

## How to Search [newyorkfamilyhistory.org](https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org)

Kalyn P. Loewer, Susan R. Miller, and D. Joshua Taylor

### **NEWYORKFAMILYHISTORY.ORG**

Anyone tracing New York families will find the resources of [newyorkfamilyhistory.org](https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org) useful in their research. The website provides access to New York records, finding aids, online programs, and other tools that can be essential to those conducting genealogical research in New York.

### **ONLINE RECORDS**

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

Researchers can search all of the searchable NYG&B records from the “Search Online Records” box on the homepage of the website or by navigating to the “Search All Records” tab under “Online Records” on the left-hand side of the top navigation bar. Both boxes offer the same search fields—first name, last name, and keyword, as well as options to filter by category

An important note regarding the NYG&B’s online collections is that not all of the records are searchable via search box. Many of the newly digitized collections are available to view, but not yet search, and those will not generate any results when searched from a “Search All Records” box.

Researchers not familiar with the NYG&B’s collections who overlook the catalog and go straight for “Search All Records” may never become aware of the wealth of information available from these digitized materials that do not yield search results. It is helpful to explore the catalog first to get a sense of the scope of the NYG&B’s collections prior to searching.

### **Collections Catalog**

<https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/online-records/browse-catalog>

The NYG&B’s Online Collections Catalog can most easily be located from the top navigation bar under “Online Records”, which is viewable from any page of the website. When hovering over “Online Records”, the button for “Collections Catalog” appears as the second item in the drop-down menu, under “Search All Records.”

### Filters and Search Options

From the Online Collections Catalog page, researchers may use several filtering options to narrow search results. Known titles can be typed into a “Search by Title” box. Additionally, each collection is tagged by category, location, type, and creator, and can therefore be filtered by any of these criteria.

Sample categories: Census, Military, Religious Records, Vital Records

Sample locations: Albany County, New York County, Sullivan County, Wyoming County

Types: Image Browse, Indexed, OCR (Optical Character Recognition), Text & Images

Sample creators: Arthur C.M. Kelly, Royden Woodward Vosburgh

## Additional Search Tools

The following are suggested links to aid in your search:

Digital Collections Map, <https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/nygbs-digital-collections-map>

Titles and Volumes Directory, <https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/collections-titles-volumes>

Archive of Collections Webinars, <https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/collection-close-ups>

## **PROJECT SPOTLIGHT**

Access to resources related to the NYG&B's key projects, including New Netherland Settlers, Digitize New York, and Scholar in Residence, are available at [newyorkfamilyhistory.org](https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org).

### **Digitize New York**

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

Online visitors can learn more about the project and its current operations. In addition, details on submitting an application to preserve materials through the program and a link to recently released online collections are also available.

### **New Netherland Settlers**

<https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/new-netherland-settlers>

An in-depth project to develop genealogical and biographical sketches of all New Netherlands residences prior to 1664. The initial 50 sketches can be accessed (at no charge) at

<https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/online-records/collection/new-netherland-settler-sketches>.

### **Scholar in Residence**

<https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/scholar-residence-program>

Begun in 2023, the Scholar in Residence Program provides funding to conduct detailed record surveys relating to specific research topics and collections. Projects include:

- Tracing Immigrants to New York ([https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/sites/default/files/2025-06/Web\\_ScholarInResidenceReport\\_June2025.pdf](https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/sites/default/files/2025-06/Web_ScholarInResidenceReport_June2025.pdf)).
- Documenting Jewish Families from the Colonial Times to the Present in New York State (initial findings, [https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/sites/default/files/2024-08/Web\\_ScholarInResidenceReport\\_August2024.pdf](https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/sites/default/files/2024-08/Web_ScholarInResidenceReport_August2024.pdf)).
- Forced Settlement: Documenting Descendants of Enslaved Americans and Their Scottish Connections (<https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/subject-guide/forced-settlement-documenting-descendants-enslaved-americans-and-their-scottish>).

## **NEWS & RESOURCES**

Online articles, on-demand webinars, publications, and other useful resources can be found under the “News & Resources” section.

### **Articles and Guides**

Featured articles and genealogy guides (filterable by topic) on many aspects of family history research (freely available). <https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/kb/index>

## Search by Topic or Location

Explore the knowledge archive by filtering by topic or location by using the article index button. Subject experts discuss topics such as birth, marriage, and death records (search vital records), censuses, religious records, repositories and collections, and more. The knowledge archive contains a guide for each county in New York.

## Selected Article Titles

- 1855 New York State Census, Ward 17 (Manhattan)
- A New Look at the Newton (L.I.) Presbyterian Church Records
- Before the Five-borough City: The Old Cities, Towns and Villages That Came Together to Form 'Greater New York'
- City Clerk's Marriage Licenses, New York City, 1908-1937: One of 20th-Century Genealogy's Best Primary Sources
- Estimating Dates and Ages in Genealogical Writing
- Genealogy and Local History in the Folklife Center, Crandall Public Library, Glens Falls, NY
- Mackenzie's Families of Philipsburgh

## Webinar Library

Repository of all recorded webinars, filterable by category (some accessible to NYG&B members only; others open for anyone to watch, as shown by the unlocked icon).

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

## Featured Program

A program or video of particular interest is highlighted in our featured program section.

## Browse and Search for Webinars

Recorded programs are listed in date order with the most recent ones listed first.

Programs from our Preserving York New York Story programs contain that title first, then the specific topic. When recordings are available in two languages, both will appear.

## Filter by Topic

Select a topic to narrow the selection of programs. Selected filters include:

- African American
- American Indian
- Arab American
- Austro-Hungarian
- Baptist
- Beginner Tips
- Bible Records
- Bibliography
- Biography
- Catholic
- Cemetery
- Census
- Chinese
- City Directories
- Colonial
- Compiled Genealogies
- Congregational
- County Guide
- Court
- Dutch

## New York Family History School

<https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/new-york-family-history-school>

The New York Family History School series allows researchers to learn at their own pace by watching on-demand sessions that focus on a specific family history topic. Current topics include an introduction to land records; fundamentals of New York City and State research; how to trace immigrant ancestors; how to trace New Netherland families; and how to trace Hudson Valley families. These courses provide guided, on-demand video sessions led by experts, along with syllabi that allow researchers to access expert knowledge at their own pace.

Current course offerings:

- New York City Research Fundamentals
- New York State Research Fundamentals
- Tracing Immigrant Ancestors to New York, 1780s to 1924—The Records
- Tracing New Netherland Families
- Tracing Hudson Valley Families
- New York Land Records: An Introduction
- Tracing Your New Your New York Ancestors with the NYG&B (free)
- New York Religious Records (coming soon)

## PERIODICALS

Current issues of the NYG&B's quarterly publications and their entire archive are available online.

### New York Researcher

<https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/online-records/collection/new-york-researcher>

The *New York Researcher* is found under the Periodicals tab or by using the Online Collections Catalog.

### Full Archive Online

NYG&B members have full access to the entire archive of the *New York Researcher* and its predecessor the *NYG&B Newsletter*. The *NYG&B Newsletter* began in 1990 and always included instructive articles. The title changed to *New York Researcher* in 2004.

Search by volume and year (when a reference is provided) or by full-text search.

### Article Index

The article index contains:

- Main instructive articles
  - Records
  - Methodology
- Articles and columns with names
  - Genealogical exchange
  - Obituaries
- NYG&B organizational news

## Searching the Index

Use the text box to search for article title key words. The results will appear in the indexed results section. A full-text search for the key word will also appear, allowing a broader search.

## Personal Name Search in the New York Researcher

To perform a full-text search for individual names, with or without key words, use search box and results will appear in the full-text search section.

## **The NYG&B Record**

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

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.

## Searching the NYG&B Record

Various online and printed 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.

## Online Indexes

- Searchable Index, 1870–2024 (includes entries from manual annual indexes),  
<https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/online-records/collection/nygb-record>
- Full-text search, 1870–2025 (generated by optical character recognition [OCR] technology)  
<https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/online-records/collection/nygb-record>
- 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>

In addition, several print indexes (available as PDFs) exist to assist in locating articles:

- 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>

## **EVENTS**

Visitors can register for upcoming events at the NYG&B and also access on-demand recordings of some previous events. A list of upcoming events can be found at

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

Key events include:

- New York State Family History Conference: held annually online and in-person (paid event).
- Preserving Your New York Story series: a free series of in-person and online programs for those just starting family history.
- Empire State Exploration: online guided research experiences focused on a specific topic or location (paid event).
- Research tours: guided on-site research, including repository tours and pre-tour consultations.
- Symposiums and Seminars: one (or two) day events focused on a specific topic featuring sessions taught by leading genealogical experts.
- Heritage tours: unique hands-on experiences, including visits to cultural and historical sites.

## **GET INVOLVED**

There are numerous ways to become more involved with the NYG&B. Membership provides access to NYG&B publications, discounts on products and programs, and full access to records on [newyorkfamilyhistory.org](https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org).

Volunteer opportunities (on-site and remote) include assisting with Digitize New York, recording indexing and transcription, and other tasks. To learn more visit <https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/volunteer>.

**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](mailto: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](http://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](http://newyorkfamilyhistory.org). You can also follow on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/nyfamilyhistory](http://www.facebook.com/nyfamilyhistory) and Instagram at [www.instagram.com/nyfamilyhistory](http://www.instagram.com/nyfamilyhistory).