

NYG&B

NEW YORK **GENEALOGICAL**
AND BIOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

2022 Year in Review





Attendees at the NYG&B's 2022 New York State Family History Conference—the largest statewide family history event held in New York. Under the theme of "Return to New York," attendees were able to participate in this hybrid event with a gathering in Albany as well as at virtual sessions.

Dear Friends,

2022 stands out to me as pivotal time for simultaneously inaugurating new growth and rekindling connections at the NYG&B. Despite facing tremendous change during the past couple of years, I feel we've all emerged with a renewed sense of purpose and zeal to engage with what is most important to us. At the NYG&B, that's ensuring our members have stellar access to our extensive records and resources, a wide array of educational programming, and landmark publications.

We revamped our education center and digitization center to better grow our online collections and offer new knowledge and resources to our members. Members now have access to thousands of new pages ranging from county histories, immigration records, and birth/marriage/death records from all over New York State and New York City. We also continued to expand our online programming, mostly free of charge, for both our members and the public on a diverse range of topics. Over the course of the year, this allowed us to reach and engage with so many more people from all over who were interested in learning more about genealogy and how New York's history and migration patterns relate to them.

I'm delighted to say we also began holding our in-person programs and research trips in 2022. We got back on the road with personalized consultations and guided trips to different archives, libraries, and other repositories here in New York and elsewhere. And we also dusted off our passports once more for a small group trip to Northern Island as part of our Heritage Tours program as well as with a trip to New York City.

We also marked the 154th year of continuous printing for *The NYG&B Record*, the second-oldest genealogical journal in the United States. And our quarterly members' magazine, the *New York Researcher*, continued to offer up engaging and informative articles, updates, and helpful tips and tools for the genealogical community.

So much of what we do comes together with the vital support of our members, donors, volunteers, and other partners. And growing partnerships with new funders and grant makers over 2022 is better positioning the NYG&B to broaden and deepen our programming and make it more accessible to more diverse audiences. I hope you enjoy learning about NYG&B's milestones in 2022 as part of our ongoing work to preserve, document, and share family history and stories from across New York State.



D. Joshua Taylor, President

2022 Year in Review

An array of activities and accomplishments highlighted the energy and expertise of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society (NYG&B) in 2022. Anchored by the successful completion of the campaign to enhance the NYG&B's headquarters, the year included innovative projects, expanded digitization activities, and essential programming for our constituency.

Engaging Our Community

Membership in the NYG&B includes individuals and institutions from all 50 states and reaches across the globe to Canada, the Netherlands, Ireland, Germany, New Zealand, and elsewhere. As in the past, those living outside of the state of New York continue to make up much of our constituency—evidence of the role New York plays in millions of family histories. More than 900 new members joined the organization over the year, many of whom we met virtually during our first online membership reception in December 2022.

Through the power of technology and our new Education Center, NYG&B programs offered engaging, informative topics tailored to various levels of research skills. More than 60 online programs (most offered at no charge) explored a broad range of topics, including Irish resources, Scottish storytelling, tracing Jewish families, documenting the lives of Black New Yorkers, Arab American genealogy, and examining the family trees of the Gilded Age. In addition, online guided research sessions from our Empire State Exploration series assisted those tracing families in Westchester County and Central New York.

2022 Partner Organizations

We are grateful to our partner organizations:

- Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Jean Sampson Scott Greater NY Chapter
- Jewish Genealogical Society (NY)
- Irish Family History Forum
- New York State Archives Partnership Trust
 - New Amsterdam History Center
 - New Netherland Institute
- The American-Scottish Foundation
 - The New York Public Library
 - FamilySearch
- Society of Colonial Wars in the State of New York

Our genealogy community gathered with us in Albany, New York, at the New York State Family History Conference (NYSFHC) for the first time since the pandemic's onset. The conference combined in-person events and online activities, including live broadcasts, on-demand sessions, social events, and the incredibly popular New York Stories Night. We appreciate the speakers, sponsors, and others who came together to make New York's

largest family history event a resounding success.

Other immersive, in-person experiences also included our return to the New York State Archives and New York

Attendees at the 2022 New York State Family History Conference. Musicians Max Carmichael, Matthew Christian, and Gregory Loewer entertained during lunch.



State Library as part of our annual Research in Albany tour, which sold out again. We also welcomed researchers in New York City, providing guided, hands-on experiences at the New York Public Library, the New York City Municipal Archives, New-York Historical Society, and the Center for Jewish History. Our Heritage Tours included thrilling experiences in Northern Ireland in June 2022, with the aid of the Ulster Historic Foundation, and

featured visits to the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) and other historical and cultural locations over five days. On our New York City Heritage Tour trip, attendees had exclusive, behind-the-scenes access to the city's landmarks, including Ellis Island, the Tenement Museum, Eldridge Street Synagogue, Trinity Church, and the Schubert Theater Archive.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP-LEFT: Participants on the 2022 NYG&B Northern Ireland Heritage Tour visit Linen Hall, Belfast; Armagh Robinson Library, Armagh; and the Benburb Priory, originally a fortified castle and church. The Armagh countryside and ruins of Dunluce Castle. The Great Hall and exterior, Ellis Island. New York City Heritage Tour attendees on a behind-the-scenes tour of Ellis Island; attendees at Castle Clinton, Manhattan.





CLOCKWISE FROM TOP-LEFT: Members of the Knickerbocker and Manhattan chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution spent a Saturday in July assisting the Digital Collections team with a long-standing indexing project. Thank you to Janice Coffey, Connie Thatcher, Ashley Smith, Alyssa Haak, and Jenny Maenpaa for helping us make strides with this important work. Volunteers Ella Turrentine, Theresa Martin, and Vivian Schwerner. Volunteers David Mantione, Mohammad Perviz, and Gail Frank indexing records in the NYG&B Digitization Lab. Intern Tim Pilgrá processing a collection. If you or your group would like to host an afternoon discovering our in-progress collections, we'd love to have you! Email us at volunteer@nygbs.org.

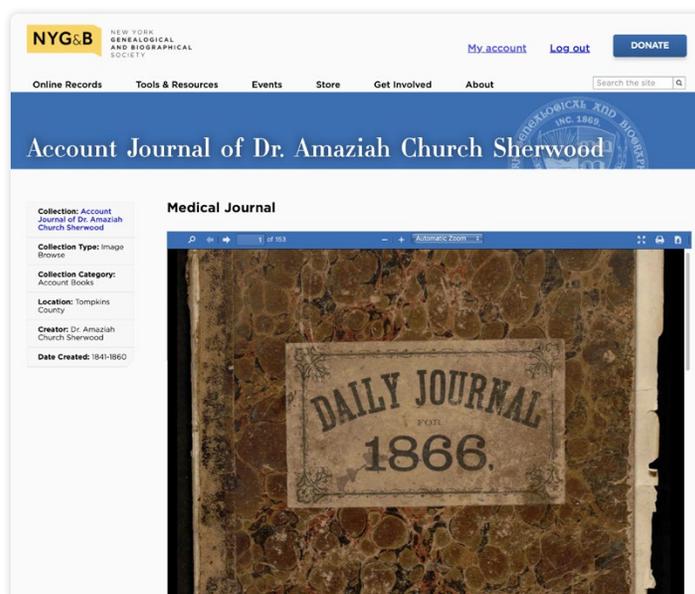
Expanding Your Access to New York Records

Our signature website, newyorkfamilyhistory.org, continues to boast millions of pages of online New York records. Our online collections continue to grow—in 2022 we added thousands of new pages, including account books, county histories, directories, immigration records from the colonial period, exclusive indexes to New York City births, and religious records.

Online collections represent the final manifestation of our initiative to preserve records across New York State. With funding from the William G. Pomeroy Foundation, the NYG&B approved more than a dozen applications to protect records in Central New York. Some projects were completed in the NYG&B's new Digitization Center, and while other organizations completed their projects onsite using digitization kits sent by the NYG&B. We look forward to expanding this program further in 2023.

In addition, with the support of our generous donors, the NYG&B internship program offered individuals the opportunity to participate in our digitization processes.

Throughout the year, NYG&B interns scanned, processed, and organized materials that will soon be accessible for research. Projects in 2022 included materials from Kinship Books and applications from the Society of Colonial Wars in the State of New York.



Looking to the Future

Expanding our office space and our programs and initiatives has enabled us to offer more volunteer opportunities than ever before. We are fortunate to have a deep pool of committed volunteers who donate their time and talents, both in our offices and from home. Volunteers touch almost everything at the NYG&B, from mailings to scanning documents to assisting at programs. Knowing we have this amazing group to rely on allows us to better plan for future projects.

Our volunteer activity in the Digitization Center last year was crucial to preserving ever-greater numbers of New York records for our members! More than 48,000 pages were scanned over the course of the year, with more than 846 hours of digitization logged by our volunteers. Volunteers also contributed more than 100 hours of administrative tasks, ranging from membership mailings to assisting at NYSFHC to helping with office tasks.

We also have more than 100 volunteers who indexed at home last year, helping to make a significant impact on the FamilySearch land records project. Working with FamilySearch, the NYG&B's volunteers have rolled up their sleeves on this exciting initiative to index millions of land records from across New York State. Once completed, indexes for individual counties will be available at newyorkfamilyhistory.org and elsewhere.

As we integrated the office changes and our expanded program abilities, we adjusted the NYG&B team to ensure we have the people power to lead us into the future. As a result of the success of the Digitization Center and the projects it allows us to take on, the position of Manager, Digital Collections, was expanded to a full-time role in May when we welcomed Kalyn Loewer to the team. In addition, Ryan Gleason came on board in August and

is now the Vice President, Digital Services—overseeing the organization's online presence and print publications.

Online programs continue to expand our reach to the genealogy community, and our publications are a testament to our commitment to scholarship and education. For our team to continue this tradition of excellence, Susan Miller shifted to part-time at the end of 2022 and took on the role of Director, Publications. Helming the NYG&B's programming is Todd Hirsch, who, as Director, Programs and Partnerships, will be working with our partner organizations to create dynamic programming for our audience. Michele McEvoy joined the team as Director, Communications, and will be involved in all aspects of our digital and print communications. Existing team members whose titles have evolved include Anna King, Manager, Office and Volunteer Engagement; Alisha Delisle, Manager, Grant Development; and Jen Davis, Vice President, Advancement and Membership.

The NYG&B wishes the best to *The NYG&B Record* editor Laura Murphy DeGrazia, CG, FGBS, who made the decision to retire. We are deeply grateful to Ms. DeGrazia for her professionalism and stewardship. After a national search, Ian Watson, PhD, was selected to helm the journal, beginning with the January 2023 issue.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP-LEFT: Deborah Barber was presented with the Empire State volunteer award at the New York State Family History Conference. This award honors those who have significantly contributed to New York State's family history. Digitization volunteers Bill Strachan and others work on digitizing NYG&B collections.



Continuing a Tradition of Scholarship

Celebrating its 154th year of continuous printing, *The NYG&B Record* provided a variety of genealogical studies over 2022. Articles discussed families across the state of New York, including Albany, Cattaraugus, Columbia, Fulton, Greene, Herkimer, Lewis, Rensselaer, Ontario, Orange, Steuben, Sullivan, Tompkins, and Westchester counties.

The *New York Researcher* provided in-depth guidance for using New York vital records and the first written guidelines for using the New York City Municipal Archive's new free website for birth, marriage, and death records. Featured counties were Clinton, Herkimer, Orleans, and Tioga, and articles included a comprehensive examination of Western NY of Supervisors Proceedings, newly rediscovered court records for Sojourner Truth, and an in-depth look at Sailors' Snug Harbor Hospital on Staten Island. Regular columns, "Five Next Steps...", focused

on finding new records, attending a program, learning about property ownership, and finding a birth record, while "In Other Lines" highlighted members from Colorado, Illinois, New York, and Michigan.

Work on the upcoming *New York State Archives—A Guide for Family Historians, Biographers, and Historical Research*, by Jane E. Wilcox continued, while six new titles from Kinship Books were released in 2022, documenting families from Columbia and Dutchess counties.

New Kinship Titles

Early Church Records of Columbia County, New York, 1787-1899

Early Quaker Records Creek Monthly Meeting of Society of Friends, Clinton Corners, 1741-1946

Early Records of Central Columbia County, New York, 1731-1899

Members of Masonic Lodge Warren No. 32, Schultzs ville, Dutchess County, New York, 1808-1950

Minutes of Masonic Lodge Warren No. 32, Pine Plains/Schultzs ville, Dutchess County, 1826-1858
Records Town of Rhinebeck, Dutchess County, New York, 1799-1863

Contributions

The NYG&B is fortunate to be supported by our community in various ways. Volunteers contribute their valuable time to us every day. Individual donors give to the Annual Fund to support all aspects of our mission. Foundations and corporations provide grants for educational programming, digitizing, and more. And bequests give a donor the opportunity to create a legacy of support.

The NYG&B's grants program is still relatively new and, under the development of Alisha Delisle, was expanded dramatically in 2022. We were delighted to receive grants from the following organizations—including our first-ever New York City government grant—and are grateful for their support.

The Annual Fund supports everything the NYG&B does, and we are grateful to our donors listed on the following pages. No gift amount is too small to make a difference and to help us continue our vital work in 2023. Thank you for being part of the NYG&B community and moving forward with us.



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With gratitude,

— Joshua and the NYG&B Team

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