

New to New York Family History? How to Get Started

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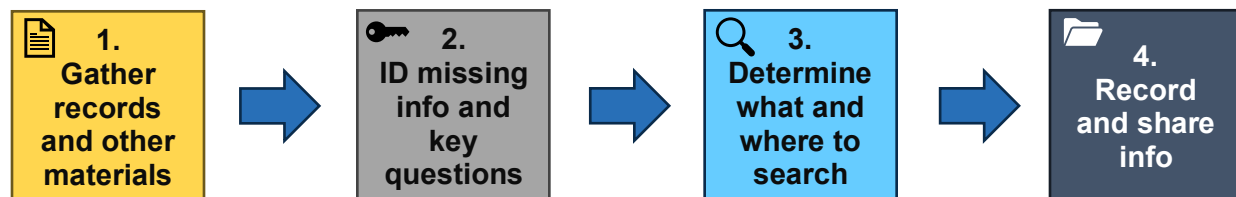
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Program Overview:

Learn how to uncover valuable clues from home sources, conduct effective family interviews, and navigate key records such as vital, census, and local archives. This session dispels common myths about genealogy and highlights the importance of preserving and sharing your discoveries. This presentation covers New York research institutions and free tools available through the NYG&B and elsewhere to help anyone uncover their own New York story.

Program Content:

Steps for beginning family history research:



1. Materials you might already have:

- Birth, marriage, and death records
- Newspaper clippings
- Diaries and letters
- Scrapbooks and photo albums
- Yearbooks
- Original certificates
- Bibles and religious mementos
- Digital material

2. Where you can start to look for new records:

- Paid:
 - Ancestry.com
 - FamilySearch.org
 - MyHeritage.com
 - FindMyPast
 - NYG&B
- Free:
 - NYG&B
 - Public libraries
 - New York Public Library
 - Local historical societies
 - Town/County historians

3. New York Vital Records (Birth, Marriage, and Death):

www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/new-york-birth-marriage-death-vital-records

- **New York State:**
 - Birth:
 - Birth Indexes from 1881 made available after 75 yrs
 - New York State Archives / New York State Dept of Health
 - Town/City/Village Copies
 - Marriage:
 - County Clerks
 - Town/City/Village
 - Death:
 - New York State Archives / New York State Dept of Health
 - Town/City/Village Copies
 - County Clerks
- **New York City**
 - Birth:
 - NYC Dept of Health
 - NYC Municipal Archives
 - Marriage:
 - City Clerk marriage bureau
 - Death:
 - NYC Dept of Health
 - NYC Municipal Archives

4. Census Records:

- Federal Census: www.archives.gov/research/census/online-resources
- New York State Census: www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/subject-guide/new-york-state-census-records-online

5. Other Records:

- Immigration: www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/resources/essential-reading/immigration-naturalization
- Religious Records: www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/resources/essential-reading/religious-records
- Newspapers: www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/resources/essential-reading/newspapers

6. NYG&B Articles and Guides: www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/blog

7. NYG&B Webinar Library: www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/webinars

Other Key Resources:

1. New York State Archives: www.archives.nysed.gov/
2. New York City Municipal Archives: www.nyc.gov/site/records/
3. New York State Library: www.nysl.nysed.gov/
4. New York City Public Library: www.nypl.org
5. The Association of Professional Historians of New York State: www.aphnys.org
6. New York County and Town Clerks: varies by location

Key principles to know when getting started:

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work from the known to the unknown 2. Rarely proof...often evidence: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Direct b. Indirect 3. Multiple types of evidence: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Supporting b. Negative c. Conflicting | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Spelling rarely counts 5. Names (first and last) might vary 6. Ages and dates are often incorrect 7. You will come across: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Unrecorded information b. Inferred relationships and past assumptions c. Incorrect research |
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Looking for more ways to get involved with the NYG&B? Learn more below.

JOIN:

The New York Genealogical & Biographical Society (NYG&B) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving, documenting, and sharing family history and stories from across New York State. Our award-winning publications, expert staff, professional research services, extensive online records and collections; and comprehensive educational programming and resources help our members become New York family history experts. Learn more at: <https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/content/join>

VOLUNTEER:

Volunteering with the NYG&B—either in person or remotely—is a great way to actively support a community dedicated to researching New York ancestors. And there are so many ways to help, whether virtually wherever you may be, at one of our regional Digitization Centers, or at our bustling New York City headquarters. Volunteers can assist with scanning documents, indexing records, and editing images. We provide both remote and in-person training and guidance. Please reach visit <https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/volunteer> or email us at volunteer@nygbs.org for more information.

PARTICIPATE IN PROGRAMMING:

The NYG&B holds a wide range of online and in-person events, conferences, classes, research trips, and seminars, both paid and free of charge. To see a list of upcoming events and to register, please visit <https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/events>

DONATE TO SUPPORT OUR MISSION

Consider making a tax-deductible donation to advance our mission and support additional record and collection preservation efforts, educational programming, and landmark publications and resources. Learn more at www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/get-involved/donate or call 212-755-8532, ext. 208.

STAY CONNECTED:

Stay up to date on the latest happenings at the NYG&B and broader genealogy community—including new programming, publications, and more—by subscribing to our free eNews. Sign up on our website at newyorkfamilyhistory.org. You can also follow on Facebook at www.facebook.com/nyfamilyhistory and Instagram at www.instagram.com/nyfamilyhistory.