

Writing for THE RECORD

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22 October 2020

The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record, published since 1870 by the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society (NYG&B), is the second oldest peer-reviewed genealogical journal in the United States. Currently, circulation is just over 4000. NYG&B members may search or browse the full run in the Society's eLibrary (<https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/online-records/collection/nygb-record>).

The NYG&B's mission is "to preserve, document, and share the stories of families across the state of New York. The Society engages with genealogists, biographers, historians, and organizations to establish the broader contexts of New York's past, and actively fosters connections between New York's past and the present." Publishing THE RECORD is an important part of that mission.

THE RECORD contains written works that adhere to scholarly standards and

- solve genealogical problems,
- provide compiled genealogies,
- make available transcriptions of original records, and
- offer research guidance relevant to families who have contributed to the rich diversity of what is now New York State.

What we look for in a submission:

- not previously published
- strong connection to New York
- full documentation
- thorough research in reliable sources
- meticulous analysis
- authors who are open to the review and editing process

Things that are nice to see in an initial draft:

- overall length that can fit in a single issue (approximately twelve pages [7200 words])
- robust historical context
- coverage of ethnicities and religious groups other than those frequently addressed
- well-organized and carefully written narratives
- use of RECORD template and styles

Dos and Don'ts

When compiling a genealogy

- use facts as the basis of your story
- do not recite facts found in records without distilling and analyzing them
- study history and consider how it impacted the family
- treat all members of the family equally
- provide an introduction and conclusion, perhaps using a theme related to history
- pay attention to the numbering system and accurately number individuals and generations

When writing a case study

- include a clear statement of the problem in the opening paragraph, along with a brief statement of the resolution
- identify previous publications that touch on the problem
- do not recount the search, but explain the evidence in a logical progression that builds piece by piece toward the conclusion
- do not include every bit of information found during the search
- be selective, using only pieces of evidence that contribute to the solution
- do not ignore conflicts or contradictions
- summarize and restate the conclusion at the end of the article
- include a genealogical summary, lineage, or chart if it will assist readers

When preparing a record transcription or abstract

- contact the editor to propose the idea before moving forward
- include introductory material explaining the record, its provenance, and its importance to readers
- adhere to recommendations for transcribing and abstracting in Mary McCampbell Bell, "Transcripts and Abstracts," in *Professional Genealogy: A Manual for Researchers, Writers, Editors, Lecturers, and Librarians*, ed. by Elizabeth Shown Mills (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 2001), 291–326.

Links

General overview of THE RECORD, including tips for searching and accessing issues:

<https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/publications/record>

Guidelines for writing for THE RECORD:

<https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/writing-record>

RECORD Map Search (beta):

<https://labs.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/record-map-search>

Sample agreement letter:

[https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/sites/default/files/sample letter.pdf](https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/sites/default/files/sample%20letter.pdf)

Recent Examples

TRANSCRIPTIONS AND ABSTRACTS

Devine, Donn. “DeRevere–Goetschius Family Record, 1839–1885.” RECORD 150 (2019): 44–45.

Rowe, Chip. “Putnam County, New York, Clerk Receipt Book, 1821–1827.” RECORD 149 (2018): 100–105, 232–34, 307–12.

COMPILED GENEALOGIES

Julian, Amanda Wright. “Four Generations from Matthew Edward Thompson (1702–1785) of Woodford, Essex, England, and Ulster County, New York.” RECORD 150 (2019): 87–100, 196–208.

Macy, Harry, Jr., and Renee L. Dauven. “Origin of the Amerman and Terhune Families, and Their Founding Mother Geertje Dircks.” RECORD 148 (2017): 85–110, 215–25, 294–303, and 149 (2018): 64–76, 106–22.

SOLUTIONS TO GENEALOGICAL PROBLEMS

Cross, Denise Engelhardt. “Identifying Samuel Fletcher (1758–1826) of South Hero, Vermont, and Westville, New York.” RECORD 150 (2019): 245–69, and 151 (2020): 47–50.

Rudy, Michael, and Harry Macy Jr. “The Hendricks-Burger Parentage of Catharina Davids, and Her Four Marriages.” RECORD 150 (2019): 278–84.

Shiel, Jeanette. “The Man Who Lived as Marcus Folderman (1849–1922): Identifying the Origin of a German Immigrant to Rensselaer County, New York.” RECORD 151 (2020): 5–18.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Anderson, Pam Pracser. “Hugh Dugan (1826–1885) of Ireland, Pennsylvania, and Owego, Tioga County, New York.” RECORD 151 (2020): 189–201, 304–11.

Hobbs, Patricia Lee. “Chloe (Foster) (Kately/Cately) Wells (1788–1869) of Leyden, Massachusetts, and Cortland County, New York.” RECORD 149 (2018): 39–49, 123–30, 221–31.

Schumacker, Meryl. “The Bengali and English Ancestry of New York City Immigrant Thomas Chapman (1777–1862).” RECORD 150 (2019): 162–82, 297–301.