

Echoes of New York

September 3–November 16, 2025 (On-Demand Access)

September 19–20, 2025 (Livestreamed Programs from Kingston, NY)

NYG&B

NEW YORK
GENEALOGICAL
AND BIOGRAPHICAL
SOCIETY

As New York's largest statewide family history conference, our 2025 New York State Family History Conference is a gathering point for the top voices and experts in the genealogy and family history fields. The conference brings together researchers, genealogists, and all those interested in family history for a deep dive on how to navigate family history in New York State.

Whether you are just starting to build up your genealogy skills or are ready to tackle more advanced issues in your search, you will learn from the experts and connect with others in the field. Session topics will cover crucial resources like New York records and repositories; methodology; migration and settlement; immigration and immigrant communities; New Yorkers of color and others whose stories have been historically underrepresented; and much more.

This year's conference, ***Echoes of New York***, will feature livestreamed presentations (subsequently made available on demand), **September 19–20, 2025**, from the historic Old Dutch Church in Kingston, NY, and additional on-demand sessions for all conference registrants **September 3–November 16, 2025**.



PRICING

Virtual

- Virtual NYG&B Member Attendance (early registration by June 16, 2025): **\$189**
- Virtual NYG&B Member Attendance (after June 16, 2025): **\$209**
- Virtual General Attendance: **\$245**

In Person (Kingston, NY)

- In-person NYG&B Member Attendance (early registration by June 16, 2025)*: **\$215**
- In-person NYG&B Member Attendance (after June 16, 2025)*: **\$229**
- In-person General Attendance*: **\$265**

REGISTER AT

newyorkfamilyhistory.org/register

**All in-person programming will also be livestreamed and subsequently made available on-demand through November 16, 2025.*

What to Expect:

- More than 20 of the top voices and experts in the genealogy field to lead sessions and answer your questions, including Skip Duett, Annette Burke Lyttle, Pam Ricciardi Paschke, D. Joshua Taylor, Jane E. Wilcox, and more.
- More than 35 sessions and events (13 livestreamed and 23 on demand), all for less than \$10 a session.
- A rich array of programming—whether it's mastering the basics or refining research to break through brick walls—on a variety of topics like navigating New York research; understanding immigration and migration patterns; accessing arrival, court, marriage, military, and probate records; finding maiden names; and much more.
- On-demand sessions grouped under three separate tracks for convenient reference: People of New York, Methods and Tools, and Records.
- Networking and learning opportunities with the wider genealogy and family history community.



Livestreamed Program September 19–20, 2025

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The New York Family History Conference offers a rich array of sessions to help participants learn the stories of their New York ancestors and hone their research skills. **Note: All the livestreamed programming is subsequently made available on demand through November 16, 2025.**

FRIDAY, September 19, 2025

Old Dutch Church, 272 Wall Street, Kingston, NY 12401

TIME (EDT)	SESSION	PRESENTER
9:00 a.m.–9:20 a.m. (replaying at 5:40 p.m.–6:00 p.m.)	Keynote Address: Global Access to Our Shared Heritage	Yvette Hoitink, MLitt, CG®, QG™
9:30 a.m.–10:30 a.m.	Up the North River: An Overview of Pre-1800 Hudson Valley Ethnic Groups and Religions	Jane E. Wilcox, FGBS
10:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.	Beyond the Frontier: A New Netherland Family's Migration to Pennsylvania	James M. Beidler
12:00 p.m.–1:00 p.m.	Tall Ships to Canal Boats: <i>Mayflower</i> Descendants on the Erie Canal (1817–1833)	Pamela J. Vittorio, MA, PLCGS
1:00 p.m.–2:00 p.m.	Lunch Break*	
1:15 p.m.–1:45 p.m.	New York Stories: Pre-recorded, livestreamed video clips from the genealogy and family history community sharing memorable and notable stories.	Multiple presenters
2:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.	From New Hampshire to New York via Vermont: Tracing Cross-State Connections	Robert Cameron Weir
3:15 p.m.–4:15 p.m.	New York's "Palatines:" Diverse Origins, Mid-Atlantic Dispersal	James M. Beidler
4:30 p.m.–5:30 p.m.	Albany to Zurich: Tips for Researching in New York	Susan R. Miller
5:40 p.m.–6:00 p.m.	Replay of Keynote Address (Virtual Only)	Yvette Hoitink, MLitt, CG®, QG™

*Lunch is on your own.

Livestreamed Program September 19–20, 2025

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SATURDAY, September 20, 2025

Old Dutch Church, 272 Wall Street, Kingston, NY 12401

TIME (EDT)	SESSION	PRESENTER
9:30 a.m.–10:30 a.m.	Revolutionary New York	Monica Gray
10:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.	Rediscover the Kinship Indexes	Ryan Gleason
12:00 p.m.–1:00 p.m.	Early Probate in New York: From Colonial Dutch and English to Statehood	Jane E. Wilcox, FGBS
1:00 p.m.–2:00 p.m.	Lunch Break*	
1:15 p.m.–1:45 p.m.	New York Stories: Pre-recorded, livestreamed video clips from the genealogy and family history community sharing memorable and notable stories.	Multiple presenters
2:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.	The <i>NYG&B Record</i> : A Foundational Resource for New York Family History	D. Joshua Taylor MA, MLS, FUGA
3:15 p.m.–4:15 p.m.	Reconstructing Your Ancestor's Neighborhood: A Western New York Case Study	Mack D. "Skip" Duett

*Lunch is on your own.



In-Person Activities

September 18–19, 2025

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We are grateful that the following organizations are offering some special, free activities for our in-person registrants attending the conference in Kingston, New York. We would like to extend a special thank you to the Ulster County Genealogical Society for helping to coordinate some of these activities and making them available to our in-person attendees at no cost. See more details below.

THURSDAY, September 18, 2025

TIME (EDT)	HOST	LOCATION	ACTIVITY	REGISTER/RSVP
1:00–5:00 p.m.	Ulster County Genealogical Society	11 Main Street Hurley, NY 12443 (Basement of the Hurley Reformed Church)	Research at the Ulster County Genealogical Society (UCGS).	Free activity, RSVP required.

FRIDAY, September 19, 2025

TIME (EDT)	HOST	LOCATION	ACTIVITY	REGISTER/RSVP
9:00 a.m.– 5:30 p.m.	Old Dutch Church	272 Wall Street, Kingston, NY	Explore the sanctuary of the Old Dutch Church.	No additional registration is required.
5:45– 6:30 p.m.	Friends of Historic Kingston	63 Main Street Kingston NY	Tour the Old Dutch Church Cemetery, dating back to 1658, and learn about the church's history.	Free activity, RSVP required.

ON-DEMAND SESSIONS

September 3–November 16, 2025

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Learn at your own pace and refine your skills with on-demand educational sessions, categorized under three separate tracks: **People of New York**, **Methods and Tools**, and **Records**.

TRACK: People of New York

SESSION	PRESENTER
From Lyme to Lima: Migration from Connecticut to New York	Bryna O'Sullivan, PLCGS
Jewish Emigration Patterns and Immigration to NY: Sources and Repositories	Alina Khuda
Lawrence Family, 1783 Black Loyalists–1927 African Americans, Richfield Springs, NY	Edythe Ann Quinn, Ph.D.
Orphan Trains and the Children Who Rode Them	Karen A. Fortin
Parents for Rachel Kennedy Moore of Ulster County and Manhattan (1828–abt. 1878) <i>Session Sponsor: Tenement Museum</i>	Pamela J. Vittorio, MA, PLCGS
Researching Your Irish Ancestors in New York State (19th–20th Century) <i>Session Sponsor: American Ancestors</i>	Melanie McComb
Researching Your Native American Ancestors in New York State	Kaitlyn Pauley
Side by Side: Boatmen of Dutch and African American Ancestry on the D&H Canal	Pamela J. Vittorio, MA, PLCGS



TRACK: Methods and Tools

SESSION	PRESENTER
DNA's FAN Club: Using Shared Matches To Solve Genealogical Mysteries	Paula Williams
"Give My Regards...": New Yorkers in World War I	Annette Burke Lyttle, CG®*
Grandma, Who Are You? Finding the Maiden Names in Your Family Tree	Janice M. Sellers
How Much Research Is Enough to Prove a Conclusion?	Annette Burke Lyttle, CG®*
Our Wacky and Wonderful Families: There's No One-Size-Fits-All in Genealogy	Paula Williams
Recreating a Lost Colonial Dutchess County, NY, Family Using Documents and DNA	Pam Ricciardi Paschke
Researching Your Criminal Ancestors in New York State <i>Session Sponsor: American Ancestors</i>	Melanie McComb
Using NYG&B Guides to Further Your Research	Susan R. Miller

TRACK: Records

SESSION	PRESENTER
The Bureau of Land Management (BLM): A Trail to Finding Collateral Ancestors	Marie A. Mattson CG®*
Getting Best Use of Ancestry's Hank Jones Database	James M. Beidler
Ledgers—A Unique Looking Glass into Empire State Ancestors' Lives	Diane L. Richard
Mustering Local and Federal Resources for Your New York Civil War Ancestors <i>Session Sponsor: American Ancestors</i>	David Allen Lambert
New Yorkers' Stories in War of 1812 Claims Applications	Annette Burke Lyttle, CG®*
Resources for Your New York Ancestors' Origins to Colonial New England <i>Session Sponsor: American Ancestors</i>	David Allen Lambert
Trouble at the Border: Conflicts Between New York and British Canada in the 1800s	Marie A. Mattson CG®*

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FULL PROGRAM SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

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Session	Presenter	Description	Format*
Albany to Zurich: Tips for Researching in New York	Susan R. Miller	Online records take us only so far. This session sets you up for on-site family history research in New York State. Discover resources about where to research. Learn the steps to take before you arrive as well as what to do on-site. Whether you are searching upstate or downstate, these steps and tips will ease your way into researching the Empire State.	In Person
Beyond the Frontier: A New Netherland Family's Migration to Pennsylvania	James M. Beidler	The Dehart family arrived in New Netherland in the 1660s, but by the early 1700s had spread not just to northern New Jersey but were also braving the newest frontier of what became Berks County, Pennsylvania. Learn about the records that trace them there.	In Person
The Bureau of Land Management (BLM): A Trail to Finding Collateral Ancestors	Marie A. Mattson CG***	The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) website is a great genealogical stopping off point for finding your ancestors' relatives who left New York. Many homesteaded, received military bounty land, or purchased land from the U.S. government. This session shows how to navigate the website and tracks three New Yorkers who headed west.	On Demand
DNA's FAN Club: Using Shared Matches To Solve Genealogical Mysteries	Paula Williams	Friends, associates, and neighbors help with our paper trail research, and shared DNA matching is just as critical. We'll explore the powerful DNA tool.	On Demand
Early Probate in New York: From Colonial Dutch and English to Statehood	Jane E. Wilcox, FGBS	New York has a notoriously complicated court system, which affects probate records. That New York's probate system is difficult to navigate is an understatement. This talk will help demystify the first 225 years of estate records in New York (to 1848) by taking a journey to learn how and where to find wills and administrations through the centuries — from Dutch and English provinces to early New York State.	In Person
From Lyme to Lima: Migration from Connecticut to New York	Bryna O'Sullivan, PLCGS	In the early 19th century, Charleston, NY, changed its name to Lima, purportedly in honor of early European settlers who had arrived from Lyme, Connecticut. This presentation will introduce those settlers; discuss the resources available to trace their lives in both Connecticut and New York; and examine the forces that might have driven them to move.	On Demand

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AND BIOGRAPHICAL
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From New Hampshire to New York via Vermont: Tracing Cross-State Connections	Robert Cameron Weir	Explore the historical and genealogical connections between New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York. Learn about migration routes, land disputes, and records that document families who moved through these regions.	In Person
Getting Best Use of Ancestry's Hank Jones Database	James M. Beidler	The leading genealogical explorer of the 800+ German families who came to New York in 1710 has retired, but his work lives on as an Ancestry.com database. Learn how to use it best.	On Demand
"Give My Regards...": New Yorkers in World War I	Annette Burke Lytle, CG [®] **	More than 500,000 New Yorkers served in World War I. Learn how to find the service stories of your New York soldiers, sailors, and Marines, both men and women, in the "War to End All Wars."	On Demand
Global Access to Our Shared Heritage	Yvette Hoitink, MLitt, CG [®] , QG TM **	Keynote Address (pre-recorded)	Livestreamed and On Demand
Grandma, Who Are You? Finding the Maiden Names in Your Family Tree	Janice M. Sellers	Female relatives can be difficult to trace, but they can be found. This class introduces resources for tracing the women in your family, including oral histories, immigration, church records, journals, newspapers, legal and court records, archives, and manuscripts.	On Demand
How Much Research Is Enough to Prove a Conclusion?	Annette Burke Lytle, CG [®] **	How can we tell when we've done enough research? The research process and the Genealogical Proof Standard give us the answer.	On Demand
Jewish Emigration Patterns and Immigration to NY: Sources and Repositories	Alina Khuda	Learn about key resources and repositories essential for tracing Jewish migration to New York, including passenger lists, naturalization documents, and census records. Explore specialized sources like Jewish community archives, Yizkor books, synagogue records, and historical newspapers that provide deeper insights into Jewish life and culture during the migration period. This session will guide you through the available tools and strategies to uncover the compelling narratives of Jewish emigration and immigration to New York.	On Demand

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Lawrence Family, 1783 Black Loyalists–1927 African Americans, Richfield Springs, NY	Edythe Ann Quinn, Ph.D.	From their ancestors' 1783 freedom journey as Black Loyalists to Nova Scotia, to their descendants' return to Maine, then on to Florence Settlement (Oneida County, NY), and finally to Richfield Springs (Otsego County, NY) in 1927, the Nathaniel and Arabella Lawrence family sought freedom and land. They made choices for occupations, church affiliation, home ownership, and community engagement.	On Demand
Ledgers—A Unique Looking Glass into Empire State Ancestors' Lives	Diane L. Richard	Ledgers, also known as small business records, document everyday transactions—the kind our families participated in. We'll discuss the common ledger types/formats, what we can learn (personal details & everyday minutiae), the various businesses represented, and how to locate these genealogically leverageable gems. These are great resources for revealing personal details and documenting underrepresented individuals.	On Demand
Mustering Local and Federal Resources for Your New York Civil War Ancestors	David Allen Lambert	Discover available resources for your New York Civil War veterans. Understand the various records located on the local to federal levels to assist in telling their story. Uncover the vast details in the pension of your veteran and his family who sought benefits from his service. Learn how to "Adopt the Regiment" to uncover the story of your veteran through the shared service of his fellow veterans in his unit or vessel. Session Sponsor: American Ancestors.	On Demand
New York's "Palatines:" Diverse Origins, Mid-Atlantic Dispersal	James M. Beidler	The first mass migration of German-speaking people landed in upstate New York in 1710 and have been intensively studied by Hank Jones and put under the scholarly microscope of Philip Otterness. Where did they really come from? And where did they end up?	In Person
New Yorkers' Stories in War of 1812 Claims Applications	Annette Burke Lyttle, CG ^{®**}	In 1857, a board of commissioners was established in New York to approve claims for expenses that soldiers incurred in the War of 1812. The applications and supporting documents contain a myriad of stories for our ancestors who served.	On Demand

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The <i>NYG&B Record</i> : A Foundational Resource for New York Family History	D. Joshua Taylor MA, MLS, FUGA	The <i>New York Genealogical and Biographical Record</i> is an invaluable resource for tracing New York ancestors—but are you using it to its full potential? This session will explore effective techniques for accessing, searching, and interpreting its articles. Attendees will learn how to uncover genealogical clues, discover new records, and learn about advanced research methodologies. Whether you're new to New York research or an experienced genealogist, this lecture will help you maximize the value of this essential publication.	In Person
Orphan Trains and the Children Who Rode Them	Karen A. Fortin	The story of the orphan trains, which relocated children from the eastern cities to rural farmlands, has become a part of American popular culture. This presentation explores the facts behind the legends, follows a group of children “placed-out” in 1880, and provides information on resources available to learn more about the orphan trains and their riders.	On Demand
Our Wacky and Wonderful Families: There's No One-Size-Fits-All in Genealogy	Paula Williams	We don't all have the same experiences in our families, so we shouldn't expect to answer every genealogical question the same way. Learn ways to use different tools and approaches to solve different problems.	On Demand
Parents for Rachel Kennedy Moore of Ulster County and Manhattan (1828–abt. 1878)	Pamela J. Vittorio, MA, PLCGS	Rachel Kennedy Moore, born in about 1828, left her home in Ulster County for Manhattan's “Little Africa.” Shortly after arriving, she married Thomas, a widower from Georgia, who had likely escaped slavery. A conversion and baptismal record links Rachel to an old Ulster county family. Session Sponsor: Tenement Museum.	On Demand
Reconstructing Your Ancestor's Neighborhood: A Western New York Case Study	Mack D. “Skip” Duett	As the frontier moved west, families often migrated together or followed each other to new locations. Understanding who the neighbors were can provide insight into potential family connections. Learn how maps, deeds, censuses, and other records can be used to reconstruct your ancestor's neighborhood in Western New York.	In Person

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Recreating a Lost Colonial Dutchess County, NY, Family Using Documents and DNA	Pam Ricciardi Paschke	Cornelius Fuller was born about 1740, grew up, married, and had a family in Dutchess County, New York, then migrated to eastern Pennsylvania in 1788 and promptly died. Indirect evidence suggests he had three sons and a daughter; autosomal DNA suggests two more daughters. Consider the accumulated indirect evidence (including Y-DNA and atDNA). Are you convinced of all six children?	On Demand
Rediscover the Kinship Books Index	Ryan Gleason	Join Ryan Gleason, the NYG&B's Vice President, Digital Services, as he goes deep on the many resources found under Kinship Books. He will demo an expanded names database, released this year, and examine the document editing techniques and machine learning inputs behind the collection. This is an especially valuable course for anyone researching in the Hudson Valley and its bordering regions.	In Person
Researching Your Criminal Ancestors in New York State	Melanie McComb	Not all of our ancestors obeyed the boundaries of the laws. Some engaged in tax evasion, burglary, and more serious crimes. This presentation will show you how to research your criminal ancestors using newspapers, court records, jail records, prison records, and governor's records. Session Sponsor: American Ancestors.	On Demand
Researching Your Irish Ancestors in New York State (19th–20th Century)	Melanie McComb	It is estimated that as many as 4.5 million Irish arrived in the United States between 1820 and 1930. Many Irish arrived in New York City during the Potato Famine and afterward to make a new life for themselves and their families. This presentation will show you how to research your Irish ancestors, including passenger lists, naturalization records, Emigrant Savings Bank Records, almshouse records, and more. Session Sponsor: American Ancestors	On Demand
Researching Your Native American Ancestors in New York State	Kaitlyn Pauley	Stories of Native American ancestry are common in many family histories, but it's crucial to verify these claims through research. This presentation will explore the Native American tribes of New York, their history, and the records needed to uncover the truth about these ancestral connections.	On Demand

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Session	Presenter	Description	Format*
Resources for Your New York Ancestors' Origins to Colonial New England	David Allen Lambert	Discover the best published resources for your New York ancestors who originated from colonial New England. This lecture will discuss the most important colonial New England sources to better understand the story of your New York ancestors who hailed from the New England colonies. This lecture will cover resources for New England from 1620 to the early 19th century. Session Sponsor: American Ancestors	On Demand
Revolutionary New York	Monica Gray	Staff from the New York State Archives will describe records that contain information about New Yorkers who fought in and lived through the American Revolution. You will learn what type of information you can find in the records, learn which of those records are online, and see examples of documents from the collections. Session Sponsor: New York State Archives.	In Person
Side by Side: Boatmen of Dutch and African American Ancestry on the D&H Canal	Pamela J. Vittorio, MA, PLCGS	Completed in 1828, the Delaware and Hudson Canal began in Honesdale, PA, and terminated in Kingston, NY. Its boatmen hauled coal across state lines to the Hudson River and then to New York City. The ancestry of the local canal families is rich and deep: African American laborers and boatmen were not only key to the success of the canal but also hauled cargo and worked alongside descendants of their ancestors' former Dutch enslavers.	On Demand
Tall Ships to Canal Boats: <i>Mayflower</i> Descendants on the Erie Canal (1817-1833)	Pamela J. Vittorio, MA, PLCGS	Many descendants of <i>Mayflower</i> passengers migrated to the Mohawk Valley in New York before the American Revolutionary War. Residents of the German Flatts, especially those whose land would be appropriated by the State, became part of the canal workforce. Laborers' receipts, surveys, and land records, as well as <i>Mayflower</i> Silver Books, prove Peleg Freeman's connections to Elder William Brewster and the novel Erie Canal.	In Person

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Session	Presenter	Description	Format*
Trouble at the Border: Conflicts Between New York and British Canada in the 1800s	Marie A. Mattson CG®**	Relations between the United States and Canada remained strained after the War of 1812. As late as 1906, residents of Buffalo, New York, still recounted the burning of the city in 1814. Students study the War of 1812 in U.S. history courses, but have you ever heard of the Patriot War? What caused New Yorkers to take up arms against England and British Canada in 1837–1838? This session looks at three files and what is in them. One file, belonging to a member of the New York militia who served during the Patriot War, reveals his NARA bounty land file and information about where he lived, his commanding officer, and other members of his unit.	On Demand
Up the North River: An Overview of Pre-1800 Hudson Valley Ethnic Groups and Religions	Jane E. Wilcox, FGBS	The Hudson (North) River valley was an ethnic and religious melting pot long before the late 19th-century immigrant influx. Find out who was in New York in the beginning. You will be surprised!	In Person
Using NYG&B Guides	Susan R. Miller	An often-asked question is “Where should I go to research in New York?” Another is “What does the repository hold that I need?” Learn about both repositories and the collections they contain in the NYG&B’s research guides. This session reviews the guides and how to use them.	On Demand

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