

NYG&B

NEW YORK Researcher

NEW YORK GENEALOGICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY | VOLUME 32, NUMBER 2 | SUMMER 2021

Agricultural Education in New York: Farmingdale's Class of 1919

PAGE 33





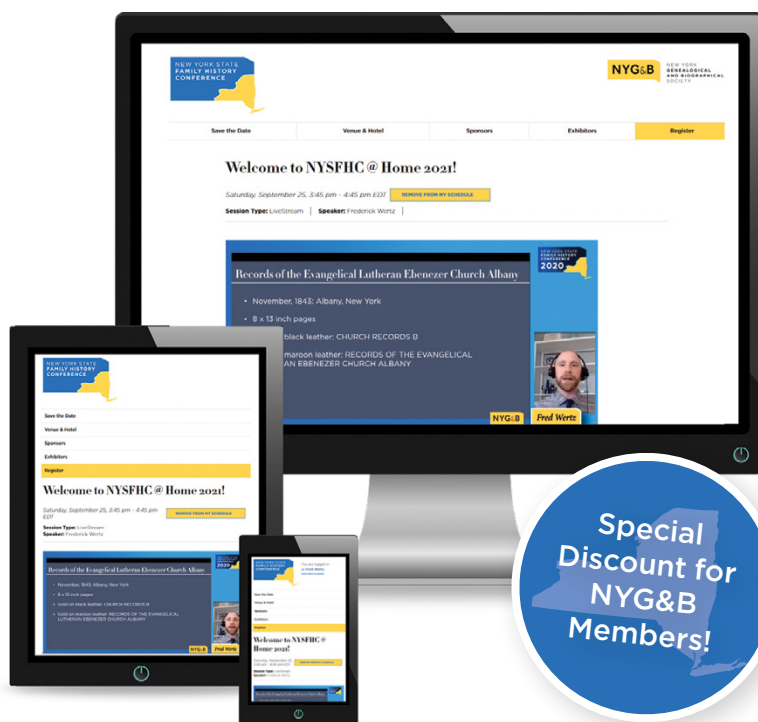
The New York State Family History Conference is back **this September!**

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Learn about the full program and register at nygbs.org/nysfhc



Dear Friends,

This year the glow of summer brings new opportunities for many. As we reconnect with places and people, we also continue connecting to our past. This issue of the *New York Researcher* spotlights the first graduating class of Farmingdale State College, dives into the *New York City Record*, explores resources for Oswego County, and offers insights on the upcoming release of the 1950 federal census from the Honorable David Ferriero, Archivist of the United States.

A unique digital supplement provides a glimpse of NYSFHC@Home 2021 and a brief guide to vital records and repositories in New York. We have also been able to extend digital access to this issue to all members of our community—and we hope you will take a few moments to read and learn more about all that the NYG&B has to offer.

Spring found the NYG&B speedily moving forward. A few months ago, the New York Land Records Indexing Project with FamilySearch reached more than 30 million entries. We are grateful for the time spent by hundreds of volunteers and look forward to the project's progression. A new publication, *Immigration to New York in the English/British Colonial Period*, by Anne Sibert Buiter is now available to order on our website. The work provides an overview for those tracing various groups who came to colonial New York, such as the English, Scottish, Irish, Palatine, French Huguenot, Quaker, and Moravian immigrants, and is the third title stemming from the author's exploration of immigration to New York. More online records, including transcriptions from the American Bible Society collections, periodicals, and local histories, are also newly available in our online collections.

The NYG&B Board of Trustees, who carefully steward our organization, recently elected new officers. After five years of service, Iain Bruce retired as Chairman. Iain is a remarkable leader, who guided us through a strategic planning process, expansions in programs and services, and our sesquicentennial during his tenure. We are grateful to him for his time

and dedication to the organization. William Hallett, who previously served as our Treasurer, was unanimously elected Chairman. Mr. Hallett has a sincere interest in family history and the NYG&B's mission. He shares some thoughts with us beginning on page 53. Other officers elected were Kathleen Hill Tesluk, Vice-Chairman; Sharon W. Vaino, Secretary; and Lorraine D. Bell, Treasurer. Robert S. Robeson, a longtime NYG&B member, and Trustee retired from the Board. Mr. Robeson played a critical role in the organization's transition more than ten years ago, and we are appreciative of the knowledge and insight he contributed to the NYG&B.

We appreciate each member of our community (near and far) and look forward to being a part of your discoveries. Our physical offices will re-open in September. We are eager to renew in-person activities (such as the Research in Albany Tour) and continue to engage in an increasing number of online programs and services. Our community spans every U.S. state and several countries, with new faces joining each day. Please watch your email inbox for a few exciting updates from us over the next several months as we formalize our abilities to offer incredible resources for our members regardless of their residence.

Thank you for your support,



D. Joshua Taylor

NEW YORK RESEARCHER | VOLUME 32, NUMBER 2 | SUMMER 2021

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.

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ON THE COVER

A modern urban farm at the Brooklyn Grange Rooftop Farms, Long Island City, New York (photo courtesy of Justin, CC 2.0). The earliest inhabitants of Long Island discovered that the soil and climate produced reliable crop yields and supported a variety of plants and uses. In 1903, the U.S. Field Operations of the Bureau of Soils published a *Soil Survey of the Long Island Area, New York* which listed ten distinct types of soil in Nassau County alone, adding that "In the early days grain crops, cattle, sheep, dairy products, firewood, and timber constituted the chief farm products of Long Island." In the late-1800s, arable land declined rapidly due to development and the invention of refrigerated shipping. The *Survey* records that "In 1885 Long Island furnished 1,661,260 gallons of milk and cream to New York City...and in 1899, 3,890 gallons." Nonetheless, Long Island farmers persisted and the New York State School of Agriculture on Long Island (now Farmingdale State College) was established in Farmingdale in 1912. Long Islanders today celebrate their local farms, orchards, fields of bloom, and vineyards from Brooklyn to Montauk and Long Island's wineries have been recognized as one of the most exciting viticultural regions in the United States.

Coming Home to Campus:

A Celebration of Farmingdale State College's Class of 1919

By April Lynne Earle, MLS, MA

The 2018–19 academic year proved to be one of great anticipation at Long Island's Farmingdale State College (FSC); with its Centennial Commencement—April 2, 1919 having been the first graduation. This article explores the connections to the first graduating class's descendants, including its first woman graduate. The College Archives materials greatly enhanced FSC staff's Centennial celebration preparations as they contain so much more than yearbooks. They can hold a plethora of resources of genealogical value and bring to light the character of your ancestor as a student.

Farmingdale's History

Chartered in April 1912, Farmingdale State College began strictly as an agricultural institution and has been known by many names in its long history (see following page).

Through much of its existence students at this two-year institution earned associate degrees and certificates in agricultural studies and technologies such as aviation, advertising art and design, and construction technology. They were good, solid, affordable programs that provided one with the skills necessary to achieve financial stability in Long Island's ever-evolving economy. Today, Farmingdale's 10,000 students attend a four-year institution within the State University of New York (SUNY) system offering degrees in a wide array of fields.

The Class of 1919

A college's reputation is built upon the success of its graduates. Graduates make their mark in the world, reflecting on the institution from which they received their education. The centennial's approach piqued curiosity as to what became of the first graduating class. Through

Watch "The Collaboration between the Baron de Hirsch Society and the State Institute of Applied Agriculture" on July 7 (nygbs.org/events) or on-demand (nygbs.org/webinars).

genealogical research (especially in the World War I Draft Registration Cards), the astounding diversity of Farmingdale's graduates came to light. The first class consisted of fourteen men and one woman; and

included eight first-generation Americans, an immigrant from Tacubaya, Mexico, several Jewish students, veterans, and a man who was born deaf. They came from vastly different backgrounds and went on to live incredibly varied lives. Nine were native New Yorkers. Other members of the class were born in Delaware, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. Among the eight students who were first-generation Americans, their parents were from Holland, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Russia, and the Bohemia region of what is now the Czech Republic. The diversity of these students underscores inclusion; something the College still strives for and takes pride in achieving.

The Female Graduate[s]

The only female graduate in the class of 1919 was Miss Kathryn "Kate" Freeman. By all accounts, Kate was a gentle force to be reckoned with. She was fiercely



independent and lived a life unlike that of her contemporaries. After graduating she went on to work on a ranch in Montana. During the Great Depression she secured herself an apartment on Fifth Avenue in Manhattan. She never married, nor had any children, however she had a great love for her extended family and the world around her. Kathryn taught her nieces and nephews to fish and grow plants. However, she was not the only woman to attend Farmingdale in her time.

Every March, FSC Student Government Association celebrates Women's History Month by awarding the Phenomenal Womyn's Award. In 2019 the College renamed the award The Kathryn Freeman Phenomenal Womyn's Award, to honor the only female member of the first graduating class.

After Graduation

Some of the graduates, of course, pursued careers in agriculture. Other graduates went on to prosper in fields such as real estate, flour distribution, aircraft maintenance, and pharmaceutical manufacturing. All of this is evidenced by records they left behind that are now digitized and available online through genealogical websites such as *Ancestry* and *FamilySearch*. For some, obituaries are available online describing their individual characters in much more detail. Some appear to have struggled financially or through relationships. Some were happily married. Many had children; some did not. Regardless of the existence of progeny, though, these individuals left indelible marks on their family members. With the use of online family trees, eight of the graduates' families



Graduates of the Class of 1919

Albert William Berg (Mar. 23, 1900–Aug. 16, 1988)
 Albert Henry Bullard Jr. (Jun. 19, 1897–Jun. 14, 1941)
 Bernard Benjamin Cavallaro (Aug. 12, 1896–May 17, 1988)
 Walter B. Eidt (Oct. 9, 1897–Apr. 1981)
 Kathryn Freeman (Nov. 23, 1898–Apr. 23, 1984)
 Abraham Ginsberg (Sept. 2, 1895–Sept. 1986)
 Carl Henry Glaesel (Jan. 13, 1901–May 1975)
 Joseph Anthony Horak (Feb. 27, 1895–Apr. 24, 1984)
 Scott Putney Hutchins (Jun. 16, 1897–Dec. 7, 1949)
 Alfred John Kemna (Oct. 14, 1897–Dec. 5, 1988)
 John Nicolais (Jun. 20, 1897–Mar. 1987)
 Harry Heron Johnson Shoup (Jul. 10, 1899–Jun. 1975)
 Bradford Kenneth Southard (Jan. 9, 1898–Aug. 12, 1991)
 Milton Baruch Spiegel (Jun. 30, 1897–Jul. 1, 1952)
 Alphonse Castro Tello (Sept. 19, 1899–abt. 1950)

Read biographies of the 1919 graduates at farmingdale.edu/library/college-archives/1919/index.shtml

were identified. Five of those families made it back to campus to celebrate their relative's connection to the College in a wide variety of centennial graduation events.

The class maintained strong associations with one another and the college after graduation. Bradford Southard and Albert Berg remained close friends well after graduation, and Southard's daughter was instrumental in locating and communicating with Berg's son. Walter Eidt organized the first alumni group. When the College celebrated its 50th graduation in May 1969, eight members of the class of 1919 attended the graduation.

Descendants on Campus

The building shown in the photos on the following page was erected in 1914 as a dormitory and would have been the building in which many members of the class of 1919 resided while attending classes. It was known as "Dorm 1" until 1962 when it was renamed for another phenomenal woman from Farmingdale's past, Ms. Hilda Ward, class of 1920. Ward Hall now houses offices for Institutional Research, Development and Alumni Engagement, Academic Support and Access, and the faculty and professional staff union, known as United University Professionals.

On Monday, May 20, 2019, the evening prior to the centennial graduation, a dinner was held for the descendants and relations of the class of 1919. The attendees included Jane Southard-Horowitz, the daughter of the 1919 valedictorian, Bradford Southard; Joseph Cavallaro and Chris Milmerstad, the nephew and great-nephew of graduate Benjamin Cavallaro; Alfonso Tello Jr., son of graduate Alphonse Tello;

Farmingdale State College has been known by many names in its long history:

New York State School of Agriculture on Long Island, 1912–1920

New York State School of Applied Agriculture on Long Island, 1920–1924

State Institute of Applied Agriculture, 1924–1939

State Institute of Agriculture, 1939–1946

Long Island Agricultural and Technical Institute, 1946–1953

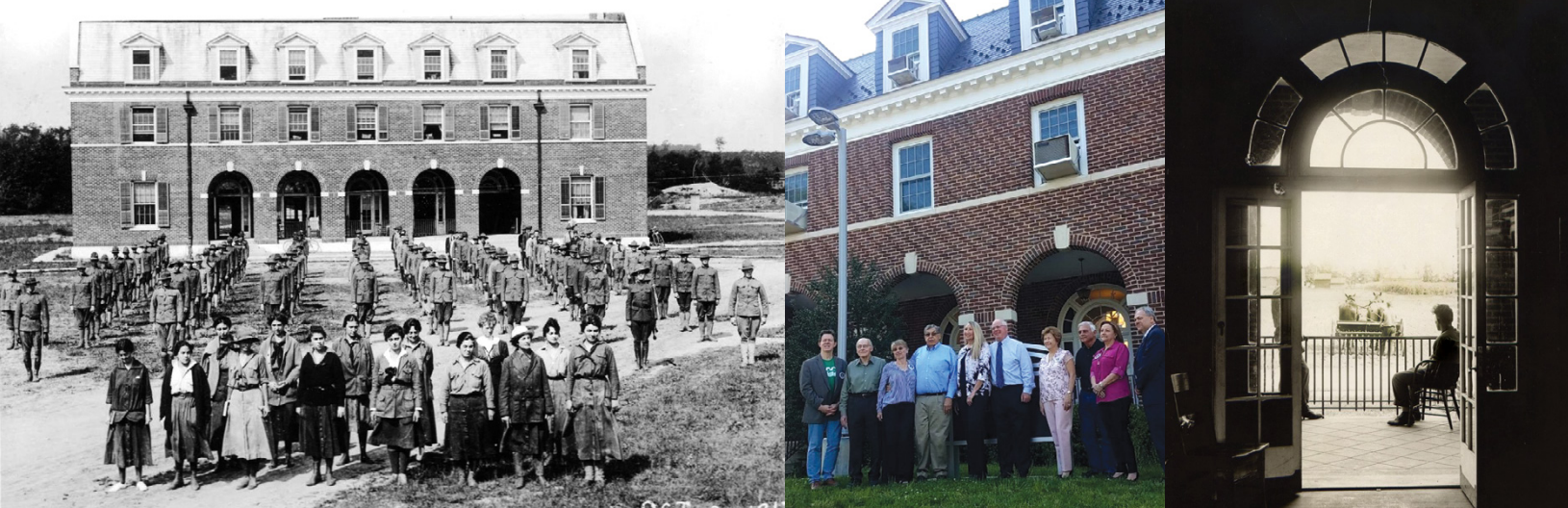
SUNY Long Island Agricultural and Technical Institute at Farmingdale, 1953–1966

Agricultural and Technical College at Farmingdale, 1966–1987

SUNY College of Technology at Farmingdale, 1987–1993

SUNY Farmingdale, 1993–2006

Farmingdale State College, 2006–present



ABOVE, LEFT: The student body of the New York State School of Agriculture assembled in front of Dorm 1, now known as Ward Hall, on October 3, 1917. Kathryn "Kate" Freeman, the only female graduate in the class of 1919, is the woman in the center of the front row wearing a white shirt and dark belted jacket (identified by Jim Platz, her great nephew). Other women of the class surround her in the photograph. (Digital replication of the photo donated to FSC Archives by Martin Southard and Jane Southard-Horowitz in memory of their father, Bradford Southard who was valedictorian of the class of 1919.) **CENTER:** Descendants and relations of the class of 1919 in front of Ward hall in 2019. **RIGHT:** A student sits on the porch of Ward Hall, watching on as another student prepares the land for planting, ca. 1920 (FSC Archives).

Margaret Lee Williams, the great-great-niece of graduate Kathryn Freeman; as well as some of their spouses, travel companions, College President John S. Nader, and select members of the FSC community; fifteen people in all.

The special guests dined in what is now called the Great Room of Ward Hall, which originally served as the dining hall of Dorm 1. Unbeknownst to the descendants, this building served as home to their relatives over 100 years ago. Once it was announced to them the role this building had once filled, the mood of the gathering changed. Their eyes widened, silence overcame the room, and they began to look with great attention to the details around them. "You mean they lived in here?" asked Joseph Cavallaro, the nephew of graduate Bernard "Benny" Cavallaro. "Yes, this was home."

After dinner several of the attendees walked to see the teaching gardens which are a product of FSC's Urban Horticulture program and the last bastion of its agricultural roots. Along the way they passed the original academic buildings in which the first classes were held. Now condemned, Hicks Hall and Cutler Hall were constructed in 1914 and were originally called the Horticulture Building and the Agronomy Building respectively. It was in this location that the descendants' once again grew solemn and their discussions diminished. A profound sense of respect and reverence was exhibited in the walk back to Ward Hall as each of us became very aware of the fact that this was likely the exact path the graduates of the first class strode every day of their studies at Farmingdale. This was their way home and now their descendants, one-hundred years later, were walking in their footsteps.

In the College Archives

Descendants Dinner attendees were also invited to the Barbara Legname Conference Room in the Thomas D. Greenley Library to view a display of archival materials from the College's early years. The display included the 1919 yearbook; photos of students and the campus in the early 1900s; several editions of the student publication, *The Furrow*; and the College's original guest registration book in which many of the first graduates and their family members signed.

The Farmingdale State College Archives is housed in Greenley Library and is accessible by appointment, however email reference service is available. In addition to the aforementioned resources, the College Archives contains many other resources that may yield genealogical value and insight into the character of your ancestor as a student. These resources include but are not limited to:

- **Alumni Directories:** Periodically printed lists of alumni addresses and phone numbers that often include the names of their spouses and children.
- **College Catalogs:** Describing the courses offered from 1916 to present.
- **College Histories:** Mainly written by staff in the mid-1940s, these include department histories.
- **Commencement Programs:** Listing graduates of each class from 1919 to present.
- **Departmental Publications:** Including bulletins, programs, and special publications.
- **Minutes of the Board (1916-1920s):** In addition to general college business, these early Minutes of the College Board include student discipline reports as well as student awards and recognition.

– **Photographs:** Dating from the beginning of the campus construction in 1914. The collection includes pictures of buildings, student activities, sports, etc. Also includes a large collection of proofs with negatives 1948–1952 and a large collection of slides from the 1960s to 1980s.

– **Student Handbooks:** Also called Freshman Handbooks and Freshman Manuals, these guides outlined the rules, regulations, and standard practices of the student body.

– **Student Publications:** Newspapers, newsletters, and miscellaneous publications, including:

- *Rambler* (1948–present)
- *Aggazette* (1929–1947)
- *Furrow* (1916–1922)
- *Alumnus* (1970s)
- *The Wash* (campus news items, 1941–1945)
- *The Talk* (campus news items, 1947–1948)
- *Over the Fence* (1941)
- *Institute Newsletter* (1957–1970s)
- *Campus Times* (1981–present)

In these unique resources one can learn what life was like for a student while attending the institution. They provide descriptions of the learning experiences and events held on campus. Frequently students are mentioned by name whether it is to praise them for their academic accomplishments in the student newspaper, admonish them for disciplinary problems in faculty minutes, or note their career successes and life events in alumni newsletters. For example, the Faculty Minutes of April 19, 1916 mention the faculty's effort to find employment for Alphonse Tello at the local business known as Hicks Nursery; the fist-to-cuffs that took place between Harry Shoup and fellow student "Mr. Sobel" are recounted in great detail in the Faculty Minutes of March 8, 1917; and Benjamin Cavallaro was highlighted in the 1939 yearbook as an example of a student who went on to become a successful poultryman on Long Island. Resources like these can add details to your ancestor's life and may further your research.



DATE	NAME	ADDRESS
1919 April 2	Agnes Horak	475 Jamaica Ave., L.I.C.
" "	Shirley Harrison	230-11th Ave. L.I.C.
" "	Ruth Friel	204-11th Ave. L.I.C.
" "	Edith Harrison	230-11th Ave. L.I.C.
" "	Marjorie Horak	475 Jamaica Ave., L.I.C.
" "	A. Frazer	" "
" "	Benjamin Cavallaro	77 W. 10th Ave. Hartford, Ct.
" "	S. C. Anderson	Longmont, N.Y.

TOP: A. Frazer and Kathryn Freeman (of the class of 1919, on tractor) farming for the war effort with Hicks and Cutler Hall in the background. This image appeared in "Women Mobilize to Produce Food," *Buffalo Courier Sun*, April 22, 1917 (Newspapers.com). BOTTOM: Entries into the original guestbook on graduation day, April 2, 1919. Some of the names that appear here are most likely relatives of graduate Joseph Horak and graduate Scott Hutchins (FSC Archives).

Conclusion

At every opportunity the College made an effort to welcome the descendants and relatives of the class of 1919 to its Centennial Graduation events. It was of great importance to acknowledge their presence and to demonstrate the respect the College has for the foundation their ancestors laid and upon which the institution has built its reputation. The experiences of the centennial events helped to make the history of the college tangible to the descendants of the class as well as to the present day FSC community.

The centennial demonstrated the campus is a home; not just a place that one lives during their studies, a place you can return to, and where an individual's significance is recognized, acknowledged, and celebrated.

For those who have relatives and ancestors who attended Farmingdale, or any institution of higher learning, consider exploring the resources held by the institution's archives. There you can learn so much more about what your family member's life was like during their education and you can give the institution the very valuable knowledge of what became of their student. It is my sincere hope that one side effect of celebrating the centennial graduation with the descendants of the class of 1919 was that the present day students and recent graduates witnessed this attention and felt that they too would be remembered and appreciated for years to come.

Learn More

Farmingdale State College, Greenley Library College Archives, farmingdale.edu/library/college-archives/index.shtml

Read biographies of the 1919 graduates at farmingdale.edu/library/college-archives/1919/index.shtml

Watch a presentation by Ms. Earle about her research into the class of 1919, bit.ly/FSC-Finding-the-Class-of-1919



April Lynne Earle is a member of the Library Faculty at Farmingdale State College, State University of New York (SUNY). She received both her Masters in Library Science and Masters in Public History from St. John's University where she now teaches in their Division of Library and Information Science; specifically, a course in Genealogical Sources & Services. With more than 30 years of experience researching her own family history, she is passionate about introducing others to their ancestors.

The 1950 Federal Census

The United States government, under current law, releases the federal censuses after 72 years. Therefore next April 1, the 1950 United States census will be publicly available.¹ **The Honorable David Ferriero, Archivist of the United States**, answered a few questions about the 1950 census for us.

What does NARA call it?

Officially, the title for the record series commonly known as the 1950 United States Census will be “Population Schedules for the 1950 Census, 1950–1950.”

What information can I find on the 1950 census?

The 1950 census included the common questions census researchers have come to expect such as name, gender, age, relation to head of household, place of birth, etc. More information about the 1950 census can be found on the Census Bureau website, including an overview of the 1950 census, and the 1950 Population and Housing questions. For a more in-depth history of the census, please see *Measuring America: The Decennial Censuses From 1790–2000*.

Leveraging NARA’s various social media platforms, NARA will share information about the 1950 census, the Native American Census, associated administrative records, and preparations for the digital release. NARA has provided information in the *AOTUS blog*,



“Advertising Campaign for the 1950 United States Census, 17th Decennial Census, 1950” (U.S. National Archives, RG29: Records of the Bureau of the Census, 1790–2007, catalog.archives.gov/id/195980247).

“Preparing for the 1950 Census,” as well as the Office of Research Services’ blog, *The Text Message*, “Counting Down Until the Release of the 1950 Census!”

In addition to following NARA’s social media platforms, we encourage you to join our new Census Community on *History Hub* for tips and information to help you with your census research and get a jumpstart on planning your 1950 census research strategies. *History Hub* will also feature interest-

ing and informative blog posts written by NARA’s Census Subject Matter Experts (SMEs), including a series entitled “Census Fun Facts” and a recently launched new series specifically about the 1950 census.

What are some of the differences between the 1950 census and previous census years?

The 1950 census will include approximately 34,000 pages of Native American census records. Users will be able to search for these records by reservation name.

U.S. Census Bureau and National Archive Resources for Researchers

U.S. Census Bureau

1950 Overview

census.gov/history/www/through_the_decades/overview/1950.html

1950 Population Questionnaire

census.gov/history/www/through_the_decades/index_of_questions/1950_population.html

Measuring America: The Decennial Censuses From 1790–2000

www2.census.gov/library/publications/2002/dec/pol_02-ma.pdf

National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)

AOTUS Blog, Preparing for the 1950 Census

aotus.blogs.archives.gov/2021/03/24/preparing-for-the-1950-census/

The Text Message, Counting Down Until the Release of the 1950 Census!

text-message.blogs.archives.gov/2021/04/01/counting-down-until-the-release-of-the-1950-census/

Resources for Genealogists > Search Census Records Online archives.gov/research/genealogy/census/online-resources

History Hub > Community > Genealogy > Census Records

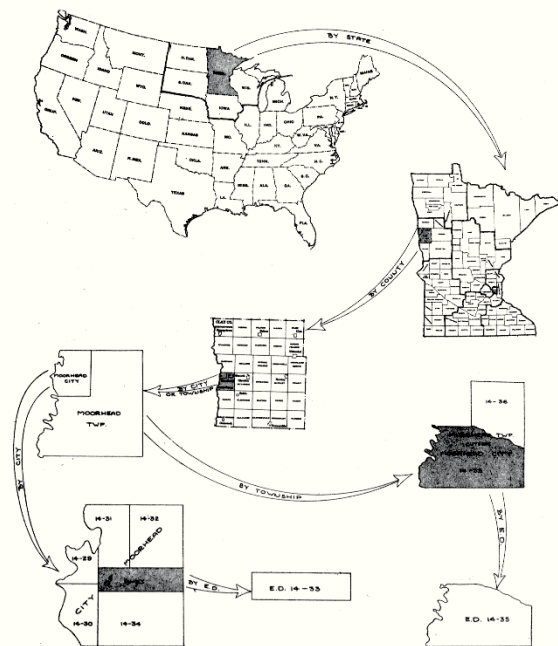
historyhub.history.gov/community/genealogy/census-records

History Hub, 20 Tips for Census Research Success

historyhub.history.gov/community/genealogy/census-records/blog/2020/12/22/20-tips-for-census-research-success

Social Media and Digital Engagement www.archives.gov/social-media

Figure 3

1950 CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES
GEOGRAPHICAL DIVISIONS FOR THE CENSUSU. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
JANUARY 1950

"Geographical Divisions for the Census, Technical Training Program—1950 Census," Flow Charts, 17th Decennial Census, 1950. (U.S. National Archives, RG29: Records of the Bureau of the Census, 1790–2007, catalog.archives.gov/id/195980236).

How will I be able to access the 1950 census? What will it cost?

NARA is developing a web platform to provide digitized records from the 1950 census to the public for free.

Will the 1950 census be indexed?

The 1950 census will be indexed by state, county, and enumeration district (ED), and in the case of the Native American census records, also by reservation. NARA is also exploring ways to provide person names, which are the most common searches for family historians and researchers.

What excites you and your team at NARA about the 1950 census?

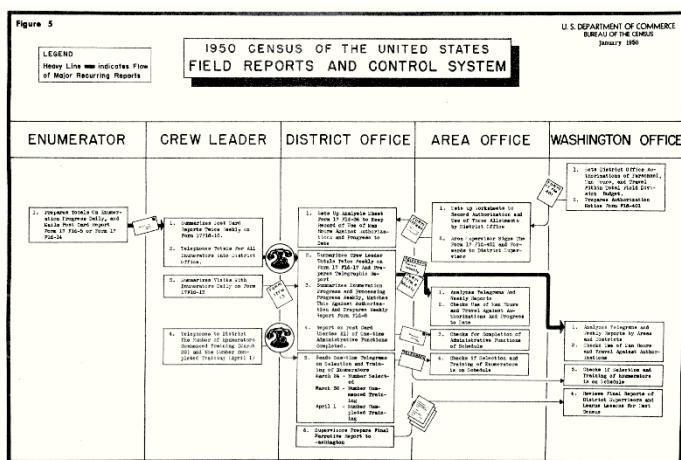
NARA is exploring possibilities for providing bulk downloads of the 1950 census for those who would like to work with the data as a whole or in large chunks, for digital humanities and other purposes. In addition, by leveraging current technology, the website will be optimized for smartphone and tablet users and incorporate an image viewer that utilizes the International Image Interoperability Framework (IIIF) to provide fast, rich, zoom, and pan delivery of 1950 census images.

What states and territories were covered in the 1950 census? Were Americans living outside the United States included?

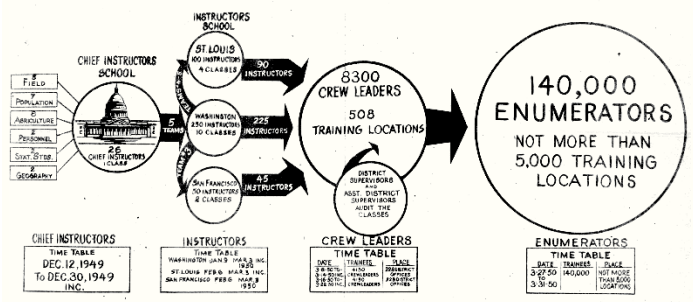
The 1950 census includes returns from the 48 states that existed at the time as well as multiple territories such as Alaska and Hawaii. The Census Bureau worked with the Departments of Defense and State and other federal agencies to collect information on the many Americans overseas who were serving in the military and as civilians as well as their families.

What steps do you recommend researchers take to get ready for the release?

While you wait for the 1950 census release, we encourage you to browse our online resources. Visit the census Community on *History Hub* to ask questions, find answers, and learn more about previously released census schedules. Review "20 Tips for Census Research," and for more information about census records at the National Archives, see our Census Records web pages.



TECHNICAL TRAINING PROGRAM-1950 CENSUS



Two process flow charts from the "Technical Training Program—1950 Census," Flow Charts, 17th Decennial Census, 1950. (U.S. National Archives, RG29: Records of the Bureau of the Census, 1790–2007, catalog.archives.gov/id/195980236).

Endnotes

- 1 "A bill to amend chapter 21 of title 44, United States Code, to include new provisions relating to the acceptance and use of records transferred to the custody of the Administrator of General Services." Public Law 95-416, (congress.gov/bills/95th-congress/senate-bill/1265/text/pl, accessed 10 May 2021). Also known as the "72-year Rule," census.gov/history/pdf/NARA_Legislation.pdf, accessed 6 April 2021).

The Treasure Trove in the *City Record*

By Jonathan Soffer, PhD, JD

The *New York City Record*, New York’s version of the *Federal Register*, is a treasure trove of information about the city and about individuals relevant to genealogical inquiry. Nearly all of the issues published between 1873 and 1947, about 800,000 pages of material, are available to the public at cityrecord.engineering.nyu.edu, searchable by keyword or date, or browseable by issue.

Types of Information

What kind of information can you find about your family in the *City Record*? If they ever contracted or received a payment from the City of New York, that is probably going to come up. Employment records were also public, so if they were hired for a city job, or were disciplined as a police officer or firefighter, that information may be there too. But there are stories and background as well as data in the *City Record*. Suits and claims against the city may tell stories of the dramatic injuries or deaths of individuals.

Reports of city departments may involve their workplaces, streets, or homes. The Board of Health reported weekly on mortality, including very specific weekly statistics on cause of death. You might find out that your ancestor had a permit to sell milk. Public administrator reports can tell you the occupation and wealth of an ancestor who died intestate. Many years include assessment and property records, so that if you have an address you can see the value of their houses, and even learn how their neighborhood developed. There are election results down to the precinct level, revealing the political environment that your ancestor lived in.

Narrative Reports

Sometimes there are lengthy narratives buried in government reports. One extraordinary document in the *City Record* is the 43-page Department of Health “Report for the Year Ending 1898.” Published in 1900, this was the first report of the Department of Health for the newly consolidated City of New York that incorporated the five boroughs—Manhattan, Kings,

Queens, the Bronx, and Staten Island that we know today. They did a comprehensive study of death in New York during the last quarter of the nineteenth century (cityrecord.engineering.nyu.edu/data/1900/1900-02-21.pdf).¹

At the beginning of the report, the Board trumpeted their success in handling the death of former New York Sanitation Commissioner George E. Waring, famous for revolutionizing the city’s street cleaning during a reform administration in the 1890s. The Board was justly proud of its modern high-tech methods for the detection, reporting, and quarantine and disinfection to prevent the spread of contagious diseases.

Waring came down with symptoms of yellow fever after a trip to Havana, where he had gone to advise the new American-dominated Cuban government on sanitation just after the 1898 Spanish–American War. This was just two years before Col. Walter Reed confirmed the theory of Cuban physician Carlos Finlay that yellow fever spread by the *aedes aegypti* mosquito, rather than by human-to-human contact.²

Board officials rapidly determined that Waring, whose symptoms did not present until two days after his arrival, had caught the disease in Havana, and that it had not spread to any of the passengers on the ship *Yucatan* on which he had been traveling. Nevertheless, it was not yet proven that the disease could not spread between people. The authorities proudly “applied the knowledge acquired by experience” of human-to-human transmission of the disease, but allowed Waring to die at home, rather than whisking him off to a municipal quarantine hospital.

Detail of a table from the “Report on Typhus Fever in New York in 1892, Supplement B,” *The City Record*, Vol. XXII, Number 6/307, Feb. 3, 1894, Supplement pages 21–26. The narrative and tables detail the names, ages, nativity, addresses, and other details of all those in the City diagnosed with Typhus.

THE CITY RECORD.											SUPPLEMENT.	
Admission No.	DATE OF ADMISSION.	NAME.	AGE.	SEX.	COLOR.	CIVIL CONDITION.	NATIVITY.	TIME IN UNITED STATES.	OCCUPATION.	RESIDENCE.	RESULT.	
183	Mar. 20	Richard Turfey.....	18	Male.....	White.....	Single.....	United States....	Life	Driver.....	No. 83 Bowery ; Homœopathic Hospital.....	Discharged....	Apr. 28
184	" 23	James Boid.....	32	"	"	"	England	11 years.....	Cook.....	No. 11 Bowery	Died.....	Mar. 25
185	" 24	Fanny Marx.....	40	Female.....	"	"	Russia .....	.....	.....	No. 81 Stanton street ; Mount Sinai Hospital.....	Recovery.....	Apr. 15
186	" 31	Mary Switzer.....	.....	" .....	" .....	" .....	United States....	Life	Nurse	Riverside Hospital.....	Discharged....	" 29
187	" 31	Eliza Thornton.....	.....	" .....	" .....	" .....	Ireland.....	.....	Helper.....	"	Died.....	" 5
188	April 1	Minnie Birkmann.....	16	" .....	" .....	" .....	.....	.....	.....	Mount Sinai Hospital.....	"	" 5
189	" 2	James Brookes.....	25	Male.....	"	"	United States....	Life	Driver.....	Workhouse.....	Discharged....	" 29

Still, they took no chances, sealing off Waring's apartment to all but physicians and health department officials, and disinfecting all the other families in the apartment building. After Waring died, officials placed him in a sealed coffin, conveyed it to an island, incinerated it, and disinfected the entire Waring family and their apartment. Just months before Dr. Walter Reed validated the theory that yellow fever was, in fact, spread by mosquitoes, the department credited their quarantine and more particularly their system of informatics for preventing the potential spread of the disease.³

Every doctor or school nurse in New York who came upon a case of a contagious disease was mandated immediately to fill out a form detailing the circumstances of any contagious disease and was expected to communicate it instantly to the board's 24-hour telephone hot line or by telegraph from the nearest police station. Tenement inspectors gathered data on every tenement shut down by a health department inspection, mostly for plumbing violations, especially defective drainage or the failure to provide one toilet for every fifteen people in the building, as required by law.⁴

Waring was a famous New Yorker and an

What is the City Record?

To inform the public of legal notices from city agencies, New York City began publishing the *City Record* June 14, 1873. Entries include notices of proposed and adopted rules, awards and solicitations for procurement, hearings, public auctions, and other important items. Also titled *The City Record: Official Journal, and Official Journal of the City of New York*, the city currently publishes the *City Record* daily except Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays.

What is the Federal Register?

The *Federal Register* provides notices of rules and proposed rules from federal agencies alongside executive orders and other documents from the President and notices of hearings, investigations, and other items. Since 1936, it has been published weekdays (except federal holidays) by the National Archives and is the official journal of the United States government. To learn more, see [loc.gov/collections/federal-register/about-this-collection](https://www.loc.gov/collections/federal-register/about-this-collection).

extraordinary case. But thousands of ordinary New Yorkers have left traces in the *City Record*, and you can find them at cityrecord.engineering.nyu.edu.

Using the Website

The website is simple to use and the searches are faster when first choosing a decade and then inputting a search term. Results can be sorted

by relevance or date. When you click on a result the relevant PDF will download. If the browser is set to open PDFs automatically in Preview, if so, the first page with the search term appears. The PDFs encompass an entire volume, but the load time is worth the wait!



Jonathan Soffer, PhD, JD, is Professor of History at NYU Tandon School of Engineering, and author of *Ed Koch and the Rebuilding of New York* (Columbia University Press, 2010). He is currently studying how Tammany Hall spent the city's money in the late nineteenth century.

Endnotes

- 1 Department of Health—City of New York, "Annual Number of Deaths from Prominent Causes for Thirty Years," *City Record*, vol. 28 (Feb. 21, 1900), 1235–7.
- 2 Department of Health—City of New York, "Contagious and Infections Diseases: Yellow Fever," *City Record*, vol. 28 (Feb. 21, 1900), 1197–8.
- 3 Department of Health—City of New York, "Contagious and Infections Diseases: Yellow Fever," *City Record*, vol. 28 (Feb. 21, 1900), 1197–8.
- 4 Department of Health—City of New York, "Report of Contagious Disease," *City Record*, vol. 28 (Feb. 21, 1900), 1197–8. [Original citation 1205-6.]

Birth, marriage, and death summary tables from the Supplement to the *City Record*, Vol. XXII, Number 6/307, Feb. 3, 1894. The table at left shows deaths by nationality and cause, with 1,132 Irish nationals and 598 German nationals dying from Phthisis (Tuberculosis) in 1892. Other interesting tables list the age ranges of brides and grooms, former condition of those married (including divorced), and number of births by physicians and midwives, illegitimate, and number of twins.

Actual Deaths by Certain Diseases, According to Nativity of Deceased, of Parents of Deceased, and Color, for the Year 1892.

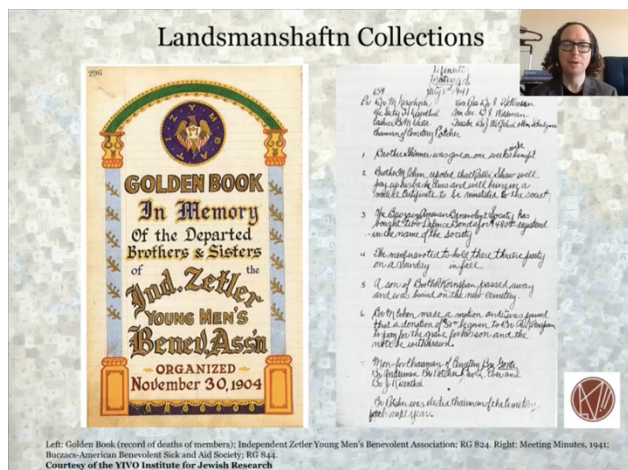
CAUSE OF DEATHS, AND DEATHS IN INSTITUTIONS.	PLACE OF BIRTH OF DECEASED.															PLACE OF BIRTH OF PARENTS OF DECEASED.															Total.	Colored.	
	Austro-Hungary.	Bohemia.	British America.	England.	France.	Germany.	Ireland.	Italy.	Poland.	Russia.	Scotland.	Switzerland.	United States.	Other Nationalities.	Unknown Nationality.	Austro-Hungary.	Bohemia.	British America.	England.	France.	Germany.	Ireland.	Italy.	Poland.	Russia.	Scotland.	Switzerland.	United States.	Other Nationalities.	Mixed Nationalities.			Unknown Nationality.
Total—All causes.....	368	248	201	825	252	4,373	6,740	795	114	745	272	147	27,513	721	1,015	965	533	127	878	291	7,628	11,569	2,423	263	1,678	392	165	7,898	1,031	5,316	3,122	44,329	845
Diphtheria.....	4	1	1	12	2	22	9	10	2	15	2	..	1,307	13	34	33	14	1	12	8	250	201	62	7	65	15	5	359	39	306	58	1,436	6
Measles.....	4	2	..	1	1	25	5	21	7	31	..	..	672	15	80	21	7	1	4	6	87	94	95	3	42	3	2	146	11	169	172	864	10
Scarlatina.....	10	2	..	4	1	26	14	8	4	15	4	2	865	12	10	36	15	2	12	3	155	144	30	10	56	6	2	227	21	210	48	977	3
Diarrhoeal diseases.....	10	4	1	12	7	87	181	26	3	18	7	4	3,109	22	111	95	66	3	38	18	565	596	241	39	188	15	8	774	101	646	209	3,602	78
Cancer.....	15	14	8	37	11	273	254	25	2	35	10	8	274	27	3	12	11	5	30	10	280	285	24	2	35	12	8	169	25	33	55	996	15
Insanity.....	5	1	1	12	6	32	53	5	5	8	2	1	96	7	..	3	1	..	10	4	37	60	3	5	6	3	1	41	3	17	40	234	4
Heart diseases.....	43	19	19	66	27	503	529	53	9	61	21	13	293	60	15	38	24	8	68	29	588	726	58	10	66	23	13	355	57	135	133	2,231	55
Phthisis.....	62	54	42	142	49	598	1,132	155	14	129	41	35	2,410	159	11	66	58	21	112	38	946	2,035	175	12	132	53	32	604	150	342	257	5,033	131
Pneumonia.....	40	29	23	107	24	478	975	125	12	92	34	19	3,690	80	113	189	62	12	107	31	847	1,624	494	35	290	57	22	920	157	679	315	5,841	112
Cirrhosis of liver and hepatitis.....	1	4	2	17	5	105	139	9	..	4	2	..	131	11	..	1	4	2	16	4	110	189	10	..	4	1	..	43	11	10	25	430	1
Bright's disease and nephritis.....	22	30	22	88	19	404	736	36	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Old age.....	5	9	5	18	6	108	236	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Alcoholism.....	..	2	7	21	3	42	125	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sunstroke.....	1	5	1	7	3	63	127	5	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Homicide.....	1	1	..	..	1	2	12	4	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Suicide.....	3	6	2	5	3	104	17	3	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Inanition, atrophy, marasmus, etc.....	1	1	..	1	..	1	1	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other causes.....	141	64	67	275	84	1,500	2,195	301	40	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
																Former Condition of Persons Married.																	
																JANUARY.	FEBRUARY.	MARCH.	APRIL.	MAY.	JUNE.	JULY.	AUGUST.	SEPT.									
																Bachelors and spinsters.....	997	1,092	1,099	1,053	1,014	1,306	906	928	1								
																Bachelors and widows.....	62	55	61	76	68	71	80	71									
																Widowers and spinsters.....	67	100	103	112	110	104	93	91									
																Widowers and widows.....	57	65	56	44	68	57	51	57									
																Unknown (one or both).....	7	13	7	..	..	3	11	..									
																Divorced (one or both).....	6	7	8	10	12	11	13	8									

Here are a few of the latest releases for NYG&B members. Happy researching!

CONTENTS (& BINDING) TYPICAL COPY (REFS.: MAPS, CONCORDANCES, PICTURES, NOTES, ETC., ETC.)		NOTES				
<p>Half title page: BROWNS/ Self Interpreting/ BIBLE/ (engraving)/ The opening of the Law./ NEW YORK/ JOHNSON, FRY & COMPANY,/ 27 Beekman St./</p> <p>Verse: Blank.</p> <p>Title page: THE/ SELF-INTERPRETING BIBLE, / CONTAINING/ The Old and New Testaments/ ACCORDING TO/ THE AUTHORIZED VERSION; / WITH/ AN INTRODUCTION; MARGINAL REFERENCES AND ILLUSTRATIONS; A SUMMARY OF THE SEVERAL BOOKS; / AN ANALYSIS OF EACH CHAPTER; A PARAPHRASE AND EVANGELICAL REFLECTIONS UPON/ THE MOST IMPORTANT PASSAGES; AND</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">B. & F. B. S. HIST. CAT. NO. ERA # 1691</p>		<p>NUMEROUS EXPLANATORY NO REV. JOHN BROWN, D.D./ IN WHICH THE TEXT IS NO ELUCIDATED BY UPWARDS O EXPLANATORY AND CRITICA CONCLUDING/ OBSERVATION BY THE REV. HENRY COOKE EMBELLISHED WITH NUMERO FINISHED STEEL ENGRAVIN PAINTINGS BY THE MOST E New York:/ JOHNSON, FRY 27 BEEKMAN STREET./ (o</p> <p>Verse: Blank.</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">#31226 (Johns ABS ACCN NO. # 1775- (dup.)</p>				
<p>IMPRESSION 2(141)-(xvii), 1,] (1) (741), (742-744), (1)-(122 2 (742) (1030)</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">PUBLISHER JOHNSON, FRY AND COMPANY New York</p>		<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <h2 style="margin: 0;">FAMILY RECORD.</h2> </div> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 50%; text-align: center; font-size: small;">BIRTHS.</th> <th style="width: 50%; text-align: center; font-size: small;">BIRTHS.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top; padding: 5px;"> <p><i>William Viatt was born</i> <i>August 9th 1805</i></p> <p><i>Eliza Bowen was born</i> <i>Feby. 8th 1811</i></p> <p><i>William Viatt Jun, was</i> <i>born Thursday March</i> <i>First 1832</i></p> </td> <td style="vertical-align: top; padding: 5px;"> <p><i>Sarah Jane Viatt</i> <i>Was born Monday</i> <i>November 16th 1845</i></p> <p><i>Sarah Submit Viatt</i> <i>was born Sunday morning</i> <i>at 5 O'clock June 4, 1848</i></p> <p><i>Sarah Anthony Viatt was</i> <i>born June 24th 1850</i></p> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	BIRTHS.	BIRTHS.	<p><i>William Viatt was born</i> <i>August 9th 1805</i></p> <p><i>Eliza Bowen was born</i> <i>Feby. 8th 1811</i></p> <p><i>William Viatt Jun, was</i> <i>born Thursday March</i> <i>First 1832</i></p>	<p><i>Sarah Jane Viatt</i> <i>Was born Monday</i> <i>November 16th 1845</i></p> <p><i>Sarah Submit Viatt</i> <i>was born Sunday morning</i> <i>at 5 O'clock June 4, 1848</i></p> <p><i>Sarah Anthony Viatt was</i> <i>born June 24th 1850</i></p>
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indexed the 8,000+ names that were extracted from the bibles. The families who created these records lived all over the United States and in some cases in other countries. Learn more and search the entire collection on the Bible Records from the American Bible Society collection page, nygbs.org/online-records/collection/bible-records-american-bible-society.

BOARDMAN BAPTIST CHURCH 1792-1853			
Contributed by: Joan Szablewski			
Continued from: Volume 2, Number 2, page 67			
Date	Name	Remarks	
(Membership List dated 12.27.1804 and updated subsequently)			
	John Mcleister	dis	
	Seth Pettit	died	
	Seth Pettit Jr	excluded	
	Jonah Goodrich	died	
	Johnathan Clark		
	John Hennemly		
	Smith		
Nathaniel Horswa			
Nathaniel Horswa			
Daniel Dodge			
Henry Baker			
	Isa Mills		
(Anno) Saterly			
Elisha Cotten			
Joseph Collins			
Henry Dye			
Augustus Coon			
Alpheus Lemphere			
James Valentine			
Henry Neff			
Samuel Barber			
Oliver Mills			
Oziel Stone			
John Perkins			
Joseph Pettit			
Elijah Roberts			
Anno Dye			
Stephen Chase			
Joshua Johnson			
Jonathan Fish			
Elijah Sheldon			
Daniel Cargill			
Anno Churchill			
Aaron Hart			
Andrew Cole			
George Briggs			
John Dodson			
Henry Avery			
Benjamin Crabtree			
Levi Abbot			
Jesse Churchill			
RYDER'S CORNERS BAPTIST CHURCH 1803-1844			
Contributed by: Arthur C. M. Kelly			
Continued from: Volume 8, Number 2, Page 50			
Ryder's Corners Baptist Church			
DATE	GROOM	BRIDE	
1804			
12.17	Fier, Thomas	Huntington, Martha	
12.12	Clow, Francis	Van Valkenburgh, Catharine	
1805			
1.25	Van Alstyne, Leonard B.	Brown, Peggy	
1.9	Bartlett, Evert	Devenport, Theodosia	
2.3	Voorhees, Adam	Hewsen, Polly	
3.17	Hill, William	Mills, Ann	
4.21	Wessels, Abram	Wessels, Caty	
5.6	Cornue, Wessels	Van Alstyne, Christina Smith	
7.4	Cornue, Daniel	Brown, Ann	
7.28	Vosburg, Isaac	Mower, Margaret	
7.18	Wessels, Luke	Vosburg, Mrs Elizabeth Vine	
9.29	Leroy, Abraham	Vosburg, Jane	
10.31	Van Alstine, John	Beza, Phoeby	
11.3	Sody, Benjamin	Schuyler, Mary	
11.7	Van Buren, Luke	Vosburg, Jane	
11.17	Wessels, Wesel	Cornue, Sarah	
1806			
1.16	Van Valkenburgh, Richard	Quackenbush, Maria	
2.23	Van Alstine, Solomon	Ten Eyke, Tinney	
2.23	Lane, William	Mills, Amelia	
3.2	James, Thomas	Francis, Jane	
3.16	Bellinger, John	Mitchell, Margaret	
3.20	Rogers, James	Van Alstine, Charity	



Genealogy Resources at the Center for Jewish History

nygbs.org/video/genealogy-resources-center-jewish-history

J.D. Arden, Reference & Genealogy Librarian, presents and overview of the basic genealogy resources specific to the Center for Jewish History (CJH) and research tools that CJH staff and colleagues have created to look through records or material online. The CJH contains is located in the same building as The YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, American Sephardi Federation, American Jewish Historical Society, and the Leo Baeck Institute.

Agatha Christie's 2nd marriage

		1892		1893		1894		1895		1896		1897		1898		1899		1900		1901		1902		1903		1904		1905		1906		1907		1908		1909		1910		1911		1912		1913		1914		1915		1916		1917		1918		1919		1920		1921		1922		1923		1924		1925		1926		1927		1928		1929		1930		1931		1932		1933		1934		1935		1936		1937		1938		1939		1940		1941		1942		1943		1944		1945		1946		1947		1948		1949		1950		1951		1952		1953		1954		1955		1956		1957		1958		1959		1960		1961		1962		1963		1964		1965		1966		1967		1968		1969		1970		1971		1972		1973		1974		1975		1976		1977		1978		1979		1980		1981		1982		1983		1984		1985		1986		1987		1988		1989		1990		1991		1992		1993		1994		1995		1996		1997		1998		1999		2000		2001		2002		2003		2004		2005		2006		2007		2008		2009		2010		2011		2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		2020		2021		2022		2023		2024		2025		2026		2027		2028		2029		2030		2031		2032		2033		2034		2035		2036		2037		2038		2039		2040		2041		2042		2043		2044		2045		2046		2047		2048		2049		2050		2051		2052		2053		2054		2055		2056		2057		2058		2059		2060		2061		2062		2063		2064		2065		2066		2067		2068		2069		2070		2071		2072		2073		2074		2075		2076		2077		2078		2079		2080		2081		2082		2083		2084		2085		2086		2087		2088		2089		2090		2091		2092		2093		2094		2095		2096		2097		2098		2099		2100		2101		2102		2103		2104		2105		2106		2107		2108		2109		2110		2111		2112		2113		2114		2115		2116		2117		2118		2119		2120		2121		2122		2123		2124		2125		2126		2127		2128		2129		2130		2131		2132		2133		2134		2135		2136		2137		2138		2139		2140		2141		2142		2143		2144		2145		2146		2147		2148		2149		2150		2151		2152		2153		2154		2155		2156		2157		2158		2159		2160		2161		2162		2163		2164		2165		2166		2167		2168		2169		2170		2171		2172		2173		2174		2175		2176		2177		2178		2179		2180		2181		2182		2183		2184		2185		2186		2187		2188		2189		2190		2191		2192		2193		2194		2195		2196		2197		2198		2199		2200		2201		2202		2203		2204		2205		2206		2207		2208		2209		2210		2211		2212		2213		2214		2215		2216		2217		2218		2219		2220		2221		2222		2223		2224		2225		2226		2227		2228		2229		2230		2231		2232		2233		2234		2235		2236		2237		2238		2239		2240		2241		2242		2243		2244		2245		2246		2247		2248		2249		2250		2251		2252		2253		2254		2255		2256		2257		2258		2259		2260		2261		2262		2263		2264		2265		2266		2267		2268		2269		2270		2271		2272		2273		2274		2275		2276		2277		2278		2279		2280		2281		2282		2283		2284		2285		2286		2287		2288		2289		2290		2291		2292		2293		2294		2295		2296		2297		2298		2299		2300		2301		2302		2303		2304		2305		2306		2307		2308		2309		2310		2311		2312		2313		2314		2315		2316		2317		2318		2319		2320		2321		2322		2323		2324		2325		2326		2327		2328		2329		2330		2331		2332		2333		2334		2335		2336		2337		2338		2339		2340		2341		2342		2343		2344		2345		2346		2347		2348		2349		2350		2351		2352		2353		2354		2355		2356		2357		2358		2359		2360		2361		2362		2363		2364		2365		2366		2367		2368		2369		2370		2371		2372		2373		2374		2375		2376		2377		2378		2379		2380		2381		2382		2383		2384		2385		2386		2387		2388		2389		2390		2391		2392		2393		2394		2395		2396		2397		2398		2399		2400		2401		2402		2403		2404		2405		2406		2407		2408		2409		2410		2411		2412		2413		2414		2415		2416		2417		2418		2419		2420		2421		2422		2423		2424		2425		2426		2427		2428		2429		2430		2431		2432		2433		2434		2435		2436		2437		2438		2439		2440		2441		2442		2443		2444		2445		2446		2447		2448		2449		2450		2451		2452		2453		2454		2455		2456		2457		2458		2459		2460		2461		2462		2463		2464		2465		2466		2467		2468		2469		2470		2471		2472		2473		2474		2475		2476		2477		2478		2479		2480		2481		2482		2483		2484		2485		2486		2487		2488		2489		2490		2491		2492		2493		2494		2495		2496		2497		2498		2499		2500		2501		2502		2503		2504		2505		2506		2507		2508		2509		2510		2511		2512		2513		2514		2515		2516		2517		2518		2519		2520		2521		2522		2523		2524		2525		2526		2527		2528		2529		2530		2531		2532		2533		2534		2535		2536		2537		2538		2539		2540		2541		2542		2543		2544		2545		2546		2547		2548		2549		2550		2551		2552		2553		2554		2555		2556		2557		2558		2559		2560		2561		2562		2563		2564		2565		2566		2567		2568		2569		2570		2571		2572		2573		2574		2575		2576		2577		2578		2579		2580		2581		2582		2583		2584		2585		2586		2587		2588		2589		2590		2591		2592		2593		2594		2595		2596		2597		2598		2599		2600		2601		2602		2603		2604		2605		2606		2607		2608		2609		2610		2611		2612		2613		2614		2615		2616		2617		2618		2619		2620		2621		2622		2623		2624		2625		2626		2627		2628		2629		2630		2631		2632		2633		2634		2635		2636		2637		2638		2639		2640		2641		2642		2643		2644		2645		2646		2647		2648		2649		2650		2651		2652		2653		2654		2655		2656		2657		2658		2659		2660		2661		2662		2663		2664		2665		2666		2667		2668		2669		2670		2671		2672		2673		2674		2675		2676		2677		2678		2679		2680		2681		2682		2683		2684		2685		2686		2687		2688		2689		2690		2691		2692		2693		2694		2695		2696		2697		2698		2699		2700		2701		2702		2703		2704		2705		2706		2707		2708		2709		2710		2711		2712		2713		2714		2715		2716		2717		2718		2719		2720		2721		2722		2723		2724		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Five Next Steps—Articles in *The Record*

Discovering an article relevant to your research in *The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record* (*The Record*) is an exhilarating—and valuable find—for anyone tracing New York families. Published four times a year from 1870 to the present, *The Record* is a fundamental resource for genealogists, historians, biographers, and other researchers tracing New York families. The complete archive, consisting of more than one million names and thousands of articles, is available at newyorkfamilyhistory.org/online-records. Here are five steps to take after finding something of interest to your research in *The Record*.

1. Carefully read and interpret the article.

Contributors to *The Record* choose their words extremely carefully. Information published in articles can be easily misinterpreted and incorrectly added to personal genealogical materials (such as online family trees). Pay specific attention to words that precede relationships, names, and dates, such as “probable” or “likely.” Consider the placement and purpose of each term when interpreting relationships, locations, dates, and other information found in an article. When using abstracts or transcriptions from *The Record* be sure to note any indication that the interpretation of the word or character is uncertain.

Review the article in its entirety (many articles are serialized, and several issues are generally needed). Some articles include a Genealogical Summary, which provides a concise overview of the family for a reader to review. These summaries are important to readers; however, they are only one element of the article. An article’s summary, conclusion, footnotes, and main text are all necessary. And for many items, including transcriptions and abstracts, invaluable context may be found in the introduction, which may be in a prior issue or volume (if the material spans multiple issues).

2. Follow the footnotes.

An article’s footnotes provide the gateway to further research and analysis. The majority of articles in *The Record* published during the 20th and 21st centuries include detailed footnotes to explore. These notations often include citation information to lead readers to materials documenting a specific detail. Locating and interpreting these materials yourself can be an essential part of the research process, especially if that source was one of which you were not aware (or had forgotten about).

In addition to citations, footnotes often include detailed insights, analysis, and other details that are critically important to understand. A note might



provide more detail regarding the interpretation of a specific record or provide crucial information on other topics that give more context to a statement made in the article.

3. Look for additional published materials relating to the article.

The Record is renowned for its attention to detail and accuracy. However, as with all genealogical scholarship, additions, updates, and corrections to articles appear in future issues. Follow other issues of *The Record* for notations that might refer back to the original article (in some cases, additions and corrections to articles appear in a single issue each year). Future articles in *The Record* might expand on research, correct previous errors, solidify presumptions, or add further evidence.

Search for references to the article beyond *The Record*, such as its use in other publications, including peer-reviewed genealogical periodicals, historical journals, and compiled genealogies. Reviewing notes and articles in other publications that refer to an entry in *The Record* can inform your pathway for future research.

4. Determine what you can learn from the contributor.

In many cases, an author has come across information beyond what ended up in the published article. Recent articles often include contact information for a contributor, enabling you to contact them directly. Be respectful and courteous when reaching out to a contributor, understanding that they might not have any additional information beyond what was published.

If the contributor is no longer living (or their contact information is unknown), look for papers or other materials they might have left behind that document their work. The NYG&B collections at the New York Public Library include numerous manuscript materials that reference *The Record*’s contributors. Some include personal correspondence, research notes, and other materials that could be important for your research.

Also, be sure to look for any other articles the author might have written for *The Record* or other publications.

5. Consider contributing to *The Record*.

The Record welcomes submissions from NYG&B members and others. Submissions should be unique manuscripts that have not been published elsewhere. Under the guidance of editor Laura Murphy DeGrazia, CG®, FGBS, materials appearing in *The Record* undergo

a considerable review process that includes an Editorial Board. You can learn more about writing for *The Record* online at newyorkfamilyhistory.org/writing-record or watching the editor explain the process in “Writing for *The Record*” online youtu.be/ezfpAqZemeE or nygbs.org/video/writing-record (for NYG&B members).

Highlights of *The Record*

Read the full issue (newyorkfamilyhistory.org/online-records/nygb-record-full-text/566-757) or visit the NYG&B blog for more information about the issue and each article.

The Editor's View—April 2021

As newcomers to genealogy, we are usually advised to “start at home” by asking questions and by examining documents and artifacts in family hands. Occasionally, privately held materials supply information that is unavailable elsewhere. Years ago, Helen Shaw received a family Bible record for her ancestor John Shaw. Born in Lisbon Center, New York, he married twice and died in Ohio.

For more than two decades Helen immersed herself in studying the life and records of Shaws in St. Lawrence County, New York, where Lisbon Center is located. She traveled to archives and libraries near her ancestor's birthplace. She visited churches, cemeteries, and the offices of the county clerk and the town historian. Based on clues about military service, Helen hired a researcher to retrieve records from the National Archives in Washington, D.C. As her work progressed, she regularly corresponded with and spoke to experts and local officials to better understand the evidence and to obtain images of relevant records. Through her extensive research and analysis, Helen identified John's parents and siblings.

John Beatty's investigation into the origins and descendants of the brothers William and Thomas Becraft did not benefit from a document in his family's possession, but the Québec marriage record for the brothers' parents offered enlightening details. John traced family members through records of Canada, Connecticut, England, Massachusetts, and New York. He used sources online, in books, and in person. John's genealogical study resolves a conflict about the name of the brothers' paternal grandfather and documents multiple generations of the brothers' families.

As the world enters its second year of the COVID-19 pandemic, genealogists continue to face an uncertain future. Some repositories and libraries are closed. Others are open but with restrictions on hours and access. Individuals may be hesitant to travel. Response time for mailed requests may be slower than usual due to limited staff and added inquiries. Now may be the ideal time to write about completed projects. May Helen Shaw, John Beatty, and all the authors whose work appears in this issue be your inspiration.

— Laura Murphy DeGrazia, CG®, FGBS, Editor

William Shaw of Lisbon, St. Lawrence County, New York, and His Family

By Helen A. Shaw, CG®

In 1801 William Shaw became one of the first settlers of the Town of Lisbon. He married twice, and his children left Lisbon, which has prompted research of William Shaw's family. Lisbon was in Oneida County in 1801, which was then briefly incorporated into Clinton County before it became a part of St. Lawrence County in 1802. These shifting boundaries—common to many New York research problems—impact the local records the author obtained to find evidence of the Shaw's and their relationships.

Time period: 1800s

Location: St. Lawrence County, Oneida County, Clinton County

Sources: Tax records, deeds, town meetings records, censuses, religious record, and court minutes (among others)

The Origin and Families of the Brothers William and Thomas Becraft of New York's Albany, Schoharie, Columbia, and Greene Counties

By John D. Beatty, CG®

William and Thomas Beatty were the sons of an English father and a mother who was captured and left in Quebec during the Deerfield Raid of 1704. William and Thomas' other siblings were captured along with their mother. This article uses a variety of sources to document the growth of the Becraft family in New York State while analyzing the family's English and French Canadian origins.

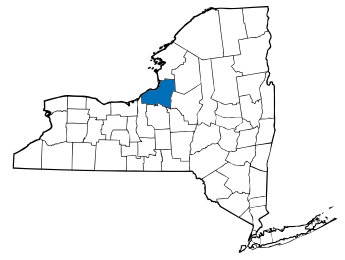
Time period: 1700s

Location: Albany County, Schoharie County, Columbia County, Greene County

Sources: Wills, parish registers, baptism records, marriage records, and burial records (among others)

Featured New York County

Oswego County (formed 1816)



History

Situated in north-central New York, Oswego County borders Lake Ontario to the west and Lake Oneida to the south. Its name is derived from the Iroquoian word *osh-we-geh*, meaning river mouth.¹ Native American tribes likely first settled Oswego as early as 7,000 BC. Its more recent indigenous inhabitants include the Onondaga and Oneida tribes of the Iroquois Confederacy.

Present-day Oswego County became part of the Massachusetts Bay Company's Grant in 1629 and was subsequently settled by the English. The region was claimed by both Massachusetts and New York until the 1770s.²

The Continental Army occupied Fort Ontario (constructed during the French and Indian War) for its position on the furthest frontier border of colonial territories.³ It later served as a significant battlefield of the War of 1812. In 1814 a British fleet attacked Fort Ontario in an attempt to capture material and slow the completion of two warships at Sackets Harbor.⁴ Although Patriot forces led by George Mitchell ultimately surrendered, the warships were nonetheless completed, affording the Patriots naval superiority.⁵

Oswego County's location on the Oswego River system facilitated robust trade. The Oswego Canal's completion in



Exterior view of Oswego Life Saving Station. To the left, a wagon with large wheels, probably a fire engine, is parked next to open, double doors to a garage attached to the main building. On top of the building, a man stands lookout on a platform. To the right, oarsmen sit in a boat on a ramp descending from a large shed that is part of the main building. (New York State Archives, digitalcollections.archives.nysed.gov/index.php/Detail/objects/2458.)

1828 broadened access to the area, and the city of Oswego established a major port. Better transportation attracted settlers from eastern counties and New England.⁶ The transportation route to Canada resulted in Oswego being a major route for the Underground Railroad. The National Park Service ranks Oswego as the U.S. county with the second highest number of documented stops on the Underground Railroad.⁷

Nearly a century later, President Franklin D. Roosevelt created the only federally designated shelter for European Holocaust refugees in the

United States at Fort Ontario, a decommissioned military base. From 1944 to 1946, "Safe Haven" housed 982 men, women, and children at the base.⁸

Oswego is one of only three New York counties to have had two county seats. Two jury districts were established, each with a county seat and courthouse in the towns of Oswego and Pulaski. Although the seat was ultimately consolidated in Oswego, both courts still function to this day.⁹

Today Oswego's 968 square miles are home to about 122,000 residents.¹⁰ The county is comprised of two cities, Oswego and Fulton, 22 towns and nine villages.

Selected Repositories and Resources

Oswego County Clerk

46 East Bridge Street, Oswego, NY 13126 | (315) 349-8621
oswegocounty.com/government/county_clerk/index.php

Holdings include land records and court records. Website includes history and timeline of Oswego County, list of local historians, historical attractions, and research forms. An online Archival Index helps researchers understand records availability by municipality (oswegocounty.com/government/county_clerk/archival_index_of_oswego_county.php)

Researchers will find most genealogy-related resources in the website's tourism section, (visitoswegocounty.com), see County Historian. See also "New York, Land Records, 1630–1975" on *FamilySearch* for most land and property records, familysearch.org/search/collection/2078654 (choose Oswego).

Oswego County Surrogate's Court

Oswego County Courthouse
25 East Oneida Street, Oswego, NY 13126 | (315) 349-3295

Holdings include probate records from 1836 to the present. See also *FamilySearch* collection "New York, Probate Records, 1629–1971," browsing for Oswego County. Includes wills, letters of administration, and guardianship papers. familysearch.org/search/collection/1920234.

Oswego County Records Center and County Historian

384 East River Road, Oswego, NY 13126 | (315) 349-8460
oswegocounty.com/clerk/inventory.html

Holdings include original copies of the New York state censuses for Oswego County (1855, 1865, 1875, 1892, 1905, 1915, and 1925; 1825–1845 are lost), as well as federal census

records; records for more than 170 cemeteries; city directories (1869–present); civil court records; local histories; maps and atlases; marriages (1908–1935); naturalization records (1829–1957); town records; books; and genealogies.

Oswego County Historical Society and Richardson-Bates House Museum

135 East Third Street, Oswego, NY 13126
(315) 343-1342 | rbhousemuseum.org

Holds diaries and family papers, including Church-Douglas, Judson, Richardson, and Dr. Mary Edwards Walker (pictured at right)—the only woman awarded the Medal of Honor, the United States' highest military honor; business records; cemetery records; photographs; maps; scrapbooks; Civil War collection (1850–1901); World War I collection; records of the Oswego County Health Association (1917–1952); and records of the Oswego Orphan Asylum (1852–1945). See the Oswego Public Library for its former publication, the *Oswego County Historical Society Publications/Journal* series.

Safe Haven Museum and Education Center

2 East Seventh Street, PO Box 486, Oswego, NY 13126
(315) 342-3003 | safehavenmuseum.com

Documents the history of the nearly 1,000 European refugees who came to live in Oswego during World War II. Website includes list of refugees. See *New York Heritage*, nyheritage.org, for some digitized records.

SUNY at Oswego: Local History Collection

Penfield Library, Special Collections
Oswego, NY 13126 | (315) 312-3537
oswego.edu/library/archives-special-collections

Genealogy Resources: <https://www.oswego.edu/library/sites/www.oswego.edu.library/files/penfield-library-genealogical-resources.pdf>

Holdings include books and manuscripts, census indexes, diaries and correspondence, city records and directories, family papers (Millard Fillmore and Marshall Family), institutional records, government records, maps and gazetteers, military records, newspapers (1819–present), oral histories, periodicals, tax rolls (Oswego City 1925–1952, 1962, 1964, 1973, 1975), and vital record abstracts. Genealogical information is drawn from Cayuga, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, Oswego, Seneca, St. Lawrence, and Wayne Counties.



Dr. Mary Edwards Walker—the only woman awarded the Medal of Honor which she received in 1865. She is wearing billowy pants under her skirt, a utilitarian costume adopted by the women of John Humphrey Noyes's Oneida Community, and which was later considered the "reform costume" of women's rights activists. Dr. Walker was born in Oswego, NY, and earned her medical degree in 1855 at Syracuse Medical College. She was an abolitionist, surgeon, prohibitionist, suffragette, and was a prisoner of war during the Civil War. She is buried at Rural Cemetery in Oswego, NY (FindAGrave memorial #23089). (Photo by Mathew Brady, ca. 1865. U.S. National Archives, RG111, catalog.archives.gov/id/526275.)

Fulton Public Library

160 South First Street, Fulton, NY 13069
(315) 592-5159 | fultonpubliclibrary.org

Holdings include local histories and genealogies, cemetery records, census records, local newspapers (*Fulton Times* and *Fulton Patriot*, 1881–1996); Fulton city directories (1886–2006); and local yearbooks.

Oswego Public Library

120 East Second St., Oswego, NY 13126
oswegopubliclibrary.org

Books, cemetery records, city directories (1852–present), city newspapers (1819–present), *Oswego County Historical Journals* (some digitized copies online *New York Heritage*), local government records, news clippings, phone books, scrapbooks, and some vital records. Website includes gazetteers, local history, and guide to local resources. Oswego Directories (1869–1929) are found on *New York Heritage*, see nyheritage.org/contributors/oswego-public-library.

Parish Public Library

3 Church Street, Parish, NY 13131 | (315) 625-7130
parishpubliclibrary.org

Artifacts, genealogies, local histories, cemetery records, newspapers, photographs, scrapbooks (1880s–1940s), and yearbooks.

Pulaski Public Library

4917 North Jefferson Street, Pulaski, NY 13142
(315) 298-2717 | pulaskinypubliclibrary.org

Books, cemetery records, newspapers (*Pulaski Democrat*, 1834–1990), and yearbooks (1893–present).

Annie P. Ainsworth Memorial Library: Genealogy

6064 South Main Street, PO Box 69, Sandy Creek, NY 13145
(315) 387-3732 | ainsworthmemoriallibrary.org

Local histories, cemetery records (northern Oswego and southern Jefferson counties), census materials (CD-ROM and transcriptions), photographs, and vital records.

Selected Print and Online Resources

Abstracts, Indexes, and Transcriptions

County of Oswego Abstracts. Syracuse: Central New York Genealogical Society, 2000. Abstracts for a range of genealogical records originally published in the quarterly *Tree Talks*.

Kelly, Arthur C. M. *Index to Tree Talks County Packet: Oswego County*. Rhinebeck, NY: Kinship, 2002.

Vosburgh, Royden Woodward, ed. "Records Pertaining to the First Presbyterian Church in the City of Oswego, N.Y." Typescript, 1917. NYPL, New York. [NYG&B Online Collections]

Imaged Records on FamilySearch

Records on FamilySearch (imaged) include dower, court, religious, and many more, familysearch.org/records/images/search-results?page=1&place=393148

Other Resources

Child, Hamilton. *Gazetteer and Business Directory of Oswego County, NY, for 1866–7*. Oswego, 1866.

Churchill, John C., H. P. Smith, and W. Stanley Child. *Landmarks of Oswego County, New York*. Syracuse, 1894. Includes biographies and family sketches.

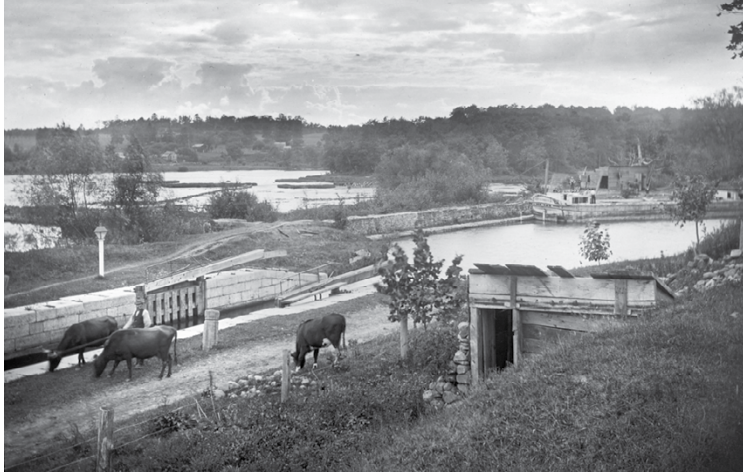
Faust, Ralph M. *The Story of Oswego: With Notes about the Several Towns in the County*. Oswego, NY: The Author, 1934.

Johnson, Crisfield. *History of Oswego County, New York, 1789–1877...*, Philadelphia, 1877.

Landon, Harry F. *The North Country: A History, Embracing Jefferson, St. Lawrence, Oswego, Lewis and Franklin Counties*. 3 vols. Indianapolis: Historical Publishing Co., 1932.

New York Historical Resources Center. *Guide to Historical Resources in Oswego County, New York, Repositories*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University, 1982.

Parsons, David K. *Bugles Echo Across the Valley: Oswego County, New York, and the Civil War*. Sandy Creek, NY: Write to Print, 1994.



Battle Island in Oswego River, Oswego, New York, ca. 1910–1939. (New York State Archives, digitalcollections.archives.nysed.gov/index.php/Detail/objects/44135.)

Pierrepont, William C. *The Taming of the Wilderness in Northern New York: Records of the Land Purchases of Early Settlers for 1826 for Lands in Jefferson, Lewis, and Oswego Counties*. Sandy Creek, NY: Write to Print, 1993.

Records of the Ithaca College Study Center for Early Religious Life in Western New York, 1978–1981. Division of

Rare and Manuscript Collections, Cornell University Library. See the three Oswego churches at rmc.library.cornell.edu/eguides/lists/churchlist1.htm.

Slosek, Anthony M., and Helen M. Breitbeck. *Oswego and the War of 1812*. Oswego, NY: Heritage Foundation of Oswego, 1989.

Slosek, Anthony M., and Helen M. Breitbeck. *Oswego: Its People and Events*. Interlaken, NY: Heart of the Lakes Publishing, 1985.

Snyder, Charles M. *Oswego County, New York, in the Civil War*. Oswego, NY: Oswego County Historical Society, 1986.

Stone, C. K. *New Topographical Atlas of Oswego County, New York: From Actual Surveys Especially for this Atlas*. Philadelphia, 1867. [NYPL Digital Gallery]

Wellman, Judith, ed. *Landmarks of Oswego County*. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 1988.

Oswego County, New York

Formed: March 1, 1816

Parent County: Oneida; Onondaga

Daughter Counties: None

County Seat ★: City of Oswego

Major Land Transactions: New Military Tract, 1782–1791; Macomb Purchase, 1792; Scriba Patent, 1794

Oswego County Towns:

Albion	Mexico	Redfield
Amboy	Minetto	Richland
Boylston	New Haven	Sandy Creek
Constantia	Orwell	Schroeppe
Fulton (city)	Oswego (city)	Scriba
Granby	Oswego (town)	Volney
Hannibal	Palermo	West Monroe
Hastings	Parish	Williamstown



Endnotes

- 1 Editors of *Encyclopedia Britannica*. "Oswego county, New York, United States" *Encyclopedia Britannica*, Inc. Accessed July 16, 2020. britannica.com/place/Oswego-county-New-York.
- 2 "Records Center" Oswego County New York, Oswego County. Accessed July 16, 2020. oswegocounty.com/government/county_clerk/records_center_.php.
- 3 "Records Center" Oswego County New York.
- 4 Paul Lear, "The Battle of Oswego" WCNY Connected, WCNY. Accessed July 16, 2020. wcny.org/education/war-of-1812/the-battle-of-oswego.
- 5 Paul Lear, "The Battle of Oswego."

- 6 "Records Center" Oswego County New York.
- 7 Justin Harris, telephone interview with the editor, 26 March 2021. And see nationalregisterofhistoricplaces.com/ny/oswego/state.html for the listing.
- 8 Oswego Public Library, "Safe Haven | New York Heritage," Accessed 16 March 2021. nyheritage.org/collections/safe-haven and cdm16694.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16694coll19/110/rec/22.
- 9 "Records Center" Oswego County New York.
- 10 "Records Center" Oswego County New York. oswegocounty.com/government/county_clerk/records_center_.php.

Catching Up with Our Blog (nygbs.org/blog)

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

How to Find Photos of Any NYC Street Corner With OldNYC

By Rikki Schlott-Gibeaux

newyorkfamilyhistory.org/blog/how-find-photos-any-nyc-street-corner-oldnyc

With this useful website, you can access a database of photographs for many locations in New York City throughout the ages. OldNYC (oldnyc.org) helps users search New York Public Library's photographic collection dating back to the 1870s in an easy-to-use map format.

Now, you just might be able to see for yourself where your ancestors lived exactly as they once did. From shop-fronts to the fashion of passersby, the images from OldNYC can bring the world of your forebears back to life.

About OldNYC

The photographs draw from New York Public Library's Photographic Views of New York City, 1870s–1970s collection, which comes from the Irma and Paul Milstein Division of United States History, Local History and Genealogy.

The OldNYC website was developed by Dan Venderkam as an alternative, location-centric way of browsing the many photos in this collection. Images are plotted by latitude and longitude via geocoding and cover all boroughs. Photo locations are transcribed with very detailed descriptions that typically indicate intersections, for example, "15th Street at 6th Avenue, Northeast corner."

Finding an image

Your first step to finding a relevant image is retrieving an address for your ancestor. One possible place to do so, depending on the year, is a census record. If an address is available, you will generally find that information in the leftmost columns of the document. Many other types of records will also contain your ancestors' addresses.

When you have an address, input it into Google Maps, or any similar platform, to find the cross street(s) that are nearest the address. Also note the orientation of the building's location on its block (north side of the street, southwest corner of the intersection, etc.).

Then, head to OldNYC.org. Orient yourself with the new map, and zoom in to the precise location you are looking for. At this point, you can also filter for specific date ranges with the slider on the upper lefthand corner, if necessary:

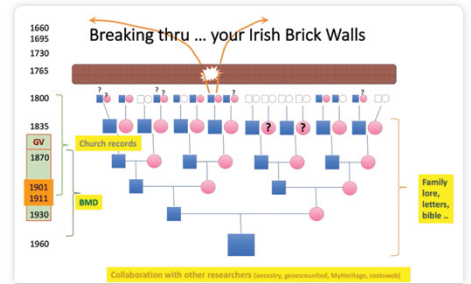
Once you have found your building, click on the nearest intersection. Select the red dot on any corner, and you will see all images of that location throughout the years.

If you are looking for a mid-block address, be sure to browse all surrounding intersections.

It is also essential to use the transcribed photo descriptions to orient yourself so you know exactly what you are looking at as you browse. Finally, please note while saving photographs that the library holds the copyright to all images.

Read the rest of the blog post to learn

- Why you should explore OldNYC
- Other ways to recreate the world of your ancestors
- Links to more resources for mapping and images



5 things you will learn from our "Using Your DNA to Connect to Your Irish Roots" webinar

By Rikki Schlott-Gibeaux

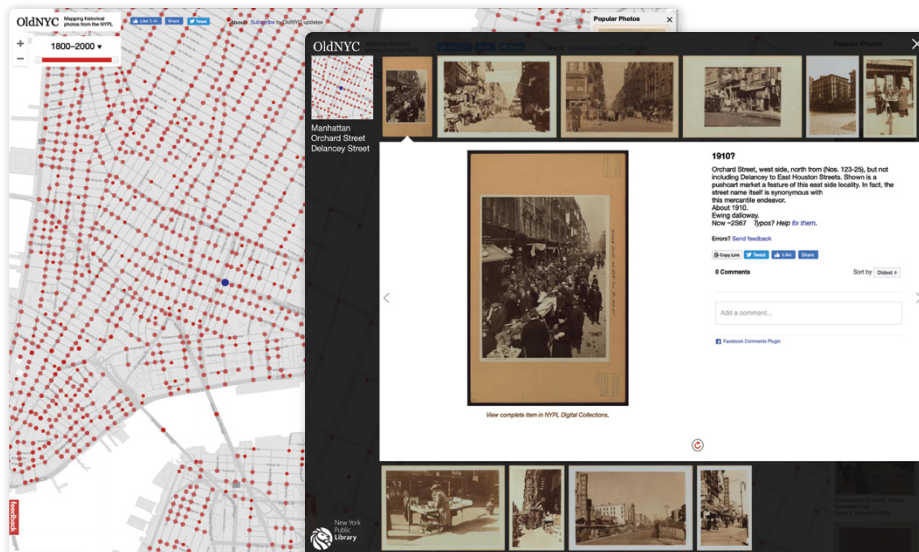
newyorkfamilyhistory.org/blog/5-things-you-will-learn-our-using-your-dna-connect-your-irish-roots-webinar

Irish genetic genealogist Dr. Maurice Gleeson presented "Using Your DNA to Connect to Your Irish Roots," available for NYG&B members to watch on-demand. Dr. Gleeson is an education ambassador for the International Society of Genetic Genealogy. He runs several surname studies, helps adoptees find their birth parents, and makes popular YouTube videos

In this webinar, he will guide you through using your DNA to connect to your Irish roots. Read the blog to learn the answers to these five questions:

1. Overview of different DNA testing companies.
2. What are the major approaches to genetic genealogy?
3. What can your autosomal DNA reveal?
4. What can your haplogroups reveal?
5. How do you break down an Irish ancestry brick wall with DNA?

The blog also details the specific topics and timestamps—this is help you hone in on a particular segment if you want to re-watch the webinar at nygbs.org/webinars.



In Other Lines

A column in which we ask NYG&B members to tell us their own stories.

By Jennifer Davis, NYG&B Director of Development and Membership

NYG&B members are a very diverse group of researchers; some are brand-new to family history and some have been studying their families for many years. This issue profiles two members, Life Member Maureen O'Rourke and Tova Levi, who joined last year. While there are differences in their family stories, they came to the NYG&B to learn more about those families.

Maureen O'Rourke | Life Member since 2017 and immigrated to the U.S. as a child

What is your earliest genealogical recollection?

As a child, being a recent émigré, I arrived in Brooklyn, New York just in time to be enrolled in the neighborhood school, P.S. 18. There I found other children who were definitely different from myself. Sensing their backgrounds varied, I started to wonder where they came from and exactly how their cultures differed from mine. I was British born, 100% Irish blood, and now to be reared in Brooklyn. Quickly my new friends represented a melting pot, every race, color, and creed were included. I learned firsthand a respect for diversity while adopting this as a lifelong trait.

While I had no idea what genealogy was, let alone how to spell it, a vivid curiosity emerged and continues to this day. I wanted to know the background of others, their history, and most importantly, who I was and who were my ancestors, how they lived and what was going on in the world while they were alive.

Who sparked your interest in genealogy?

My parents always discussed informally our immediate relations but never presented details of their forebearers, names, occupations, places of residence, i.e., my family tree. When I learned others shared similar quests, I decided to fill in those missing details myself. At first, it was a hobby, which grew into a consuming one. Along the way, I met many others pursuing the very same interests. These relationships became ad hoc learning sessions as we shared sources and findings.



“...a vivid curiosity emerged and continues to this day. I wanted to know the background of others, their history...how they lived and what was going on in the world while they were alive.”

Tell me about your career?

While I attended the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City, I had occasion to visit museums, libraries and study the history of nations. After graduation, the business world—specifically that of communications—piqued my interest. I eventually focused on project management and spent the majority of my career working in that area. It involved research, and eventually I found that this indeed satisfied my curiosity. Ironically, this is akin to genealogy skills. I have also enjoyed serving as an adjunct professor at a local community college, delivering a variety of business-related courses.

What are your other-than-genealogy interests?

I truly enjoy the sea. Being certified for SCUBA and a deep-sea angler has opened opportunities to visit foreign lands and meet interesting people. This ties in with my genealogy interests since many trips coincide with trips to Ireland doing research. Many of my relations were fishermen for hundreds of years and still ply this trade today.

Do you have an interesting family story?

My husband watched me fill the branches of my “Tree” and started to wonder about his own. Early efforts have resulted in finding and meeting, in person, two of his previously unknown maternal second cousins. They still reside at and manage his maternal grandmothers “home place,” the place of her birth. She left Ireland for America at age 18 in May 1914 and

never returned. Family lore cited her reluctance for never wanting to talk about that experience. My curiosity asked why. I have learned a great deal more about her life and have developed an appreciation of the world she lived in and the impending World War I world she arrived into. The Spanish Flu of 1917–1918 quickly followed. Researching her story has been fruitful, as I have scanned ship manifests, Ellis Island records, New York vital records and a plethora of other sources. Visiting the church of her baptism, family cemetery, her school, and walking the roads she walked were rewarding—others who have done the same can attest to this experience.

What brought you to the NYG&B?

As anyone who starts dabbling in genealogy knows, there is certainly no shortage of organizations (including ethnic ones) to explore this topic. While looking for support, knowledge, and a complete comprehensive location, many recommendations included taking a serious look at the NYG&B for a single source to satisfy my needs as a researcher. The NYG&B met this need and provides so much more. I can only recommend them as the first place to go, join, and start enjoying their vast treasury of resources!

What do you think are the five best things about being a NYG&B member?

It is difficult for me to list all the advantages of being a NYG&B member. Overall, membership is a complete experience for anyone from new to experienced person working in the fascinating world of genealogy. We attend functions that are warm, welcoming, informative, inviting, and structured to meet and



“Family lore cited [my husband’s maternal grandmother’s] reluctance for never wanting to talk about [her emigration from Ireland]. My curiosity asked why. I have learned a great deal more about her life and have developed an appreciation of the world she lived in...”

source materials that ensures they are useful to genealogists of the future. Presenters of seminars, webinars, etc. are always of the highest caliber.

Special conferences are always well planned and flawlessly presented. For example, the 2020 NYSFHC was a challenge easily overcome as our virtual presentation was on target, despite Covid restrictions and enjoyed an even wider audience.

Members enjoy access to a wide assortment of webinars and reference materials in addition to access to the talented staff. Tours in countries of interest expand our knowledge of foreign research facilities. NYC facilities toured provide the same. All are well planned. Regular publications are always informative and inspiring. They encourage and teach members the “How tos” of taking an organized approach to capturing research and documenting family history.

Overall the NYG&B cares about members, inspires them and delivers fruit for their growth while encouraging appreciation of diversity among members.

“Preserving the genealogical histories of all members is as important to the NYG&B as it is to members. They visibly show respect for the research and work we do.”

Tova Levi | Brooklyn, New York| Member since 2020

What is your earliest genealogical recollection?

When I was about seven years old, my grandmother, a Holocaust survivor, showed me a photograph of herself with some of her siblings, a photo she kept atop her dresser. I recall the pride in her voice and remember thinking, “So what? What’s so special about a picture? I have so many photos with my siblings.” It was only much later, as I grew older, that I understood the significance of that photo, the only visual remembrance that my grandmother had of her brothers and sister who had been murdered.

How did you get started in genealogy?

It actually started on a date! A guy I dated about a year and a half ago spoke about how he used Ancestry.com to build his family tree. I was intrigued, and that very night, I signed up for an account and was up until 3am learning about my family. Things did not work out with my date, but my love of genealogy was kindled!

Tell me about your career and other-than-genealogy interests?

I have worked as a pediatric speech language pathologist for over a decade, a career that is not related to genealogy in any way. I enjoy reading, traveling and cooking.

Interesting family story?

At the beginning of my family history journey, I connected with a third cousin who had done a lot of research on my paternal grandmother’s side, the Markus branch of my tree. My newfound cousin shared that many of our Markus relatives changed their name to Freedman upon immigrating to the United States, reason unknown. She discovered this fact by studying the seating chart from her parents’ wedding and comparing the names of the guests with newspaper articles and various other documents. Since then, I have gotten in touch with many cousins from our shared Markus/Freedman side.

What brought you to the NYG&B?

I am currently enrolled in the Boston University Genealogical Research program. When I first registered, they offered a discount for members of NYG&B, so that is what persuaded me to become a member, but I am so glad that I did!

Have you always had an interest/a passion in history or research?) How does being a member continue to fuel that passion?

I have always loved history; it was my favorite subject in school. I am a new member and have not yet had the opportunity to fully explore all the benefits membership provides, but I have no doubt that I will keep learning through the society. I am most looking forward to attending future webinars.

What is the most surprising thing you have ever found in your research/studies/etc.?

My maternal grandmother often mentioned that her mother was an only child, and that raising eight children was difficult for her since she was not accustomed to a large family. Fast forward to 2019, when I discovered that my great-grandmother had an older half-sister from her father’s first

marriage. The half-sister had married and moved away before her younger sister was born and had eight children of her own. We don’t know if my grandmother ever knew about these relatives, or even if her mother knew that her sister existed. Unfortunately, many members of this family were killed during the Holocaust, but I’ve managed to connect with one descendant in Israel.

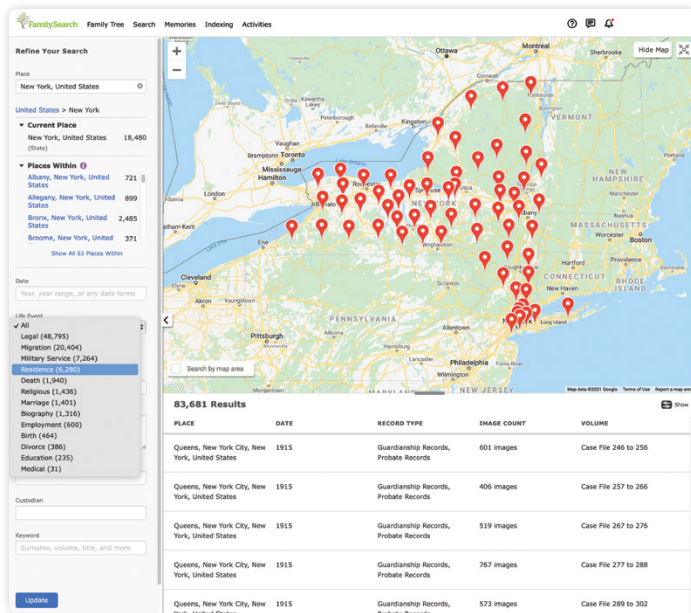
What do you think are the five best things about being a NYG&B member?

I absolutely love reading the articles in *The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record* and look forward to receiving my copy in the mail. So far, they have been so different than my own research, and I have truly learned a lot. The webinars, exclusive collections, county guides, and Findmypast membership are invaluable as well.



“We don’t know if my grandmother ever knew about these relatives, or even if her mother knew that her sister existed.”

New Records and Access



FamilySearch Images

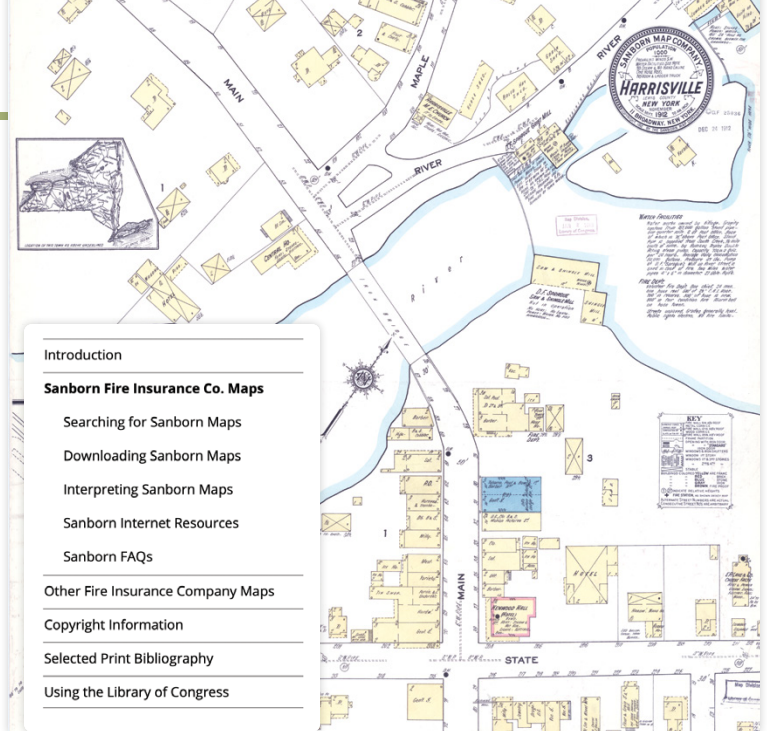
familysearch.org/records/images

FamilySearch has made viewing digitized microfilm for a location easier since not all records are indexed in a searchable database. Use the Search menu, selecting Images. Enter a New York county to see the images for the county or peruse the list of places within the county to narrow your search.

Erie County Poor House Ledgers

digital.buffalolib.org/collections/show/5

Digitization of the 15 ledgers of Erie County Poor House has been completed and the collection is available online at the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library website. While researchers may be familiar with the New York State Archive's Inmate Census collection digitized on *Ancestry*, the ledgers contain details of people not recorded in the NYSA census cards.



Fire Insurance Maps at the Library of Congress (LOC): A Resource Guide

Guide: guides.loc.gov/fire-insurance-maps

Online Tool: loc.gov/rr/geomap/sanborn

The LOC's Geography and Map Division has created a new resource guide that furthers researchers' understanding, and hopefully usage, of the LOC's vast map resources. In addition to the guide, "Sanborn First Insurance Maps Online Checklist" is a tool that provides an access point to maps, interpretation, essays, and other resources.

The ledgers reveal admissions from counties other than Erie, including Cattaraugus, Monroe, Niagara, Ontario, Orleans, Tompkins, and Wayne to name several.

BELOW: Erie County State Alms House (Buffalo, N.Y.), "Erie County Poor House Ledgers, Volume 7. Register of State Paupers in the Erie County State Alms House at Buffalo, NY, December 1873–September 24, 1889," Buffalo & Erie County Public Library Digital Collections, accessed May 19, 2021, digital.buffalolib.org/document/90.

Erie County Poor House Ledgers, Volume 7. Register of State Paupers in the Erie County State Alms House at Buffalo, NY, December 1873–September 24, 1889

No.	NAME	DATE OF ADMISSION	SEX	AGE	BIRTH PLACE (STATE OR COUNTRY)	CAUSE OF PAUPERISM	COUNTY COMMITTED FROM	CITY, VILLAGE OR TOWN COMMITTED FROM	NAME OF THE COMMITTING OFFICER	NAME OF THE RECEIVING OFFICER	DISCHARGED
41.	Chris Budd North	Jan 15 th 74	Male	15	Ireland	Destitution	Tompkins	Ulster	Mr. Mart	Dr. H. H. H. H.	June 1 st 74
42.	William Bradley	" 15 th "	"	42	England	"	"	"	"	"	"
43.	Chas. E. Hallen	" 15 th "	"	31	Ireland	"	"	"	"	"	"
44.	Thomas Hocking	" 15 th "	"	32	England	"	"	"	"	"	"
45.	Henry Hocking	" 17 th "	"	56	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
46.	Edw. H. Hocking	" 23 rd "	Female	19	U. States	"	"	"	"	"	"
47.	Edward H. Hocking	" 24 th "	Male	24	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
48.	James L. Hall	" 27 th "	"	62	"	"	Cattaraugus	Madison	M. C. Hutton	Dr. H. H. H. H.	"
49.	Mr. Johnson	" 27 th "	"	43	Ireland	"	"	"	"	"	"
50.	Thomas E. H. H.	" 28 th "	"	30	Ireland	"	"	"	"	"	"
51.	Henry Shaw	" 28 th "	"	42	England	"	"	"	"	"	"
52.	John Brown	" 28 th "	"	32	America	"	"	"	"	"	"
53.	John A. Smith	" 28 th "	"	16	Ireland	"	"	"	"	"	"

Q&A with William C. Hallett, PharmD, Chairman, NYG&B Board of Trustees

The NYG&B Board of Trustees welcomed Will Hallett as its new Chairman in March 2021. The Spring 2018 issue of the *New York Researcher* featured Will Hallett and his research interests, but we wanted to take a few moments to learn more about his perspective and thoughts on what the future holds for the NYG&B.

What changes have you seen at the NYG&B since joining nearly a decade ago?

I think the explosive growth in online resources and programming to serve our growing membership base may be the single biggest change, amongst many! With 70% of our members currently living outside of New York State, it's important for us to deliver quality online content that allows people to more easily connect to their New York roots.

Can you tell us a bit about your vision of the NYG&B's mission?

New York continues to be a gateway to the country. Regardless of where you currently live, if you or your ancestors came through New York, part of your history is here, with us—and we want to help you find it and connect. And that doesn't just mean New York City—our members have access to repositories and a vast number of records across the State.

How can members support the NYG&B?

Support comes in many forms: Simply participating in the many programs we offer throughout the year and providing us feedback, including what you would like to see in future programming is important to us! Of course, there are many volunteer as well as sponsorship opportunities. For example, working jointly with FamilySearch, our volunteers have now indexed more than 34 million entries in the New York Land Records Project, bringing these important land ownership and transfer records online for the genealogical community!

What roles does the NYG&B play in New York's history/genealogy community?

Regardless of your depth of experience in genealogical research, the NYG&B continues to be the “go-to” source when questions on New York family history arise. For those that are just starting out, we provide the basics and “how-to” knowledge to help you get started on your journey to discovering your family's history. For the experienced, professional genealogist, we can help cut through and point directly to the most likely sources to get past the vexing questions and inevitable roadblocks that all genealogists encounter.



What are some of the essential services the NYG&B offers for its members and the community?

Learning—through webinars, conferences, articles, and more, our members and communities expand their skills and knowledge in many areas and through the channel that works best for them. Online, in-person, and print learning options abound.

The eNews sums up the opportunities several times a month so we can keep on top of everything.

Publications—the NYG&B research guides help new and experienced researchers navigate through New York's complicated history, and even professional genealogists have called them essential guides. And the quarterly publications document and share stories—core to our mission.

Indexes and records—our mission of preserving New York's stories continues with every item added to the NYG&B Online Collections. And we will speak out for more and better records access to benefit all researchers.

What do you envision for the future of the NYG&B during your tenure as Chairman?

I am very excited about the future of the NYG&B. While we all anxiously await and are anticipating a return to in-person programming, I see a wonderful opportunity to build off of last year's virtual New York State Family History Conference (NYSFHC), with blended programming where live events such as these are streamed to the genealogical community at large. I also see more explosive growth in the resources available to genealogical community at large, and the great need our members will have in navigating the content available to find the records they need as they explore their New York stories. More than anything, however, it is my goal to be a good steward for the organization, and help insure that the NYG&B is here to serve the generations that follow all of us as our children and grandchildren explore the generations that came before, and what makes them who they are.

Upcoming Programs

Mark your calendar! Presenters, descriptions, and registration details are on the website calendar at nygbs.org/events.

Webinar:

The Collaboration between the Baron de Hirsch Society and the State Institute of Applied Agriculture

Rhoda Miller, EdD, CG |
Wednesday, July 7, 6:00pm ET

NYG&B Member Webinar:

How to Find NY State Death Certificates

Susan R. Miller | Tuesday, July 20, 6:00pm, ET

Webinar:

Finding Your New England Immigrant with Big Y-DNA

Skip Duett | Thursday, August 12, 7:30pm ET

Empire State Exploration (Summer)

Monday, August 16–Thursday, August 19 | Online

NYSFHC@Home 2021

Wednesday, September 1–Monday, October 18 | Online

Webinar:

Getting Your ACGT Together: Organizational Strategies for DNA Analysis

Paul Woodbury | Wednesday, October 6, 7:00pm ET

Webinar:

Using the NYG&B Online Collections

Frederick Wertz, MS | Tuesday, October 12, 6:00pm ET

Research in Albany Tour, Albany, NY

Wednesday, October 20–Friday, October 22 | Albany, New York

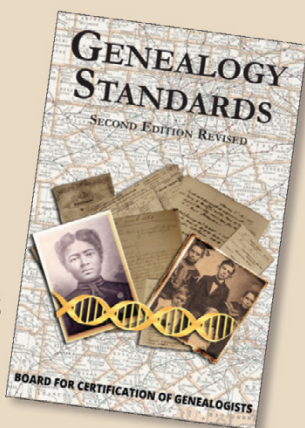
NYG&B Member Webinar:

You Need Both: Uniting DNA and Traditional Research

Angie Bush, MS, and D. Joshua Taylor, MA, MLS | Monday, November 8, 7:30pm ET

Working to the latest standards?

- 7 new DNA standards
- 4 modified standards
- Updated Genealogist's Code



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www.BCGcertification.org

North River Research

Sylvia Hasenkopf
Genealogist and Historian

518-821-3852
Sylvia@northriverresearch.com

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Over 20 years of experience



NYG&B

NYG&B Experiences

Learn, Travel, and Research with the New York Experts



Research In Albany Tour

**Annually, Fall;
New York State Library
and New York State
Archives, Albany, NY**

Three packed days of assisted research and genealogical camaraderie with the people who know New York best.

Research one-on-one with the New York experts at the New York State Library and Archives.

Now in its 15th year, Research In Albany is always a popular and productive tour and regularly sells-out!



Empire State Exploration

**Annually, Early-Spring;
New York City, NY**

Uncover your New York ancestors with the NYG&B's experts!

The NYG&B offices will be your home away from home as you explore the incredible collections of the New York Public Library, the New York City Municipal Archives, the New-York Historical Society, and other treasured repositories throughout New York City.

Access to NYG&B's FHL Affiliate Library files and access to exclusive NYG&B collections is included.

**Online Session;
Held several times per year**

From the comfort of your home with a very small group (registration is limited), this immersive program includes individual consultations, discussions of research techniques, and social experiences with fellow researchers to advance your New York research.

A personal, one-on-one check-in prior to the program will jumpstart your search. And you will get additional personal advice from a New York-expert genealogist during the program. Participants will also get to know the NYG&B team along the way.

Learn more at newyorkfamilyhistory.org/events or call 212-755-8532.

See our website also for upcoming webinars, talks, workshops, and other events.

Members Have Access to New York Resources and Knowledge

NYG&B Members receive access to the full archive of *The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record* and the *New York Researcher* as well as access to exclusive digitized collections (with more added each year), live and recorded online programs, and research guides; plus discounts and special pricing on publications, events, paid research services, consultations, and record retrieval services.

Make the most of your membership!



Dear Reader,

On behalf of everyone at the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, I am excited to welcome you to this free issue of the *New York Researcher* and the special digital supplement. The supplement provides a glimpse of the many benefits of NYG&B membership and a look at NYSFHC@Home 2021.

We strive to keep our members updated on new online records that will assist those tracing New York families, whether online at the NYG&B or elsewhere. Issues of the *New York Researcher* provide research tips and tools like those found in the article “New York’s Records: The Fundamentals.” For more in-depth research articles, members also receive *The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record*, our scholarly journal that has been published continually for more than 150 years. The journal’s entire archive includes more than 1 million names and has been digitized and is available online for NYG&B members.

Providing high-quality education to researchers of all skill levels is a critical part of our mission, and the New York State Family History Conference allows us to offer sessions that cover a wide range of New York topics. NYSFHC@Home 2021 helps attendees learn from New York experts and interact with others who share your love of family history research, without ever leaving your couch.

As you explore this issue, I hope that you will begin to see how being a member of the NYG&B can help you with your New York research. If you would like to learn more about membership benefits, please visit newyorkfamilyhistory.org/membership or reach out to us at membership@nygbs.org.

Best wishes for a healthy and safe summer!



Jen Davis
Director of Development and Membership



The New York State Family History Conference

September 1–October 18, 2021 | Online!

Ready to expand your knowledge of New York family history?

Join us online as we welcome top experts on New York and family history who will share techniques and knowledge to help you find more ancestors. You'll enjoy online camaraderie and learning experiences with researchers from across the United States with an interest in tracing New York families!

- NYSFHC@Home 2021 features more than 20 sessions covering a wide variety of topics, including:
 - New York's People
 - Records and Resources
 - Guides and Best Practices
- Livestream sessions with Q&A on September 25 and again on September 26, 2021
- Watch on-demand sessions beginning September 1 through October 18, 2021
- Plenary session, social networking, and Family History Fundamentals day
- Participate on-the-go or from the comfort of your couch—wherever you have internet connection!

nygbs.org/nysfhc





NYSFHC@Home 2021

NYSFHC@Home 2021 features a wide variety of sessions that will help you find more New York ancestors. Learn from New York experts while engaging with fellow conference participants through online chats during livestream sessions and interactive session forums.

Conference Schedule At-A-Glance

NYSFHC@Home 2021 features on demand, question and answer, and livestream sessions September 1 to October 18, 2021. Mark your calendar for these dates:

Wednesday, September 1	NYSFHC@Home 2021 Plenary Session (LIVE) NYSFHC@Home On-Demand Sessions open—all on-demand sessions available
Friday, September 10	Family History Fundamentals: New York and Beyond (LIVE)
Saturday, September 25	NYSFHC@Home Livestream
Sunday, September 26	NYSFHC@Home Livestream [repeated from September 25; Livestream sessions available for on-demand viewing by October 1]
Monday, October 18	Last day to watch on-demand sessions

NYSFHC@Home Livestream Sessions

To ensure NYSFHC@Home 2021 remains accessible to as many attendees as possible, livestream activities on Saturday, September 25, will be held again on Sunday, September 26 (with separate, live Q&As each day). Following the broadcast, recordings of these activities will be available on-demand through October 18.

Date / Time	Title	Speaker	Description
September 25 and 26, 10:45 am ET	10 Essentials for New York Research	Jane E. Wilcox	By understanding 10 key concepts, records, and resources for researching NY, gain more success navigating the challenges of NY research. Featured: governmental jurisdictions; vital, probate, and land records; state censuses; online and offline resources; NY State Library & Archives; cluster research, and <i>New York Family History Research Guide and Gazetteer</i> .
September 25 and 26, 12:00 pm ET	New York Records on Ancestry	Crista Cowan	Ancestry has more than 120 million historical records specific to the state of New York. There are an additional 27 billion records on the site and more than 100 million family trees. Join Crista Cowan for a look at what records are available and how best to navigate them.
September 25 and 26, 1:15 pm ET	Beginning Family History Research in the Island of Enchantment: Puerto Rico	Debbie Gurtler, AG	This presentation will demonstrate the basic resources used for researching your ancestors from Puerto Rico. This includes census, civil registration and Catholic Church records.



Date / Time	Title	Speaker	Description
September 25 and 26, 2:45 pm ET	Unlocking Roman Catholic Records on Findmypast	Jen Baldwin	Learn about the home of the Catholic Heritage Archive, including the Archdiocese of New York, on Findmypast—a must-use resource. Get a glimpse of Catholic records from across North America, and the British Isles.
September 25 and 26, 4:00 pm ET	Courting the Empire State: New York's Early Court Records	Judy G. Russell, JD, CG, CGL	New York's laws—Dutch, English, early Statehood, and post-1847—created a confusing plethora of courts with differing names and records. But with perseverance and persistence—and a little bit of luck—the records of the Empire State's courts offer much for the genealogist researching ancestors from colonial times to the present.

NYSFHC@Home On-Demand Sessions

Unlimited viewing of on-demand sessions begins September 1 and is open through October 18, allowing you time to learn at your own pace and revisit your favorites sessions. Live sessions from Saturday, September 25/26 with both Q&As will be available to watch on-demand after that date those registered for NYSFHC@Home 2021.

New York's People

Title	Speaker	Description
21st-century Italian Genealogy	Michael Cassara	There has never been a better time to pursue Italian genealogical research! With more and more records available online, this talk provides a strong overview for the beginning researcher, while including some lesser-known resources that will be of interest to even the most advanced researchers.
African American Families: The Hills Community, 1830–90s, Westchester County, NY	Edythe Ann Quinn, PhD	Family, church, and land ownership provided stability for The Hills community. The Civil War service of 35 Hills men resulted in six deaths, multiple injuries and illnesses, and influenced increased poverty, outmigration, and community decline in the 1890s. Primaries include Civil War letters, service and pension records, and newspaper accounts.
Finding Your Swedish and Danish Parish of Birth	Jill Morelli, CG	Intimidated about international records? Think that not knowing the language is an impediment? Then this is for you! Danish and Swedish records are some of the easiest to understand and if you can read one you likely can read the other. Using country-wide indexes has made finding your parish of birth and accessing the records easier.
Six Elements of Success for Beginning Ashkenazi Genetic Genealogists	Emily Garber	You've received your DNA test results. Now what? This talk will provide guidelines for conducting simple analyses of autosomal test results. The emphasis will be on cousin matching: selecting the most promising matches to research further. Examples will include results on Ancestry, MyHeritage, 23andMe and Family Tree DNA.
Tracing West Indian Ancestors: Strategies & Resources	Diane M. Warmesley, MS	This presentation will introduce participants to a 5-Step Research Model to guide genealogical research in the West Indies. Civil and church records will be illustrated to demonstrate the technique of connecting family lines. A host of resources will be shared and emphasis is given to the British West Indian experience.



Records and Resources

Title	Speaker	Description
Colonial Research: New York and Dutch	William T. Ruddock	Early colonization of what is now New York State resulted in challenges which can be overcome through understanding the available records.
FamilySearch.org for New York Researchers	Robert Raymond	Learn about resources on FamilySearch.org for New York researchers. Resources old and new, beginner and advanced, records and more.
Lesser-known Collections at the NYC Municipal Archives	Susan R. Miller	Learn about six New York city-agency created collections held by the New York City Municipal Archives—beyond birth, marriage, and death records. Access varies—including online, partially online, microfilm, and manuscript onsite—and will be covered. Don't miss the Bodies in Transit Registers collection for people nationwide.
New York State Maps and Atlases: Genealogical Research Applications	Phillip Sutton, MSLIS	This session will explore the cartographic collections of The New York Public Library, and how they can be used to further genealogical research. The focus will be on New York state and New York City maps and atlases.
Turnpikes, Canals, and Railroads: Transportation and Migration in New York State	Karen Mauer Jones, CG, FGBS, FUGA	This lecture examines the history, impact, and records associated with each of these modes of transportation. Each mode affected New York State history, generated different records, and necessitate different research strategies.

Guides and Best Practices

Title	Speaker	Description
A Tour of Genealogical Research Repositories for Western New York: Some Gems	Jane E. Wilcox	Explore unique resources and collections held by public libraries, county archives, town historians, historical and genealogical societies, universities, ethnic societies, museums, and online holdings for Western New York research. Apply what you learn to any repository in New York or elsewhere.
Using NYPL's Research Guides to Further Your Genealogy Research	Sue Kriete, JD, MSLIS	Not sure how to begin researching your family home or business? Confused about the 1890 Police census? Need help searching the census by address? Is it possible your ancestor was a suffragette? NYPL's growing library of research guides and blogs can help you with all of these topics and so many more.
Creating Family Archives	Margot Note	Learn the easy steps to take to save what's meaningful to you. In this session, you will learn the tips and tricks professional archivists use to preserve materials. Get quicker, easier, affordable results for organizing your personal and familial history collections.
Location is Everything. In Real Estate and Genealogy	Daniel Horowitz	Locations are some of the key points of genealogy research. Recognizing when the places you've recorded were misspelled, incomplete, or wrong can pave the way to discovering new clues about your ancestors' lives. Daniel will show you the correct tools and methodology for analyzing locations and gaining new insights.
Picture This! Images We Can Freely Use	Judy G. Russell, JD, CG, CGL	Copyright. Licensed. Public Domain. The difference between an image that's covered by one of these terms rather than another can be the difference between getting sued for using an image in your genealogy report or book or blog or website—and having no problems at all.
Timelines: A Path to Your Next Research Steps	Annette Burke Lyttle, MA	Organizing research results is a perennial problem for genealogists. Timelines are a powerful tool, allowing us to see relationships between information items and enabling us to draw conclusions and see what research remains to be done. They can help us turn seemingly impossible research projects into manageable ones.



Family History Fundamentals: New York and Beyond

Friday, September 10, 2021

New for 2021, join us live for five sessions to set you on the path to research success—exploring New York and topics extending beyond New York. These live sessions are free to the community! Those with a registration for NYSFHC@Home 2021 can watch them on-demand until October 18.

Date / Time	Title	Speaker	Description
1:00 pm ET	Your First Steps After Taking A DNA Test	Shannon S. Christmas, MCP	Learn easy ways to position yourself for genetic genealogy success. Hear how, with a few simple steps, you can use your DNA results to help demolish genealogical brick walls, answer seemingly unanswerable questions, uncover family secrets, and discover secret families.
2:00 pm ET	How Do I Approach New York?	Susan R. Miller	Whether you are starting or restarting New York research, knowing a few fundamental points about the state will set you in the right direction. This session covers a bit of history, governmental organization, and several key resources to move forward in New York genealogy.
3:00 pm ET	What's the difference: NYS and NYC Genealogy	Susan R. Miller	My people were from New York! But which New York? Understanding of the State and the City can lead to success. An overview of historical boundaries and discussion of key record sets will aid you in finding ancestors.
4:00 pm ET	Researching Online: Best Practices and Avoiding Mistakes	D. Joshua Taylor, MA, MLS	Billions of records can be found online. Knowing where (and how) to conduct your research is vital. Together we will explore tips and resources to maximize your success when searching online.
5:00 pm ET	What's Next? Where to Learn More about New York Research	NYG&B Team	Ready to explore the next steps in your New York research? Using the resources of the NYG&B and more, members of the team explore using online records, identify online and offline resources to deepen your understanding, and show more about organizations and projects to further explore New York.

Special
Discount for
NYG&B
Members!

Register today at nygbs.org/nysfhc!
Call 212-755-8532 x207 to register by phone!



Photos: Michelle D. Novak

New York Research Tips

Five Essential New York Repositories

1. The New-York Historical Society

The library at the New-York Historical Society is one of the oldest independent research libraries in the United States. Collection strengths include the history of New York City and State; colonial history; history of the Revolutionary War; American military and naval history; history of 18th- and 19th-century religions and religious movements; history of the Anglo-American slave trade and slavery in the United States; history of the Civil War; American biography and genealogy (including family papers); and documentary photographs of New York City.

The collections include 2 million manuscripts, 500,000 photographs, 400,000 prints, 350,000 books and pamphlets, 150,000 architectural drawings, 20,000 broadsides, 15,000 printed maps, 10,000 newspapers, and 10,000 dining menus.

170 Central Park West at 77th Street, New York, NY 10024
(212) 873-3400 | info@nyhistory.org

2. The New York Public Library

The New York Public Library has several major research centers and special collections that are valuable for genealogy and family history research. In addition to holding the collections of the NYG&B, the NYPL's online catalog includes all of the books, periodicals, databases, and special resource materials in all units of the library system, including all research divisions and branch libraries in Manhattan, the Bronx and Staten Island. Librarians are available to assist researchers via email, telephone, chat, and text message through AskNYPL.

The Irma and Paul Milstein Division of U.S. History, Local History, and Genealogy

The Steven A. Schwarzman Building, 1st Floor, Room 121
Fifth Avenue & 42nd Street, New York, NY 10018
(212) 930-0828 | history@nypl.org

Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture

515 Malcolm X Blvd. at 135th Street, New York, NY 10037
(212) 275-6975

Dorot Jewish Division

The Steven A. Schwarzman Building, 1st Floor, Room 111
Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street, New York, NY 10018
(212) 930-0601

Let the NYG&B be Your Guide!

The NYG&B offers guided research trips to Albany (Research in Albany Tour) and New York City (Empire State Exploration) where researchers can explore select repositories, learn how to get the most out of them, and meet with NYG&B consultants. Visit nygbs.org/events to learn more!

3. U.S. National Archives and Records Administration at New York City (NARA-NYC)

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) is the United States government agency responsible for collecting, preserving, interpreting, and providing access to all official records of the Federal Government that are deemed to have permanent value. The National Archives operates a central facility in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area and ten regional Federal Record Centers around the country. NARA-NYC is located in Manhattan and provides access to locally housed records from federal agencies and courts in New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Alexander Hamilton U.S. Customs House
One Bowling Green, 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10004
Toll free: (866) 840-1752 | newyork.archives@nara.gov

4. The New York State Library

The Genealogy Area of the State Library contains an extensive collection of printed histories on individual families. The collection is national in scope, but with an emphasis on New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New England families. The Library welcomes onsite researchers to use its large collection of genealogical resources, including family genealogies, local histories, DAR records, church records, Census records, early newspapers on film, city directories, and other materials. It's 7th floor research division has open stacks for many items while the Special Collections and Manuscripts on the 11th floor shares research space with the State Archives.

Cultural Education Center, 222 Madison Avenue
Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12230
(518) 474-5161 | nysl.nysed.gov/gengen.htm

5. The New York State Archives (NYSA)

The New York State Archives maintains and provides access to more than 200 million documents that tell the story of New York from the 17th century to the present. NYSA records document the activities and functions of State government and many record series contain information relevant to genealogy and family history research. NYSA holds military records documenting the service of individuals who served in the State's armed forces during the War of 1812, the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, and World War I. Civil War soldiers are listed by name or by regiment. NYSA also holds court records and state institution records (However, most of these are not indexed, or are indexed only partially). Other materials include probate, tax, and naturalization records.

Cultural Education Center, 222 Madison Avenue
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New York's Vital Records: The Fundamentals

New York State did not require local governments to report births, marriages, and deaths until 1880. The history of New York state vital record keeping is complex and convoluted, but for the most part, New York State did not force local governments to track birth, marriage, and death events until the 1880s—even after, some municipalities were not stellar in their compliance. Therefore, if you're looking for a birth, marriage, or death record prior to 1880, researchers can check with state and local records offices first but may need to ultimately seek a vital record substitute.

Where to look for a vital record will change depending on the year and location of the event. New York vital records are not all stored in the same location or by the same authority. Researchers will need to investigate sets of vital records in state capital Albany, New York City, or local municipalities depending on the event's time. Multiple indexes exist for these different collections.

New York State Vital Records

New York State has created indexes to births, marriages, and deaths occurring after 1880 for those reported to the New York State Department of Health for locations outside of New York City.

Special Note: state coverage for Albany, Buffalo, and Yonkers does not begin until 1914. If you are seeking a birth, marriage, or death record for an ancestor in one of those locations before 1914, visit the NYG&B's free guide to New York vital records (nygbs.org/new-york-birth-marriage-death-vital-records) for more information.

Researchers with ancestors anywhere else in New York State can get their ancestor's vital record in two steps:

1. Locate the certificate number in a New York state vital records index
2. Use the certificate number found in the index to request the record

New York State Birth Certificates

Those seeking New York birth certificates should begin with State's index to all birth certificates from 1881. Birth indexes are made available after 75 years, but not all indexes are entirely up to date, and may only go up to the mid-1930s. Another limitation to keep in mind is that not all births were reported in the earlier years—compliance grew over time and before 1913 that compliance was lower.

Fortunately, the New York State Birth Index from 1881–1942 is a searchable database on Ancestry.com

(ancestry.com/search/collections/61667).

Once you have found the birth certificate number, it's time to request a copy. Learn how at newyorkfamilyhistory.org/new-york-birth-marriage-death-vital-records#NYS.



New York State Marriage Records

For state marriage certificates 1881–1964, researchers may begin by searching New York State's index. Marriage indexes are free online at Internet Archive for 1881 to 1964 at archive.org/details/nymarriageindex. Marriage indexes should be made available after 50 years, but keep in mind that an index in a given repository might not be fully up to date—many go only as late as the early 1960s. For an online name searchable database, Ancestry.com has New York State, Marriage Index, 1881–1967 (ancestry.com/search/collections/61632). As with other vital records, compliance increased as time went on, and records between 1881 and 1913 may be incomplete.

Also, counties hold marriage license files, many of which many be found in FamilySearch's New York, County Marriages, 1847–1848; 1908–1936 database (familysearch.org/search/collection/1618491).

Once you have found the certificate number, you're ready to request a copy. Learn how at nygbs.org/new-york-birth-marriage-death-vital-records#NYS.

New York State Death Certificates

To find a death certificate, researchers may begin by searching New York's state index to deaths beginning in 1880. Death indexes are made available after 50 years.

Fortunately, one can access these indexes online 1880–1970. The NYG&B Online Collections contains images of the New York State Death Index 1880–1956, and images can also be found at Internet Archive.



The images in these collections are not searchable, but they are easy to browse by year, though the image quality of some years makes it difficult to read certain images.

Ancestry.com has a searchable database that also contains the same statewide images 1880–1956 as the collections above, plus records from Buffalo (1852–1914) and Albany (1870–1915).

For more recent deaths, researchers can use New York State's Interactive Ancestry/Genealogical Research Death Index (health.data.ny.gov/Health/Interactive-Ancestry-Genealogical-Research-Death-I/x83h-k5ey), which begins with 1957 and contains deaths up to the current legal limit (1970 as of 2021).

How to Request New York State Vital Record Certificates

Once you have retrieved information about the record you are seeking, you can obtain a copy of the vital record certificate by contacting either:

- The New York State Department of Health (health.ny.gov/vital_records/genealogy.htm)
- The local registrar or municipal clerk.

What's the difference?

Requests to the New York State Department of Health can take many months to process, but you will receive the official state record.

Requests through a local registrar or municipal clerk are often answered sooner, but may not have all the information found on the state record.

New York City Vital Records

Finding a New York City birth, marriage, or death records can be complicated due to the different territorial and record keeping histories of each of the five boroughs: The Bronx, Brooklyn (Kings County), Manhattan (New York County), Queens, and Staten Island (Richmond County).

The New York City Municipal Archives (operated by the Department of Records and Information Services, or DORIS) houses the largest public collection of



birth, marriage, and death records for New York City, but other collections do exist elsewhere.

Early New York City Vital Records

Where to look and what methods to use can vary depending on the county or borough you are looking in, as well as the exact year.

If you're looking for a birth, marriage, or death certificate from the early 1800s or before, a good place to

start is Harry Macy's detailed New York Knowledge Base guide to New York City vital records, available on the NYG&B's website (nygbs.org).

New York City Municipal Archives: The Largest Public Collection of NYC Vital Records

In general, researchers can find vital records for these years at the New York City Municipal Archives:

- **Birth records:** 1847–1909 (bulk 1860s–1909) (all boroughs)
- **Marriage records:** 1847–1949 (bulk 1870s–) (all boroughs, but beginning earlier for Manhattan)
- **Death records:** 1847–1948 (bulk 1860s–) (all boroughs, but for Manhattan 1795– and mostly epidemic-related in earliest years)

A more detailed listing of availability can be found in the Municipal Archives List of Holdings on the DORIS website (www1.nyc.gov/site/records/historical-records/holdings.page).

Note that coverage dates do not necessarily apply to all pre-consolidation municipalities (towns or cities located in Brooklyn, Bronx, Queens, and Staten Island that weren't part of New York City until 1898). For greater detail by town and village pre-consolidation see Aaron Goodwin's *New York City Municipal Archives: An Authorized Guide for Family Historians*.

To retrieve a copy of a certificate, the most important piece of information a researcher should have is the certificate number. Certificate numbers can be found by locating the name of the individual in a vital records index.

A number of indexes to New York City's birth, marriage, and death records are available online at Ancestry, FamilySearch, Reclaim the Records, the Italian Genealogy Group, and the German Genealogy Group. To learn more about these indexes and



efficient ways to search, see the NYG&B's on-demand program "Finding Ancestors in New York City Vital Records in the 1800s and Early 1900s"

(nygbs.org/video/finding-ancestors-new-york-city-vital-records-1800s-and-early-1900s).

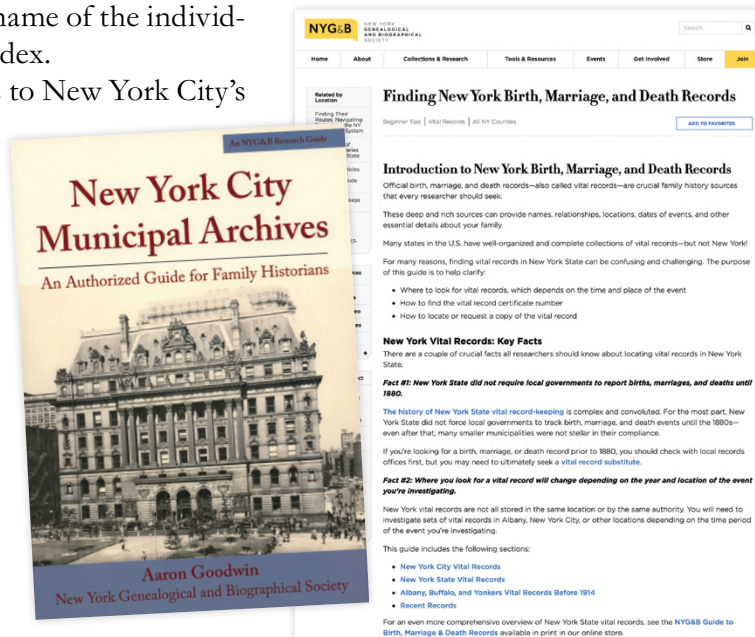
Once the certificate number has been found, there are a number of ways to obtain a birth, marriage, or death certificate. It is easy to order a New York City birth, marriage, or death certificate online—requesting the PDF version is recommended (www1.nyc.gov/site/records/historical-records/order.page) or visiting the Municipal Archives in person (when open). For a small fee, the NYG&B's records retrieval service can also obtain the certificate for members.

New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene: More Recent Birth and Death Certificates

More recent collections of birth and death certificates in New York City are maintained by the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH). After a certain period of time, these records are transferred from DOHMH to the DORIS and stored at the Municipal Archives, where they can be accessed by any member of the public. Currently, records are transferred to DORIS and made fully public on the following schedule:

- **Birth Certificates:** 125 years after the event
- **Death Certificates:** 75 years after the event

Vital certificates that are still at the Department of Health can be accessed, but not by everyone. For more details visit the NYG&B's free guide to New York vital records (nygbs.org/new-york-birth-marriage-death-vital-records).



We hope you enjoyed this digital supplement.

To unlock more New York research tips and resources, join us as a Member and online at the New York State Family History Conference, September 1–October 18, 2021!

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Explore the NYG&B Online Collections

Collections to Explore

New additions added frequently. Delve into these popular collections:

- Every-name index to *The Record* with direct links to digital images
- Cemetery abstracts
- Religious records
- New York State Birth and Death indexes
- *New York Times* Obituaries Index
- See our eNews for the latest additions.

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With the needs of our members in mind, you can:

- Search across all the NYG&B's online collections at once
- Explore collections by county and record type
- Learn more about these unique materials with in-depth collection descriptions
- Browse with ease using extensive navigation features
- Access, search, and print full issues of *The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record* (*The Record*)

Search and view our online collections at newyorkfamilyhistory.org

The screenshot displays the NYG&B Record online collection interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, About, Collections & Research, Tools & Resources, Events, Get Involved, Store, and Join. Below this is a search bar and a 'Member Dashboard' link. The main content area shows a search result for 'January 1961: Volume 92, Issue 1'. On the left, there is a sidebar with filters for Collection Type (Indexed), Collection Category (Periodicals), Location (All NY Counties), Creator (New York Genealogical and Biographical Society), Date Created (1961), Volume (92), and Issue (1). The main content area displays the title 'January 1961: Volume 92, Issue 1' and a 'RETURN TO ORIGINAL PAGE' button. Below the title, there is a 'Browse By Volume' section with a search box and an 'APPLY' button. The main content area also displays a list of records, including 'The Descendants of William Edwards' and 'January 1961: Volume 92, Issue 1'. The interface is clean and user-friendly, with a clear layout for searching and viewing records.