

Key NYG&B Resources: *The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record*, Kinship Books, and On-site Collections

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Learn how to use and access past issues of *The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record*.
2. Understand how to locate and use Kinship Book titles in your research.
3. Gain an essential understanding of the on-site collections of the NYG&B available at the New York Public Library.

THE NEW YORK GENEALOGICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD

Overview

The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record (the NYG&B Record) began publication in 1870. *The NYG&B Record* is the second-oldest genealogical journal in the United States. Quarterly issues currently include more than 75 pages of peer-reviewed genealogical and biographical information documenting the families of New York.

Past issues included queries, biographies, obituaries, pedigrees, book reviews, publication notices, and business relating to the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society (NYG&B), established in 1869. During its early years, the journal often focused on families from the colonial New York period, specifically those living in New Amsterdam, New York City, on Long Island, and throughout the Hudson River Valley. Since the mid-1900s, articles have focused on families and records of various backgrounds from across New York State.

Every issue of the *NYG&B Record* contains articles that preserve the history of families and individuals who settled in New York. Recent and past issues of the *NYG&B Record* can be found at the NYG&B's website (<https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/online-records/collection/nygb-record>) and within the holdings of libraries across the globe.

Access and Indexes

Various printed and online indexes have been created to make articles in the *NYG&B Record* discoverable and accessible. Each is available online at no charge from the NYG&B.

A list of commonly used abbreviations is online at <https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/record-abbreviations>, which can be helpful for researchers.

Two key online resources can be used to search the *NYG&B Record*:

Searchable Index, 1870–2024 (includes entries from manual annual indexes)
<https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/online-records/collection/nygb-record>

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Full-text search, 1870–2025 (generated from optical character recognition [OCR] technology)

<https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/online-records/collection/nygb-record>

In addition, a variety of indexes exist to assist in locating articles:

Record Article and Location Index, 1870–2024

(includes items from Worden’s Subject Index, Macy’s Subject Index, and Articles by Title)

<https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/record-article-title-index>

Worden’s Subject Index, 1870–1982

<https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/sites/default/files/Master%20Index.pdf>

Macy’s Subject Index, 1983–2018

<https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/sites/default/files/Record%20Subject%20Index%201983-2018.pdf>

Articles by Title, 1870–2015

<https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/sites/default/files/Record%20index%20by%20Title%202016.pdf>

Articles by Author, 1870–2015

<https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/sites/default/files/Record%20index%20by%20Author%202016.pdf>

Interested in writing for the NYG&B Record? For more information, please thoroughly review <https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/writing-nygb-record> or contact editor@nygbs.org

KINSHIP BOOKS

Overview

For more than 40 years, Arthur and Nancy Kelly of Rhinebeck, New York, abstracted and transcribed thousands of records from across New York State. Their company, Kinship Books, published more than 400 titles and numerous periodicals, which can be found in libraries and personal collections. The Kellys donated the entirety of Kinship Books to the NYG&B. A complete list of titles can be found at <https://kinshipny.com>. Titles often include religious records, account books, cemetery inscriptions, and other related records with a focus on the Hudson Valley region.

Periodicals include abstracted and compiled records from three regions in New York, and are available online at the NYG&B’s website:

NEW YORK GENEALOGICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

NEW YORK FAMILY HISTORY SCHOOL

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The Columbia includes materials from Columbia County and nearby areas.

<https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/online-records/collection/columbia-periodical>

The Mohawk includes materials from Montgomery and Schenectady counties.

<https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/online-records/collection/mohawk-periodical>

The Saratoga includes materials from Saratoga County and nearby areas.

<https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/online-records/collection/saratoga-periodical>

Access and Indexes

Many libraries hold titles published by Kinship Books in their collections. Most titles are also available for individual purchase through the NYG&B at <https://kinshipny.com>.

Browse by Location (browse available titles by county and region)

<https://kinshipny.com/collections>

Search Kinship Books Online (a partial collection of titles indexed by every name).

<https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/online-records/collection/kinship-books-index>

Surname Search (a legacy product, originally indexing surnames from most titles).

<https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/kinshipny>

ON-SITE COLLECTIONS

Since its inception, the NYG&B has collected and preserved materials that document New York families. Our physical holdings are part of the New York Public Library (NYPL) collections at the Stephen A. Schwarzman Building, which include books, manuscripts, maps, and other materials. Items are located both in the Irma and Paul Milstein Division of United States History, Local History and Genealogy and the Manuscript Division. Key collections include:

[New York Genealogical and Biographical Society Locale Files](#) (Milstein Division, NYGB Loc 2008-001)

A collection of miscellaneous documents filed by location including, church, cemetery, and vital records, and legal and tax documents primarily of New York City and New York State.

[New York Genealogical and Biographical Society Localities Files 1653-1986](#)

(Manuscripts and Archives Division, MssCol NYGB 18357)

Original documents and reproductions of marriage certificates, correspondence, genealogical research notes, wills, deeds, land records, vital records, maps, and clippings relating to groups, events, and individuals of genealogical or historical interest situated primarily in New

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York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. Several of the New York files contain transcripts of records and notes for the Society of Friends.

[New York Genealogical and Biographical Society Subject Files ca. 1828-ca. 2000](#)

(Milstein Division, NYGB Subject 2009-001)

Files organized by subject relating to organizations, churches, events, and individuals of genealogical or historical interest. Much of the material relates to New York City and New York State history, but there are also materials on United States history and on other states.

[New York Genealogical and Biographical Society Bible Transcript Files, 1550-1967](#)

(Milstein Division, NYGB Bible Transcripts 2008-001)

Photocopies and transcripts of Bible records relating mostly to New York families of the 16th to 19th centuries.

[New York Genealogical and Biographical Society Family Files 1654-2002](#) (Manuscripts and Archives Division, MssCol NYGB 18274).

41 boxes in alphabetical order by surname.

[New York Genealogical and Biographical Society Family Files: Milstein Division](#)

(Milstein Division)

Includes 3,937 individual files, each with their own call number.

Access

A variety of catalogs and other tools also exist to assist in identifying materials within the collection. In many cases, when using NYPL catalogs adding “NYGB” as a keyword or as part of a call number will return results from the NYG&B’s collection.

NYG&B Searchable Database

<https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/online-records/collection/nygb-collections-new-york-public-library>

NYPL Research Catalog

<https://www.nypl.org/research/research-catalog/>

NYPL Archives Portal

<https://archives.nypl.org/>

NYG&B Finding Aid to Archival Collections at NYPL

https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/sites/default/files/files/NYPL%20finding%20aids%20to%20NYGBS%20collections%20rev_2015b.pdf