

The New York Family History School

Offering #3: Raise Your New York Skills

10 Essentials for New York Research

Presented by Jane E. Wilcox

The New York Family History School brings you a pathway to better research for your New York families. Watch ten sessions from experts through December 8 and use this handout for more information or related links and readings.

Laying the foundation for New York research

10 Essentials for NY Research

FamilySearch.org for New York
Researchers

Turnpikes, Canals, and Railroads:
Transportation and Migration
in New York State

New York State Maps and Atlases:
Genealogical Research Applications

Using NYPL's Research Guides to
Further Your Genealogy Research

Skills to help you in New York and beyond

Timelines: A Path to Your
Next Research Steps

Picture This! Images We
Can Freely Use

Online Family Trees:
Avoiding Pitfalls and
Maximizing Possibilities

Location is Everything, In Real
Estate and Genealogy

Creating Family Archives

10 Essentials for New York Research

Jane E. Wilcox

Forget-Me-Not Ancestry, www.4getmenotancestry.com

Periods in New York:

- Dutch Colonial/New Netherland = 1624-1664
- British Colonial/New York = 1664-1783 Treaty of Paris
- State/New York = 1777 first state constitution

No. 1 Governmental Jurisdictions:

- Hamlet = no government
- Incorporated/Unincorporated Village, Town, & City = smallest government, local
- County (62)
 - New York City has 5: New York, Kings, Queens, Bronx, & Richmond which are coterminous to the 5 boroughs (Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, Bronx, & Staten Island)
- State = largest government
- Remember boundary and name changes

No. 2 Governmental Vital Records: Births, Marriages, Deaths (BMD)

- Dutch 1624—1664: no governmental vital records, only church records
- British 1665—1783: BM & Burials recorded in some town records late 1600s; marriage licenses from Provincial Secretary
- State 1777
 - New York City:
 - 1795 Burials (deaths) for Manhattan
 - *FamilySearch.org*, “New York, New York City Municipal Deaths, 1795-1949”
 - Other boroughs start between 1847 and the 1898 consolidation
 - NYC Municipal Archives has pre-1898 consolidation and early 20th century records

- NYC Department of Health has births starting 1910 and deaths starting 1949
- NYC Marriage Bureau has marriages starting 1950
- Vital records at Municipal Archives from as early as 1858 are indexed on
 - German Genealogy Group, <https://www.germangenealogygroup.com/>
 - Italian Genealogy Group, <https://www.italiengen.org/>
 - *Ancestry.com*
 - “New York, New York, U.S., Index to Birth Certificates, 1866-1909”
 - “New York, New York, U.S., Birth Index 1910-1965”
 - “New York, New York, U.S., Index to Death Certificates, 1862-1948”
 - “New York, New York, U.S., Death Index, 1949-1965”
- Marriage indexes to 2018
 - Internet Archive, <https://archive.org/details/nycmarriageindex>
 - *Ancestry.com*, “New York, New York, U.S., Marriage License Indexes, 1907-2018”
- New York City and State
 - 1799 “Slave births,” births of children born to enslaved women recorded by local clerks
- New York State:
 - 1847-1849 BMD reported to local and county clerks
 - Surviving originals at local and/or county clerks, historians, historical societies
 - Some on *FamilySearch.org*, “New York, County Marriages, 1847-1848”
 - *Tree Talks*, Central New York Genealogical Society, <https://cnygs.org/>
 - 1870s BAY Cities (Buffalo, Albany, Yonkers) and others start recording their own vital records
 - 1881 and 1914
 - Spotty reporting until 1914 law
 - NYC, Brooklyn, and BAY cities excluded
 - BAY cities included starting in 1914
 - Originals sent to NYS Dept. of Health
 - Derivatives at local clerks

- New York State:
 - 1881 indexes:
 - NY State Archives and 10 other locations around the state have fiche
 - Internet Archive
 - Births <https://archive.org/details/nybirthindex>,
 - Marriages <https://archive.org/details/nymarriageindex>,
 - Deaths <https://archive.org/details/nydeathindex>,
 - *Ancestry.com*
 - “New York State, Birth Index, 1881-1942”
 - “New York State, Marriage Index, 1881-1967”
 - “New York, U.S., Death Index, 1852-1956”
 - “New York State, U.S., Death Index, 1957-1969”

No. 3 Probate Records

- Dutch 1624-1664
 - Roman-Dutch law
 - Found in Provincial Secretary’s records, Notarial records in New Amsterdam and Holland, Local records (Albany and Kingston)
 - New York State Archives Dutch records
<http://www.archives.nysed.gov/research/research-guide-dutch>
- British 1665-1783
 - British common law
 - Found in Provincial Secretary’s libers 1665-1783
 - Prerogative Court established in 1686, operated until the end of the American Revolution in 1783
 - Court of Chancery for guardianships
 - 1692 Court of Common Pleas (county) for remote counties
 - NY State Archives for most Prerogative Court and Court of Chancery originals
 - *Ancestry.com*
 - “New York, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1659-1999,”
 - “New York County, New York, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1665-1880 (NYSa)”
 - *FamilySearch.org*, “New York Probate Records, 1629-1971,” Albany County and New York County

- *Abstracts of Wills on File in the Surrogate's Office, City of New York, 1665–1801.* Collections of the New-York Historical Society, for the Years 1892–1908, Volumes 25–41, New York: New-York Historical Society, 1892–1908. 17 Volumes. (For British Provincial Secretary's libers and Patriot Court of Probate)
- State 1777
 - Court of Probate 1777 for Patriot-held counties
 - Two courts operating in NY during the American Revolution: Patriot and British
 - Surrogate's Court established in 1787, foundational probate law for the state
 - Other courts also handling probate matters until 1830 or 1847: Court of Probate, Supreme Court of Judicature, Court of Common Pleas, Court of Chancery
 - 1847 all probate through Surrogate's Court
 - Original records at Surrogate's Court in each county
 - *FamilySearch.org*, "New York Probate Records 1629-1971"
 - Remington, Gordon I. *New York State Probate Records: A Genealogist's Guide to Testate and Intestate Records* second edition. Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2011.
 - *Ancestry.com*
 - "New York, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1659-1999,"
 - "New York County, New York, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1665-1880 (NYSA)"

No. 4 Land Records

- Dutch
 - New York State Archives Dutch records
<http://www.archives.nysed.gov/research/research-guide-dutch>
 - Albany County deeds
- British and State
 - 1683 counties formed in NY
 - 1756 mortgages required to be recorded
 - 1790s deeds in Central, Western, & Northern NY required to be recorded
 - 1823 deeds in the rest of the state required to be recorded
 - NY State Archives for British colonial patents and Provincial Secretary and Secretary of State's deeds
 - NY Public Library, NYC has films
 - *FamilySearch.org*, "Patents of the State of New York, 1649-1912" and "Deeds, 1659-1846"

- County clerk for deeds and mortgages
 - *FamilySearch.org*, “United States, New York Land Records, 1630-1975”
 - Limited search by grantor or grantee, indexing in progress, <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/2078654>
- Town records for deeds (1600s-1700s)
- Manorial land grants
 - Records in manuscript collections
 - Wilcox, Jane E. *Looking for Your New York Tenant Farmer: Little-used Resources*, ebook. <https://4getmenotancestry.com/syllabus-for-looking-for-your-new-york-tenant-farmer-little-used-resources/>
- Holland Land Company
 - SUNY Fredonia, 202 microfilm reels from Archives of the HLC
 - *FamilySearch.org*, “Holland Land Company Records”
 - Livsey, Karen. *Western New York Land Transactions*, 2 vols.
 - *Ancestry.com*, “Western New York Land Transactions, 1804-1824” and “Western New York Land Transactions, 1825-1835.”

No. 5 New York State Censuses

- 1825-1845: some on *FamilySearch.org* catalogued under individual counties
 - 1845 has agricultural and horticultural details for each farm
- 1855-1875, 1892, 1905-1925 digitized on *Ancestry.com* and *FamilySearch.org*
 - 1855-1875 have county in NY where person was born
 - 1855 has how long person lived in town where enumerated
 - 1865 and 1875 have marriages and deaths for the preceding year

No. 6 Online Resources

- *Ancestry.com*
 - *Ancestry.com New York*, <http://www.archives.nysed.gov/research/how-to-video-ancestry>
- *FamilySearch.org*
- New York Heritage Digital Collections, <https://nyheritage.org/>
- Old Fulton Postcards, <https://www.fultonhistory.com/>
- New York State Historic Newspapers, <https://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/>

- New York Genealogical & Biographical Society, <https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/>

No. 7 Offline Resources

- Local Libraries: examples
 - Folklife Center, Crandall Public Library, Glens Falls, Warren Co., <https://www.crandalllibrary.org/folklife-center/about/>
 - Grosvenor Room, Buffalo & Erie County Public Library, Buffalo, <https://buffalolib.org/research-resources/special-collections>
 - Western New York Genealogical Society, Grosvenor Room, Buffalo, <http://www.wnygs.org/>
- New York Public Library, New York City
 - Milstein Division, <https://www.nypl.org/locations/schwarzman/milstein>
 - Archives and Manuscripts Division, <http://archives.nypl.org/>
 - Both have material from the collections of the former NYG&B library
- University Libraries: example
 - Cornell University Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections, Olin Library, Ithaca, Tompkins Co., <https://rare.library.cornell.edu/>
- Genealogical Societies: example
 - Orange County Genealogical Society, Goshen, <http://www.ocgsny.org/>
- Historical Societies: examples
 - Fenimore Art Museum Research Library, Cooperstown, Otsego Co., (NYS Historical Association), <https://www.fenimoreartmuseum.org/collections#ID-RESEARCH>
 - Schoharie County Historical Society, Old Stone Fort Museum, Schoharie, <https://theoldstonefort.org/historical-society/>
- New York Public Historians and County and Town Records: example
 - Montgomery County Historian and Montgomery County Department of History and Archives, Fonda, <https://www.co.montgomery.ny.us/web/sites/departments/historian/default.asp>
 - Association of Public Historians of New York State, <https://www.aphnys.org/>

No. 8 New York State Archives and Library, Albany

- New York State Archives, <http://www.archives.nysed.gov/>
 - Finding Aids <https://iarchives.nysed.gov/xtf/search>
- New York State Library, <https://www.nysl.nysed.gov/>
- New York State Library Manuscripts and Special Collections, <https://www.nysl.nysed.gov/mssc/>
 - Finding Aids <https://www.nysl.nysed.gov/msscfa/>

No. 9 *New York Family History Research Guide and Gazetteer*, <https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/publications/nyfhrgg>

- Chapters on types of records, such as vital records, probate, land, and state censuses
- Peoples of New York
- County Guides for all 62 counties, with map showing current towns and cities, gazetteer with town boundary and name changes, and listings of research repositories within the county.
 - Individual county guides are sold separately:
<https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/publications/new-york-county-guides-family-historians>

No. 10 to be revealed

All website links checked 22 June 2021.