

Empire County of the Empire State: Genealogical Resources of Dutchess County, NY

Major County-Level Genealogy Institutions

Dutchess County Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 478
Dover Plains, NY 12522
(845) 462-6909
Website: www.dcg-gen.org/index.htm
Email Contact: Val LaRobardier, valarobardier@gmail.com

Dutchess County Historical Society
6282 US Route 9,
Rhinebeck, NY 12572
No Phone
Website: www.dchsny.org
Email Contact: Bill Jeffway, Bill.Jeffway@dchsny.org

Local History Room, Adriance Memorial Library, Poughkeepsie Public Library District
93 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
Phone: (845) 485-3445 x3350
Website: <https://poklib.org/learn/local-history-genealogy/>
Email: localhistory@poklib.org

Dutchess County Department of History
22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
Phone: 845-486-8615
Website: www.dutchessny.gov/history
Email: Will Tatum, wtatum@dutchessny.gov; Georgia Herring, gherring@dutchessny.gov

Directory of Local Historical Societies:

<https://www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/History/Directory-of-Municipal-Historians-Historical-Societies.htm>

General Guidance for Genealogical Inquiries

The technical term for marriage/birth/death records in government custody is **vital records**.

Official Government Records: Vital Records

Birth and Death records (certificates) begin in New York State in 1880.

Marriage records begin in New York State in 1915.

For both inquiries, the record holding agency is the New York State Bureau of Vital Records:
https://www.health.ny.gov/vital_records/

Vital records were not retained at the County Level, but rather at the municipal and later state level.

Some villages/towns/cities retain copies of vital records that pre-date New York State's holdings, but that varies across individual municipalities. For example, the Town of North East retains vital records beginning in 1883.

Official Government Records: Courts, Taxes, and Land Records

In certain cases, particularly searches related to Daughters of the American Revolution/Sons of the American Revolution applications, some useful information may be found in other records series. Generally, these inquiries need proof of residence in Dutchess County.

The records of the Dutchess County Court of Common Pleas and General Sessions are contained within the Ancient Documents Collection. These are online at
www.dutchessny.gov/ancientdocuments.

Tax records are held from approximately 1718 onwards. The earliest tax records are entered into the proceedings of the Board of Supervisors. Between 1771-1779, the tax records are preserved in a separate register.

While these records have been transcribed by previous genealogical researchers, *we have only entered the tax rolls for 1771-1779 into a searchable database.*

Other Record Sources

For eighteenth-century and early-nineteenth century requests, vital records generally exist in the forms of private church records and family records, particularly family bibles. Neither the surviving originals nor a comprehensive guide to them is retained by county government.

Rhinebeck-based researchers Arthur and Nancy Kelly have spent decades transcribing these privately-held records and publishing them through their imprint, Kinship. Dutchess County titles are listed online at <https://kinshipny.com/collections/dutchess-county-ny>.

For inquiries involving southeastern Dutchess, it is recommended that researchers consult *Settlers of the Beekman Patent* by Frank Doherty.

Other Agencies

The Dutchess County Genealogical Society maintains a library of genealogical material and a group of dedicated researchers. Their website is: <http://www.dcg-gen.org/>

A direct email contact for DCHS is Valerie LaRobardier, valarobardier@gmail.com.

The Dutchess County Historical Society holds genealogical reference materials, which are available for consultation at their facility in Rhinebeck. The website for DCHS is: www.dchsny.org.

For inquiries related to the City of Poughkeepsie, the Local History Room of the Poughkeepsie Public Library District holds material dating back to the eighteenth century and many helpful guides. Among these guides is an index of obituaries published in Poughkeepsie newspapers. The local history room's website is <https://poklib.org/learn/local-history-genealogy/>.

Dutchess County Maps in New York State Archives Digital Collection

Map of the Town of Rhinebeck, in the County of Dutchess. Surveyed in December and January, 1797 and 1798, per Alex'r Thompson. Map #179, NYSA_A0273-78_179,
<https://digitalcollections.archives.nysed.gov/index.php/Detail/objects/36706>

Map of four towns in the County of Dutchess. Clinton, Stanford, Washington and Amenia. Dated December 1797. By Jacob Smith. December 1797, NYSA_A0273-78_189A
<https://digitalcollections.archives.nysed.gov/index.php/Detail/objects/36717> Map #189A

"Map of four towns in the County of Dutchess. Clinton, Stanford, Washington and Amenia. Dated December 1797. By Jacob Smith." New York State Archives, NYSA_A0273-78_189B,
<https://digitalcollections.archives.nysed.gov/index.php/Detail/objects/36718>, Map #189B

Map of the Town of Poughkeepsie in Dutchess County. By Henry Livingston, Jun. January 26, 1798. January 26 1798, NYSA_A0273-78_187, Map #187
<https://digitalcollections.archives.nysed.gov/index.php/Detail/objects/36715>

Map of the Town of Beekman in Dutchess County. By Henry Livingston, Jun. Dated February 10, 1798. February 10 1798, NYSA_A0273-78_191
<https://digitalcollections.archives.nysed.gov/index.php/Detail/objects/37464> #191

Map of the Nine Partners, granted to Caleb Heathcote and Co. [Dutchess County], based on a survey from 1697. circa 1773 NYSA_A0273-78_219A, Map #219A
<https://digitalcollections.archives.nysed.gov/index.php/Detail/objects/36741#>

Map of the Nine Partners, granted to Caleb Heathcote and Co. [Dutchess County], NYSA_A0273-78_219B, Map #219B Not Imaged

Map of the Town of Fishkill in Dutchess County. By Henry Livingston, Jr. Dated Feb. 3, 1798. NYSA_A0273-78_231 Map #231
<https://digitalcollections.archives.nysed.gov/index.php/Detail/objects/36758>

Map of the property of John Delafield, situated in the Village of Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County. By Henry Whinfield, Engineer. July, 1836. NYSA_A0273-78_340A, Map #340A
<https://digitalcollections.archives.nysed.gov/index.php/Detail/objects/36886>

Document attachment with Map of the property of John Delafield, situated in the Village of Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County. By Henry Whinfield, Engineer. July, 1836. Map #340B_s1, NYSA_A0273-78_340B_s1
<https://digitalcollections.archives.nysed.gov/index.php/Detail/objects/36887>

Document attachment with Map of the property of John Delafield, situated in the Village of Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County. By Henry Whinfield, Engineer. July, 1836. NYSA_A0273-78_340B_s2 Map #340B_s2
<https://digitalcollections.archives.nysed.gov/index.php/Detail/objects/36888>

Map of the Town of Fredericks, Dutchess County [Now Town of Kent, Putnam County]. Map #376, NYSA_A0273-78_376
<https://digitalcollections.archives.nysed.gov/index.php/Detail/objects/36930>

Map of Southeast Dutchess. [Now Putnam County] and the Town of Franklin, Dutchess County. By Samuel Cornwell, Surveyor. Dated Franklin, December 29, 1797. [Now Patterson, Putnam County] Map #382 NYSA_A0273-78_382.

<https://digitalcollections.archives.nysed.gov/index.php/Detail/objects/36934>

Map of Phillipstown, Dutchess County. Map #430, NYSA_A0273-78_430

<https://digitalcollections.archives.nysed.gov/index.php/Detail/objects/37462>

Digitized Materials Currently Available from Dutchess County Clerk:
(highlighted materials are not on the website)

1. Dutchess County Government Records
(Arranged alphabetically)
 - a. Published Works (History Department Products), *DCG*
 - i. 12 Keys to Treasure: A Hyde Park Treasure Hunt
 - ii. Building in Dutchess: Reading the Landscape
 - iii. From English Colony to Sovereign State
 - iv. Historical Markers & Monuments in Dutchess County
 - v. Horse High, Sheep Tight, and Hog Proof: The Stone Walls of Dutchess County
 - vi. Portraits of Dutchess (1680-1807)
 - vii. Transformations of an American County: Dutchess County, New York (1683-1983)
 - b. Original Government Manuscript Records
(Arranged by subject area, then chronologically)
 - i. Census, *DCG*
 1. 1892 NYS Census Parts 1 & 2
 - ii. Certificates of Incorporation (1874-1913), *DCG*
 1. Certificates of Incorporation (1874-1890)
 2. Certificates of Incorporation (1890-1896)
 3. Certificates of Incorporation (1897-1902)
 4. Certificates of Incorporation (1902-1905)
 5. Certificates of Incorporation (1905-1907)
 6. Certificates of Incorporation (1907-1909)
 7. Certificates of Incorporation (1909-1913)
 - iii. Courts, *DCG*
 1. Chancery Court (1824-1838)
 2. Common Pleas Minutes (1721-1805)
 - a. Common Pleas (1721-1750)
 - b. Common Pleas (1750-1757)
 - c. Common Pleas (1758-1766)
 - d. Common Pleas (1766-1770)
 - e. Common Pleas (1771-1774)
 - f. Common Pleas (1775-1781)
 - g. Common Pleas (1782-1785)
 - h. Common Pleas (1786-1788)
 - i. Common Pleas (1789-1791)
 - j. Common Pleas (1792-1797)
 - k. Common Pleas (1789-1801 A)

- l. Common Pleas (1789-1801 B)
 - m. Common Pleas (1801-1805)
 - 3. Convictions (1820-1922), *DCG*
 - a. Convictions (1820-1862)
 - b. Convictions (1859-1889)
 - c. Convictions (1890-1898)
 - d. Convictions (1899-1907)
 - e. Convictions (1908-1914)
 - f. Convictions (1915-1922)
 - 4. Coroner's Inquests (1849-1939), *DCG*
 - a. Index (1849-1932)
 - b. Index (1933-1939)
 - 5. General Sessions Minutes (1721-1805)
 - a. General Sessions (1721-1750)
 - b. General Sessions (1750-1757)
 - c. General Sessions (1758-1766)
 - d. General Sessions (1766-1770)
 - e. General Sessions (1771-1774)
 - f. General Sessions (1775-1781)
 - g. General Sessions (1782-1785)
 - h. General Sessions (1786-1788)
 - i. General Sessions (1789-1791)
 - j. General Sessions (1792-1805)
 - 6. Railroad Condemnations
 - a. Dutchess Railroad (1869-1877)
 - b. NY, Boston, Montreal (1873-1891)
 - 7. Writs and Executions (1758-1799)
 - a. Writs and Executions (1758-1767)
 - b. Writs and Executions (1767-1772)
 - c. Writs and Executions (1772-1788)
 - d. Writs and Executions (1788-1799)
- iv. Elections, *DCG*
 - 1. Elections (1811-1821)
 - 2. Official Canvas (1847-1867)
 - 3. Official Canvas (1867-1890)
- v. Legislative (Board of Supervisors), *DCG*
 - 1. First Book of Supervisors (Book A)
 - 2. Board of Supervisors, Book B
 - a. Minutes (1722-172*)
 - b. Miscellaneous (1722-1747)
 - 3. Board of Supervisors, Book C (1729-1748)
 - 4. Board of Supervisors, Book E (1753-1757)
 - 5. Board of Supervisors, Book F (1757-1760)

6. Board of Supervisors. Book G (1761-1763)
 7. Board of Supervisors, Book H (1764-1770)
 8. Tax List (1771-1779)
 9. Board of Supervisors (1771-1785)
 10. Board of Supervisors (1786-1794)
 11. Board of Supervisors (1795-1811)
 12. Board of Supervisors (1838-1845)
 13. Board of Supervisors (1851-1857)
 14. Board of Supervisors (1857-1862)
 15. Board of Supervisors (1862-1865)
 16. Board of Supervisors (1867-1872)
 17. Board of Supervisors (1873-1874)
 18. Board of Supervisors (1877-1891)
- vi. Maps
1. Un-Indexed Map Atlas, *DCG*
- vii. Marriage Records (1908-1952), *DCG*
1. Indexes
 - a. Index to Marriage Records (1908-1914)
 - b. Index to Marriage Records (1915-1922)
 - c. Index to Marriage Records (1922-1923)
 - d. Index to Marriage Records (1923-1926)
 - e. Index to Marriage Records (1926-1929)
 - f. Index to Marriage Records (1929-1932)
 - g. Index to Marriage Records (1933-1952)
 2. Marriage Records
 - a. Marriage Records, Vol
- viii. Miscellaneous Records
1. Dutchess County Volunteers (1861), *DCG*
 2. Oaths of Attorneys (1890-1894), *DCG*
 3. Records of Roads (1753-1788), *DCG*
 4. Register of Stallions (1887-1918), *DCG*
- ix. Poor House Records, *DCG*
1. Book 2, County Home Ledger (1938-1941)
 2. Book 3, Burials (1934-1965)
 3. Book 4, Paupers Received & Discharged (1883-1897)
 4. Book 5, Paupers Received & Discharged (1899-1944)
 5. Book 6, Admissions (1947-1967)
 6. Book 8, Admissions & Discharges (1894-1903)
 7. Book 9, Hospital Accts (1942-1946)
 8. Book 13, Commissioner Cash (1931-1953)
 9. Book 14, Admissions & Discharges (1944-1950)
 10. Book 15, Admissions & Discharges (1924-1966)
 11. Book 16, Admissions & Discharges (1937-1951)

12. Book 17, Hospital Accts (1943-1947)

13. Book 18, Admissions & Discharges (1951-1959)

2. Community Records

(Arranged by geographic location, then chronologically)

a. Amenia

i. Roswell Hopkins Justice of the Peace Records,

1. Hopkins 5 Pound (1763) (124 MB), *DCHS*

2. Records, Marriages, Sessions, Forfeitures (1763), *DCHS*

b. Beacon

i. Melzingah DAR

1. Bill Parcel Book, *MDAR*

2. Day Book B, *MDAR*

3. Ledger A, *MDAR*

4. Scrapbook Ledger, *MDAR*

c. Clinton

i. Clinton Account Book (1807), *DCHS*

ii. Oaths of Office, *CHS*

iii. Of Reduction, *CHS*

iv. Records, Manumission of Slaves, Earmarks, *CHS*

v. Schultz Account Books, *CHS*

1. Book 1

2. Book 2

3. Book 3

4. Book 4

5. Book 5

6. Scrap Book

d. Dutchess County

i. Historical Atlas of Dutchess County 1876, *DCG*

ii. Van Vliet Survey Book, 1836-1843

Manuscript surveys of properties throughout Dutchess County drawn by

e. Fishkill

i. Fishkills Account Book, 1768 *DCG*

ii. Zebulon Southard Acct Book, 1771 *DCHS*

1. Part 1, Ciphering Book

2. Part 2, Store Ledger

f. Hyde Park

i. Hyde Park Census (1840), *DCHS*

g. Millbrook

i. Mabbett Ledger (1773), *MHS*

ii. Washington Poor (1787), *MHS*

- iii. Freight Book (1812), *MHS*
- iv. Sisson Account (1833), *MHS*
- v. Washington Poor (1883), *MHS*
- vi. Lyall Report (1913), *MHS*
- vii. Dairyman's League (1952), *MHS*
- viii. Miscellaneous Records, *MHS*
- ix. Poorhouse Box, *MHS*
- x.
 - 1. County Home
 - 2. Loose Pages
 - 3. Sketch Map
 - 4. Superintendent's House 1
 - 5. Superintendent's House 2
- h. North East
 - i. Municipal records
 - 1. Births, Deaths, Marriages (1883-1910), *TNE*
 - 2. Book of the Poor (1823-1838), *TNE*
 - 3. Poor Record (1838-1878), *TNE*
 - 4. Town Minutes (1832-1858), *TNE*
 - ii. Store Ledgers
 - 1. Bradley & Hartwell Index, *NEHS*
 - 2. Bradley & Hartwell (1822-1825), *NEHS*
 - 3. Bradley & Hartwell (1823-1824), *NEHS*
 - 4. Bradley & Johnston (1820), *NEHS*
 - 5. Colver Ledger (1829), *NEHS*
 - 6. Wakeman Bradley Index, *NEHS*
 - 7. Wakeman Bradley (1828-1829), *NEHS*
 - 8. Wakeman Bradley (1829-1831), *NEHS*
 - 9. Unknown Blotter, *NEHS*
 - iii. Miscellaneous Records
 - 1. Bryan Day Book, 1831-1835 *DCHS*
- i.
- j. Pine Plains
 - i. Town of North East/ Pine Plains Minutes 1772-1852, *LNPMS*
- k. Pleasant Valley
 - i. Pleasant Valley Receipt Book (1801), *DCHS*
- l. Poughkeepsie
 - i. Noxon Ledger, 1782-1796 *DCHS*
 - ii. Records of Overseers of the Poor, 1807-1815 *PPLD*
 - 1. Part A
 - 2. Part B
 - iii. Records of the Poughkeepsie Precinct, *PPLD*
 - 1. Precinct Clerk's Book (1769-1831)

iv. Records of the Village of Poughkeepsie, *PPLD*

1. Receipts of Billeting Money 1760
2. Village Minutes 1803-1817
3. Village Minutes 1817-1831

v. Poughkeepsie Almshouse, *DCHS*

1. Accounts, 1877-1893

Ledger account book with business/service provider name at the top of each page and a list of dates, names, and amounts below. Appears to be charges for at-home relief for impoverished residents of Poughkeepsie.

2. Paupers Received and Discharged, 1869-1898

Record of impoverished people who entered and left the Poughkeepsie Almshouse between 1869 and 1898. Records the date of entry, name, age, reason for entry, country of origin/race, reason for discharge, and length of residency. Several notes in the final pages, including one related to supposed nephew of Alexander Hamilton and list of charges dated Dec 24-25, 1903.

3. Alms House Children, 1889-1899

Entry book recording the placement of children formerly resident at the Poughkeepsie Almshouse in homes and other institutions.

vi. Poughkeepsie Roads, *PPLD*

1. Book A (1788-1842)
2. Book B

vii. Town of Poughkeepsie Records, *PPLD*

1. 1742-1854

m. Stanford

i. Municipal Records, *TS*

1. Earmarks, Schools, Births-Deaths-Marriages

2. Births, Deaths, Marriages

a. Marriage Registers

i. 1908-1962

ii. 1962-1980

b. Birth and Death Registers

i. 1849-1980

ii. 1914-1921

iii. 1922-1930

iv. 1940-1953

3. Minutes

- a. 1794-1814
 - b. 1814-1829
 - c. 1830-1865
- 4. Poor Records 1794 & Census
 - 5. Slaves Born

Citation Abbreviations

AHS – Amenia Historical Society
BHS – Beacon Historical Society
CB – City of Beacon
CHS – Clinton Historical Society
CP – City of Poughkeepsie
DCG – Dutchess County Government
DCHS – Dutchess County Historical Society
DHS – Dover Historical Society
EFHS – East Fishkill Historical Society
FHS – Fishkill Historical Society
HPHS – Hyde Park Historical Society
LNPHS – Little Nine Partners Historical Society
MDAR – Melzingah DAR
MHS – Millbrook Historical Society
NEHS – North East Historical Society
PPLD – Poughkeepsie Public Library District
SHS – Stanford Historical Society
TA – Town of Amenia
TB – Town of Beekman
TC – Town of Clinton
TD – Town of Dover
TEF – Town of East Fishkill
TF – Town of Fishkill
THP – Town of Hyde Park
TLG – Town of LaGrange
TM – Town of Milan
TNE – Town of North East
TPW – Town of Pawling
TPP – Town of Pine Plains
TPV – Town of Pleasant Valley
TPK – Town of Poughkeepsie
TRH – Town of Red Hook
TR – Town of Rhinebeck
TS – Town of Stanford
TUV – Town of Union Vale
TWP – Town of Wappinger
TWSH – Town of Washington

VF – Village of Fishkill
VMB – Village of Millbrook
VM – Village of Millerton
VP – Village of Pawling
VRH – Village of Red Hook
VR – Village of Rhinebeck
VT – Village of Tivoli
VWF – Village of Wappingers Falls