Municipal Archives recently digitized them in high resolution

NYC Tax Photos

- Dept of Taxation photographed every property in NYC in 1940 and 1980
- Municipal Archives digitized copies of the images with a watermark
- High resolution images can be purchased from Municipal Archives for $45
- User-friendly website was developed by a developer at *1940s.nyc*

Links:

NYC FOIL Portal: https://a860-openrecords.nyc.gov/

NYS FOIL Portal: https://openfoil.ny.gov/#/newfoilrequest

To order OCME records from Municipal Archives: http://home2.nyc.gov/html/records/downloads/pdf/ocmeform.pdf

NYU's Digitization of The City Record: http://cityrecord.engineering.nyu.edu/

NYS Licensing Lookup: http://www.op.nysed.gov/opsearches.htm

Locate the Disposition of Records from a Former NYC Schools: https://www.schools.nyc.gov/learning/in-our-classrooms/student-records-and-transcripts/requesting-student-records-and-transcripts

Municipal Archives Digitized Collections: https://nycma.lunaimaging.com/luna/servlet/

1940s Tax Photos Viewer: https://1940s.nyc/

Finding Aid to Almshouse Records: https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/records/pdf/featured-collections/almhouse-ledger-collection-1758-1952.pdf

ACRIS: https://a836-acris.nyc.gov/CP/

Books:

New York City Municipal Archives: An Authorized Guide for Family Historians, by Aaron Goodwin: https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/publications/muni

Genealogical Resources in New York, by Estelle Guzik: https://www.amazon.com/Genealogical-Resources-York-Estelle-Guzik/dp/0962186317

NYG&B Collections at the New York Public Library

Presented by Susan R. Miller, Director, Publications

The New York Public Library holds vast family history collections, including many New York Genealogical and Biographical Society (NYG&B) collections. The NYG&B collections reside in mainly in two divisions—both in the Stephen A. Schwarzman Building at 5th Ave. and 42nd St.—the Irma and Paul Milstein Division of United States History, Local History, and Genealogy (nypl.org/locations/divisions/milstein) and the Manuscripts and Archives Division (nypl.org/locations/schwarzman/manuscripts-division).

Milstein Division

The Milstein Division is in Room 121 (quiet research). The librarians prefer to connect with you prior to your visit but walk-in visits are allowed. The Milstein Division holds books, manuscripts, typescripts, and microfilm; most genealogy collections were created 1900s–present. Email: history@nypl.org.

Manuscript and Archives Division

The Manuscript Division, 3rd floor, room 328, focuses on pre-1900s works for genealogy. Submit a collection question through the archives portal: archives.nypl.org. Special collections registration specialcollections.nypl.org/aeon and appointments necessary for research.

Type of NYG&B collections

- Manuscripts (approximately 30,000)
    - Unique (or nearly unique) items not published.
    - On-site research is usually required.
    - The best entry point is an NYG&B webpage: newyorkfamilyhistory.org/nygb-at-nypl
- Books (approximately 75,000)
- Maps
- Microfilms

Family Files in the Manuscript Division

New York Genealogical and Biographical Society Family Files 1654-2002 (Manuscripts and Archives Division, MssCol NYGB 18274). **See the finding aid:** nypl.org/sites/default/files/archivalcollections/pdf/18274_0.pdf.

41 boxes with an alphabetical finding aid by surname. Content varies by file from single pages to longer genealogical summaries. https://archives.nypl.org/mss/18274

Family Files in the Milstein Division

New York Genealogical and Biographical Society Family Files: Milstein Division (each file has an individual call number)
https://catalog.nypl.org/search/c?SEARCH=NYGB+Fam+2008&sortdropdown=-&searchscope=1

3,937 files located through the research catalog (use link on the NYGB "entry point" above) or through the legacy catalog to refine by surname. Content varies by file from single pages to longer genealogical summaries.

To find files by surname:

- Go to https://legacycatalog.nypl.org, and on the left, select "By Call number."
- Enter "NYGB Fam 2008" and then click the submit button.
- A 78-page listing will appear—too many to scroll through.
- Near the top of the section, click the "Limit Sort Search" button.

- Scroll down the page to the "Words in the TITLE" box and enter SURNAME family (the surname of interest), e.g. Sands Family

- When a surname is located within the call numbers NYGB Fam 2008, note it may have duplicate entries. Note the call number and folders to be examined. The staff needs both numbers to locate the file(s).
- Email history@nypl.org with the call number(s) and folder number(s) several days in advance of your visit.

Locale and Localities Files (Milstein and Manuscript Divisions)

Researching by location can bring surprising results. The New York Genealogical and Biographical Society Collection Locale Files, NYGB Loc 2008-001, in the Milstein Division comprises 51 boxes containing 1,324 files. Includes many cemetery/gravestone transcriptions, religious records, account books, newspaper abstracts and clippings, and more. https://archives.nypl.org/lhg/19873 and nypl.org/sites/default/files/archivalcollections/pdf/nygbloc.pdf.

The New York Genealogical and Biographical Society Localities Files, 1653-1986, MssCol NYGB 18357, in the Manuscript Division comprises 6 boxes totaling 79 files. https://archives.nypl.org/mss/18357 and nypl.org/sites/default/files/archivalcollections/pdf/18357.pdf

Examples:

Locale box 4, folder 8: British West Indies Cemetery Inscriptions (Presented by John J. DeMott, 1948)

Locale box 4, folder 31 Broome County, New York County Clerk's Office 1847-1850 (Vital Records)

Locale box 13, folder 5 Greece, Monroe County, New York Frisbee Hill Road Cemetery (Inscriptions)

Locale box 13, folder 6 Greenburgh, Westchester County, New York Births 1847

Locale box 21, folder 4 Mattituck, Suffolk County, New York Church Records 1751-1776

Locale box 41, folder 20 Stockton, Hunterdon County, New Jersey First Presbyterian Church 1867-1888 (Sessional Records)

Localities box 3, folder 6, New Paltz, NY; On folder: Sherriff's warrant of 1722, tax lists of 1759 1762 and 1763, deeds for 1736, 1740, 1774, and 1790—presented by John E. Hasbrouck 1930

Localities box 3, folder 16, Oneida County, NY (Marriages performed 1805-1826)

Bible Transcripts (Milstein)

New York Genealogical and Biographical Society Bible Transcript Files, 1550–1967, Milstein Division, NYGB Bible Transcripts 2008-001, holds abstracted and transcribed genealogical information and images of family Bibles. nypl.org/sites/default/files/archivalcollections/pdf/NYGB_bible_transcripts_Rev_0.pdf

Seven hundred seventy-five (775) surnames are represented in the 12 boxes. The finding aid usually notes a couple and the presenter of the information. Sometimes family locations are noted in the finding aid. https://archives.nypl.org/lhg/21993

Vosburgh Collection of Church Records

Royden Woodward Vosburgh served as the NYG&B's archivist from 1913 to 1921 and oversaw transcription from 94 New York Protestant churches. The 104 volumes created for the NYG&B were followed by another ten for the Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences. The manuscript copies are held in the Milstein Division, each with its own catalog record. Searching the catalog by Vosburgh and location is recommended.

See also Harry Macy Jr.'s "The Vosburgh Collection of New York Church Records," for a listing. newyorkfamilyhistory.org/knowledgebase/vosburgh-collection-new-york-church-records

Search by using the church name in the keyword field is an alternate catalog search method.

Note: Many record abstracts published in *The NYG&B Record* may also be found in typescript form. The typescripts can contain more years than found in published articles.

Microfilms

Because the microfilm from the NYG&B collection doesn't have the wear of some other microfilm collections, if a film is not clear, check the NYPL catalog to see if a copy is available. Also, some collections with restricted access on FamilySearch are available on microfilm at the NYPL from the NYG&B collections. One example is Queens land records. See nypl.org/research/research-catalog/bib/b18170673 and scroll to the contents listing.

Maps

The maps from the NYG&B collection are held by the Lionel Pincus and Princess Firyal Map Division (nypl.org/locations/schwarzman/map-division), which requires a special collections account for access. To find them search "NYGB Map" in the research catalog (nypl.org/research/research-catalog/search?q=NYGB%20Map).

Books

Approximately 75,000 books, including 11,000 family genealogies from the NYG&B collections are held at the NYPL—some off-site. Use the NYPL catalog for surname and location searches, and to find publications that may now be digitized. Some books may be rare, and therefore need to be used on-site. Prior to visiting, request materials in advance to avoid pull time.

Research catalog: catalog.nypl.org (standard number search = call number search)

Legacy catalog: legacycatalog.nypl.org (some records may be duplicated)

The NYG&B's Online Collections: Hidden Gems

Presented by: Todd M. Hirsch, Esq.

For more than 150 years, the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society (NYG&B) has been preserving valuable genealogical and historical records and making them accessible to family history researchers. Today, one of the most effective ways for the NYG&B to share New York's rich history and resources is to digitize records and provide access to them on our website.

The NYG&B is committed to adding new records and resources to our online collections, many of which are fully indexed and searchable. Highlighted below are just a few of the many collections that can be accessed on our website.

Newly Released Collections

Colonial Immigration Records

Released in early 2023, the Colonial Immigration Records contain genealogical information and biographical sketches of immigrants to New York during the Dutch and English colonial era. The numerous volumes in the collection cover different groups of immigrants at various periods in colonial New York. www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/online-records/collection/colonial-immigration-records

Society of Colonial Wars in the State of New York Applications

The Society of Colonial Wars is a patriotic lineage organization in which prospective members must trace their ancestry to those who served in some capacity in a colonial war between 1607 and 1775. Applications for membership to the New York chapter of the Society can provide a wealth of information to researchers. As of early 2023, application volumes A through S, which consist of those dated from 1892 to 1919, are available online with a searchable index. www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/online-records/collection/society-colonial-wars-state-new-york

Biographical and Portrait Cyclopedia of Chautauqua County

Published in 1891, this title contains brief but densely packed biographies of dozens of prominent figures in Chautauqua County history. The volume also contains a number of portraits and historical photos that illustrate the text. The volume concludes with a 60-page history of the county, spanning more than 200 years. www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/online-records/collection/biographical-and-portrait-cyclopedia-chautauqua-county

Notable Men of Rochester and Vicinity: XIX and XX Centuries

This volume focuses on men of notoriety from Rochester during the 19th and 20th centuries. Researchers will find portraits of these men, as well as information about their occupations and churches that they attended under their respective portraits. Also included in the volume are lists of local authors, inventions made in the city, government officials, churches, and libraries. www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/online-records/collection/notable-men-rochester-and-vicinity-xix-and-xx-centuries

Gazetteer and Business Directory of Niagara County, N.Y. for 1869

This is a fully searchable directory for Niagara County in 1869. Like many directories, this volume can aid genealogists in pinpointing where an ancestor lived or worked during a particular year, and often provides addresses and occupations. For those doing research in Niagara County, the NYG&B has also digitized a number of other publications, including *Landmarks of Niagara County*, a searchable volume that provides a full history of the county from the earliest settlement to the nineteenth century, and *Biographical and Portrait Cyclopedia of Niagara County*, which provides biographical sketches of key figures living in Niagara County in the late-19th century. www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/online-records/collection/gazetteer-and-business-directory-niagara-county-ny-1869

Orleans County Gazetteer and Business Directory for 1869

Printed in Syracuse in 1869, this searchable volume includes advertisements, business listings, and information related to local history. For genealogists researching in Orleans County, the NYG&B has also digitized the *Swart's Orleans County Directory...* from 1894, which contains the names of adult male residents of the county, the town in which they lived, the amount of each person's assessment, their wife's maiden name, and their occupation. We have also digitized a collection entitled, *Pioneer History of Orleans County, New York*, which was printed in Albion in 1871 and includes biographical sketches of early settlers of the area and a list of town and county officers since the year the county was organized. www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/online-records/collection/orleans-county-gazetteer-and-business-directory-1869

Collections Not to be Missed

Trinity Church Transcriptions

These volumes, part of the NYG&B's New York County Religious Records, are transcribed records related to churches and chapels identified as part of Trinity Parish, which in turn belongs to Manhattan's iconic and enduring Episcopalian Diocese. The original records were created by church rectors and clergy from 1746 to 1885. www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/online-records/collection/new-york-county-religious-records

New York Biographical Index

This expansive index of books, monographs, and journals related to various aspects of New York State history also serves as a remarkable genealogy tool, allowing users to search across 580,000 names from thousands of sources—many rare and potentially overlooked—for biographical sketches of their ancestors. Titles include county, city, and town histories, as well as histories of political, social, religious, economic, military, fraternal, and educational organizations, and trade journals. www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/online-records/collection/new-york-biographical-index

The *New York Researcher*

The *New York Researcher*, NYG&B's member magazine, provides information about researching in New York, articles on specific family history topics, and updates on recently released record sets. A searchable, complete run of the *New York Researcher* and its predecessor publication, the *NYG&B Newsletter*, which was first published in 1990, is available on our website. www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/online-records/collection/new-york-researcher

Hidden Gems

Bible Records from the American Bible Society

www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/online-records/collection/bible-records-american-bible-society

Female Descendants of William Brewster – Compiled Genealogies
www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/online-records/collection/female-descendants-william-brewster-compiled-genealogies

New Amsterdam, Minutes of the Orphanmasters Court, 1655 – 1664
www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/online-records/collection/new-amsterdam-minutes-orphanmasters-court-1655-1664

New York County Ward 17, State Census, 1855

www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/online-records/collection/new-york-county-ward-17-state-census-1855

NYG&B Family Files

www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/online-records/collection/nygb-family-files

NYG&B Member Biographies www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/online-records/collection/nygb-member-biographies

Shipwrecked Passengers Bound for the Americas, 1817 – 1875
www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/online-records/collection/shipwrecked-passengers-bound-americas-1817-1875

Suffolk County Probate Records www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/online-records/collection/suffolk-county-probate-records

Digitize New York

Our Digitize New York Initiative seeks to empower and educate communities across New York State in the preservation of at-risk historical documents. Many historical societies, churches, and town hall offices, as well as researchers, hold at-risk documents that they are unable to digitize because of a lack of staff or financial resources.

In the spirit of expanding New York's genealogical archives, the NYG&B is partnering with organizations across New York State to preserve at-risk historical documents and make them more accessible. Organizations can either submit their records for preservation at the NYG&B Digitization Center or request a digitization kit that empowers them to preserve and upload records at their own sites.

https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/digitize-new-york

A Panel Discussion on New York Land Records

Skip Duett, Upstate New York Roots (upstatenyroots.com/) and
Jane Wilcox, Forget-Me-Not Ancestry (4getmenotancestry.com/)

Some Key Dates Important for Understanding New York's Land Records

1624-1664 New Netherland Dutch colonial period. Grants and private party deeds recorded with provincial secretary.

1629   First Dutch patroonships granted, with patroons renting small parcels to tenants. (Rensselaerswyck was the only successful patroonship.)

1664-1783 English/British colonial period (ending with the Treaty of Paris and British evacuation).

1665   English patents and some private party deeds recorded with the provincial secretary. A few deeds recorded with the town clerk.

1683   Formation of the original ten counties within modern NY (Albany, Ulster, Dutchess, Orange, Westchester, Richmond, New York, Kings, Queens, and Suffolk). First English manorial lordship granted, with landlords renting small parcels to tenants.

1753   Mortgages required to be recorded with the county or city clerk.

1771   Married women required to sign and acknowledge deed conveyances, as well as have private, separate exams to verify that they did so voluntarily because they had dower interest in property within the marriage.

1777   First State Constitution; formation of New York State. Patents and some private party deeds recorded with the secretary of state.

1779   Forfeiture Act; Loyalist real estate seized by state.

1786   First state-funded mortgage (called "Old" loan[1]).

1799   Begins gradual requirement for recording of deeds in new counties with numerous subsequent retroactive amendments.[2]

1792   Second state-funded mortgage (called "New" loan).

1795   Mortgages on sales of state unappropriated land offered by state and recorded with treasurer, comptroller, and secretary of state.

1808   Third state-funded mortgage (called "Commissioners" loan).

1823   Deeds must be recorded with the county clerk in all counties.[3]

1837   Fourth mortgage, administered by state using federal funds (called U.S. Deposit Fund).

1848   New York's Married Women's Property Act, allowing a married woman to own and control real and personal property as her separate property.

**For New York State Archives series below, use series number in Finding Aid
[iarchives.nysed.gov/xtf/search?]**

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[1] "Memoranda to Loan Office Alphabet" in "First Deeds Deposited with Loan Commissioner 1771–1861 [title page]," [p. 3], Dutchess County, NY, Records of the Loan Office 1771–1882, FHL film #565,222, unmarked item 1, *Family Search*, familysearch.org/.

[2] Laws of 1798, Chap. 78; Laws of 1813, Chap 97; Laws of 1822, Chap. 254; etc.

[3] Laws of 1823, Chap. 263.

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Four Basic Processes of Land Transfer
- **Crown or State to Individuals** – Done via grants and patents.
- **Land Contracts** – Initiated via Articles of Agreement but completed via county recorded deed.
- **Public Sales/Auctions from Government to Individuals** – deed recorded with provincial secretary/secretary of state or county clerk.
- **Private Sales of Individual(s) to Individual(s)** – deeds recorded mostly with county clerk/register of deeds, but some recorded by early town clerk or provincial secretary/secretary of state.

Town records
- Individual to individual deeds recorded by town clerk 1600s to 1700s for some towns.

Grants and Patents from the Colony or State to Individuals
- Some of these are available on *FamilySearch* at the FSL or an affiliate. See "Patents of the state of New York, 1649–1912."
- Series A1880, **Dutch colonial patents and deeds**, NYSA
  - o Series A0480, **Indexes and translations of Dutch patents**. Covers volumes GG, HH, and II, 1630–1661 of Dutch patents and deeds.
- Series 12943, **Letters Patent, and Series A0487, Letters Patent**, NYSA. Letters patent (commonly called a "patent") convey a grant of real property from a government to a person or persons. This series contains patents granted since 1664 by either the governor of the province of New York in the name of the king of England or the state of New York. Patents are arranged in chronological order by book and page number. They are indexed by name of grantee and by location:
  - o Series A4684, **Grantee index to colonial patents**, NYSA. This series contains a name index of people who were granted land by the colonial government of New York prior to the American Revolution.
  - o Series A4685, **Grantee index to state patents**, NYSA. This series contains a name index of people who were granted land by the state government of New York after the American Revolution.
  - o Series A4686, **Location index to colonial patents**, NYSA. This series partially indexes Series 12943, Letters Patent, and Series A0480, Indexes and Translations of Dutch Patents.
  - o Series A4687, **Location index to state patents**, NYSA. This series partially indexes Series 12943, Letters Patent.
- Series A0447, **Military Patents,** NYSA. This series consists of records of land grants by letters patent for military service. Grants were made to individuals holding land bounty rights originally issued to commissioned officers and private soldiers who served in New York Continental regiments during the Revolutionary War. Series also includes records of land grants to demobilize British officers and private soldiers who had served in North America during the Seven Years' War.
- Series A0272, **Applications for land grants**, NYSA. The series consists of applications for grants of unappropriated land by letters patent from New York Colony and State. Along with the applications are related reports, surveys, maps, warrants for surveying lands and drafting of letters patent, objections to title, and letters.

- O'Callaghan, E.B. _The Calendar of N.Y. Colonial Manuscripts Indorsed Land Papers; in the Office of the Secretary of State of New York, 1643-1803._ Albany: Weed, Parsons & Co., 1864. Abstracts and indexes Series A0272.

Individual to Individual Deeds Recorded with the Provincial Secretary or Secretary of State

- Some of these are available on _FamilySearch_ at the FSL or an affiliate. See "Deeds, 1659–1846."
- Series A0453, **Record of Deeds**, NYSA. This series contains deeds recorded in the office of the provincial secretary (from 1664 to 1783) and the secretary of state (from 1783 to 1890); 43 volumes covering 1659-1890, on 20 rolls of microfilm, available for use in the Reading Room on the 11th Floor of the CEC.
  - Series A3074, **Abstracts and indexes of deeds**, NYSA. This series abstracts and indexes Series A0453. Each of the seven volumes has grantor and grantee name indexes, and location and subject indexes.
- Series A4688, **Grantor index to deeds and other miscellaneous documents recorded or filed by the Secretary of State**, NYSA. This series indexes by grantor: Series A0453, Record of Deeds; Series A0464, Original Deeds and Title Papers; Series 12945, Miscellaneous Deeds and Title Papers; Series A0451, Original Releases to the State; Series A0448, Indian Deeds and Treaties; and Series A1882, Dutch Land Deeds.
- Series A4689, **Grantee index to deeds and other documents recorded or filed by the Secretary of State and Office of General Services**, NYSA. This series indexes by grantee: Series A0453, Record of Deeds; Series A0464, Original Deeds and Title Papers; Series 12945, Miscellaneous Deeds and Title Papers; Series A0451, Original Releases to the State; Series A0448, Indian Deeds and Treaties; and Series A1882, Dutch Land Deeds; Series A4025, New York State Engineer and Surveyor records of Applications for and Grants of Land Under Water.
- Series A4690, **Location index to deeds and other documents recorded or filed by the Secretary of State and Office of General Services**, NYSA. This series indexes by location: Series A0453, Record of Deeds; Series A0464, Original Deeds and Title Papers; Series 12945, Miscellaneous Deeds and Title Papers; Series A0451, Original Releases to the State; Series A0480, Indexes and Translations of Dutch Patents; Series A0050, Deeds of Cession and Assorted Documents of Record; and Series A1882, Dutch Land Deeds. indexes this series by location.

Loan Commissioners/State-Funded Mortgages

- County clerks, historians, and/or records centers for county records
- Series A1074, **Ledger of the Repayment of the Loan of 1792,** NYSA.
- Series A1044, **Ledger of the Repayment of the Loan of 1808,** NYSA.
- Series A1281, **County Commissioner's Ledgers of Mortgage Loans of the U.S. Deposit Fund, 1837-1911**, NYSA. [example]

Mortgages on the Sale of State Unappropriated Land

- Series A0005**, Treasurer's Journals, Ledgers, and Registers of Receipts and Payments by the State**, 1795 to 1884, NYSA. [example]
- Series A1280, **Comptroller's Ledgers for Bonds and Mortgages Held by the State of New York,** 1796 to 1910, NYSA. [example]

Land Contracts – Articles of Agreement

- Contractual agreement between and individual and a land company to purchase land over time.

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- Differs from mortgage in that there is no title transfer until contract fully satisfied.
- Private company records vice government documents – held in archives and repositories as family papers for land company principals.
- Examples
    - NYSL MSS - SC10440 Phelps Family Papers,
    - Archives of the Holland Land Company at SUNY-Fredonia & *FamilySearch*
    - Constable-Pierrepont Papers at New York Public Library, Rare Books & Manuscripts

County Deeds

- Recorded and indexed by county clerks
- Assembled into Libers
- Most historical deeds have been filmed by *FamilySearch* and available online "United States, New York Land Records, 1630–1975"
- Exceptions:
    - Albany Co. – Deeds in system but doesn't display with "New York Land Records" collection. [familysearch.org/search/catalog/247679]
    - Franklin Co. – Deeds in system but locked – only viewable at FSL or affiliate. [familysearch.org/search/catalog/234773]
    - Nassau Co. – not on *FamilySearch* in any form – currently being digitized by NYG&B.
    - Oneida Co. – Deeds in system, comingled with Herkimer Co. in "New York Land Records" collection. [familysearch.org/search/catalog/318293]
    - Queens Co. – Deeds in system but locked – only viewable at FSL or affiliate. [familysearch.org/search/catalog/528322]
- Filming cutoff date varies by county, most 1865 to 1900.
- Don't rely on *FamilySearch* Indexing – Grantor/Grantee Indexes also filmed.
- Check each county clerk's website for their digitizing efforts.

Selected Resources

French, J.H. *Gazetteer of the State of New York*. Baltimore, Maryland: Genealogical Publishing Company, reprint 1995.

Higgins, Ruth L. *Expansion in New York: With Special Reference to the Eighteenth Century*. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: Porcupine Press, 1976.

Kim, Sung Bok. *Landlord and Tenant in Colonial New York: Manorial Society 1664-1775.* Chapel Hill, North Carolina: Institute of Early American History and Culture, 1978.

New York Genealogical and Biographical Society. *New York Family History Research Guide and Gazetteer.* New York: The Society, 2017 revised edition. Chapters on Colonial Era, Land Records and Maps, and Tax Records.

Wilcox, Jane E. *New York State Archives—A Guide: For Family Historians, Biographers, and Historical Research.* New York Genealogical & Biographical Society, TBD. Chapters on Dutch Colonial Records, British Colonial Records, Land Records: Patents and Deeds, Land Records: Mortgages and Mortgage Foreclosures, and Land Records: Taxes and Tax Sales.

Wilcox, Jane E. *Syllabus for "Looking for Your New York Tenant Farmer: Little-Used Resources"* Kindle edition, 2014. amazon.com/Syllabus-Looking-Your-Tenant-Farmer-ebook/dp/B00LLM68SE [Note: author receives a nominal royalty.]

Research in Colonial New York: A Genealogist's Primer

Jane E. Wilcox, Forget-Me-Not Ancestry, Albany, NY

4getmenotancestry.com

Records in New York's Dutch and British colonial periods contain a wealth of information about some of New York's early inhabitants from 1624 to the start of Revolutionary War. Learn the basic types of records useful to family historians and how to find them—from local, county, and colony records to manuscripts, publications, and online resources.

Key Events and Jurisdictions

- 1624-1664 Colonial Dutch = New Netherland
  - Roman-Dutch law.
  - Colony under governance of West India Company with a director-general and Common Council as executive, legislative, and judicial.
  - 1624 First European settlers arrived. Local Dutch governments/settlements on Manhattan, on Long Island, along the Hudson and Mohawk rivers, on Staten Island, and in New Jersey, with English settlements within New Netherland on western Long Island.
  - 1638 Colony's records in North America begin.
- 1640-1664 Connecticut and New Haven colonies for Eastern Long Island
  - English common law.
  - 1640 Southold settled and joined New Haven Colony.
  - 1640 Southampton settled and 1644 joined Connecticut Colony, plus East Hampton, Huntington, and Setauket.
  - 1650 Boundary with New Netherland settled with treaty of Hartford. English controlled east of Oyster Bay.
- 1664-1783 Colonial British = renamed New York
  - English common law.
  - Under governance of a governor and Colonial Council as executive, legislative, and appellate judicial.
  - 1664 English towns on eastern Long Island became part of New York.
  - 1665 Duke's Laws.
  - 1665-1683 Court of Assizes in NYC, with regional Courts of Session and Mayor's Court in NYC. Succeeded by various colonial, county, and local civil, criminal, and equity courts.
  - 1673-1674 Dutch regained control, renamed New Orange.
  - 1683 General Assembly established. Ten original counties within modern New York formed.
  - 1688-1689 New York in the Dominion of New England with a governor in Boston.
  - 1700s Precincts and districts with governmental records formed within some counties.

Examples of Record Types and Resources

Dutch Colonial 1624--1664

Colonial Governmental Records at New York State Archives, Albany. For example:

- Provincial Secretary records—Series A0270 Register of the Provincial Secretary, 1642-1660.
- Digital Collections—"Researching New York's Dutch Heritage." Digital images, translations, finding aid. archives.nysed.gov/research/research-guide-dutch
- Calendar—Edmund B. O'Callaghan, comp., *Calendar of Historical Manuscripts in the Office of the Secretary of State, Albany, N.Y. Part I: Dutch Manuscripts, 1630-1664* (Albany, 1865).
- Jane E. Wilcox, *New York State Archives: A Guide—For Family Historians, Biographers, and Historical Research*, (NYG&B, TBD). See chapter on Dutch Colonial Records.

Local Governmental Records

- Deeds—for example, Albany deeds in "State of New York deeds, 1654-1901; index 1630-1966," Albany County, *FamilySearch.org*, familysearch.org/search/catalog/247679
- County archives--for example, Ulster County Clerk, "Dutch Heritage," database, archives.ulstercountyny.gov/Presto/home/home.aspx
- Town records—for example, Old Town Records at New York City Municipal Archives
    For example:
    - Aaron Goodwin, *Guide to New York City Municipal Archives* (NYG&B, 2016).
    - NYC Dept. of Records & Information Services, "Browse New Amsterdam Records," nycma.lunaimaging.com/luna/servlet/NYCMA~12~12
    - NYC Dept. of Records & Information Services, "Collection Guides: Old Town Records," MSS0004 – RG 096, a860-collectionguides.nyc.gov/repositories/2/resources/61
- Published local and county records—for example, Jonathan Pearson, trans., *Early Records of the City and County of Albany and Colony of Rensselaerswyck,* 4 vols. (rev 1918, Albany, 1869-1871). catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/000266311

Manuscripts

- Religious records—Dutch Reformed Church. For example:
    - Russell Gassero and Erica McLaughlin, *Guide to Local Church Records in the Archives of the Reformed Church in America and Other Repositories.* chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/http://images.rca.org/docs/archives/churchrecords.pdf
    - "U.S., Dutch Reformed Church Records in Selected States, 1638-1989," *Ancestry.com,* ancestry.com/search/collections/6961/ (Holland Society abstracts).
- New Netherland Institute—*Guide to Dutch Manuscripts Relating to New Netherland*, newnetherlandinstitute.org/files/9913/9774/5174/Guide_to_Dutch_Manuscripts.pdf
- Holland Society of New York—Most of the library and manuscripts holdings now at the New York State Library 7th and 11th floors, Albany. Digital copies of vertical files and inventory at NYG&B.

Publications

- NYG&B, *New York Genealogical and Biographical Record,* since 1870. Online with membership at *New York Family History,* newyorkfamilyhistory.org/.

- *New Netherland Connections,* 1996-2010. Online with membership at *American Ancestors,* americanancestors.org/ . Also at NY State Library 7th floor, Albany.

Online Resources

- New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, "The NYG&B Knowledge Archive," *New York Family History*, newyorkfamilyhistory.org/kb/index. For example:
    - Henry Hoff, "Researching New York Dutch Families: A Checklist Approach," 2011. Originally published in *The NYG&B Newsletter,* Summer 1996.
    - Harry Macy Jr., "The Walloon Index," 2011. Originally published in *The New York Researcher,* Summer 2005.
- "Dutch Genealogy," *Facebook* group, facebook.com/groups/DutchGenealogy/
- Yvette Hoitink, *Dutch Genealogy* blog, dutchgenealogy.nl/blog/
and "New Netherland research guide," dutchgenealogy.nl/new-netherland-research-guide/

British Colonial

Eastern Long Island 1640--1664

Connecticut Colony—Southampton, East Hampton, Huntington, and Setauket

- Colony records—J. Hammond Trumbull, et al. *Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut, 1636-1776,* (Hartford, 1850-1890). libguides.ctstatelibrary.org/hg/ctarchives/col
- Town records—for example, William S. Pelletreau, et. al., *Records of the Town of Southampton, Long Island, N.Y.,* 1639-1927, 8 vols. (Sag Harbor, 1874-1928).

New Haven Colony--Southold

- Colony records—Charles J. Hoadly, *Records of the Court or Jurisdiction of New Haven, from May, 1653, to the Union. Together with the New Haven Code of 1656* (Hartford, 1858). libguides.ctstatelibrary.org/hg/ctarchives/col

Connecticut State Library, Hartford, ctstatelibrary.org/

New York 1664--1783

Colonial Governmental Records at New York State Archives, Albany. For example:
- Council Papers—Series A1894 New York Colony Council Papers, 1664-1781.
    - Digital Collections— digitalcollections.archives.nysed.gov/index.php/Detail/objects/10842
    - Census of Slaves—E.B. O'Callaghan, *The Documentary History of the State of New-York,* 4 vols (Albany, 1850), 3:845-868.
    - Calendar—Edmund B. O'Callaghan, comp., *Calendar of Historical Manuscripts in the Office of the Secretary of State, Albany, N.Y. Part II: English Manuscripts, 1664-1776* (Albany, 1866).
- Patents—Series A0272 Land Papers--Series 1 Applications for Land Grants, 1642-1803.
    - O'Callaghan, E.B. *The Calendar of N.Y. Colonial Manuscripts Indorsed Land Papers; in the Office of the Secretary of State of New York, 1643-1803* (Albany, 1864).

- Jane E. Wilcox, *New York State Archives: A Guide—For Family Historians, Biographers, and Historical Research*, (NYG&B, TBD). See chapters on Appointments, British Colonial, Census, Citizenship, Courts, Indigenous People/American Indian, Land: Patents and Deeds, Land: Taxes and Tax Sales, Local Records, Loyalists, Military, Miscellaneous, Probate and Estate Matters, and Vital Records.

Local Governmental Records (Precinct, District, County, and City/Town)

- Regional Court of Sessions—for example, Thomas W. Cooper, *The Records of the Court of Sessions of Suffolk County in the Province of New York, 1670-1688* (1993). [East Riding of Yorkshire]
- Precinct meetings—for example, Franklin D. Roosevelt, *Records of Crum Elbow Precinct, Dutchess County, New York 1738-1761,* in Collections of the Dutchess County Historical Society, vol. 7 (1940).
- County taxes—for example, Dutchess County tax lists, 1717-1779, familysearch.org/search/catalog/237293
- County board of supervisors minutes--for example, Ulster County Board of Supervisors Minutes 1710 to 1731, Ulster County Archives, archives.ulstercountyny.gov/Presto/content/AdvancedSearch.aspx?ctID=YWU3NTJkZmMtNzExN C00MmY2LTk1NDQtNmQ3NzlmNDcxNzU2
- County courts--Court of Common Pleas (civil) and Court of General Sessions (criminal).
    For example:
    - Orange County Court of Common Pleas minutes 1727-1775 (with filed papers at the county clerk's office in Goshen), familysearch.org/search/catalog/167541
    - Westchester County Court of Sessions minutes 1684-1895, series 43, Westchester County Archives, Elmsford, westchestergov.com/county-clerk/s-t
- Town meetings—for example, George Cox and John Cox Jr., *Oyster Bay Town Records,* 1653-1878, 8 vols. (1916-1940).
- Town courts—for example, Kingston town court, Ulster County Archives, Kingston, clerk.ulstercountyny.gov/archives/search-records/descriptions-databases#series-descriptions

Manuscripts

- Religious records—in addition to Dutch Reformed, see Lutheran, Huguenot Reformed, German Reformed, Anglican/Episcopal, Jewish, Quaker, Congregational, Presbyterian, Baptist.
    For example:
    - Episcopal—St. Peter's Protestant Episcopal Church, Albany, records 1708-1915, SC19680, New York State Library Manuscripts and Special Collections, Albany.
    - German Lutheran—Evangelical Lutheran Church of Saint Matthew, NYC, "Church records, 1704-1783," familysearch.org/search/catalog/681331
    - Quaker—James E. Hazard Index: The Records of New York Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, Friends Historical Library, Swarthmore College, swarthmore.edu/Library/friends/hazard/index.html
    - Royden Woodward Vosburgh, trans., NYG&B. newyorkfamilyhistory.org/
    - Arthur C.M. Kelly, trans., Kinship Publishing now at NYG&B, kinshipny.com/
- Personal/Family papers—for example, *The Papers of Sir William Johnson,* 14 vols. (U of the State of New York, 1921-1965). www.nysl.nysed.gov/msscfa/sc7005.htm

- Manorial land/tenant papers—for example, Livingston Papers in the Johnston Redmond Collection 1637-1850, Gilder-Lehrman Library, NYC. Also microfilms at the New-York Historical Society, NYC, and the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library, Hyde Park.
- Store ledgers—for example, Robert Adems Daybook 1768-1773, MV503, Syracuse University Special Collections Research Center, Syracuse.
- Newspapers—for example, Kenneth Scott, *Genealogical Data from the New York Post-Boy 1743-1773*, National Genealogical Society Special Publication No. 35 (1970).
- Local historical societies and sites—for example:
  - Raynham Hall, Oyster Bay, Suffolk Co., raynhamhallmuseum.org/
  - Schenectady County Historical Society Grems-Doolittle Library, Schenectady, schenectadyhistorical.org/
    - Digital collections—New York Heritage, nyheritage.org/organizations/schenectady-county-historical-society
- Libraries—the big three for colonial manuscripts:
  - New-York Historical Society, NYC, nyhistory.org/
  - New York Public Library Archives & Manuscripts, NYC, archives.nypl.org/
  - New York State Library Manuscripts and Special Collections, Albany, nysl.nysed.gov/mssc/

Publications

- Edmund B. O'Callaghan, *The Documentary History of the State of New-York,* 4 vols. (Albany, 1849).
- John Romeyn Brodhead, *Documents Relative to the Colonial History of the State of New-York,* 10 vols. (1856–1858), with a general index as volume 11 (Albany, 1861).
- Berthold Fernow, *Documents Relating to the History of the Dutch and Swedish Settlements on the Delaware River* (Albany, 1877), *Documents relating to the History and Settlements of the Towns along the Hudson and Mohawk Rivers (with the exception of Albany) from 1630 to 1684, and also illustrating the Relations of the Settlers with the Indians* (Albany, 1881), and *Documents relating to the History of the Early Colonial Settlements principally on Long Island, with a map of its western part, made in 1666, from New York Secy of State and State Library* (Albany, 1883). (Continues Brodhead's 11 volumes.)
- County histories—for example, David Cole, *History of Rockland County, New York* (NY, 1884)
- Compendiums—for example,
  - Hank Z Jones, Palatine Families in New York series, www.hankjones.com/palny.htm
  - Florence Christoph, *Compendium of Early Mohawk Valley Families,* 2 vols. (Genealogical Publishing Co., 1990).

Online Resources

- NYG&B, Online records database, newyorkfamilyhistory.org/ and "The NYG&B Knowledge Archive," *New York Family History*, newyorkfamilyhistory.org/kb/index
  See for example,
  - Henry Hoff, "Pre-1750 New York Lists: Censuses, Assessment Rolls, Oaths of Allegiance, and Other Lists," *The NYG&B Newsletter,* (Fall 1992).
  - Harry Macy Jr., "Kings County Colonial Church Records," *The NYG&B Newsletter*

- Frank Doherty, *Settlers of the Beekman Patent,* 13 vols. so far, settlers-of-the-beekman-patent.myshopify.com/
  - Vols. 1-11 digitized on *American Ancestors,* https://www.americanancestors.org/
- Joseph Thomas Ross, *Early American Sources,* (accessed 18 July 2023)
  - "New York Published Sources," earlyamericansources.org/new-york-published-sources
  - "New York Digital Collections," earlyamericansources.org/new-york-digital-collections
- "New York Colonial Records," *FamilySearch.org,* familysearch.org/en/wiki/New_York_Colonial_Records
- "United States>New York," *Cyndi's List of Genealogy Sites on the Internet,* cyndislist.com/us/ny/

Additional Authors/Compilers/Abstractors/Transcribers/Translators for Colonial Records

- Peter Christoph
- Josephine C. Frost
- Charles Gehring (Dutch)
- Sung Bok Kim (manors)

- Herbert F. Seversmith
- Kenn Stryker-Rodda
- Arnold J.F. Van Laer (Dutch)
- Janny Venema (Dutch)

General Resources

- New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, *The New York Family History Research Guide and Gazetteer* (NYG&B, 2017 revised). See chapters on:
  - Colonial Era
  - Vital Records
  - Census
  - Immigration, Migration, and Naturalization
  - Court Records
  - Probate Records
  - Land Records and Maps
  - Military Records
  - Cemetery Records
  - Business, Institutional, and Organization Records
  - Newspapers
  - Tax Records
  - Religious Records of New York
  - Peoples of New York: African-American, American Indian, Dutch, English, French and French-Speaking, German, Hispanic, Irish, Jewish, Scandinavian, and Scots and Ulster Scots.
- Claude Joseph Sauthier and William Faden, "A chorographical map of the Province of New-York in North America, divided into counties, manors, patents and townships; exhibiting likewise all the private grants of land made and located in that Province" 1779. davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~229213~5508000:Chorographical-Map-Of-The-Province-

All URL links checked on 26 July 2023.

Notes

Notes

When researching your family history, finding information on how your ancestors traveled will provide greater insight into understanding their experiences. To get started on this type of research, we recommend first reviewing NYPL's research guide *Historical Travels* (libguides.nypl.org/historicaltravels), which covers how to search for materials, recommended items to use, and digital resources. For additional tools, see below for NYPL websites and research tips that can assist you in starting historical travels research.

NYPL Websites

NYPL Resources at Home
- Historical Travels Research Guide: libguides.nypl.org/historicaltravels
  - How to search for materials pertaining to historical travels, recommended items in NYPL's collection, research methods, and digital resources
  - Note: While the search suggestions are based on NYPL's catalog, they are applicable to other institutions' catalogs
- NYPL Digital Collections: digitalcollections.nypl.org
  - On the results page, utilize the facets on the left panel to narrow your search. If looking for maps only, click "Cartographic" under **Type**
- Articles and Databases: nypl.org/research/collections/articles-databases
  - Some sites will require a NYPL Library Card to access at home. You can sign up for one at nypl.org/library-card/new
- Virtual Classes: Go to the appropriate division's website and scroll down to *Events*:
  - Lionel Pincus and Princess Firyal Map Division: nypl.org/maps
  - Irma and Paul Milstein Division of United States History, Local History and Genealogy: nypl.org/milstein
- Email reference inquiries to maps@nypl.org

NYPL's Catalogs
- Research Guide: Navigating Research at the Map Division
  - Access at Libguides.nypl.org/mapdivisionresearch
- Online Research Catalog: nypl.org/research/research-catalog/
  - To use, either
    - Utilize "Refine Your Search" function on the results page (Make sure to click "Cartographic" under Format)
    - Use the Advanced Search Function at nypl.org/research/research-catalog/search/advanced
  - When requesting items from this catalog, provide the item's title and call number.
- Printed Dictionary Catalog of the Map Division:
  - Access online at catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/101782203
  - Search alphabetically, by:
    - [Country Name] + Associated Year
    - Author (ex. Sanborn) + Associated Year
    - Subject + Associated Year
  - When requesting items from this catalog, provide the volume #, page #, row #, and column # of where the item appears in this printed catalog.

Research Tips

Questions to Ask Yourself
To narrow your search and pinpoint what resources will be useful, make sure to know:
- What is the starting and ending location?
- What are possible forms of transportation that were available?
- What date(s) am I interested in?

Useful Materials to Use
When researching historical travel routes, we suggest searching for the following types of items. For recommended catalog searches, please review NYPL's research guide *Historical Travels* (libguides.nypl.org/historicaltravels). While the search suggestions in this research guide are based on NYPL's catalog, these suggestions are applicable to other institutions' catalogs.

Bibliographies	Provide lists of what is available, either in libraries or collections. Can be utilized for both text-based and map material.
Maps	Indicate what routes would have been possible at a particular place and time. Can also indicate distances and itineraries of how to travel in the area.
Travel Guide	Designed for travelers, these guides often provide maps, timetables, places to visit, restaurants, and hotel accommodations.
Timetables	Charts that indicate the departure and arrival times for a route. Will often provide the name of the company running the route, stops along the route, and operational details (i.e. what days is the route operating). Can also be found in travel guides and newspapers.
Travel Narrative	Provides information on how travel was conducted, from a passenger's viewpoint.
City Directory	Provides information on what transport companies and transportation modes would have been operating in a location.
Newspaper	Provides information on arrivals and departures for various modes of transportation, with advertisements including information on the companies running these routes and fares.
Passenger List	Provides information on the name of transport, starting and ending locations of a route, and if a passenger would be traveling further to another location.

An item can include information on more than one type of transportation, which is not always apparent from its title. To double-check:
- Review the Note and Subject Heading section of an item's catalog record
- For text-based material, review both the table of contents and index

Ship Manifest Indexes: A New Look at an Old Resource

Rich Venezia
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Ship Manifest Online Locations

- Ship manifests can be found in various online sources – *FamilySearch*, *Ancestry.com*, *MyHeritage*, *FindMyPast*, *Statue of Liberty – Ellis Island Foundation*, etc.
- National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) indexes of ship manifests should always be consulted, especially if there is difficulty finding a manifest using the above-named sites. Many of these digital indexes created from digitized images of the microfilm mis-transcribe ethnic or hard-to-read names.

Indexes to Passenger Arrivals

- Among many other records, the Works Progress Administration (WPA) conducted indexing of customs lists and passenger manifests in the 1930s. Both NARA and the INS participated in the WPA program to create indexes to their records. The indexing of the INS' records specifically aided in their verification work.
- Once the manifests themselves were eventually digitized, and new digital indexes were created, these card indexes became "obsolete." However, they still may have much use for genealogists, especially in cases where the index cards are records in and of themselves.

Soundex

- Many of the indexes available are organized by soundex code.
- Find a Soundex code here: searchforancestors.com/utility/soundex.html
- Create a Soundex code yourself: archives.gov/research/census/soundex

New York City

- NARA microfilm publication T519 indexes arrivals 16 June 1897 – 30 June 1902.
- NARA microfilm publication T621 indexes arrivals 1 July 1902 – 31 December 1943 (Soundex).
- NARA microfilm publication M1417 indexes arrivals 1944 – 1948. (It may have other uses, too.)
- NARA microfilm publication T715 (Passenger and Crew Lists of Vessels Arriving at New York, NY, 1897—1957) are the manifests indexed by T519, T621, and M1417.
- All four publications are available, in part, on *FamilySearch* at familysearch.org/search/catalog/341057, though the way in which T621 was digitized may render its current digital use impossible. Microfilms are available at NARA and the FSL in SLC.
    - Descriptive Pamphlet for T715 (which shows which Volumes are located on which reel): archives.gov/files/research/microfilm/t715.pdf

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- Instructions from a workbook created by staff of the INS Verification Center at New York:
  - In T621, names A-000 through D-500 are arranged by date of arrival. Names D-510 and after are arranged alphabetically, and then by age.
  - In T621, for arrivals before 1 July 1910, the soundex reference is located in the UPPER LEFT-HAND CORNER of the manifest.
    - 1st number = page number; 2nd number = line number; 3rd number = volume number
  - In T621, for arrivals after 1 July 1910, the soundex reference is located in the LOWER LEFT-HAND CORNER of the manifest.
    - 1st number = line number; 2nd number = page number; 3rd number = volume number
- Index references in T519 and M1417 should provide enough information on their own to find the manifest, or be self-explanatory.

The ship manifest for the individual above indexed as Nicandio Biaselli on *FamilySearch* and *The Statue of Liberty – Ellis Island Foundation Inc.* and as Vinenzo Braschle on *Ancestry.com*

Soundex Index to Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at New York July 1, 1902 – December 31, 1943, microfilm publication T621 (Washington, D.C.: NARA, n.d.), roll 33, B240, entry for Nicandro Biaselli; digital image, *FamilySearch* (familysearch.org/search /catalog/341057 : viewed 25 May 2020), B 240 Michal to B 250 George W. (NARA Series T621, Roll 33), camera icon next to microfilm description, image 378.

Baltimore
- NARA microfilm publication T520 indexes arrivals 1897 – 1952 using Soundex.
  - familysearch.org/search/catalog/291580
- NARA microfilm publication T844 (Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at Baltimore, MD, 1891-1948) are the manifests indexed by T520.
  - familysearch.org/search/catalog/65295
  - Note T520 indexes five years of records (1948 – 1952) which are no longer extant.
- Instructions from a workbook created by staff of the INS Verification Center at New York:
  - First number (or letter) (manifest no.) is page number, usually located at UPPER LEFT-HAND CORNER and often repeated in UPPER RIGHT-HAND CORNER; second number is line number; third number is volume number

Boston
- NARA microfilm publication T521 indexes arrivals 1902 – 30 June 1906.
- NARA microfilm publication T617 indexes arrivals 1 July 1906 – 31 December 1940.
- NARA microfilm publication T790 (Book index) indexes arrivals 1899 – 1940.

- NARA microfilm publication T843 (Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at Boston, MA, 1891 – 1943) are the manifests indexed by T521, T617, and T790.
- All of the above are located at familysearch.org/search/catalog/341169.
- Instructions from a workbook created by staff of the INS Verification Center at New York:
  - In T521, 2nd number (list no.) is the page number on UPPER RIGHT-HAND CORNER, 1st number (group no.) is the line number
  - In T617, 2nd number (list no.) is the page number on UPPER LEFT-HAND and/or RIGHT-HAND CORNER, 1st number (group no.) is the line number

New Orleans
- NARA microfilm publication T527 indexes arrivals 1853 – 1899.
- NARA microfilm publication T618 indexes arrivals 1900 – 1952.
  - T618 is known to index records that no longer exist (specifically arrivals around 1901 – 1903) and also remedial records such as registry files.
- NARA microfilm publication M259 (Passenger lists of vessels arriving at New Orleans, 1820-1903) are the manifests partly indexed by T527 and T618.
- NARA microfilm publication T905 (Passenger and Crew Lists of Vessels Arriving at New Orleans, LA, 1903 – 1945) are the manifests indexed by T618.
- All of the above are located at familysearch.org/search/catalog/67527.
  - Note T618 indexes five years of records (1948 – 1952) which are no longer extant.
- It seems like the New Orleans index cards do not always provide page or line numbers – but do provide date and ship of arrival, so can be referenced that way. When they do, they appear to be page number/line number. The page number appears in the UPPER LEFT-HAND section of the manifest, but not necessarily the corner, and is usually stamped.

Philadelphia
- NARA microfilm publication T526 indexes arrivals 1883 – 28 June 1948 using Soundex.
- NARA microfilm publication T791 (Book index) indexes arrivals 1906 – 1926.
- NARA microfilm publication T840 (Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at Philadelphia, PA, 1883 – 1945) are the manifests indexed by T526 and T791.
- All of the above are located at familysearch.org/search/catalog/291536.
- Instructions from a workbook created by staff of the INS Verification Center at New York:
  - In T526, 1st number = volume number, 2nd number = page number (found on the BOTTOM of manifest page (usually second half of page), 3rd number = line number, 4th number = list number stamped at UPPER RIGHT-HAND CORNER of page
  - The 4th number is the same as the index book number – so index book numbers are located on the on the UPPER RIGHT-HAND CORNER of page

Providence
- NARA microfilm publication T518 indexes arrivals 18 June 1911 – 5 October 1954.
- NARA microfilm publication T792 (Book index) indexes arrivals 1911 – 1934.
- NARA microfilm publication T1188 (Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at Providence, RI, 1911 – 1943) are the manifests indexed by T518 and T792.

- All of the above are located at familysearch.org/search/catalog/291681
    - Note that these manifests are not OCR-indexed online on FamilySearch, and they are somewhat difficult to find on *Ancestry.com*.
- Instructions from a workbook created by staff of the INS Verification Center at New York:
    - In T518, the cards usually start at the highest year and then go to lower years.
    - In T518, 1st number = line number, 2nd number = page number (stamped on LOWER LEFT-HAND CORNER of manifest page), 3rd number = volume (manifest) number

San Francisco
- NARA microfilm publication M1389 indexes arrivals 1 May 1893 – 9 May 1934.
    - familysearch.org/search/catalog/452549
- NARA microfilm publication M1410 (Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at San Francisco, CA, 1893 – 1953) are the manifests indexed by M1389.
    - familysearch.org/search/catalog/452563
- In M1389, the first 21 rolls are alpha indexes to general passenger arrivals. Rolls 22 – 27 relate to passengers who arrived from the Philippines, Honolulu (30 Sep 1902 – 12 June 1907), and Insular Possessions (28 May 1907 – 28 Oct 1911). The last roll indexes arrivals from East Indies.
- In M1389, the numbers on index cards are as such: 1st number = manifest number (written in the UPPER RIGHT-HAND CORNER of manifest page), 2nd number = page number (written in the UPPER RIGHT-HAND CORNER of manifest page and/or on UPPER LEFT-HAND CORNER of manifest page), 3rd number = line number.

Southern Ports
- NARA microfilm publication T517 indexes arrivals at ports in AL, FL, GA, SC 1890 – 1924.
    - Ports include Boca Grande (FL), Charleston, Jacksonville, Key West, Knights Key (FL), Miami, Mobile, Pensacola, Savannah, and Tampa.
    - familysearch.org/search/catalog/341257
- Instructions from a workbook created by staff of the INS Verification Center at New York:
    - The manifest reel generally has a title page, which shows ships and dates of arrival.
    - 1st number = usually line number; 2nd number = usually page number at TOP RIGHT-HAND CORNER of page

The NARA website covers well what records exist and which ports have indexes; see https://www.archives.gov/research/immigration/overview and archives.gov/research/immigration/ports. As can be seen, other indexes to other manifests are available; the above lists of ports and indexes should not be considered all-encompassing. All ports that had notes in the workbook created by staff of the INS Verification Center at NY were examined above.

Recommended Reading
National Archives Trust Fund Board. *Immigration & Passenger Arrivals: A Select Catalog of National Archives Microfilm Publications,* 2nd ed. Washington, D. C.: National Archives Trust Fund Board, 1991.

All URLs valid as of 29 July 2023.

What is service?

The term *service* is commonly used by the Sons of the American Revolution and the Daughters of the American Revolution to describe what an ancestor might have done during the American Revolution.

Typically, ancestors born between the 1710s – in their sixties at the start of the War – and 1766 – a teenager at the end of the War – fall within the right age to have "service." Ancestors normally served where they lived. An ancestor who lived in New York after the War may have served from New York or migrated there after the War from Connecticut, Western Massachusetts, or Vermont.

The Daughters of the American Revolution identifies four types of "Qualifying Service." These categories are also a helpful way to discuss sources and our ancestors' likely behavior during the American Revolution.

They are:

- Signers of the Declaration of Independence
    - The National Archives has a list of signers at "Signers of the Declaration of Independence," *National Archives* (archives.gov/founding-docs/signers-factsheet).

- Military Service: Service in the Continental Army or Navy; state Navy; or state or local militia.
    - With rare exceptions, ancestors with this service were generally between the ages of 16 and their late 40s. Men in their 50s and 60s may have been called out for attacks but typically would not serve for extended period.
    - Landed men generally served in the militia and not the Continental Army. Continental Line enlistments were much longer - 3 years was common – which would have been difficult for farmers without help.
    - Men of color did serve. Some units were integrated.

- Civil Service: Holding an office in the American government on the local, state, or national level (which was considered treason, as it was open support of the Americans).
    - With rare exceptions, most office holders were white males between the ages of 30 and 70. Some were in their late 20s.
    - Office holding was tied to the ability to vote, which was determined by sex, race, and property holding.

- Patriotic Service: All other forms of public support for the cause.
    - Common examples:
        - Payment of taxes in support of the cause.
        - Donation of supplies.
        - Swearing an oath.
        - Preaching a sermon in support of the cause.
    - Patriotic service is not restricted by age, gender, or race. However, service should be reasonable for the ancestor's profile. In most cases, a woman would not pay taxes nor would a child.

Is your ancestor's service – or lack of service – already documented?

- Some ancestors ended up supporting the British instead of the Americans. The reasons were complex, including strong ties to England or a belief that Independence may have been too far.
    - The United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada hosts a "Loyalist Directory" at uelac.ca/loyalist-directory/. Information was provided by applicants and may not be sourced. The Loyalist Directory can provide hints as to how an ancestor may have supported the British side of the American Revolution.
- The Daughters of the American Revolution and the Sons of the American Revolution both maintain public databases indicating the sources of service for specific ancestors provided by their members. Keep in mind that older applications often do not meet standards of genealogical proof and may not be sourced.
    - For the Daughters of the American Revolution, go to dar.org, click on GRS, and use the "Ancestor" search. If a source of service is listed, the DAR already has information on that service on file. If needed, you can use the source information to locate a copy.
    - For the Sons of the American Revolution, go to sarpatriots.sar.org/patriot/search/ and fill in the search information. Use the abbreviations under "sources" to locate an ancestor's service.

How do I document service?

Federal level sources:

- Military Service:
    - Compiled Military Service Records (CMSR): These index cards list the service of anyone who served on a federal level (Continental Army/Continental Navy) during the American Revolution. This information was transcribed from muster and other rolls. The cards have been digitized and are available on *Fold3*.
    - Pension files: These files include documentation of both militia and federal service as part of soldiers' attempts to file a pension. Not every soldier was eligible, so be sure to review pension laws closely. Pension files have been digitized and are available on *Fold3*.
- Civil Service:
    - "Journals of the Continental Congress," *The Library of Congress* (memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lwjc.html).
    - "Continental Congress – Papers," *Fold3* (https://www.fold3.com/publication/63/continental-congress-papers).

State level sources:

- Resource guides:
    - For a list of commonly reviewed sources by state, visit Debbie Duay, "Revolutionary War Service," *Learn Web Skills* (learnwebskills.com/patriot/revservice.htm)
    - The Daughters of the American Revolution offers a "Patriots of Color" database to share more about those who participated in the War and who have been identified as people of color. That database is available at "Patriots of Color," *DAR*

(services.dar.org/Public/DAR_Research/search_poc/?Tab_ID=14&Tab_ID_Sub=8&Action=search).

- o The Sons of the American Revolution hosts resource guides on Revolutionary War taxes that may be considered qualifying service due to funds being directed towards the Army or the War effort. To access the guides, go to "Revolutionary War Tax Research," *SAR* (sar.org/revolutionary-war-tax-research/).

- Local sources:
  - o Local tax records: SAR has done a good study of New York taxes, but local taxes in many other areas are largely unstudied, particularly in New England. If your ancestor's town or county taxes went to fund supplies for the Army, they are considered to have "service." Find out where tax monies went and who paid them by cross referencing government meeting minutes with tax records.
  - o Oaths of allegiance: If your ancestor swore an oath to support the cause, he – most are males – is considered to have service. Oaths could be sworn at all levels of government. New York offered an amnesty oath in 1777. Lists of oath takers are sometimes recorded in government meeting minutes and/or local newspapers.
  - o Payment for supplies: If your ancestor paid for supplies to support the cause, he or she is considered to have service. Receipts for supplies may be found in manuscript collections in state or local historical societies. While many of these records were destroyed in the 1911 Capitol fire, the Records of the New York State Comptroller's Office Revolutionary War Accounts and Claims may indicate claims for supplies. See "New York State Comptroller's Office Revolutionary War Accounts and Claims," *New York State Archives* (iarchives.nysed.gov/xtf/view?docId=ead/findingaids/A0200.xml) for details.
  - o Diaries and other sources: If your ancestor's service can be corroborated by two separate sources, it may be accepted by the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution. Such records can be found in a variety of locations, including local and state historical societies.
  - o Military Bounty Land: New York offered military bounty land to its soldiers. To learn more, see Christine Rose, *Military Bounty Land 1776-1855* (San Jose, CA: n.p., 2011), 47-49. The New York State Archives has now added indexes to bounty land records and other resources to their website.

Do I have the right ancestor?
Ancestors typically served where they lived, so establishing your ancestor's residence during the War can help confirm that the service you've located is theirs. Here are a few common ways to confirm service:

- Vital or church records may show that the ancestor married or had children doing the War. (Use the *FamilySearch* catalog as a starting point for finding appropriate records.)
- Land records may show the purchase or sale of land. (Use the *FamilySearch* catalog as a starting point for finding appropriate records.)

May I join a lineage society?
Many of us have heard that we qualify for DAR, SAR, or another organization that decides membership based on the qualifications of an ancestor who lived during the American Revolution.

There are six societies that admit members based on their ancestor's support of the American cause during the American Revolution. Each has their own definitions of qualifying service and their own requirements for membership. Visit their websites to learn more.

- The Daughters of the American Revolution: dar.org
- The Sons of the American Revolution: sar.org
- The Sons of the Revolution: sr1776.org
- The Children of the American Revolution: nscar.org
- The Society of the Cincinnati: societyofthecincinnati.org
- The Daughters of the Cincinnati: daughters1894.org

Be aware that an ancestor's membership does not guarantee yours. Membership standards have changed dramatically in the last ten years.

How do I find more help with my research?

- If you're interested in membership in the Sons of the American Revolution or the Daughters of the American Revolution, ask about research assistance. Both societies offer it.
- Reach out to local organizations, such as historical societies, to learn more about their public history projects. With the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution fast approaching, many are launching new research projects and making new resources available.

## Twists and Turns: Twenty Years
as a Genetic Genealogist

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Since this topic does not led itself well to a traditional syllabus, below is an introduction to mtDNA, Y-DNA, and atDNA!

Introduction to Mitochondrial DNA

Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) is a small circle of DNA that is located inside our cells. Most human cell contain hundreds or even thousands of copies of mtDNA, which is ~16,569 base pairs long.

Only your mother gave mtDNA to you; your father's mtDNA was not passed down to the next generation. While male children will inherit their mother's mtDNA, they will not pass it down to their own children. This unique feature of mtDNA allows it to be used for tracing matrilineage, the inheritance of mtDNA from mother to child.
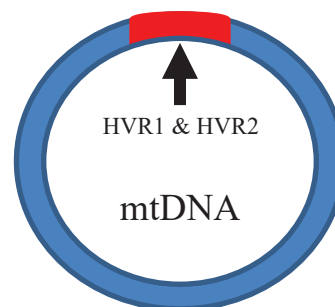
mtDNA Testing

There are two types of mtDNA tests. The first type is *mtDNA sequencing*, and is performed by sequencing all or a portion of mtDNA. Most testing sequences the entire mtDNA genome. The second type of mtDNA testing, called *SNP testing*, examines single nucleotide polymorphisms ("SNPs") – or variable nucleotides (A, T, C, and G) – at many different locations along the circular mtDNA.

Once the mtDNA is sequenced by one of the methods above, it is compared to a reference mtDNA sequence (either the *Reconstructed Sapiens Reference Sequence* (RSRS) or the *Cambridge Reference Sequence* (CRS)). Any differences between the mtDNA sequence and the reference sequence are listed as "mutations," or changes, like this:

Haplogroup	Mutations
T	G709A, G1888A, A4917G, G8697A, T10463C, G13368A, G14905A, A15607G, G15928A, C16294T

Using mtDNA Test Results

The results of an mtDNA test can be used to determine the test taker's mtDNA *haplogroup* and ancient origins, to determine whether two people are maternally related, and if so, to estimate very roughly the amount of time since two individuals shared a most recent common ancestor (MRCA).

1. **Learn About Your Ancient Ancestry**

The results of mtDNA testing provide a haplogroup determination. A *haplogroup* is a group of related mtDNA results which share a common ancestor in a common place (usually several thousands of years ago). Haplogroups are named by letters of the alphabet, and people in the same haplogroup will have the same, or very similar, list of mutations.

2. Find Your mtDNA Cousins

If you test at Family Tree DNA, you will receive a list of people in the database that are close matches with your mtDNA sequence. These individuals are your genetic cousins and related to you through your maternal line. Some may match exactly, while others might be different from you by one or two mutations. Generally, the more mutations you share in common, the more closely related you are. However, because mtDNA mutates so slowly, you could be related very recently or several thousand years ago.

3. Solve Family Mysteries

Another powerful use for mtDNA testing is to examine family mysteries and brick walls. Since mtDNA is inherited maternally, it is very good at determining whether two people are related through their maternal lines.

Introduction to Y-DNA

The Y chromosome is only found in males, who have one Y-chromosome (from his father) and one X-chromosome (from his mother). This XY pair is one of the 23 pairs of human chromosomes.

A. Inheritance Patterns of Y-DNA

The Y chromosome has a unique inheritance pattern, just like mtDNA. It is passed down from father to son without change. Over long periods of time the chromosome begins to accumulate mutations that are typically silent and have no impact on the carrier. These mutations, however, are useful for genealogical purposes – they can be used to analyze the relationships between populations and individuals.

B. Types of Y-DNA Tests

There are two types of Y-DNA testing for genealogy: *STR testing* and *SNP testing*. The STR, or "short tandem repeat" test, sequences between 12 and 111 (and sometimes more) very short segments of DNA located throughout the Y-DNA. The single nucleotide polymorphism ("SNP") test examines between a handful and hundreds of single spots throughout the Y chromosome.

STR Testing

Most Y chromosome tests examine between 12 and 111 STR markers, but many more are regularly being identified and used for testing. STRs are identified by their DYS number (DNA Y-chromosome Segment number), and are measured by the number of repeats of a particular DNA sequence at that location. This number of repeats can change over time at a relatively regular rate, thereby giving genealogists the ability to trace paternal lineages over time. The results of STR testing are usually presented in a format that looks like this, with a series of STR markers and the STR results, as in the following example:

DYS#	393	390	19	391	385a	385b	426	388	439
Alleles	13	24	14	10	11	14	12	12	12

The "DYS" row are marker locations on the Y-chromosome, and the "allele" row are the number of repeats for each DYS marker location. At each of these DYS locations, there is a potential for variation of the "allele." For example, at DYS426, the variation consists of 7 to 18 repeats of the DNA sequence "**GTT**," with 12 repeats being the most common.

C. Using Y-DNA Test Results

The results of Y-DNA test can be used to determine a person's Y-DNA *haplogroup* and ancient origins, to determine whether two people are paternally related, and if so, estimate the amount of time in which two individuals shared a most recent common ancestor (MRCA) on their direct paternal lines.

1. Ancient Ancestry

A Y-DNA *haplogroup* is a group of related Y-DNA profiles that share a common ancestor in a common place (usually several thousands of years ago). Y-DNA haplogroups are named by letters of the alphabet, and people in the same haplogroup will have the same, or very similar, list of mutations.

2. Find Y-DNA Cousins

You will receive with your test a list of people in the database that are close matches with your Y-DNA sequence. These individuals are your genetic cousins and related to you through your paternal line, either closely or distantly. Some may match exactly, while others might be different from you by a handful of mutations. The more mutations you share in common, the more closely related you are.

3. Join Y-DNA Projects

A Y-DNA project is a collaborative effort to answer genealogical questions using the results of Y-DNA testing. A surname project brings together individuals with the same (or similar) surname, while a geographic project gathers individuals by location rather than by family or surname. Other projects bring individuals together based upon their haplogroup designation.

4. Solve Family Mysteries

Y-DNA is a great tool for examining brick walls and black sheep. Since Y-DNA is only inherited paternally, it is very good at determining whether two people are related through their paternal lines.

Autosomal DNA

Autosomal DNA is the 22 pairs of non-sex chromosomes found within the nucleus of every cell. The 22 autosomes, or autosomal DNA chromosomes, are numbered approximately in relation to their sizes, with autosome 1 being the largest and autosome 22 being the smallest.

1. You Have TWO Family Trees

One of the most important aspects of genetic genealogy required to completely understand and interpret autosomal DNA test results is the fact that everyone has two very different, but overlapping, family trees.

The Genealogical Family Tree

The first family tree is your Genealogical Family Tree, which contains every ancestor that had a child who had a child who had a child, and so on, that ultimately led to you (see the figure below). This tree contains every parent, grandparent, and great-grandparent back through history. In most cases, this is the tree that genealogists spend their time researching, often using paper records such as birth and death certificates, census records, and newspapers to fill in. Many genealogists find that the paper trail ends or becomes much more difficult to identify beyond the 1800 or 1700's, making it difficult to fill in many of the openings in the Genealogical Family Tree.
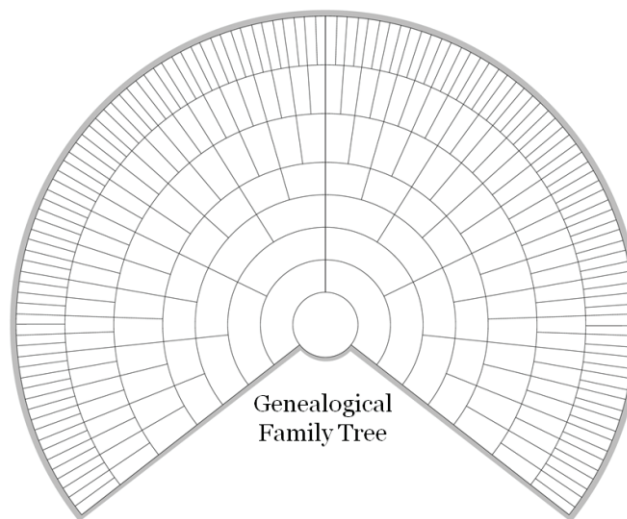
The Genetic Family Tree

The second family tree is your Genetic Family Tree, which contains only those ancestors that contributed to our DNA. Not every person in your Genealogical Family Tree contributed a segment of their DNA sequence to your DNA sequence. A parent does not pass on all their DNA to their children (only about 50%); as a result, bits and pieces of DNA are lost in each generation. Somewhere between 5 and 7 generations back, your Genetic Family Tree starts to lose ancestors from your Genealogical Family Tree.
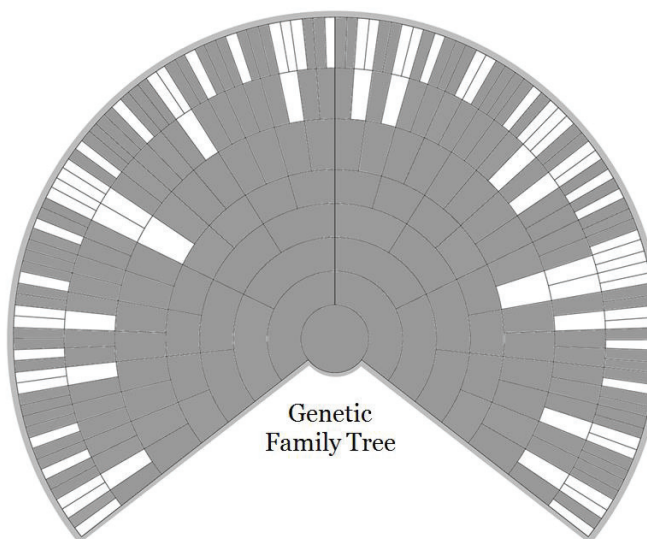
As shown in the figure below, your Genetic Tree is actually just a sub-set of your Genealogical Tree. Your genetic tree is guaranteed to contain both biological parents, who each contributed approximately 50% of your entire DNA sequence. Your genetic tree also likely contains each of your four biological grandparents and eight biological great-grandparents, but with each generation it is much less likely that every person in that generation contributed a piece of their DNA to your DNA.

Uncovering Your Jewish Roots in the Russian Empire

© Lara Diamond

https://larasgenealogy.blogspot.com/   laradiamond@gmail.com

Synagogue metrical records

- Usually kept by a town's government-appointed Rabbi (not necessary the Rabbi for those whose vital events were being registered)
- Usually in Hebrew and Russian

Chalitza – Levirate marriages (will generally get name of deceased husband, his brother)

Jewish-specific censuses and lists

- 1875 military census - Included all Jewish males, regardless of age.
- Jewish tax censuses
- Box tax lists
- Candle tax lists
- Beard tax lists
- Large list of other Jewish-specific taxes

Landsmanschaften

- Societies formed by individuals who emigrated from the same town/region
- Social, economic clubs
- Many have significant records. These may be kept in local Jewish Museums/Historical Societies. YIVO has many as well.
- https://jgsny.org/searchable-databases/indexes-to-jewish-organizations/yivo-landsmanshaftn-collection for mostly New York-based groups

Jewish Marriage-Related Documents

- Tenaim (betrothal documents)
    - Written in Aramaic
    - Very formulaic, with slight differences in varying communities
    - Names of bride, groom, and their fathers. Sometimes surnames are included.
    - Prior marital status of bride (maiden, widow, divorcee)
    - Location and date of betrothal
    - Witnesses' names and father's names.

- o Nowadays, most are done immediately before the wedding ceremony

- Ketubot (marriage contracts)
    - o Written in Aramaic
    - o Very formulaic, with slight differences in varying communities
    - o Names of bride, groom, and their fathers. Sometimes surnames are included.
    - o Prior marital status of bride (maiden, widow, divorcee)
    - o Location and date of wedding
    - o Witnesses' names and father's names.

- Gittin (divorce records)
    - o Written in Aramaic
    - o Very formulaic, with slight differences in varying communities
    - o Names of husband, wife, and their fathers. Sometimes surnames are included.
    - o Location and date of divorce
    - o Witnesses' names and father's names.

Tenaim, ketubot & gittin may be kept in private hands. But there are also collections of them.

Mohel (Circumcision) Records

- Usually were property of the mohel. Many preserved, but no central location for them
- May have been kept by the Rabbi
    - o Could have been taken along to a new synagogue
    - o May be held by Rabbi's family
    - o May have been discarded by Rabbi's family 😫
- May be in a Jewish Historical Society/Museum

Prenumeranten

- Subscriber lists
- Paid for books prior to publication (which helped fund publication)
- Lists names of subscribers and town of residence
- Sefer Haprenumeranten (Hebrew Subscription Lists) by Berel Kagen indexes (by town), prenumeraten for about eight hundred books covering eight thousand towns: https://ia800907.us.archive.org/15/items/nybc212411/nybc212411.pdf and https://www.jewishgen.org/InfoFiles/prenumerantn.htm and can be seen in the original here: http://www.hebrewbooks.org/46561
- Search with Yiddish and secular names of towns

HebrewBooks.org

- Search for (more unusual) surnames to see books mentioning that surname in thousands of books (most historical and more modern)
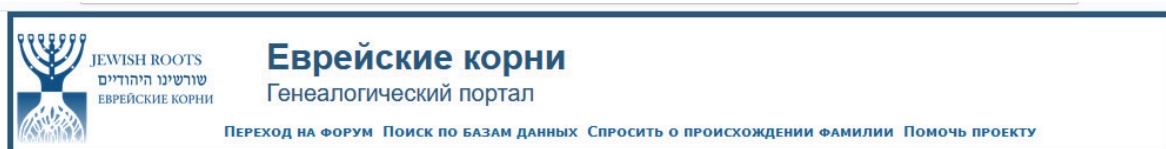
Routes to Roots http://www.rtrfoundation.org/search.php

- Lists records known to exist for specific towns, citing archive and archival catalog location
- Not (at all) fully comprehensive but a very good start

Online Sources for Russian Empire Jewish Records (beyond the typical)

j-roots https://j-roots.info/

Tutorial for English speakers: https://larasgenealogy.blogspot.com/2018/12/an-incredible-resource-for-russian.html

Alex Krakovsky Jewish-specific repository

https://uk.wikisource.org/wiki/Архів:Єврейське_містечко (all from Ukrainian archives—digitized but generally not indexed)

JewishGen https://www.jewishgen.org

- Country-specific databases – hundreds of thousands of indexed records.
- Special Interest Groups (SIGs)/Research Divisions
- JRI-Poland/Gesher Galicia (hosted by JewishGen)
- Groups of particular interest to this area:
    o LitvakSIG (Lithuania)
    o Ukrainian Research Division
    o Belarus Research Division
    o Gesher Galicia
    o JRI-Poland (covers much of East Galicia / Western Ukraine)
    o Latvia Research Division
- Jewish Genealogy Family Finder (JGFF)
    o Search and add your own research interests
- Mailing lists
    o Post & search archives
- KehilaLinks
- JOWBR (burials)
- Routes to Roots Surname Database https://www.rtrfoundation.org/lnintro.shtml

Yizkor books

- Books memorializing a town's Jews, written post-Holocaust

- Information about towns from pre-Holocaust as well.
- Often incredible amount of historical information and photos are included.
- https://libguides.nypl.org/yizkorbooks
- https://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/
- https://genealogyindexer.org/yizkor

WWII Soviet Records

- Pamyat Naroda (https://pamyat-naroda.ru/)

Holocaust Records

- Yad Vashem https://yvng.yadvashem.org/
- Arolsen Archives https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/search/
- US Holocaust Museum https://www.ushmm.org/online/hsv/person_advance_search.php
- Fold3 Holocaust Collection https://go.fold3.com/holocaust
- Ancestry https://www.ancestry.com/cs/alwaysremember

Jewish-Specific Facebook Groups

- General Jewish groups
  o Tracing the Tribe https://www.facebook.com/groups/tracingthetribe/
  o Jewish Genealogy Portal
    https://www.facebook.com/groups/JewishGenealogyPortal/
- Groups specific to a region or town
  o Some more active than others
- Good places to ask questions, see resources discussed by others
- Remember it's the internet. Not all answers are correct.

Other resources

- https://bloodandfrogs.com/compendium (Continually updated list of Jewish genealogy resources for specific towns/districts/regions)

What's New in New York Research

D. Joshua Taylor, MA, MLS, FUGA
president@nygbs.org

New Online Collections

New York Digital Heritage Collection (https://nyheritage.org/)

Materials are constantly added to the New York Digital Heritage Collection from various partners throughout the state. Be sure to browse the resources by contribution organization (https://nyheritage.org/organizations), which enables visitors to filter by county. Browse the complete list of collections (https://nyheritage.org/collections) and remember that many do not include searchable images and are only discoverable by searching their title or description.

Queens and Bronx County Naturalizations (https://nynaturalizations/com)

Funded by a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, the Bronx and Queens county clerks released newly available naturalization records in 2023. Records include Queens County, 1795 to 1952, and Bronx County, 1914 to 1952.

Palatine German Immigration to Ireland and the United States (https://ancestry.com/search/collections/62327)

Materials gathered by eminent scholar Henry Z Jones, FGBS, were published online by *Ancestry* and include *The Palatine Families of New York, The Palatine Families of New York–1710: A Supplement*, and others.

Buffalo Birth Records (http://digital.buffalolib.org/collections/show/28)

The Buffalo and Erie County Public Library's online collections now include some of Buffalo's birth records, ranging from December 1850 through September 1881. Indexes are also available online, but date or the child's last name.

New York Newspapers from the Boston Public Library (https://www.digitalcommonwealth.org/search)

Collections online from the Boston Public Library's *Digital Commonwealth* now include some newspapers from Albany, New York, and surrounding areas.

The New York Genealogical and Biographical Society (NYG&B) Collections (https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/online-records/browse-catalog)

Weekly releases from the NYG&B during 2023 have included numerous titles:

- New York City Birth Index, 1911–1922
- Sketches of the Village of Albion

- Pioneer History of Orleans County, New York
- Landmarks of Orleans County
- Swart's Orleans County, NY, Directory, 1894
- Orleans County Gazetteer and Business Directory for 1869
- Anthology and Bibliography of Niagara Falls
- Souvenir History of Niagara County
- History of Niagara County, N.Y. (1878)
- Biographical and Portrait Cyclopedia of Niagara County, New York
- Gazetteer and Business Directory of Niagara County, N.Y. for 1869
- Landmarks of Niagara County
- History of Rochester and Monroe County, New York, From the Earliest Historic Times to the Beginning of 1907
- Notable Men of Rochester and Vicinity: XIX and XX Centuries
- Landmarks of Monroe County
- Marriage Contract Index, New York City Municipal Archives, 1902–1907
- American Agriculturalist Farm Directory and Reference Book, Monroe and Livingston Counties,
- Union Hill Cemetery, Cato, Cayuga County, Established 1802
- Gazetteer and Business Directory of Monroe County, N.Y. for 1869–1870
- Church Family Account Book, Churchville, Monroe County, 1849–1854
- Town of Southold Personal Index Prior to 1698
- School Records, Riga, Monroe County, 1843–1862
- Town Records, Sterling, Cayuga County, 1829–1880
- Suffolk County Probate Records
- Society of Colonial Wars in the State of New York, 1892–1919
- Account Ledger of Michael W. Divine, New York County, 1864-1884
- St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1850–1925 (New York City)

New Tools to Explore

New York State Historical Newspapers Search (https://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/)

An updated search interface for New York State Historical Newspapers enables users to browse more thoroughly by title, date, county, or specific collections. The free site currently includes more than 1.3 million issues from titles across New York state. Advanced search features provide the ability to limit by publication date, county, city, or title. Multiple counties or titles can also be selected within a single search.

Erie Canal Map Explorer
(https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/720fc09057dd4f6d87ec90597c9ee4c1)

A newly developed free resource, the Erie Canal Map Explorer provides a guided tour through the Erie Canal. Separated by division, this interactive resource includes photographs, maps, and other unique features.

David Rumsey Map Collection Text Search (https://www.davidrumsey.com/)

The popular website from David Rumsey now includes the ability to search by text, which can be useful for identifying surnames, locations, and other printed details within a map.

New York Land Record Indexing
(https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/2078654)

The near completion of this multiyear collaboration between the NYG&B and *FamilySearch* is nearly complete, with millions of indexed land record indexes from New York state now available.

The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record, **Article and Location Index, 1870–2023**
(https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/online-records/record-article-title-index)
(https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/online-records/collection/nygb-record)

Recent updates include a full name index and a tool to search articles by title and location for all articles through 2023.

What's Next?

Stay informed about new resources for tracing New York ancestors with the *NYG&B eNews* and quarterly issues of the *New York Researcher*.

Notes

THE WOOD FAMILY:
WISCONSIN, UPSTATE NEW YORK, & QUEBEC

Jill Morelli, CG, CGL
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https://genealogycertification.wordpress.com
https://appliedgen.institute

The Wood family was introduced to the genealogy community in the *National Genealogical Quarterly* in December 2018.[1] In a quest to identify the father of Marie "Molly" (Frisch/Lancour) Morelli, five sons of Julius and Elizabeth (Harrington) Wood were investigated to determine which son was her father. The identification of this line opened up research opportunities in three locales I had not researched before--Wisconsin, upstate New York and Quebec.

Any foray into an unknown geographic area requires one to gain an understanding of the background context of the area. These investigations continue throughout the process of genealogical investigation. It is not a "one and done," but rather a dynamic educational plan that is influenced by each new piece of evidence found and analyzed.

Genealogy Standards reminds us to conduct broad contextual study of the area, reviewing historical boundaries, migration patterns, and all available sources. Other topics to be considered include economic, ethnic, genetic, governmental, legal, linguistic, military, etc.[2] It is the responsibility of the genealogist to understand what is pertinent.

Armed with our newfound knowledge of the region, we can identify documents and the information they contain more easily; we can interpret the evidence more accurately; and we can understand the motivations of our ancestors with greater appreciation. This investigation sharpens the lens through which we look to "see" more clearly.[3]

THE JOURNEY

The Wood/Charlebois family followed a typical migration pattern of an early *Quebecois*…from France to Montreal in the 1600s to the North Country of New York (c. 1847) until they made Wisconsin their home (c. 1882). Economic conditions drove some family members to move the short distance across the St. Lawrence River into St. Lawrence County, New York. After only

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[1] Jill Morelli, CG, "DNA Helps Identify "Molly" (Frisch/Lancour) Morelli's Father," National Genealogical Society Quarterly, 106 (December 2018): 293-306. See also Legacy Family Tree webinar "Finding a Father for Molly Using DNA."

[2] Board for Certification of Genealogists, *Genealogy Standards Second edition* (Nashville: Ancestry.com, 2019) p. 12.

[3] Mills, Elizabeth Shown. "Context: A Powerful Tool for Problem Solving," National Genealogical Society Conference 2019, session F301. Obtain from http://playbackngs.com, 2019 St. Charles. Also, Legacy FamilyTree Webinars.

one generation, two brothers migrated west, buying land and settling in Wisconsin. We followed these migrations using the records they created.

This study does not represent "reasonably exhaustive research." It is instead a work in progress, but there are lessons learned from even such a preliminary research into the family lines. Because of this being a very early study, other evidence may be found that overturns the family lineage presented. Additional work is needed in all generations before the primary hypothesis becomes a conclusion.

Figure 1
Probable migration route of the Wood/Charlebois Family, from Quebec
to New York to Wisconsin from the 1650s to 1873.
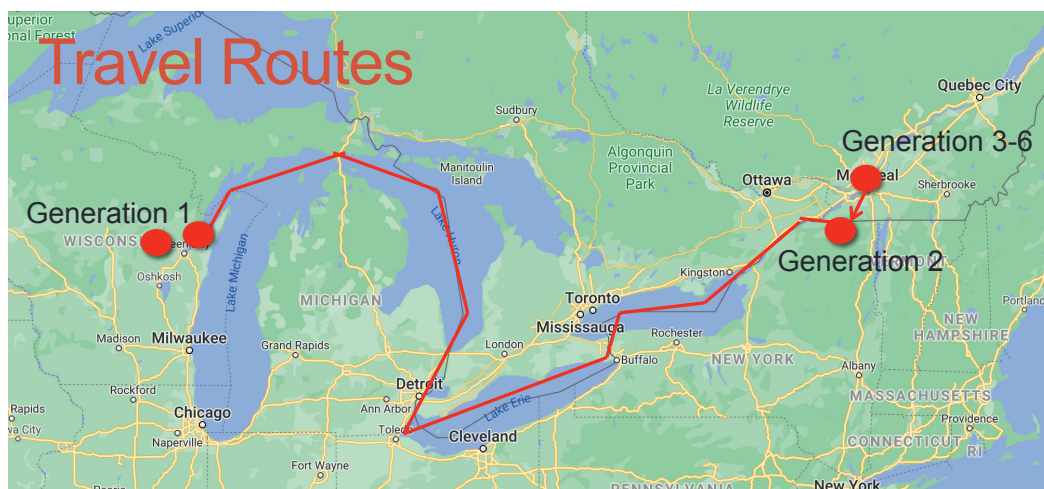
In 1900, Julius and his wife resided in Shawano County, Wisconsin.[4] Two pieces of evidence indicate that the water route was the most likely route of travel. Rail service did not reach Shawano County until 1881.[5] In 1870, Julius was single and lived in St. Lawrence County, New York and in 1880 Julius resided with his wife and a five-year-old child born in Wisconsin, near the city of Green Bay, a Great Lakes port city.[6]

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[4] 1900 U.S. census, Shawano County, Wisconsin, population schedule, Aniwa Township, Enumeration District (ED) 159, p. 9B, dwelling 154, family 157, Joseph Wood; NARA T623 .

[5] Franklin B. Hough, *A History of St. Lawrence & Franklin Counties from the Earliest to Present Time*. Albany: Little & Co., 1853; Google Books.

[6] 1870 U.S. census, St. Lawrence County, New York, population schedule, North Lawrence Post Office, p. 28 (handwritten), dwelling 448, family 461, Joseph Wood; NARA M593, roll 1097. Also 1880 U.S. census. Brown County, Wisconsin population schedule, West Depere Township, ED 4, p. 4 (handwritten), dwelling 29, family 31, Joseph Wood; NARA T9, roll 1418.

WISCONSIN
The Wood family stayed in Wisconsin for two more generations before Marie "Molly" Frisch/Lancour left the state to serve her country in WWII as a member of the Army Nurse Corp and eventually make her home in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

The available and important record sets for Wisconsin research are similar to other Midwestern states—census records, vital records, probate and land. A bonus is the many mid-decade censuses, which make spanning the gaps easier.

NEW YORK
While the records of New York are similar to those of the Midwest, the make up of the local governmental jurisdictions and the available local record sets are different. Vital records are difficult to obtain from the state, but the Catholic and town records of the births, marriages and deaths should be available.

Since the five brothers of Julius served in the Union Army, the pension records became a key record set. Using pension records and the town registers, relationships and approximate location of births could be identified. The pension records and the town registers of Civil War recruits point to Quebec; and to the parents, Joseph Wood and Jane White.

French Canadian immigrants tended to Americanize their names. "Angus Wood" was the name used to start to build the family because he had a unique given name—it's not French. The French word for "wood" is some variation of "le blois," We began looking for the birth record in Quebec for "Angus *blois." His birth to his parents Joseph and Jane (White) Charlebois was quickly found.

QUEBEC
Any migration offers the opportunity for a proof argument, or a proof summary. The comparison of the family in New York with the hypothesized parents and siblings of Angus revealed a close but not exact match.

Table 1
Comparison of the Quebec family of Angus Charlesbois
and the New York family of Angus Wood.

Quebec parish records			1850 census[a]	1860 census
Quebec Name	Birth date	U. S. Name	Birth year (calc.); location	
Joseph Charlebois	1811, Quebec	Joseph Wood	1814; Canada	1804, Canada
Jeanne White	c. 1814	Jane --	1813; Canada	1810, Canada
Marie Charlebois	1831; Quebec			
Michel	1834; Quebec	Michael --	1834; Canada	1835; Canada
Joseph	1835; Quebec	Joseph Jr. --	1836; Canada	1837, Canada
Angus	1837; Quebec	Angus --	1838; Canada	1839, Canada
Francois	1841; Quebec	Francis --	1844; Canada	1844; Canada
Julien	1845; Quebec			
		Flora --	1842; Canada	
Charles	1846; Quebec	Charles --	1847; Canada	1849; Canada
		Malinda	1849; New York	1849, Canada
		Julius		1853; Canada

Birth order, names (French & English), birth years and the inclusion of Joseph, born in 1853 result in a strong hypothesis of these two families are the same.

You may not be exploring a emigrant from Quebec but the lessons are universal—broad contextual searches will make your understanding of your ancestors and their actions clearer and your interpretation more accurate. Fan Club research is imperative when you are working with same named individuals. Bon Voyage!

RESOURCES
(All links current as of 15 July 2023)

Ancestry, https://www.ancestry.com ($) You will need the World Edition to access the Duoin Collection.
Church of the Latter Day Saints. *French Records Extraction: An Instructional Guide*. Salt Lake City: FamilySearch International, no date. FamilySearch > Search > Books. 171 p. workbook! Excellet
Damian-Claude Bélanger & Claude Bélanger, "French-Canadian Emigration to the United States, 1840-1930", *Quebec History*, Marionapolis University (http://faculty.marianopolis.edu/c.belanger/quebechistory/readings/leaving.htm).
Dopp, Mary. "Geographical Influences in the Development of Wisconsin. Chapter III. The Settlement of Wisconsin." *Bulletin of the American Geographical Society* 45, no. 8 (1913): 585-609. Accessed November 2, 2020. doi:10.2307/199945.
FamilySearch, "New York, United States Genealogy," "Wisconsin, United States Genealogy;" "Quebec, Canada Genealogy." *Research Wiki*. https://www.familysearch.org/wiki .

-----, Search > Images > St. Lawrence County, New York. 799 record sets of land, probate, guardianship etc. This is where FS is putting their latest digitized records first! On my record research plan.

Fortier, Margaret. "Identity of Alcina, Wife of Oscar Furkey, of Quebec and Vermont." *National Genealogical Quarterly.* 108 (December 2020): 245-262.

Généalogie Quebec, https://genealogiequebec.com ($)

Hough, Franklin B. *A History of St. Lawrence & Franklin Counties from the Earliest to Present Time*. Albany: Little & Co., 1853; Google Books. https://www.google.com/books/edition/A_History_of_St_Lawrence_and_Franklin_Co/3sz58LQ0q2cC

Ingle, Cyndi. *Cyndi's list.* for Wisconsin, New York and Quebec.

LeClerc, Michael. *Legacy Family Tree Webinars*. Five outstanding presentations on French and French-Canadian records for genealogists. https://familytreewebinars.com/michaelleclerc

Les Sociétié des Filles du roi et soldats du Caregnan, list of Fille du Roi and soldiers of Caregnan. https://fillesduroi.org/cpage.php

Morelli, Jill. "DNA Helps Identify "Molly" (Frisch/Lancour) Morelli's Father," *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*. 106 (December 2019): 293-306.

-----. "Finding a Father for Molly Using DNA." *Legacy FamilyTree Webinars*. https://familytreewebinars.com/download.php?webinar_id=1263

Ouellette, Susan. "Mobility, Class, and Ethnicity: French Canadians in Nineteenth-Century Plattsburgh." *New York History.* 83, no. 4 (2002): 367-84. http://www.jstor.org/stable/42677816 .

PRDH-IGD, subscription site, compiled early Quebec families, etc. https://www.prdh-igd.com/en/home ($) Family groups.

SEARCH | LEARN | TEACH

New York County Guides

Guides are available for every county in New York State. A guide for the entirety of New York City, as well as one covering all of Long Island, is also available.
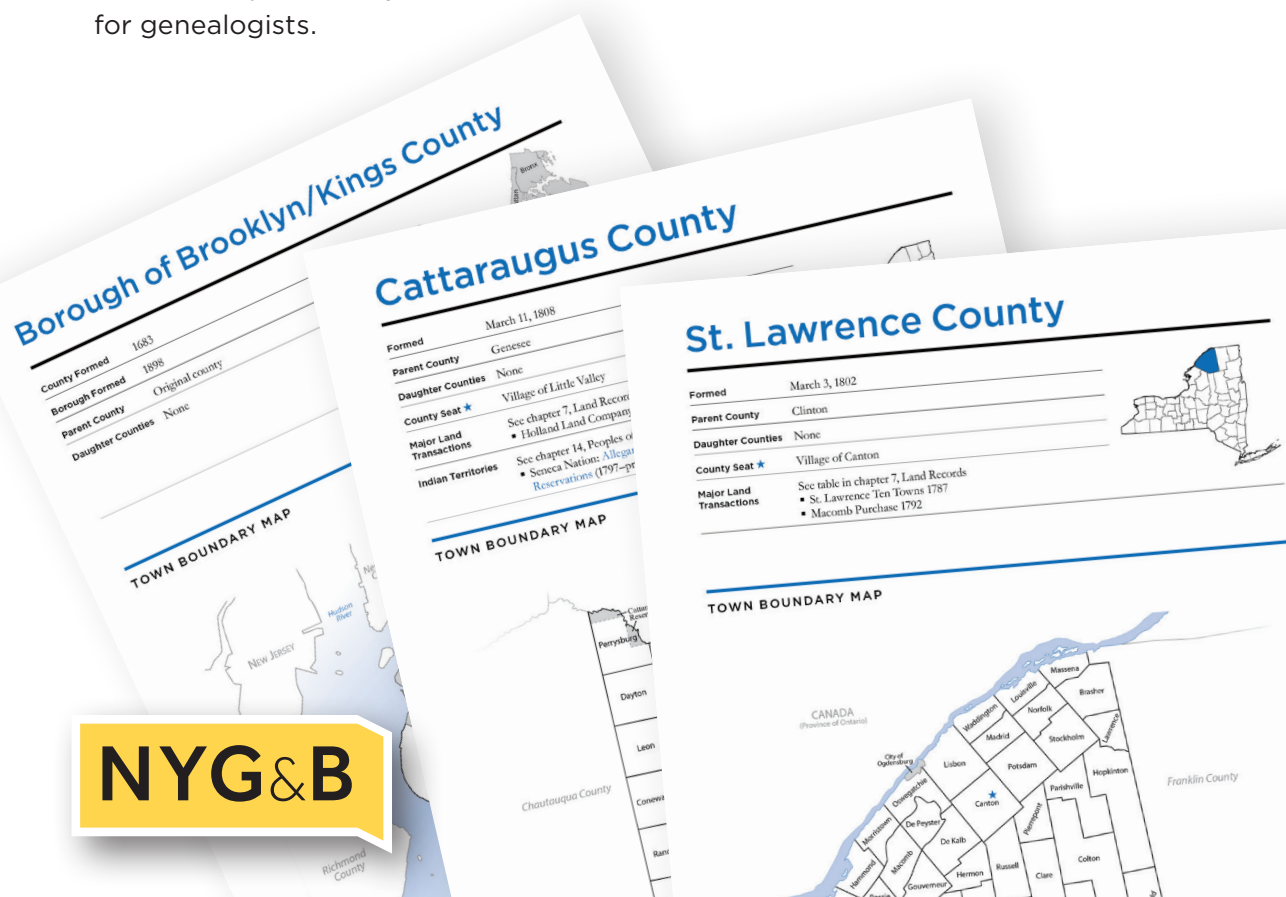
Each guide contains:
¨ A detailed county map
¨ A gazetteer (geographical index and/or dictionary)
¨ An annotated list of resources
¨ Selected print and online resources about the county that will be particularly useful for genealogists.

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Please allow 3–4 weeks for delivery

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