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Visit newyorkfamilyhistory.org/membership for more information or call Jen Davis at 212-755-8532 x208
FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

What an incredible year it has been already for the NYG&B! We’ve traveled coast to coast (and journeyed all the way to Amsterdam) to celebrate our 150th Anniversary, met thousands of members in locations near and far, and continued preserving New York’s stories and records each day. We still have plenty of online and onsite activities planned for the remainder of the year, and I hope you each have the opportunity to celebrate this important milestone with us.

This issue of the *New York Researcher* contains our 2018 Annual Review beginning on page 35. This important review of the previous year outlines a number of important projects, events, and other activities of the NYG&B. I am especially grateful to our members and those who provide support for our organization’s many activities. It is because of your generosity that we were able to begin work on our new online records platform, launch the New York Land Records Indexing Project, continue digitizing records from across the state, and provide a series of educational programs and activities that enrich the study of New York genealogy and biography. Thank you!

In addition to the Annual Review, this issue of the *New York Researcher* provides an update on accessing New York’s vital records (and their indexes), new additions to the NYG&B website, and a summary of our Heritage Tour to the Netherlands. If you could not join us this year, rest assured, planning for future heritage tours is in progress. Locations and details will be forthcoming. Though our popular Albany Research Tour is already sold-out for 2019, you can make plans now to join us in New York City for Empire State Exploration in February 2020 and in Albany for the New York State Family History Conference (NYSFHC) in September 2020.

In addition to these programs, the NYG&B continues to digitize materials from Kinship Books and will welcome nine interns during the summer. Our interns, supported by the generosity of NYG&B’s members, gain experience in preserving and digitization documents, genealogical research, writing, event planning, and other activities. We also welcomed Carlos Santiago as a new member of the NYG&B team a few weeks ago. Mr. Santiago has joined us as our digital collections assistant and will play a crucial role in adding materials to our new online records platform.

If you have not already made plans to do so, I hope you will join the NYG&B at one of our in-person (and virtual) open houses in the fall and take part in our 150th Anniversary event on November 20 discussing the future of family history. Our special guests, including Blaine T. Bettinger and Michelle Caruso-Cabrera, will join me in a fascinating discussion of where the field of family history might be headed in the immediate and distant future.

In closing, please know how grateful I am to each of you for your continued membership and support of New York’s oldest and largest genealogical organization. Your membership not only enables you to access resources for your own research, but also ensures we can preserve and provide access to countless other materials for other researchers in perpetuity. Thank you for remaining committed to our mission and lending your support as we strive to ensure that New York’s stories are told.

Until next time,

D. Joshua Taylor

NEW YORK RESEARCHER | VOLUME 30, NUMBER 2 | SUMMER 2019
Susan R. Miller, Editor

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About the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society

Since 1869, the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society (NYG&B) has been preserving, documenting, and sharing the stories of families across the state of New York. Through our programs, resources, publications, and services we actively engage with genealogists, biographers, historians, and organizations to establish the broader contexts of New York’s past and foster connections between New York’s past and the present.

The NYG&B publishes the New York Researcher and The NYG&B Record; both are quarterlies. Subscriptions to each are among the many benefits of Membership. The NYG&B warmly welcomes new members; information on Membership and benefits may be found on our website, newyorkfamilyhistory.org.
NYG&B History
The Second 75 Years (1945–2019)

As the Second World War drew to a close, the NYG&B had a great deal to reflect upon. The previous years had seen a reduction in the number of pages produced for each issue of The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record, alongside a smaller number of activities. Still, the Society pressed forward as a center for education relating to genealogy and family history. Lectures focused on biographies of George Mason, and the library boasted more than 2,200 feet of microfilm records containing deaths from the New York City Department of Health, 1795–1866, by 1950. That same year, the majority of the NYG&B’s Vosburgh Collection had also been microfilmed. The early 1950s also saw The Record produce more transcribed source material from birth, marriage, and death records, and for a time cease the publication of family genealogies. The Society’s building continued to host a variety of organizations, and was the home of events for the Poetry Society of America, the Underhill Society of America, the Garden Club of America, and the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of New York.

By 1960 more than 5,600 individuals visited the Society’s library and headquarters each year. A formal process was put into place regarding the borrowing of books from the library’s collections. A goal was established to double the organization’s membership in 1961, with each current member being encouraged to invite at least one additional member to join in order to keep membership dues at just $15 per person. A card catalog system for the Society’s collections was in process throughout the 1960s and by 1968 more than 2,000 cards had been completed (though the cards had just barely reached the letter “C”). In 1969, as the Society turned 100 years old, the detailed article explaining the Arms of the Society was published in The Record and noted as a “strong rallying point” and “a thing of beauty.” A number of lineage societies and others maintained their offices in the Society’s headquarters, including the Saint Nicholas Society of the City of New York, New England Society in the City of New York, The Huguenot Society of America, Society of Colonial Wars in the State of New York, the Daughters of the Cincinnati, and others. During the Anniversary activities, it was noted that the NYG&B was “the same age as the American Museum of Natural History and a year older than the Metropolitan Museum of Art.”

The following decade brought about tremendous changes for the NYG&B as it found itself playing a part in the genealogical renaissance that soon took hold of the United States. Alex Haley’s Roots, published in 1976, coupled with the celebration of the United States Bicentennial that same year, brought about a new wave of interest in genealogy and family history. The customary yellow cover of The Record was replaced with white stock, proudly displaying American flags for the July 1976 issue (similar

NYG&B’s seal was designed in 1869 by Samuel Edward Stiles. On the Society’s 100th anniversary in 1969, the NYG&B adopted an official flag, designed by Henry Middendorf, which incorporates elements from the seal plus those of the arms of New Netherland. The flag design also reflects the study of heraldic symbols in conjunction with family history.
to the change that had been temporarily put in place during World War II). The following year the NYG&B expanded its educational series, partly in response to the sudden outpouring of interest in genealogy and family history that swept across the state—and the nation—following the premier of the Roots miniseries. Programs were held throughout New York in Albany, Saratoga Springs, Buffalo, Tarrytown, and in Elizabeth, New Jersey often in partnership with local genealogical organizations.

The surge in interest in genealogy and family history was soon enhanced by developments in personal computing and by the late 1980s computers began appearing in the Society’s building. The Society’s collections and programs began to focus more towards tracing late-19th-century people and even early-20th-century families to provide resources for many of those who had found a sudden interest in tracing their own past. As its membership continued to grow outside of the state of New York, the NYG&B sought ways to remain in touch with its newest supporters. The first issue of the NYG&B Newsletter appeared in 1990, which would serve as a frequent communication point between the Society and its nationwide members.

The NYG&B launched its first website in December 1998, which introduced members to an eLibrary, a growing set of databases and materials containing materials from the NYG&B’s collections. The website continued to expand and by 1999, the NYG&B formally launched a capital campaign with a mission to create a formal foundation for the organization’s future growth. In 2001 the Society created a formal Technology Center, which provided access to materials available online.

By the mid-2000s the NYG&B’s leadership examined the future direction of the organization and its programming. In order to sustain the organization’s future, it was decided that the majority of the NYG&B’s physical collections would be safely transferred to the New York Public Library, ensuring their continued accessibility to all those tracing their New York family history. Though the decision was not without controversy, it permitted the NYG&B to focus on education, technology, and publishing as it found its place within the quickly changing world of research and records access.

The Society moved to its present headquarters at 36 West 44th Street in 2010 and began to lay out an aggressive and forward-thinking path for its future. The New York Researcher (renamed from the NYG&B Newsletter in 2004) was redesigned and quickly become an award-winning magazine for NYG&B members. Expansions to the eLibrary were undertaken, and the digital collections of the NYG&B continued to grow. Together with the Central New York Genealogical Society, the NYG&B created the New York State Family History Conference, the only statewide educational event for genealogists, family histories, local historians, and other researchers, held biennially.

Work began on the first statewide guide to New York family history and genealogy, an immense undertaking that resulted in the award-winning New York Family History Research Guide and Gazetteer. The publication, totaling more than 800 pages, is now in its fourth printing and underwent a revision in 2017. A second guide, detailing the holdings of the New York City Municipal Archives was released in 2016. That same year, the NYG&B Board of Trustees developed and approved a strategic plan for the organization, which included expanded programming, partnerships, and other initiatives to elevate the profile of the organization. In 2017 the NYG&B created NYG&B Labs which quickly began work to apply mapping and GIS technologies to The Record and other collections.

The Society is an active player in records preservation and access and...
launched a joint indexing project with FamilySearch to index millions of New York county land records in 2018. In addition to online webinars and onsite programming at its headquarters in New York City, research trips to the New York State Library and New York State Archives in Albany, New York, are held each fall alongside Empire State Exploration, an annual research week each spring in New York City. As the NYG&B celebrates its 150th Anniversary in 2019, the NYG&B’s authors are working on a guide to the New York State Archives and a contextual publication relating to tracing immigrants to New York through 1924.

Throughout its 150 years, the NYG&B has shaped the course of American genealogy and family history, while also striving to adapt to an ever-changing world. With the support of its members and partners, the Society looks forward to playing an engaging role in continuing its mission to share and preserve the stories of New York families for many years to come.

Did You Know?

A majority of genealogical organizations founded before 1900 did not allow women to join as formal members. The NYG&B was a notable exception to this and allowed woman to become members from the date it first accepted members (May 1, 1869).

The first woman to become a member of the NYG&B was Frances (Forward) Holton, wife of one of the Society’s founders, David Parsons Holton. Over the next 25 years, several women became involved with the NYG&B including:

Miss Elizabeth Clarkson Jay
Mrs. Leroy Newcomb Shear
Miss Annie Elizabeth Boutecon Shepard

Caroline Gallup Reed (Mrs. Sylvanus) (Pictured at left.)
Martha Joanna Reade Nash Lamb (Mrs. Charles A.)
Martha Bayard Dodd Stevens (Mrs. Edwin A.)
Margaret Herbert Mather (Mrs. DeWitt C.)
Katharine Newton Youmans (Mrs. Edward L.)

Emilie Ketchum Platt Owen (Mrs. Thomas J.)
Mary Macrae Stuart (Mrs. Robert L.)
Janet Van Rensselaer Townsend (Mrs. Howard)
Aurelia Davis Schoonmaker (Mrs. Lucas E.)
Catharine Romana Marsiglia Baetjer (Mrs. Herman)
Ester Van Ysen Herrman (Mrs. Henry)
Eba Anderson Lawton (Mrs. James M.)
Miss Ann Hasbrouck
Mary Ann Hart (Mrs. Coleridge)
Miss Carrie Allen Middlebrook
Katharine Berry di Zerega (Mrs. John A.)
Lilly Jones Earle (Mrs. Ferdinand P.)

Miss Bessie Thayer Sypher (later Mrs. Charles C. Marsh)
Miss Margaret Morris Norwood
Elizabeth Ward Doremus (Mrs. Charles A.)
Miss Mary Mildred Williams
Georgie Harrington Boyden St. John (Mrs. Gamaliel C.)
Ellen Hardin Walworth (Mrs. Mansfield T.)
Miss Lucy Dubois Akerly
Mrs. Mary Wright Wootton
Margaret Innis Young (Mrs. William H.)
Mrs. Cornelia Catharine Jay Dyer
Miss Mary Close Purple
Elizabeth Romaine McMillan-Stanton (Mrs. John)
Miss Reba Bird Whitfield

While women have played an important role in the NYG&B since its inception, the generosity and vision of Elizabeth Underhill Coles is truly remarkable. Her bequest of $20,000 made it possible for the NYG&B to acquire a building (known as Genealogical Hall) in 1896. Following her death, in 1898 Mrs. Coles was made a “perpetual member” of the NYG&B.
New York Vital Record Updates

New York State Vital Record Indexes

For many years, access to New York’s vital record indexes on microfiche was limited to eleven repositories, all in New York. This presented a great challenge for those in other states (and outside the U.S.) wishing to use them. Tremendous changes have occurred over the past 24 months so this update is warranted.

Original Records 1880–present
What has not changed is that the New York State Health Department (NYSHD) holds certificates for recorded births, marriages, and deaths occurring after 1880/1881 for locations outside of New York City. State coverage for Albany, Buffalo, and Yonkers does not begin until 1914. Other exceptions include civil vital records created under earlier state law (1847). See the NYG&B Guide to NY Birth, Marriage, and Death Records or the New York Family History Research Guide and Gazetteer.

State copies of these records may be purchased from the NYSHD and are only available to the public after a certain period of time, which varies depending on the record and the researcher’s relation to the person of interest. See health.ny.gov/vital_records.

New Online Indexes to Birth, Marriage, and Death 1880+
Best practice is for researchers to look up the certificate number (if it exists and is before the restricted time periods) and use the certificate number found in the index to request the record from the NYSHD.

Over the past two years efforts by Reclaim the Records have resulted in New York State’s vital records indexes becoming publicly available online for free. The digitized images of the microfiche in these collections are easy to browse by year. However, for some years the image quality makes it difficult to read names, dates, etc. The following websites provide access to the indexes.

Keep Up to Date
New York Genealogical and Biographical Society resources for news and updates include the blog (nygbs.org/blog), which can be filtered by subject and location.

Birth Indexes 1881–1942
Free images of the index, provided by Reclaim the Records, are found on Internet Archive at archive.org/details/nybirthindex (new autumn 2018).

Name searchable databases linked to the microfiche index images may be found on Ancestry.com at ancestry.com/search/collections/nystatebirthindex/.

Death Indexes 1880–1956
Reclaim the Records provides free death index images of the microfiche at archive.org/details/nydeathindex.

Name searchable death index 1880–1956 (statewide, and 1852–1956 for Buffalo) linked to the microfiche index images may found on Ancestry.com at ancestry.com/search/collections/nystatedeathindex/.

For more recent deaths, the New York State’s Interactive Ancestry/Genealogical Research Death Index encompasses 1957 to the current limit (through March 1969 as of April 2019). See health.data.ny.gov/Health/Genealogical-Research-Death-Index-Beginning-1957/vafa-pf2s.

Marriage Indexes 1881–1964
Free images of the microfiche for 1881–1964, provided by Reclaim the Records, are available on Internet Archive at archive.org/details/nymarriageindex (new autumn 2018).

Name searchable database of marriages 1881–1964 linked to the microfiche index images may be found on Ancestry.com at ancestry.com/search/collections/nystatemarriageindex/.

In many cases, marriage license files, 1908–1936, can be located at the county level. See FamilySearch database for selected counties at familysearch.org/search/collection/1618491 (updated autumn 2018).

RIGHT: New York State Birth Index for 1911 shows a female born August 6th in Jamestown, NY. Although the record does not record a first name for the baby girl, generations of families would get to know little Lucille Désirée Ball as, simply, “Lucy.”
New York City Vital Records and Indexes

A few updates in regard to New York City vital records are in order based on occurrences in the past year.

Original Records held by the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

In 2018 the New York Board of Health set formal time frames for the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYSDH) to transfer records to the New York City Municipal Archives (MUNI). The vast response to that rule from the genealogical community caused the NYSDH to consider access to their records which are not considered public records and, therefore, transferred to MUNI.

The good news is the January 1, 2019, expansion of relationships allowed access to birth and death certificates. Current guidelines are:

**Birth records 1910–present**

Individuals with one of the following relationships to the subject of the certificate can obtain copies of birth records from DOHMH (with proof of death):

- Spouse/domestic partner
- Parent
- Child
- Sibling
- Niece/nephew

**Death records 1950–present**

Individuals with one of the following relationships to the subject of the certificate can obtain copies of death records from NYSDH:

- Spouse/domestic partner
- Parent
- Child
- Sibling
- Grandparent
- Grandchild, great-grandchild, or great-great-grandchild

Marriage License Indexes 1908–2017 Online

Reclaim the Records provides index images of the microfiche for:

- Marriage 1908–1972, 2016, 2018
  - [archive.org/details/nycmarriageindex](archive.org/details/nycmarriageindex)
- Marriage license index 1950–2017
  - [nycmarriageindex.com](nycmarriageindex.com)
- Marriage license files prior to 1950 may be viewed at or ordered from MUNI. 1950 on must be requested from the New York City Clerk’s marriage bureau.

Original Records Held by NYC Municipal Archives

The New York City Municipal Archives (MUNI) holds publicly available vital record certificates and ledgers, which are available for viewing in their research room at 31 Chambers Street, New York. The project of digitizing images of the original certificates, begun in 2015, is much closer to completion.

Researchers using their facility can now view full-color copies of all certificates except for some Manhattan death certificates. The copies may also be ordered from MUNI’s website. The quality of the images is superior to microfilm copies, and in some cases the difference is significant.

Free Online Indexes

Indexes created from the 3x5-inch index cards of vital record certificates are available from the German Genealogy Group ([germangenealogygroup.com](germangenealogygroup.com)), the Italian Genealogical Group ([italiangen.org](italiangen.org)). Indexes are also available from Ancestry.com (subscription, or accessible for free at many public libraries).

Indexes created from the certificate images are available on FamilySearch.org.

For online index URLs, see our online guide, “Finding New York Birth, Marriage, and Death Records,” on the NYG&B New York Knowledge Base (member access) at newyorkfamilyhistory.org/new-york-birth-marriage-death-vital-records.

Further Reading


Chapter 1 covers vital records.

“Finding New York Birth, Marriage, and Death Records.” *New York Knowledge Base* article (member access):
- [newyorkfamilyhistory.org/new-york-birth-marriage-death-vital-records](newyorkfamilyhistory.org/new-york-birth-marriage-death-vital-records)


What’s Next? Six Steps to Take with a Death Certificate

A foundational record, and one that most researchers obtain as soon as possible, is a death certificate for a person of interest. The next stage in your research will likely include the following steps.

1. **Identify the primary information.** Review the information on the certificate that relates to the date, time, place, and cause of death. These items would usually be primary information because they would have been recorded very close to the time of the death, and likely by an informant who had first-hand knowledge of the circumstances. This type of information is usually completed by a medical attendant.

2. **Research the informant.** Determine the informant, if named, for other information on the certificate. That informant would normally provide information on their date of birth and birthplace, marital status, spouse, if any, parents’ names and birthplaces (when required). Evaluate whether the informant would have been in a position to have first-hand knowledge of those points, or if the information is secondary information. Research the informant on the certificate, if that person is not already placed in the family and thoroughly researched. The connection to the deceased may or may not be obvious, and could lead to new pathways for investigation.

3. **Look for burial information.** Determining the location where the person is buried can lead to a tombstone, records at the cemetery office, or other information from a funeral home. A point to keep in mind is that gravestones are not usually created by the descendant, but by one of their relatives. The possibility exists that what is written on a stone may not be entirely accurate.

4. **Focus on the address.** Review any addresses on the certificate, including place of death and residences (deceased and/or the informant) when listed. Were they living with other family or alone? In what probate jurisdiction would a will or administration be filed? If they owned the home, land records could be filed in that county which might shed light on relationships.

5. **Create or update a medical history for the family.** Many physicians recommend understanding your family medical history. Causes of death, including secondary causes, can provide researchers a broader understanding of their own health factors.

6. **Check for information on the reverse side.** Sometimes information about an inquiry or coroner’s report could be on the second side.

Death certificates can lead to many avenues of pursuit, and indexes alone typically provide limited information. Pursuit of the full certificate can pay dividends to the researcher. To learn more about obtaining New York death certificates visit the NYG&B’s *New York Knowledge Base* at [newyorkfamilyhistory.org/new-york-knowledge-base](http://newyorkfamilyhistory.org/new-york-knowledge-base).
Dear Friends,

2018 was an exciting year of growth, new activities, and abundant discoveries for the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society (NYG&B). Throughout the year, thousands of members engaged with the NYG&B in a variety of activities and projects. As we finalized plans for 2019’s 150th Anniversary, the popular New York State Family History Conference, our Research Tour to Albany, and Empire State Exploration in New York City anchored an eventful year of educational programs and activities. Scottish programs held in conjunction with the New York Caledonian Club, programs discussing DNA for genealogy, and preparing for a cemetery trip were just some of the programs that were held in our offices and around the state during the year.

The NYG&B connected with our members and the genealogy community at more than seven conferences last year, including RootsTech in Utah, the Ohio Genealogical Society’s conference, the National Genealogical Society Family History Conference in Michigan, and the Federation of Genealogical Societies conference in Indiana.

The NYG&B was very proud to continue our advocacy work on behalf of records access for all New Yorkers, and and we remain committed to making New York records available to all researchers.

D. JOSHUA TAYLOR, NYG&B PRESIDENT
The NYG&B was fortunate to expand our partnerships in 2018 by establishing education programs with The Lower East Side Tenement Museum, allowing us to share the excitement of getting started with family history research with new audiences.

We held a partner event with the Jean Sampson Scott Greater New York Chapter of the Afro American Historical and Genealogical Society (AAHGS) in February at Columbia University.

Our first Spring Theater Benefit featured Three Tall Women. Glenda Jackson made her long-awaited return to Broadway after a 25-year absence to star in Edward Albee’s Pulitzer-prize winning play. Several attendees were lucky enough to meet with star Alison Pill (center, tan sweater) after the show.

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More than 500 attendees enjoyed two and a half days of presentations and social events at the New York State Family History Conference in Tarrytown, Westchester County, New York in September 2018. The NYG&B member reception connected researchers from 32 states, plus Sweden, Canada, and England. Many thanks are due to all the presenters, and especially to our sponsors, Living DNA, FamilySearch, MyHeritage, Findmypast, FamilyTreeDNA, New England Historic Genealogical Society, and the many participating organizations (Capital District Genealogical Society, Central New York Genealogical Society, Genealogical Society of New Jersey, Jewish Genealogical Society, New York Public Library, New York State Archives, Westchester County Archives, and the Westchester County Historical Society).

Two NYG&B Weeks engaged members and our community with online webinars, onsite programs, and digitization days. January’s NYG&B Week webinars focused on ethnic research, while October’s concentrated on New York records and mapping.

Research tours in Albany and New York City helped push members’ research to higher levels, as did our writing seminar in Syracuse.

# Programs and Activities

NEW YORK STATE FAMILY HISTORY CONFERENCE
2018
SEPTEMBER 13-15, 2018
TARRYTOWN, NY

500+ Conference Attendees | 45 Sessions | 33 Speakers | 22 Exhibitors
The NYG&B was honored to be chosen by the Colonial Dames of America to be featured at their annual fall dinner. Chaired by Rebecca Madsen, the evening was a celebration of Old New York and Its Grand Dames, which is reflected by both organizations recognizing the importance of preserving New York stories through history and honoring those who came before us.

At the New York State Family History Conference we were thrilled to announce our partnership with FamilySearch on the New York Land Records Project, indexing New York’s county land records. FamilySearch has digitized millions of original pages from counties across the state of New York. This crowd-sourced project will enable anyone with an interest in preserving the records of New York to take part in the largest volunteer effort to index New York’s state records to date.

We also formed a new partnership with the New York State Archives Partnership Trust to support Jane E. Wilcox’s upcoming book about the Archives. As part of this new relationship we will work together to do events around the state that promote the Archives and show why this book will be such an important work for researchers. Our kick-off reception was held in Albany during the annual research tour, and we were thrilled to have representatives from the Partnership Trust as well as the book’s only Platinum Sponsor, the William G. Pomeroy Foundation, in attendance.

The NYG&B was honored to be chosen by the Colonial Dames of America to be featured at their annual fall dinner. Chaired by Rebecca Madsen, the evening was a celebration of Old New York and Its Grand Dames, which is reflected by both organizations recognizing the importance of preserving New York stories through history and honoring those who came before us.

Projects, Initiatives, and Digitization

During 2018 we surveyed all current members to find out what issues needed most to be addressed by the organization as we prepared for our 150th year. The overwhelming response was the need for improvements to our e-Library and easier access to online records.

Thanks to this critical feedback and the support of our donors, we began work on a new platform that will deliver these essential collections to you directly at newyorkfamilyhistory.org. On schedule to be released in 2019, this new platform will change the online experience for our community.

Thank you to all the members who participated in the survey; we cannot wait to share this exciting new initiative with you!

2018 saw the expansion of our internship program, led by Anna King, NYG&B Office Administrator. We had 11 interns over the course of the year working on projects as varied as blogs for the website, event logistics, and digitizing record sets. The massive project to image the vertical files of the Holland Society (above) was completed during 2018 with the quality check rolling into 2019.
New NYG&B Member Content

Our online collections continue to grow with the release of the New York Times Obituary Index, the New York State Death Index, and Mapping The Record. Additions to the On-demand Programs Collection (webinars) included ethnic topics, New York records (civil vital records, religious record collections, and more) as well as methodology case studies.

NYS Vital Record Indexes:
- Catch Up on the Rapidly Changing Access
- Proving Parentage through Indirect Evidence: The Importance of Sibling Records
- Using the NYG&B Website
- Finding Ancestors in New York City Vital Records in the 1800s and Early 1900s
- Mapping Your New York Ancestors
- Exploring New York’s Catholic Stories: The Archdiocese of New York Collection on Findmypast
- Genealogy Resources of the Daughters of the American Revolution
- How to Prepare for a Cemetery Trip
- All the Scottish Genealogy Sources You Didn’t Know You Needed to Know
- Alsatian-American Case Studies
- Using Autosomal DNA for 18th and 19th Century Mysteries
- Examining African American Migrations
- A look ahead to 2018 and 2019 for the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society
- Irish Church Records: Church of Ireland, Presbyterian & Catholic
- Dual Citizenship Italy and Ireland
- German Names and Naming Patterns
- Getting Started with Jewish Genealogy

New York Family History Research Guide and Gazetteer (NYFHRGG)

The revised edition of the New York Family History Research Guide and Gazetteer was printed (in two volumes on heavier paper) and delivered to those who pre-ordered copies. In addition, a PDF version was released for sale.

The Record

The authors, editor, and editorial board produced 378 pages of The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record in 2018, which included problem-solving articles, genealogical compilations, record transcriptions, and book reviews. The Record remains a premier journal and is the largest body of work on New York families.

People

In November 2018 we were thrilled to welcome Adrienne Auerbach to our Board of Trustees. Adrienne’s experience and love of genealogy makes her a welcome addition to the NYG&B Board of Trustees.

Hellos and Goodbyes

In 2018 Pamela Campbell, our Accounts Manager, retired after 11 years of service to the NYG&B. Pamela was with the organization through a great deal of change and growth. We are grateful to Pamela for being part of the NYG&B family for so long and sharing her experience and positive attitude with everyone she worked with!

2018 also saw the expansion of our Research Services team with the addition of Ashley Lish as well as a new accounts manager, Michelle Granger. We were so happy to welcome these new team members!
In 2018 annual giving increased 49% over 2017 which was made possible by the generosity of our Board of Trustees, who implemented our first-ever Board Challenge Match. The Board challenged our supporters by agreeing to match all new and increased giving. As a result, 67% of all donations made were eligible for the Board Match, being brand-new donors or hadn’t donated for at least three years.

Thank you to our Board of Trustees and to our incredibly generous donor community. We are grateful to have the opportunity to thank all the 2018 donors listed below:

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**Researcher’s Circle** (UP TO $4,999)

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We are grateful to all of our members for being part of the NYG&B family, but want to especially thank our Life and Patron members for their support of our mission in 2018.

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NEW YORK GENEALOGICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY | NEW YORK RESEARCHER | VOLUME 30, NUMBER 2 | SUMMER 2019
Highlights from our blog (nygbs.org/blog)

The NYG&B blog keeps our community informed of events, articles, and timely news. Visit nygbs.org/blog to read the full articles.

Online Historical New York Newspapers

If you haven’t searched for your ancestors in historical newspapers, now is an excellent time to start. It’s easier than ever to find and access historical newspapers, and they can hold some amazing—and quite surprising—information.

While documents like census records and vital certificates are essential for forming the foundation of your family history research, newspapers are a go-to resource that researchers should not overlook.

This guide outlines all of the principle online newspaper collections, details exactly how many of their holdings relate to New York State, and indicates where you can find them online.

You will also find a list of online newspaper directories—these are invaluable to family history researchers and are essential to determining what publications covered the location, time period, and individuals you are researching.

Read more at newyorkfamilyhistory.org/subject-guide/online-historical-new-york-newspapers.

Google Earth for Genealogy, Part 2: Adding Historical Maps & Data

Are you using the power of maps and geotechnology to learn more about the world of your ancestors? Geospatial information systems (GIS) are revolutionizing how we do family history research and understand our family’s landscape throughout history—they are now more powerful and easier to use than ever, so it’s a great time to get started. There are also more online historical maps available than ever before.

In part one of this two-part article, “Google Earth for Genealogy, Part 1: Putting Your Ancestors on the Map,” we became acquainted with Google Earth, a free, powerful, and easy-to-use GIS application.

We looked at how researchers can use Google Earth to put their own ancestors on the map and organize the information in their family tree in fascinating new ways.

In part two, we’re going to look at how we can import data created by others into Google Earth—digitized historical maps and other tools—and then use it to analyze our own family history in a geographic context.

Read the full article at newyorkfamilyhistory.org/blog/google-earth-genealogy-part-2-adding-historical-maps-data.

New York Divorce Records for Genealogy Research

Do you think your New York ancestors or relatives obtained a divorce in New York? It is possible, but for more than 300 years obtaining a New York divorce was not an easy matter.

Whether you know with certainty that there’s a divorce in your family tree, or just suspect one occurred due to evidence you have found elsewhere, there are several things every researcher should know about divorce records in New York State.

First of all, divorce records are not formally considered vital records—though they are obviously related to the act of marriage, when genealogists refer to vital records they typically only include birth, marriage, and death records.

This is particularly important to note because while finding an official birth, marriage, or death certificate is an important step in the research process, there will be (in most cases) no official “divorce certificate” to be found.

This article provides a brief overview of divorce throughout New York history, along with advice on finding divorce records.

If you’re having trouble finding divorce records, it’s especially important to read—many New Yorkers had to go out of state or even out of the country to get their divorce, so the records you’re seeking for divorced New Yorkers could be located in another state entirely.

Learn more at newyorkfamilyhistory.org/blog/new-york-divorce-records-genealogy-research.
New Records and Databases

New York Heritage Digital Collections
The NYS Historic Newspaper collection continues to grow with thirteen additional newspapers added this spring, including several German-language papers from Rochester. See nyshistoricnewspapers.org or nyheritage.org/explore/collections.

- The Cohoes Republican. Cohoes, NY, 1892–1920
- Rochester Beobachter. Rochester, NY, 1851–1870
- Rochester Täglicher Beobachter. Rochester, NY, 1870–188?
- The Sun & Record. Williamson, NY, 1999–current
- The Troy Sentinel. Troy, NY, 1823–1832
- The Williamson Sentinel. Williamson, NY, 1??–1925
- The Williamson Sun and The Williamson Sentinel. Williamson, NY, 1925–current

Religious Records on Ancestry.com
Several religious record collections on Ancestry that contain New York records have been updated recently, including:

- U.S., Evangelical Free Church of America, Swedish American Church Records, 1842–1947 4/16/2019
- U.S., Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Church Records, 1781–1969 3/14/2019

Buffalo Vessel Licenses
Contributed by Cary Stumm, Archivist, The National Archives at New York City (NARA-NYC)

NARA-NYC has a collection transferred from the Buffalo History Museum of Licenses for Vessels at Buffalo Creek (Buffalo River) 1820–1826. These bound volumes were loaned to the Museum from U.S. Customs on December 16, 1955. U.S. Customs at the time was responsible for various coastal, river, Great Lakes, and inland ports. A collector of customs in each district was responsible for the enforcement of all rules, regulations, and basic data on immigration, imports, and exports. Vessels over 20 tons engaged in coastal or fishing trades were required to get enrollment and licenses. Licenses were renewed yearly and filed in the customhouses.

The collection district of Buffalo Creek was established March 3, 1805. It included all the shores, rivers, and waters emptying into Lake Erie or into the Niagara River above the falls. Buffalo Creek (later Buffalo) was the port of entry.

The Licenses recently transferred to the National Archives were for vessels above 20 tons that intended to carry on Coastal Trade in the district of Buffalo Creek. The licenses were good for one year and include the date and number of the license, name and type of vessel, name and residence of the owners and the name of the master.

The National Archives at New York City (archives.gov/nyc) has custody of these types of licenses for the ports of New York and New Jersey. The volumes transferred this year are now housed with other Buffalo licenses for vessels from this time period.
Exploring Our Past: NYG&B Visits The Netherlands

Our inaugural Heritage Tour was a memorable experience as we explored The Netherlands. Local guide, Jan Deelstra, joined NYG&B President D. Joshua Taylor, Director of Development and Membership Jennifer Davis, and ten participants for an unforgettable week of local insights and exploration. Anchored in Amsterdam, our first full day included a visit to the National Maritime Museum, where we learned about connections between The Netherlands and the American Revolution and toured a replica of a VOC ship from the Dutch East India Company. Together we visited sites related to Amsterdam’s Jewish community and concluded our first full day with a scenic cruise and dinner through Amsterdam’s famous canals.

Our second full day the group traveled to Leiden, where we were welcomed with open arms. at the Leiden Heritage Organization and Archives (Erfoed Leiden), and the Pieterskerk, a late-Gothic church, known today as the church of the Pilgrim Fathers. Our walking tour of Leiden explored Rembrandt’s early youth and sites related to the lives of the Pilgrims before they journeyed in 1620 to what is now America.

The following day the group explored the Amsterdam City Archives, the largest municipal archive in the world, housed in a beautiful building designed by Dutch architect K.P.C. de Bazel. Our behind-the-scenes tour included a viewing of Peter Stuyvesant’s original will. The afternoon included time to explore Amsterdam and a visit other museums and historic sites. After a restful night, we headed to Rotterdam where we toured the harbor of Europe’s largest port, dined at the former Holland America headquarters, and visited other sites related to the Pilgrims. Our return trip included a trip to the nearly 400 year-old Leidschendam Windmills (cover image) and stops to view of the gorgeous tulip fields in full bloom.

Our final day took us to the Hague, where we visited the famed Mauritshuis museum, which houses a world-famous collection from the Dutch Golden Age, including paintings by Vermeer and Rembrandt.

Elbrun Kimmelman, member of the NYG&B Board of Trustees, shared her favorite part of the trip: “The most exciting, and for me impactful aspect of our tour, was the people we met at the City Archives, Museums and Historic sites. Can you imagine being shown a little scrap of paper, on which John Adams had listed the names of a dozen or so private citizens of The Netherlands that he planned to approach for loans to help finance the Revolution? He descended from a Pilgrim Family which may have accounted for some of the contacts, but there in the Leiden Heritage Organization and Archives (Erfoed Leiden), we were shown, like a little “to do” list, the names of people John Adams would ask to help. Then at the Amsterdam City Archives we were shown five loan documents, each one for 1 million guilders, maybe $400,000 each in today’s money, from three banking houses to Congress and signed by Adams… seeing these personal transactions of history were thrilling. For some of our group there were the thrills of visiting ancestors’ tombs or seeing their records which had been purposely located beforehand by the docents, for others the richness of so many of experiences bathed the week in memories that will last well into the future.”

We hope you will join us on our next adventure!

Images from the 2019 Netherlands Heritage Tour.
Coming Up at the NYG&B

Digitization Days at the NYG&B
Tuesday, September 17, 10:30 am—3:30 pm
Friday, September 20, 10:30 am—3:30 pm
Tuesday, December 3, 10:30 am—3:30 pm
NYG&B Offices, 36 West 44th St., Suite 711, New York, NY

Volunteer with us on Digitization Day during NYG&B Week! The NYG&B has been able to create digital records of thousands of documents thanks to the deliberate and generous efforts of volunteers.

The NYG&B staff welcomes individuals willing to give their time to the very important and time-consuming process of scanning page after page of historical records, family histories, lineage applications, and documents of invaluable content.

It is easy to learn; no special skills required. We provide training, while you provide the time. If you can’t make these dates, come another day!

Sign up at nygbs.org/events or call (212) 755-8532, ext. 207.

2020 Empire State Exploration
Monday, February 10–Thursday, February 13, 2020
NYG&B Offices, 36 West 44th St., Suite 711, New York, NY

Mark your calendar for the 2020 Empire State Exploration!

Join New York’s largest genealogical society for four days of uncovering your New York ancestors. With a home base at the NYG&B headquarters you will be steps away from the NYG&B’s statewide collections at the New York Public Library—and access to experts to guide you along your way. Empire State Exploration is an ideal setting for those just beginning their search and those seeking to answer long-standing New York research questions.

Registration information to come.

Save the Date for NYG&B’s Fall 150th Anniversary Events

Member Open Houses
Wednesday, September 18, 5:00–7:00 pm
Saturday, October 5, 2:00–4:00 pm

All members, near or far, are invited to join us at one of these events when we will open the offices of the NYG&B to you. A live-streaming component for each event will allow you to join in no matter where you live!

The Future of Genealogy
Wednesday, November 20, Evening

Please join us for a panel discussion featuring Blaine T. Bettinger, PhD, JD; Michelle Caruso-Cabrera; and other special guests as we look to the future of family history research.

More details to come on these events—please keep an eye on your email and the eNews!
New York Genealogy Seminar
Sponsored by the Central New York Genealogical Society and the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society
October 12, 2019 | Everson Museum of Art, 401 Harrison Street, Syracuse, New York

The New York Genealogical and Biographical Society (NYG&B) and the Central New York Genealogical Society (CNYGS) are pleased to host the New York Genealogy Seminar in Syracuse, New York. This one-day event will feature two presenters and four sessions.

Seminar participants will attend sessions on research methods and strategies, and network with genealogists, historians, researchers, and genealogical society representatives.

Program Schedule (May be subject to change)

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<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<td>10:15 am</td>
<td>Event Welcome</td>
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<td>10:20 am</td>
<td>The Clark Family Moves to New York: A Case Study</td>
<td>D. Joshua Taylor</td>
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<td>Discover the adventures of tracing the Clark family through New England, New York, and into the Midwest. This case study explores a variety of records and research methods, including using land and religious records, to document an extended family’s multiple migrations between the late 1700s and mid-1800s.</td>
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<td>11:10 am</td>
<td>New Online New York Record Collections</td>
<td>Susan R. Miller</td>
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<td>Keeping up with new records that have come online for New York research can be hard. We’ll hear about new vital record indexes, religious record collections, and more in this session.</td>
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<td>12:15 pm</td>
<td>Lunch Break</td>
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<td>1:30 pm</td>
<td>New York Land: The Soil that Yields Records</td>
<td>Susan R. Miller</td>
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<td>For many researchers on New York families, land records can produce a crop of information. Access to land records varies, and this session provides an overview of the many collections which may yield results for your research.</td>
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<td>2:45 pm</td>
<td>What’s New and Coming in New York Family History</td>
<td>D. Joshua Taylor</td>
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<td>There always seems to be something new in genealogy and family history. This session will explore new tools and resources for anyone tracing New York ancestors. Specific discussions will include newly accessible records, technological developments, publications in process, and other exciting developments.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:30 pm</td>
<td>Closing with Q&amp;A</td>
<td>CNYGS/NYGB</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Directions to the Everson Museum of Art
Everson Museum of Art
401 Harrison Street, Syracuse, NY
Convenient to Routes 81 and 690.
Parking is available in the museum lot and in the OnCenter parking garage (reduced rate). See directions at everson.org/visit.

Seminar Registration

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>NYG&amp;B and CNYGS Members</th>
<th>Non-Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full-day registration, including a print syllabus.</td>
<td>$48</td>
<td>$59</td>
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</table>

CNYGS member discount codes should be applied at checkout. Downloadable registration form and flyer are available on the New York Genealogical & Biographical Society and Central New York Genealogical Society (cnygs.org) websites.

Online registration on the NYG&B website at newyorkfamilyhistory.org/events.
Cite It! Documenting Written Narratives with Clear Citations

Friday, October 25–Saturday, October 26, 2019 | NYG&B Headquarters, New York, New York
Presented by Thomas. W. Jones, PhD, CG, CGL, FASG, FUGA, FNGS

Citations make research results credible. This program focuses on citations supporting written narratives in genealogical essays, including articles and reports. Subtopics include content, sequencing, and structure for citing offline and online sources.

Each of eight sessions includes interactive exercises. Students should arrive with information about a specific offline or online source that they need to cite. Day one focuses on offline sources, day two on online sources.

Program Schedule (May be subject to change)

Friday, 8:45 am  
Office opens, registration, and coffee

Friday, 9:15 am  
Why Document?

Friday, 10:45 am  
Essential Citation Elements

Friday, 1:15 pm  
Published versus Unpublished

Friday, 2:45 pm  
Creating Citations

Friday, 4:15 pm  
Refreshments at the NYG&B

Saturday, 9:30 am  
Differentiating Online Sources

Saturday, 11:00 am  
Essential Citation Elements

Saturday, 1:00 pm  
Practicum/Exercises

Saturday, 2:30 pm  
Creating Citations

Approx. 3:45 pm  
Wrap-up refreshments

Registration

Fee includes eight sessions, morning coffee, soft drinks, and an end of day social gathering. A lunch break is scheduled (neighborhood lunch options abound) or you may purchase the optional box lunch.

<table>
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<th>Registration</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Member Registration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-member Registration</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Venue: NYG&B, 36 West 44th Street, Suite 711, New York, NY

Save the Date!

September 10–12, 2020 | Albany, New York
nysfhc.org | #nysfhc | Facebook | Instagram
Genealogy and DNA: An Intermediate-level Seminar

Sunday, October 27, 2019, 9:30 am–4:30 pm
NYG&B Headquarters, New York, New York
Presented by Blaine T. Bettinger, PhD, JD

After testing for genealogy with various DNA-testing companies, and then exploring the tools available on the company websites, do you know what to do next? This program is intended for intermediate-level genealogists with some experience using genetic genealogy tools.

Our presenter is nationally known for his presentations and blog, The Genetic Genealogist. Registrants should have tested at one or more genealogy-DNA testing companies, and be familiar with the tools of those websites, including cousin-matching functions. Beginning topics will not be discussed. If you are not sure if this program is for you, please contact Sue Miller at smiller@nygbs.org or 212-755-8532 x211.

Program Sessions

**Using Autosomal DNA to Explore Your Ancestry**
For years, genealogists have focused on Y-DNA and mtDNA, unable to access the wealth of information in the remainder of their DNA. Autosomal DNA tests reveal this hidden information. Genealogists can use autosomal DNA for ethnicity estimates, finding long-lost cousins, and examining specific genealogical problems.

**Using DNA Painter to Analyze Your Autosomal DNA**
DNA Painter is an easy-to-use third-party tool that enables you to assign segments of DNA shared with cousins to a map of your chromosomes. Together we’ll look at this powerful new tool, and how you can use it in your research.

**Are You Doing Everything to Identify Your DNA Matches?**
In this session, we will examine numerous ways you can use a match’s profile to identify who they might be. We will also examine ways to use the In Common With tool and the Shared Matches tool to estimate how that elusive match is related to you.

**Evaluating a Genealogical Conclusion Including DNA**
Someone tells you that they’ve proven their connection to a genealogical ancestor using DNA, but have they really proven it? Did they avoid the known pitfalls? Together we will discuss the most common pitfalls when using DNA evidence and propose the minimum requirements for a genealogical proof comprising DNA.

Registration

Fee includes four sessions, morning coffee, soft drinks, and an end of day social gathering. A lunch break is scheduled (neighborhood lunch options abound) or you may purchase the optional box lunch.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Early Registration (through July 31)</th>
<th>Registration (after July 31)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Member Registration</td>
<td>$139</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-member Registration</td>
<td>$169</td>
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<tr>
<td>Optional box lunch (vegetarian, turkey, or salad)</td>
<td>$26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Venue: NYG&B, 36 West 44th Street, Suite 711, New York, NY

About Our Presenter

Blaine T. Bettinger, PhD., JD, is a professional genealogist specializing in DNA evidence. He is the author of the long-running blog The Genetic Genealogist, and frequently gives presentations and webinars to educate others about the use of DNA to explore their ancestry. Blaine is the author of The Family Tree Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy, and co-author with Debbie Parker Wayne of the award-winning Genetic Genealogy in Practice, the world’s first genetic genealogy workbook. He also co-authored “Genetics for Genealogy” with Judy Russell in 2018’s Professional Genealogy: Preparation, Practice & Standards (ProGen PPS) (Elizabeth Shown Mills, Author and Editor).

To register, go to nygbs.org/events or call 212-755-8532 x211.
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Sylvia Hasenkopf
Genealogist and Historian

518-821-3852
Sylvia@northriverresearch.com

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The 340th Shipwreck

By Frank Biebel

My 2013 publication, The Shipwrecked Passenger Book: Sailing Westbound from Europe for the Americas, 1817–1875, listed 339 shipwrecks. This is the 340th:

The Times of London (for July 26, 1852) related that the LESSING, a Prussian [owned] bark from Hamburg for Quebec, “with 188 passengers was totally wrecked on the coast of Labrador on the 10th of June.” Passengers and crew were all saved. [Her captain was “Neuman.”]

The Hamburg Passenger [Departure] Lists, 1850–1934 are available at Ancestry (ancestry.com/search/collections/hamburgpl_full/). Although the entry page is setup to input information for an ancestor search, the entire passenger list of the Lessing (or any ship within) can be obtained quite easily.

To do so, enter ONLY the following information, and check any appropriate “exact” box:

- Departure: May 1, 1852
- Port of Departure: Hamburg
- Port of Arrival: Quebec
- Ship Name: Lessing

The Lessing search listed 210 passengers. And, as with any search here, clicking on a passenger’s name will give further information on that individual.
New York Genealogy Seminar

Saturday, October 12, 2019
Everson Museum of Art, 401 Harrison Street, Syracuse, New York

Sponsored by the Central New York Genealogical Society and the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society

The New York Genealogical and Biographical Society (NYG&B) and the Central New York Genealogical Society (CNYGS) are pleased to host the New York Genealogy Seminar in Syracuse, New York. This one-day event will feature two presenters and four sessions.

Seminar participants will attend sessions on research methods and strategies, and network with genealogists, historians, researchers, and genealogical society representatives.

SEE PAGE 47 FOR DETAILS!