



# NEW YORK Researcher

NEW YORK GENEALOGICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY | VOLUME 30, NUMBER 3 | FALL 2019

## Uncovering Rural Roots in Central New York PAGE 63



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**NYG&B**

150 YEARS

Dear Friends,

We certainly had a busy and engaging summer at the NYG&B. With the assistance of our volunteers and interns, we digitized thousands of documents, made preparations for our upcoming conferences and social events, and continued expansions to the NYG&B's geographic mapping projects. Our team participated in conferences in California, Indiana, and Washington, D.C., where we were delighted to meet so many members of our community. Back at home we diligently continued development of our new online records platform (formerly known as the NYG&B eLibrary) and mapped out plans for new heritage and research tours in 2020 and 2021. Even as we look forward to the future, our 150th Anniversary activities are still in full swing; there are still plenty of chances for you to join in! Our upcoming open houses will feature a live-streaming component, enabling all members the opportunity to participate.

Your participation enables the NYG&B to continue its mission to preserve and share New York's stories. Our steady growth in recent years would not be possible without your input and support. If you have ever considered writing for the *New York Researcher* I invite you to take a look at page 70 to learn more about how you can contribute to future issues. You can also join us at an upcoming program (either in person or online) or participate in the New York Land Records Indexing project. For those eager to see new records added online, learn more about our Digitization Days and explore ways in which you can assist in preserving and making New York's records more accessible.

Our community continues to grow—and in response to feedback from our members—we added four pages the *New York Researcher*. This expansion enables us to share resources on specific New York counties in future issues, alongside regular columns and features providing the latest news and information for those tracing New York families. This issue spotlights Madison County, New York, highlights research conducted on an African American community in Western New York, explores records for those tracing Dutchess County families, and more. Also new to this issue is a page highlighting recent articles published in *The Record*, New York's largest collection of peer-reviewed genealogical scholarship.

NYG&B members share a variety of interests. While many are avid genealogists, others are local historians or biographers who understand the importance of preserving New York's stories. Last year we were saddened when a member of our community, Ellsworth G. Stanton, III passed away. As you will learn on page 70 of this issue, Mr. Stanton left the NYG&B with materials related to his passion for heraldry and New York history along with a bequest to support our mission. His gift supported our summer internship program this year, which enabled us to properly care for the materials he left behind. Mr. Stanton's generosity is one important example of the important impact members of our community can have to help preserve New York's stories. I sincerely look forward to all we can accomplish together.

Until next time,



Joshua

D. JOSHUA TAYLOR

NEW YORK RESEARCHER | VOLUME 30, NUMBER 3 | FALL 2019

Susan R. Miller, Editor

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Table with 3 columns: Article Title, Page Number, and Additional Information. Includes entries like 'Discovering Western New York's African American Community: A Historian's Journey, by Marjory Allen Perez' (57) and 'Featured New York County: Madison County (formed 1806)' (64).

# 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](http://newyorkfamilyhistory.org).

## CONTACT

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The NYG&B's website includes detailed, current information on advertising sizes and rates. We offer combination rates for those advertisers wishing to appear in both the *New York Researcher* and *The NYG&B Record*.

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## ON THE COVER

Known as the "Wedding Cake House," "The Spirit House," and the "Timothy Brown House," this private home in Georgetown, Madison County, New York, was built circa 1870 by Timothy Brown, a native of Vermont and a member of the Spiritualist Movement. The Movement, where mediums conducted séances to communicate with the dead, was very prominent in the late 19th century as the country healed from the losses of the Civil War. (Mary Todd Lincoln was a noted practitioner.) The house is listed on the National Register of Historic places and a detailed description of the property, images, and architectural drawings can be found in the Historic American Buildings Survey (Historic American Buildings Survey, Creator. Timothy Brown House, South Main Street & State Route 26, Georgetown, Madison County, NY. Georgetown Madison County New York, 1933. Documentation Compiled After. Photograph. <https://www.loc.gov/item/ny0266/>).

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# Discovering Western New York's African American Community:

# A Historian's Journey

By Marjory Allen Perez

People often ask three questions when they learn of my research and writing about the African American community of Western New York. First, why? Second, how? Third, are you finished?

## Why History?

The short answer to the “why” is that the search for untold local history stories has been my focus for more than 50 years. Two college courses required original research papers on New York state history. The excitement of using original documents, and the idea that through the study of a “small” story, a much larger story could be told, hooked me. In 1972 I was appointed the Wayne County (New York) Historian—a dream job for me. It involved teaching, researching, writing, collecting, preserving documents, and assisting researchers of family and local history. And I could spread the word that “all history is local.”

## Why African American Research?

A fourth-grade student at a bicentennial celebration event asked, “Did any black people live in Wayne County before the Civil War?” I gave an off-handed answer of “Yes.” But immediately I realized the although the answer was correct, I knew almost nothing about the African American population of Wayne County—before or after the Civil War. I soon learned that I was not alone in my ignorance. Another untold story was waiting to be shared—one that was complex and very captivating.

My initial efforts to remedy the lack of compiled information about the African American community was rather haphazard, and I wish I had carefully documented each bit of information. There is nothing worse than having to backtrack to sometimes-cryptic source notes written many years before.



The first step was to develop a list of names of Wayne County's African American residents. The federal and state census records 1800–1880 were the most obvious source for these names. By examining each page for “B” or “M” in the race column, a list of people identified as “free person of color” was created. This list became the basis to collect information gleaned from many sources (see, “Favorite Resources of the Author”).

More lists followed, and eventually there were lists of slaves, children of slaves, slaveholders, barbers, freedom seekers, landowners, church members, and Civil War soldiers—I am a list maker. When an African American family researcher would show up in the office, we could actually be of assistance!

## Using the Lists

Over the years, the collection of notes, lists and family group sheets expanded. I read multiple books and articles (non-fiction and fiction) exploring African American life during slavery to the present day—making me a better researcher. One of the earliest I read was Steward's *Twenty-Two Years a Slave and Forty Years a Freeman*. A more recent one was Salvatore's *We All Got History: The Memory Books of Amos Webber*.

My research into the African American Civil War soldiers expanded when frequent family visits to Washington, D.C. gave me time at the National Archives. Enlisting the help of my husband, we found compiled military records and pension files for the Wayne County men. As we looked at rolls and rolls of microfilm, I began to see names of other

men from surrounding counties and could not resist adding them to the list.

With retirement my African American research was pushed to new levels. The family genealogies were no longer confined to Wayne County, but spread into surrounding counties and states, and today the file includes over 5,100 names. Using the model developed by Dr. Judith Wellman in her series of county projects surveying the Underground Railroad and African American Life, the African American census material was converted into a spreadsheet. This allowed for additional analysis, and the familial connections among the African American families of central and western New York proved to be extensive. Additional family and social ties were revealed in this correlation.

## The Result

An impatient husband frequently asked, “What are you going to do with all this stuff?” After all, he had spent hours with me in the National Archives, and he did have a right to expect that there had been a reason for doing so. The result was *Freedom, A Shared Sacrifice! New York's African American Civil War Soldiers*, published in 2018.

The “test chapter” was the 14th Rhode Island Heavy Artillery Regiment. David H. Ray, Sr., a black barber living in Palmyra, New York, was a recruiter for the unit who because of his activism had an extensive network of contacts to draw upon. Over 130 men from Western New York joined this unit, with records showing that Mr. Ray was especially persuasive in Wayne, Ontario and Jefferson counties. Research on the soldiers resulted in chapters on

LEFT: Recruitment ad for the 14th Rhode Island Heavy Artillery; *New-York Daily Reformer*, Watertown, NY; Sept 19 1863, 2:4.

RIGHT: John S. Peterson, musician with 5th Massachusetts Cavalry, died August 3rd, 1864, while his unit was stationed at Point Lookout, Maryland, guarding Confederate prisoners of war. (Image courtesy of Stanton Biddle, PhD.)

**COLORED MEN,  
TO ARMS!**

**Your Opportunity has at length Come.**

Your Country, so long unmindful of her Sable Sons, now calls them to her defence. Shall she call in vain? Her foes are your enemies—the oppressors of your race! Now is the time, by a voluntary exhibition of Courage, Patience, and heroic Self-Sacrifice in the cause of your Country, to win for yourselves and posterity the position and rights now denied you.

The Government has authorized the raising of a Legion of colored men at the North, to be called the Rhode Island Brigade, to be officered by men in sympathy with the movement and the race. The assurance of the Government is pledged that the Pay, Bounty and Protection of the Colored Soldiers shall be the same as that now given to the white troops.

“Who would be free,  
Himself must strike the blow!”

Those wishing to respond to this noble call, can do so by presenting themselves in person at the General Enrolling Office now open at Palmyra, Wayne County, N. Y., where full particulars of the movement may be had.

DAVID H. RAY, Sen.,  
General Enrolling Officer.  
Sergt. H. I. LEZ, Assistant.  
**\$250 Bounty.—\$175 Down.  
\$13 a Month.**  
Palmyra, Wayne Co., N. Y., Sept 15, 1863. sep19



the 8th United States Colored Troops (USCT) and the three New York regiments (20th, 26th, and 31st USCT) recruited in December 1863 and January 1864.

## Getting to Publication

There was a one-year hiatus in writing *Freedom, A Shared Sacrifice!* Stymied on how to proceed, I took up another project that was on my list of must-dos—a book about persons who had traveled the Underground Railroad and had either settled in Wayne County or passed through Wayne County and vicinity on their way to Canada in search of safe haven. *Final Stop! Freedom; the Underground Railroad Experience in Wayne County, New York* was completed in 2017.

Returning with fresh eyes and renewed enthusiasm for the Civil War project, the cohesiveness issue that had dogged me from the beginning seemed to be magically solved. The completion of a chapter on the Western New York men who had joined regiments formed in Massachusetts between February and December 1863 was the cornerstone. Massachusetts was the first northern state to ask for permission of the War Department to form a black regiment, and more than one hundred men from Western New York joined the state's units. Stories of the soldiers and sailors who had served were included as well as an overview of African American life in Western

New York just prior to the Civil War. In retrospect, it all seems so simple and straight forward.

## Am I Finished?

No. I am currently working to complete a history of an African American community that was founded about 1815 on the outskirts of Sodus Point, New York. Many of the first residents of the settlement were the former slaves of Peregrine Fitzhugh, who had moved to the area in 1803 from Maryland. Recently, about forty descendants of the

founding families took part in a dedication ceremony of a roadside marker, erected to honor the black community that existed for over 100 years. The book will include extensive genealogies of the founding families and other early residents. Next on the agenda is a book about the African American woman of Western New York. I will continue to

assist researchers and family historians interested in exploring African American life in Western New York. Sharing information with other researchers is a priority.



Dedication Ceremony of Roadside Marker, Sodus Point, NY, May 4, 2019.



**Marjory Allen Perez** is an independent researcher and writer. She is the former Wayne County historian and a member of the NYG&B. (Image courtesy of cny55.com.)

## Favorite Resources of the Author

### Archival Collections

- **School records** held by the Wayne County historian's office include Sodus school district #2 attendance records (sometimes payments) and some treasurer's reports—persons paid for bringing wood to teacher, cleaning the school, etc.
- **Town records** contain information on children of slaves and manumissions, livestock earmarks, and some vital records for the late-1840s. [For 1840s vital records, see FamilySearch, [familysearch.org/search/film/007729125?cat=291947](https://familysearch.org/search/film/007729125?cat=291947)]
- **Church records** from Cornell University and from FamilySearch some of which are microfilmed were consulted frequently. [For Cornell, see the *New York*

- Family History Research Guide and Gazetteer*, chapter 15 “Religious Records,” p. 211, Cornell Collections, [rnc.library.cornell.edu/EAD/html/docs/RMM06000.html](http://rnc.library.cornell.edu/EAD/html/docs/RMM06000.html)]
- **Cemetery records** from transcription projects by local community, especially the old ones as stones are sometimes lost by now, are held at libraries, historian's offices, historical societies, and sometimes by towns. Also researching in active cemeteries can provide plot records that can link family members.
- **Diaries and letters** like those in the archival collections of the Wayne County Historian's Collection that have been donated and transcribed provide context.

Continued on next page.

One favorite is the William P. Woodlin Civil War diary held at the Gilderman Lehrman Institute of American History.

### Courthouse collections

Probate files and land records found online were supplemented with onsite courthouse research [onsite] as the online files may not be complete.

### Newspapers: online, on microfilm, and in paper

Accessible Archives has an collection of African American newspapers including those listed here.

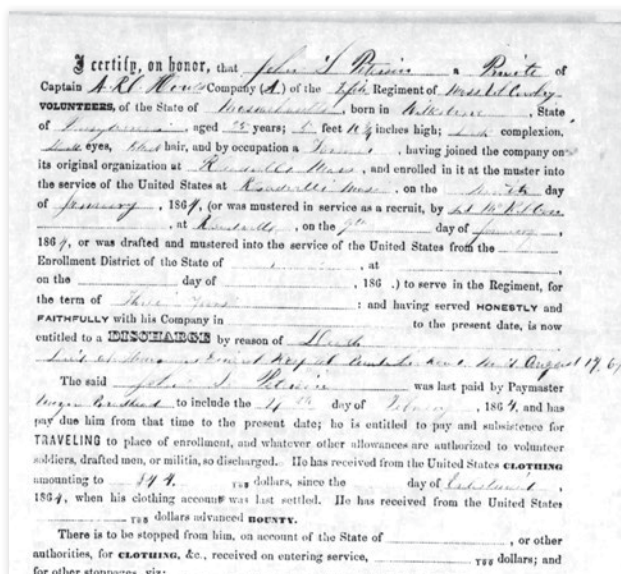
- *Douglass' Monthly*, Rochester, New York, (January 1859–August 1863 ), [accessible-archives.com](http://accessible-archives.com)
- *Frederick Douglass' Paper*, Rochester, New York (1851–1863, complete through December 1855), [accessible-archives.com](http://accessible-archives.com)
- *GenealogyBank* has selection of local New York newspapers. [Subscription required.]
- *New York Historical Newspapers Project*, [nyshistoricnewspapers.org](http://nyshistoricnewspapers.org)
- *The North Star*, Rochester, New York, (December 3, 1847–April 17, 1851, complete), [accessible-archives.com](http://accessible-archives.com)
- *Old Fulton Postcards* has local newspapers for many New York communities. By determining the target newspaper and dates in the Wayne County Historian's online database, researchers can pinpoint the page to be reviewed. See [fultonhistory.com](http://fultonhistory.com), also [fultonsearch.org](http://fultonsearch.org).

### Published Histories and Military Records

- Clark, Lewis H., *Military History of Wayne County, N.Y.: The County in the Civil War*. Sodus, NY: L. H. Clark, Hulett & Gaylord, 1883. [archive.org/details/cu31924080772019/page/n6](http://archive.org/details/cu31924080772019/page/n6)
- Cornish, Dudley Taylor. *The Sable Arm: Black Troops in the Union Army, 1861–1865*. Lawrence, KS: University Press of Kansas, 1987.

- Glatthar, Joseph T. *Forged in Battle: The Civil War Alliance of Black Soldiers and White Officers*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2000.
- Gutman, Herbert G. *The Black Family in Slavery and Freedom, 1750–1925*. New York: Pantheon Books, 1976.
- Mabee, Carleton. *Black Education in New York State: From Colonial to Modern Times*. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 1979.
- McManus, Edgar. *Black Bondage in the North*. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 2001.
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- Salvatore, Nick. *We All Got History: The Memory Books of Amos Webber*. Urbana : University of Illinois Press, 2007.
- Steward, Austin. *Twenty-Two Years a Slave and Forty Years a Freeman: Embracing a Correspondence of Several Years, while President of Wilberforce Colony, London, Canada West*. Canandaigua, NY: The Author, 1867. [archive.org/details/twentytwoyears00stew/page/n6](http://archive.org/details/twentytwoyears00stew/page/n6)
- Trudeau, Noah Andre. *Like Men of War: Black Troops in the Civil War, 1862–1865*. Edison, NJ: Castle Books, 2002.
- Ward, Samuel Ringgold. *Autobiography of a Fugitive Negro: His Anti-slavery Labours in the United States, Canada, & England*. Chapel Hill, NC: Academic Affairs Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1999.
- United States Civil War Service Records of Union Colored Troops, 1863–1865. Database on FamilySearch citing Records of the Adjutant General's Office, 1780–1917, RG 94. Washington,

D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, [familysearch.org/search/collection/1932431](http://familysearch.org/search/collection/1932431)



LEFT: Civil War Service Records, Union Records, Colored Troops, 1st–6th Cavalry, 5th Massachusetts Cavalry (Colored), John S. Peterson (35), Page 15. (See page 58 for a portrait of John S. Peterson.) Document image retrieved from [fold3.com/image/265253342](http://fold3.com/image/265253342).



# Now Online: Dutchess Ancient Documents and MacCracken Index

EDITOR'S NOTE: Genealogical information and clues to kinship may be found in court documents. But many researchers find court documents to be less accessible than other documents such as censuses and newspapers. Dutchess County has taken steps to make older court documents easier to find and utilize.

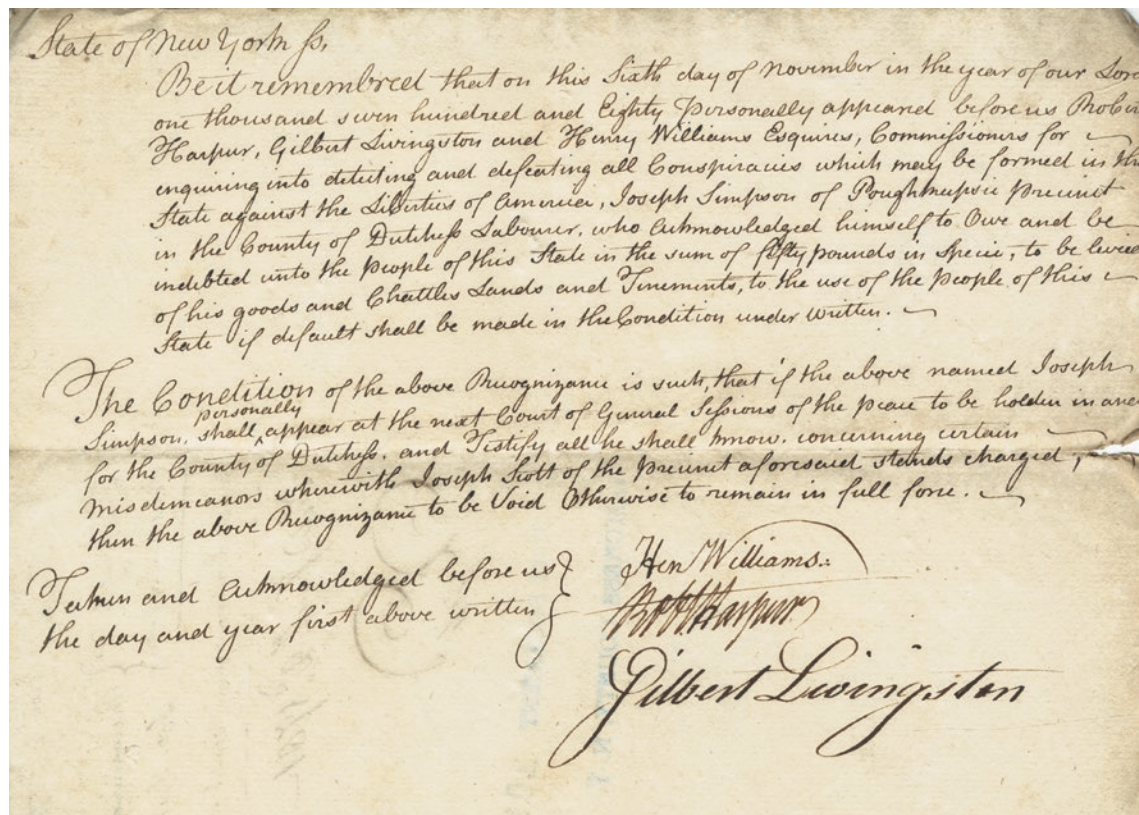
By William P. Tatum, III, PhD, Dutchess County Historian

## Ancient Documents Collection

County court records from 1721 to 1889 form the core of Dutchess County's most sought-after archival collection. The processed portion of the surviving manuscripts from the Dutchess County Court of Common Pleas and Court of General Sessions total 117,000 pages of material. To preserve and increase accessibility to these records of civil and criminal cases, Dutchess County Clerk Brad Kendall has placed 52,000 pages of material online at the county's Ancient Documents Search Portal (so far; the project is ongoing). The New York State Archives Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund (LGRMIF) provided funding assistance.

Researchers may conduct keyword searches by document number, names of individuals, location, crime, and record type through the portal created by the Dutchess County Office of Central and Information Services at [dutchessny.gov/AncientDocuments](http://dutchessny.gov/AncientDocuments).

The collection serves as an unparalleled research repository and is among the state's most complete corpus of 18th and 19th century county court documents. But without an index, page by page searches would be laborious. Therefore, the additional steps taken by Dutchess County through the years have paid dividends for researchers.

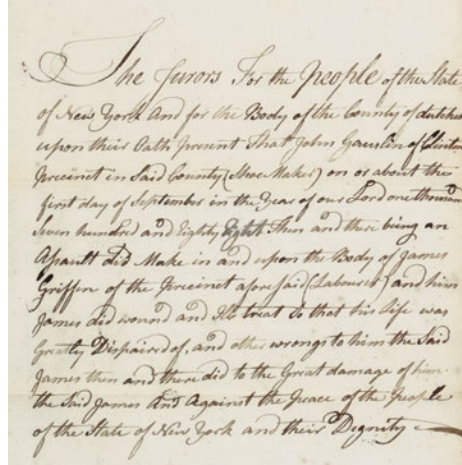


ABOVE: Ancient Document 14825. A receipt from Jonathan Forbus, Dutchess County Jailer (Gaoler in period terminology) on receiving Joseph Rogers into custody. Samuel Franklin and William Robinson sued Rogers for debt, resulting in his confinement in January 1798 to insure that he did not escape justice.

LEFT: Ancient Document 10136. A recognizance from Robert Harper, Gilbert Livingston, and Henry Williams, Commissioners for Detecting Conspiracies, binding Joseph Simpson of Poughkeepsie to testify against Joseph Scott, a suspected loyalist, at the next sessions of the county court. Taken at Poughkeepsie, NY, on November 6, 1778. Dutchess County Ancient Documents Collection. (Dutchess County Clerk's Office.)



Ancient Document 11580. The rear side of a memorandum of writs from 1787, showing sketches drawn by a clerk. While not commonly encountered, examples of similarly adept artwork appear in the collection from time to time.



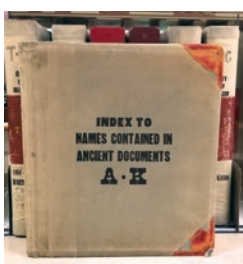
Ancient Document 12844B. A grand jury indictment of John Ganslin, a shoemaker from Clinton, NY, for assaulting James Griffen, a laborer in the same town, on September 1, 1788.

A list of the estate, &c of said John P. Myers		
Real estate	none	
<b>Personal estate</b>	<b>Militia equipment</b>	
2 hats	1 Military coat	
3 type Coats	1 Co. Cap	
1 year coat	1 3/4 B. pantaloons	
2 Coats	1 B. Vest	
2 Babel bands	1 B. & W. jacket	
2 B. stockings	1 Babel	
3 Shirts	1 Brass plate	
2 B. pantaloons	1 Cartridge box	
1 B. boots	1 pr. B. shoes	
Persons indebted to said Myers		
Residence	Conscience	Amount

Ancient Document 22071. An inventory of the personal belongings of John P. Myers, an insolvent debtor from Dover, New York. This detail showing his militia equipment comes from one of several documents required for an appeal for relief (similar to modern bankruptcy) made to the Dutchess County Court, filed in September 1820.

All images: *Dutchess County Ancient Documents Collection*. (Dutchess County Clerk's Office.)

## MacCracken Index



In 1954 then-Dutchess County Clerk Frederic A. Smith asked Dr. Henry Noble MacCracken, former President of Vassar College, to survey the Ancient Documents Collection. The collection had never been archivally processed.

Dr. MacCracken's examination found the documents had "tremendous genealogical and historic value." He advised an index be created, and with County Clerk Smith and his staff, the inventory and

indexing project commenced. Two large surname index volumes became the MacCracken Index.

The thousand-page MacCracken Index itself has been digitized by County Archivist, Justin Mancini, in two searchable PDF files. In addition to reviewing pages in an alphabetical name search, the document is searchable using the find function for name, year, place, document type, and document number.

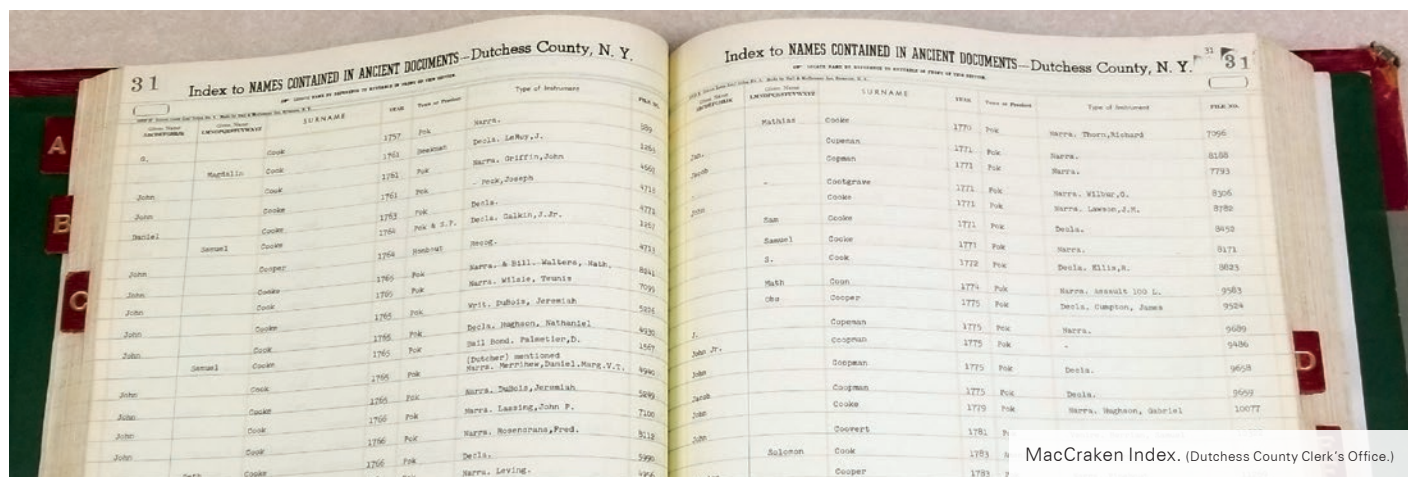
To view the index, researchers can go to [dutchessny.gov/Departments/County-Clerk/Ancient-Document-Search.htm](http://dutchessny.gov/Departments/County-Clerk/Ancient-Document-Search.htm).

## Assistance with Ancient Documents

Since the project is ongoing, more details on the posted documents will come in the future. Researchers wishing further details on specific documents or the collection may contact William P. Tatum, Dutchess County Historian, at [wtatum@dutchessny.gov](mailto:watum@dutchessny.gov) or 845-486-2381.



William P. Tatum III, PhD, is the Dutchess County Historian, responsible for promoting county history through research, writing, and exhibits, records management projects, heritage tourism events, and coordinating the county history community. Before moving to Dutchess, he taught at Brown and served as the Sol Feinstone Scholar at the David Library of the American Revolution. His research focuses primarily on the eighteenth-century British Empire in North America.



MacCracken Index. (Dutchess County Clerk's Office.)



# Uncovering Rural Roots in Central New York: Colgate's Goodrich Collection

By Michelle Smith, MLIS, CA

The Colgate University Special Collections & University Archives maintains a small but growing collection of materials related to both the village and town of Hamilton, New York, and the Central New York region. These collections include the papers of local persons and families, the records of community groups and businesses, and photographs, maps, and other non-textual materials documenting the region from the 18th century to the present.

## Victor B. Goodrich Collection

In the continuing effort to make these rich local history resources available for research, the Victor B. Goodrich Genealogical Research Services records were recently processed and inventoried. The inventory can be found online at <https://archives.colgate.edu/repositories/2/resources/330>.

The Victor B. Goodrich Genealogical Research Services records are the working collection of a professional genealogist active in Central New York. Goodrich focused primarily on town of Hamilton and Madison County, New York, but also includes records for many towns in nearby Chenango County. His work resulted in information covering 1789 to 1991, totaling 20 boxes, 34 bound volumes, and five flat boxes (10.4 cubic feet in all).

## Indexes and Abstracts

Before resources were available online, Goodrich traveled around Central New York, compiling indexes to records available for genealogical research. He created extensive listings of vital statistics in Madison County, including births, deaths, and marriages. Goodrich took photographs and etchings of gravestones from various cemeteries throughout Central New York and compiled lists of data from the cemeteries, gravestones, and church records.

## Records Collected

This collection also contains family Bibles and histories, church, cemetery, and military records, along with maps and land records from around Madison County. The records are primarily organized according to town or county of origin.

Family Bibles and genealogies are organized by surname and all vital statistics are organized by town or county and contain an extensive index of surnames.

Of general historical interest, he also collected published books and pamphlets and other Madison County ephemera, along with histories of local towns.

## Other Colgate Collections

- Other items of note for genealogical research in the Colgate University Special Collections & University Archives are
- **Alice I. Smith newspaper index**—subject index and name index to local and regional newspapers
  - **Alice I. Smith newspaper notes collection**—notes and transcriptions from central New York newspapers, 1816–1945, including births, marriages, and deaths
  - **Local & regional newspaper digitization project (to be completed in the next two years)**—*Hamilton Republican*, 1887–1947 and the *Democratic Republican*, 1863–1889

For more information please contact:

**Colgate University Libraries**

**Special Collections & University Archives (SCUA)**

13 Oak Drive, Hamilton, NY 13346

315-228-6175 | <http://cul.colgate.edu/content/scua>

Michelle Smith, MLIS, CA, is the currently the Assistant Archivist at the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. She was most recently the Collections Archivist at Colgate University in Hamilton, New York. She holds a BA in Comparative Religious Studies from The Ohio State University and a Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) from Kent State University. Michelle is a Certified Archivist and hold a Digital Archives Specialist (DAS) Certificate.

## About Victor Burton Goodrich (November 23, 1928–December 30, 1995)

Mr. Goodrich was a Lieutenant Colonel (retired) in the U.S. Air Force. He compiled *Personal Information from Records of the Second Congregational Church, Hamilton, N.Y.* [copies at Colgate's Everett Needham Case Library and the Saint Louis County Library (Missouri) and additional church and cemetery typescripts held at Colgate and the Fenimore Art Museum (formerly the New York State Historical Association) in Cooperstown, New York].

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## Featured New York County

# Madison County (formed 1806)



Located in the center of New York State, Madison County is bordered on the north by Oneida County; on the east by Oneida and Otsego; on the south by Chenango; and on the west by Onondaga and Cortland counties. Oneida Lake, the largest lake contained entirely within New York State, lies at the northern edge of the county.

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### History

Madison County was not established until 1806, although New York's first counties were formed under colonial rule in 1683. During colonial times the presence of the Oneida Nation, a member of the Iroquois Confederacy, hindered English and European colonists' expansion efforts. Once the American Revolution began in 1776, however, the Oneida Nation decided to aid the American patriots. In exchange for its help, the Oneida Nation was promised land near Oneida Lake.

In 1788 New York's governor, George Clinton, convinced the Oneida Nation to forfeit and sell the southern portion of the Oneida Reservation. The area given up by the Oneida Nation was later called The Twenty Townships or Clinton's Purchase. The sale was never ratified by New York State, and in the twentieth century was declared unconstitutional in a ruling by the United States Supreme Court. Legally, New York State had not had the right to negotiate with the American Indian nations after the United States had been created.

Nonetheless, once Clinton had obtained the land, the area began to be divided. This continued for years, with more and more counties being created. Madison County was created

on March 21, 1806, from Chenango County. The county was named after James Madison, then the Secretary of State. He later became President of the United States, though he is most famous for being the "Father of the Constitution" and the "Father of the Bill of Rights."

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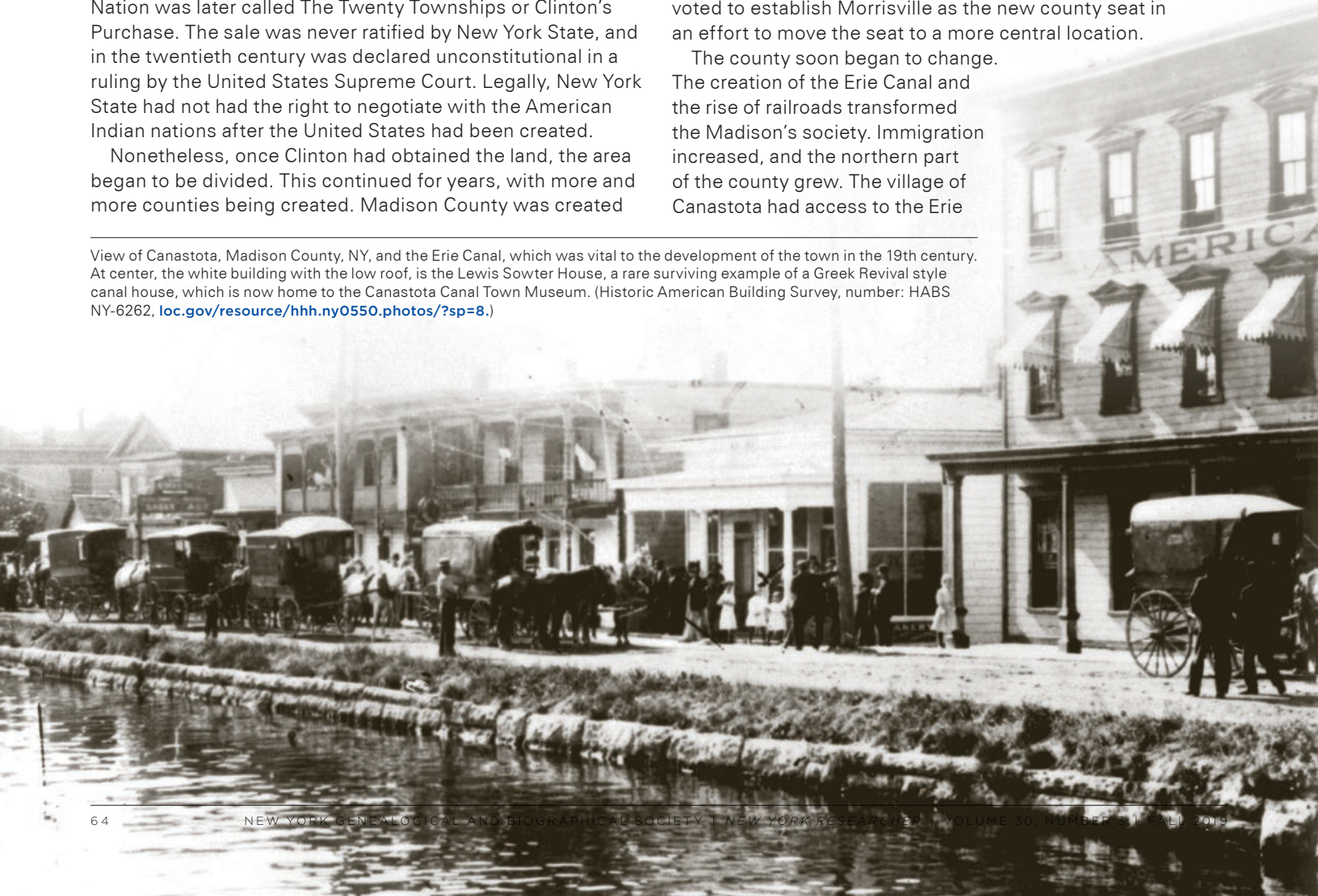
### County Seat

For the first few years of its existence, Madison County did not have a county seat. Court proceedings were held in various locations, ranging from schoolhouses to taverns. In 1811 the town of Cazenovia, in the far west side of the county, became the first county seat. In 1815 the county voted to establish Morrisville as the new county seat in an effort to move the seat to a more central location.

The county soon began to change. The creation of the Erie Canal and the rise of railroads transformed the Madison's society. Immigration increased, and the northern part of the county grew. The village of Canastota had access to the Erie

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View of Canastota, Madison County, NY, and the Erie Canal, which was vital to the development of the town in the 19th century. At center, the white building with the low roof, is the Lewis Sowter House, a rare surviving example of a Greek Revival style canal house, which is now home to the Canastota Canal Town Museum. (Historic American Building Survey, number: HABS NY-6262, [loc.gov/resource/hhh.ny0550.photos/?sp=8](http://loc.gov/resource/hhh.ny0550.photos/?sp=8).)



Canal and New York Central Railroad. Oneida, too, had access to the railroad. On the other hand, Morrisville had no access to canals and was ignored by railroads. These reasons prompted Canastota and Oneida to try to become the county seat.

In 1900 Canastota, Oneida, Earlville, and Cazenovia all vied to win the county seat. However, they split the Board of Supervisors' vote, and the county seat remained in Morrisville. It had been suggested that the village of Wampsville become the county seat, but it also lost. When city of Oneida and Canastota began to work together in order to prevent the county seat from staying in Morrisville, in 1907, Wampsville obtained enough votes to finally win the county seat.



Laying the Cornerstone of the Madison County Court House, Wampsville, New York, 1909. (Courtesy of the Madison County Historian's Office.)

### Sources and Additional History

**Madison County Historian**—About Madison County, [usgenweb.info/nymadison/bit-of-past/madescrb.htm](http://usgenweb.info/nymadison/bit-of-past/madescrb.htm)

**New York State Courts**—Madison County History, [nycourts.gov/courts/6jd/madison/history.shtml](http://nycourts.gov/courts/6jd/madison/history.shtml)

**Hammond, Mrs. L. M.** *History of Madison County, State of New York*. Syracuse, NY : Truair, Smith & Co., 1872, [archive.org/details/historyofmadison00whit/page/n6](http://archive.org/details/historyofmadison00whit/page/n6)

**Smith, John E.** *Our Country and Its People: A Descriptive and Biographical Record of Madison County, New York*. Boston, MA. The Boston History Company, 1899, [archive.org/details/ourcountryitspeo00smit/page/n4](http://archive.org/details/ourcountryitspeo00smit/page/n4)

### Selected Resources

**Madison County Clerk**  
138 North Court Street #4,  
Wampsville, NY 13163  
(315) 366-2261  
[madisoncounty.ny.gov/185/Genealogy-Research](http://madisoncounty.ny.gov/185/Genealogy-Research)

New York state census for Madison County 1855, 1865, 1875, 1892, 1905, 1915, and 1925; court records; deeds and mortgages; naturalization records; school records; books; and miscellaneous records of Madison County.

The County Clerk's office

performs copy services of indexed records. The procedures and fee schedule are accessible online at [madisoncounty.ny.gov/DocumentCenter/View/156/Research-Form-PDF](http://madisoncounty.ny.gov/DocumentCenter/View/156/Research-Form-PDF)

### Madison County History and Archives

138 North Court Street #4, Wampsville, NY 13163  
[madisoncounty.ny.gov/335/Archival-Records](http://madisoncounty.ny.gov/335/Archival-Records)

The Archives are located in the County Clerk's office and include archival documents, census records 1800–1870, cemetery incorporations 1874–1951, court records 1853–1985, deeds 1806–1920, journals 1892–2005, marriage licenses 1908–1926, mortgages 1806–2008, naturalizations 1852–1953, school records 1826–1953, and military records. A selection of records (including naturalization index, some census, deeds, mortgages, and school records) and photographs is available on the website, along with abundant information on the county's history.

## Madison County, New York

**Formed:** 1806

**Parent County:** Chenango

**Daughter Counties:** None

**Major Land Transactions:**  
Chenango Twenty Townships 1789–1794

**Indian Territories:**  
Oneida Reservation (1788–present)

### Incorporated Towns:

Brookfield	Hamilton	Oneida
Cazenovia	Lebanon	Smithfield
DeRuyter	Lenox	Stockbridge
Eaton	Lincoln	Sullivan
Fenner	Madison	
Georgetown	Nelson	



**Madison County Historian** (See below)  
 138 North Court Street #4, Wampsville, NY 13163  
**Mailing Address:** PO Box 668, Wampsville, NY 13163  
 (315) 366-2453 | [madisoncounty.ny.gov/202/Historian](http://madisoncounty.ny.gov/202/Historian)

**Colgate University Special Collections & University Archives (SCUA)**

Colgate University, Case Library, Room 495  
 13 Oak Drive, Hamilton, NY 13346  
 (315) 228-6175 | [cul.colgate.edu/content/scua](http://cul.colgate.edu/content/scua)

Extensive local collections, including family histories, family papers, letters, the Andrew J. Russell Photographs (Civil War), railroad collection, local newspapers on microfilm,

American Indian collection, Victor B. Goodrich Collection (vital statistics, etc., for Madison County). Website contains digital collections.

**NYG&B Resources**

More than twenty additional resources, dozens of website links, and a bibliography may be found in our website Madison County guide at [newyorkfamilyhistory.org/knowledgebase/madison-county-new-york-guide](http://newyorkfamilyhistory.org/knowledgebase/madison-county-new-york-guide). For resources in a print version, please see chapter "Madison County," pages 472–479, in the *New York Family History Research Guide and Gazetteer* (Madison County chapter also available separately).

**Madison County Historian's Office and Website**

The county historian, Matthew Utz, digs up and compiles information about Madison and has been doing so since he started as historian in 2010. The historian's website contains finding aids for archival documents and lists such as "Early Religious and Other Incorporations In Madison County, NY, 1806–1932." Each town has a featured page. A listing of archival document maintained by the historian's office may be accessed at [www.madisoncounty.ny.gov/335/Archival-Records](http://www.madisoncounty.ny.gov/335/Archival-Records).

In 2019 a digitization project of two large photographic collections began. One features photographs of local homes in 1973 (completed in May 2019). A second collection of black and white negatives taken by the Madison County Highway Department features large snowstorms, bridge washouts, equipment photos from the 1940s, 50s and 60s. The second project is ongoing.

The screenshot shows the website interface for the Madison County Historian's Office. At the top, there is a search bar and navigation links for Government, Departments, SeeThroughMadison, Experience Madison, and I Want To... Below this is a large image of a waterfall. A left-hand navigation menu lists various towns: Brookfield, Cazenovia, DeRuyter, Eaton, Fenner, Georgetown, Hamilton, Lebanon, Lenox, Lincoln, Madison, Nelson, Oneida, Smithfield, Stockbridge, Sullivan, Archival Records, Historical Societies, Naturalization Records, Madison County interviews, and Maps. The main content area is titled "Archival Records" and includes a sub-section for "African Americans in Madison County" with a list of census data PDFs from 1800 to 1870. Below that is a section for "Archival Documents" with a list of PDFs for various towns and topics like "Businesses, Organizations, and Societies" and "Cemeteries." A "Court Records" section lists minutes and orders from 1803 to 1887. To the right, there is a "References" section with a list of PDFs including "Dentist Register," "Erie Canal," "Fruit Juice Permits," "Gerrit Smith," "Great Swamp," "Hops," "Indictments and Subpoenas," "James W. Nye," "Judgments," "Justus B. Smith Property Sales," "Liquor Petitions," "Loomis Gang," and "Madison University." At the bottom right, there is a "Maps" section with a grid of PDFs for various locations like Bennetts Corners, Enneville, New Woodstock, Bouckville, Fenner Town, North Brookfield, Bridgeport, Georgetown, Oneida Valley, Brookfield, Hamilton, Onondaga, Hamilton, Oneida Village, Canaseraga, Hubbardville, Peterboro, Canastota, NYCCR, Lebanon, Hamilton, Fenner, Penrynville, Canastota, NYCCR, Lebanon, Penrynville, Cazenovia, Leonardville, Plover, Cazenovia, Lenox Furnace, Plover, and Hoboken.

# New and Updated Records Access

## Citizenship Records on Ancestry.com

Ancestry.com has updated an important collection by adding nearly 800,000 records from the U.S. Court for the Southern District of New York, (NARA series 471341). The records are declarations of the persons intention to become a citizen of the United States, a first legal set on the path to citizenship.

Declarations of Intention for Citizenship, 1/19/1842–10/29/1959 (799,867 records), [ancestry.com/search/collections/nynaturalizationpetitions](https://ancestry.com/search/collections/nynaturalizationpetitions).

## State Censuses on FamilySearch

FamilySearch has updated indexes to the 1855 and 1905 New York state census collections. The 1855 is the first New York state census to record every name and the relationship to the head of the household. And the 1905 New York state census is available for every county (except The Bronx, which had not yet been formed). If your research subjects have not been found in these censuses, an additional search could prove fruitful. And don't forget to update your research log!

- **New York State Census, 1855:** [familysearch.org/search/collection/1937366](https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1937366)
- **New York State Census, 1905:** [familysearch.org/search/collection/1463113](https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1463113)

Declaration of intention of citizenship for Albert Einstein, filed in the Southern District of New York on May 15, 1936. Einstein was born in Germany but became a Swiss citizen while a student. He would become a U.S. citizen in 1940—but maintained both his Swiss and U.S. citizenships. (<https://artsandculture.google.com/exhibit/QQrk18h6>). (Ancestry.com. New York, State and Federal Naturalization Records, 1794-1943 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2013.)

New York, State and Federal Naturalization Records, 1794-1943 for Albert Einstein  
U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York (Roll 495) Declarations of Intention for Citizenship, 1842-1959 (No 377163-378105)

ORIGINAL (To be retained by clerk) No. 377507

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**DECLARATION OF INTENTION**  
(Invalid for all purposes seven years after the date hereof)

STATE OF NEW YORK In the DISTRICT Court  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK of UNITED STATES NEW YORK, N.Y.

I, Albert Einstein, of legal age, sound mind, and sober senses, do hereby declare on oath that my personal description is:  
now residing at 225 Central Park West, New York  
occupation business-man, aged 48 years, do declare on oath that my personal description is:  
Sex male color white complexion light color of eyes blue-gray  
color of hair brown height 5 feet 8 inches; weight 160 pounds; visible distinctive marks  
race Hebrew; nationality German  
I was born in Munich, Germany, on January 5, 1888  
I am married. The name of my wife or husband is Julia  
we were married on August 16, 1923 at Munich, Germany she or he was  
born at Munich, Germany on July 16, 1892 entered the United States  
resides at Germany I have no children, and the name, date and place of birth,  
and place of residence of each of said children are as follows:  
I have not heretofore made a declaration of intention: Number \_\_\_\_\_ on the vessel \_\_\_\_\_  
my last foreign residence was Munich, Germany  
I emigrated to the United States of America from Havre, France  
my lawful entry for permanent residence in the United States was at New York, NY  
under the name of Albert Einstein on March 5, 1936  
I will, before being admitted to citizenship, renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, and particularly, by name, to the prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty of which I may be at the time of admission a citizen or subject; I am not an anarchist; I am not a polygamist nor a believer in the practice of polygamy; and it is my intention in good faith to become a citizen of the United States of America and to reside permanently therein; and I certify that the photograph affixed to the duplicate and triplicate hereof is a likeness of me: So HELP ME GOD.

Subscribed and sworn to before me in the office of the Clerk of said Court, at New York, NY this 15th day of May, Anno Domini 1936 Certification No. 2-457300 from the Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization showing the lawful entry of the declarant for permanent residence on the date stated above, has been received by me. The photograph affixed to the duplicate and triplicate hereof is a likeness of the declarant.

CHARLES BRIGGS  
Clerk of the U. S. District Court

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE

No. 72312

## New York Heritage Digital Collections—Nine Million Pages, and Still Growing

The NYS Historical Newspaper collection added its 9,000,000th page this summer. Searches may be performed for a county or town/city within that county. New titles include:

- **The Colonial News.** Endicott, NY, 1946–1970
- **The Daily Review.** Freeport, NY, 1921–1926
- **The Long Island News and the Owl.** Rockville Centre, NY, 1919–1931
- **The Nassau Daily Review.** Freeport, NY, 1926–1937
- **Nassau Daily Review and Nassau Star.** Metropolitan Long Island, Nassau County [Freeport], NY, 1937–1937



- **Nassau Daily Review-Star.** Metropolitan Long Island, Nassau County [Freeport], NY, 1937–1954
- **The Observer.** Northport, Huntington, NY, 1962–current
- **The Owl.** Rockville Centre, NY, 1909–1919
- **The Picket.** Rockville Center, Long Island [NY], 1865–1870
- **Pipe dream.** Binghamton, NY, 1970–current
- **South Side Observer.** Freeport, Long Island [NY], 1870–1918





by the place of origin for their ancestors, as the instructions for this column might ask for the name of the place of origin *at the time of emigration*—not at the time of the census. Other questions ask if a family owned a radio, a seemingly trivial question but one important to the government who was looking for ways to communicate to the people directly and especially in times of crisis.

Read about the New York State Censuses, including the questions asked on each, at [newyorkfamilyhistory.org/subject-guide/new-york-state-census-records-online](http://newyorkfamilyhistory.org/subject-guide/new-york-state-census-records-online).

format. The detail is exhaustive and takes slightly different form depending on the source. A typical census citation may look like the following:

The U.S. Census Bureau lists the enumerator’s instructions, and other information about federal censuses, at [census.gov/history/www/through\\_the\\_decades/census\\_instructions](http://census.gov/history/www/through_the_decades/census_instructions). For state censuses, the New York State Library’s website contains links to the available instructions, [nysl.nysed.gov/scandocs/nyscensus.htm](http://nysl.nysed.gov/scandocs/nyscensus.htm).

1940 U.S. census, Madison County, Hamilton, population schedule, S.D. 32, enumeration district (ED) 27-19, sheet 7B, line 42, household 157, Lena Scharman; accessed via “1940 United States Federal Census” images Ancestry (Ancestry.com, accessed 31 July 2019), [1940 United States Federal Census > New York > Madison > Hamilton > 27-19 > image 14 of 18] citing NARA digital publication T627.

**6. Take care when citing censuses in your research notes and written documents.** Because of the differences in the style and types of information collected by federal censuses over time, the standard for citation can vary. Depending on the purpose, the citation may require a long- or short-form.

In the above example, the highlighted text is where a static URL or waypoint would be inserted. When a web page does not have a static or permalink URL (one that does not rely on a query or long string on instructions to the server) a waypoint may be preferred. Waypoints are similar to turn-by-turn driving instructions which can help a researcher easily navigate to the information, collection, or digitized collection or record.

The *Evidence Explained*-style citation is the traditional form for scholarly work and is a comprehensive citation

1925 New York state census, “Enumeration of Inhabitants,” Madison County, Madison, p. 6, Joseph Scharman, image “New York, State Census, 1925,” images Ancestry, ([ancestry.com/interactive/2704/32849\\_b094334-00255](http://ancestry.com/interactive/2704/32849_b094334-00255) : accessed 31 July 2019), citing State population census schedules, 1925. Albany, New York: New York State Archives.

County Madison ORIGINAL Page 6  
 State of New York, June 1, 1925.

Enumeration of the Inhabitants of Block No. \_\_\_\_\_, Election District No. 1, Ward No. 24, City or Village \_\_\_\_\_  
 Town Madison, Assembly District No. 411  
 Name of Institution \_\_\_\_\_ Enumerator Lockhurst

PERMANENT RESIDENCE	NAME	RELATION	COLOR, SEX AND AGE			NATIVITY	CITIZENSHIP		OCCUPATION	FOR INMATES OF INSTITUTIONS INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE		
			Color or Race	Sex	Age at last birthday		Number of years lived in State	Native born or alien				
Street	Enter surname first, then the given name and middle initial, if any. Insert every person living on June 1, 1925. Omit children born since June 1, 1925.	Relationship of each person to the head of the family	4	5	6	If born in this country, write United States; if of foreign birth, write name of the country.	8	9	10	11	12	13
1	101 W. J. St.	Head	W	M	52	U.S.	C			Farmer	W	
2		Wife	W	F	48	U.S.	C			Housework	X	
3		Head	W	M	70	U.S.	C			Farmer	W	
4		Son	W	F	67	U.S.	C			Housework	X	
5		Head	W	M	45	U.S.	A			Farmer	W	
39		Son	W	F	7	U.S.	C					
40		Son	W	M	5	U.S.	C					
41		Head	W	M	52	Germany	C	Wormsle 1893		Farmer	W	
42		Wife	W	F	36	Austria	C			Housework	X	
43		Son	W	M	12	U.S.	C			School	X	
44		Daughter	D	F	3	U.S.	C				X	
45		Brother	W	M	16	Germany	C	Manhasset 1921		Farmer	W	
46	On road	Head	W	M	48	U.S.	C			Farmer	W	
47		Wife	W	F	42	U.S.	C			Housework	X	
48		Son	W	M	13	U.S.	C			School	X	
		Head	W	M	43	U.S.	C			Laborer	W	
		Daughter	D	F	15	U.S.	C			School	X	

## NYG&B 1869 Circle



We are very sad to announce the passing of Ellsworth G. Stanton, III. A long-time member of the NYG&B, Mr. Stanton was a dedicated advocate for the elderly and a humanitarian. He had a passion for the British nobility and over his lifetime amassed an incredible collection of books and other materials related to the subject. As a member of the 1869 Circle, Mr. Stanton left a portion of his books and other materials, along with a bequest, to the NYG&B. We are grateful for his generosity and dedication to the organization.

Remembering the NYG&B in your estate planning ensures we are able to continue to fulfilling our mission. Since the early days of the Society, these generous bequests have enabled the organization to move forward with a number of important projects, including records preservation, publications, and digital expansions. If you have already included the NYG&B in your estate planning, please let us know so we can honor your generosity as a member of the 1869 Circle.

If you have questions—or would like to learn more about becoming a member of the 1869 Circle—please contact Jennifer Davis, Director of Development, at **212-755-8532, ext. 208**.

## Ready to Share Your Knowledge? Start Writing!

Writers aren't born, they're made—and writing for publication can help you become a more organized researcher, improve your sleuthing skills, and learn a subject (whether new or already familiar) at an expert level. The NYG&B offers many opportunities to contribute to our collective research and educational materials. Here are two to consider:

### Submitting Material to the *New York Researcher*

If you would like to write for the *New York Researcher*, we would love to hear from you!

The feature articles in the *New York Researcher* are useful research tools for New York genealogists, cover a wide variety of topics, time periods, and places across New York State. Types of articles include:

- New York research resources, such as little-known or under-used archival and manuscript collections.
- Descriptions of holdings in New York libraries, archives, societies, university archives, and other repositories.
- “How to” articles on New York genealogical research, both for particular counties or cities as well as state-wide, and covering any religious or ethnic groups and time periods.
- Accounts of New York families “hidden” in multi-family works, manuscript collections, and periodicals.
- Articles on New York families published in other periodicals, past and present.

Additionally, if you have recently written a book, you may submit a description in our “Book Notices” so that all our Members will know about it.

Authors can submit their notices or articles for publication and, if accepted, will work with the Editor to hone the materials for publication. To get started, review the *New York Researcher* article submission guidelines posted on our website, and then contact the Editor. See our submission deadlines and guidelines on our website at [newyorkfamilyhistory.org/publications/researcher](http://newyorkfamilyhistory.org/publications/researcher).

### Thinking of Writing for *The Record*?

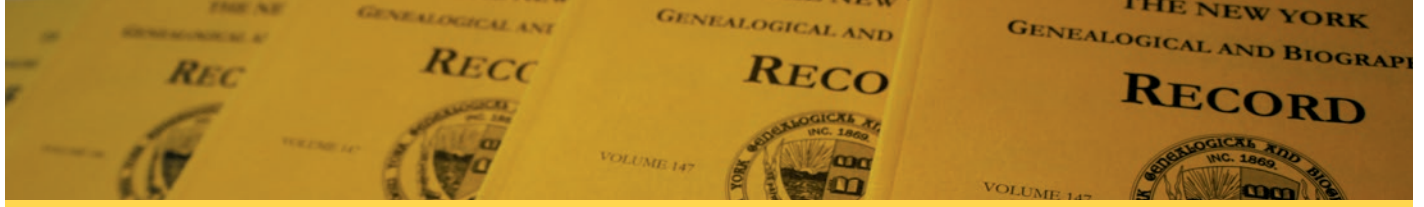
Writing for a peer-reviewed publication such as *The Record* is the pinnacle of scholarly genealogical research and writing. Many also find the process of writing for a journal a valuable learning experience as all submissions are peer-reviewed, receiving input from experts in the field.

The Editor of *The Record* seeks unique manuscripts that focus on residents of New York State and its colonial predecessors—studying families of any ethnic, religious, or social group in any time period—that have not been published or submitted for publication elsewhere.

If you believe you might be ready to submit a manuscript for consideration, study recent issues of *The Record* to become familiar with the articles or pieces generally published. Not every article is accepted for publication, but those that are turned down are returned with suggestions for improvement. Authors who write for publications like *The Record* are eager to have their work critiqued and improved by their peers. Those articles accepted for publication will undergo several rounds of editing and vetting.

For more information, please thoroughly review “Writing for *The Record*” at [newyorkfamilyhistory.org/writing-record](http://newyorkfamilyhistory.org/writing-record) or contact [editor@nygbs.org](mailto:editor@nygbs.org).





# Highlights of *The Record*

The July issue of *The Record* (volume 150, number 3) is packed with useful and fascinating articles. If you haven't been reading *The Record* recently, each issue is introduced by "The Editor's View" by Laura Murphy DeGrazia, CG, FGBS (reprinted here). Members may read the full issue at [newyorkfamilyhistory.org/knowledgebase/record-vol-150-no-3-july-2019](http://newyorkfamilyhistory.org/knowledgebase/record-vol-150-no-3-july-2019).

## The Editor's View

Knowledge of historical context is critical to sound genealogical research. Correctly answering genealogical questions requires awareness of the time, place, and society in which an individual or family lived. Familiarity with conflicts, environments, laws, religions, and traditions affecting the person or group under study improves a researcher's ability to plan, understand, analyze, reason, and draw conclusions.

In this issue of *The Record*, authors Michael Rudy and Meryl Schumacker demonstrate the importance of considering the context when trying to resolve genealogical problems.

The names of Elsje Jans's parents have eluded researchers for decades. Michael Rudy studied individuals connected to her through baptismal records, recognizing that Dutch families followed very specific traditions for naming children and selecting baptismal witnesses. Armed with that knowledge, Rudy untangled a complicated web consisting of Elsje's siblings and half siblings; in the process, he identified Elsje's origins.

Meryl Schumacker's quest to learn about Thomas Chapman, a nineteenth-century immigrant to New York City, led her to records created in New York, Massachusetts, England, and India. By studying the historical context, Schumacker enhanced her understanding of the society into which Thomas was born. She surveyed a variety of published works about colonial India, focusing on the British East India Corporation, silk manufacturing, interpersonal relationships, and British record-keeping practices. Historical context added meaning to the information she found and helped explain the absence of other records.

Sources sometimes directly answer genealogical questions. In other instances, the answers are not so clear, and reaching conclusions requires extensive research, meticulous analysis, and careful assembly of evidence. Whichever the case, contextual awareness allows researchers to move beyond what seems obvious—to recognize subtleties and discern meanings that might otherwise be missed.

—Laura Murphy DeGrazia, CG, FGBS, Editor

## "The Bengali and English Ancestry of New York City Immigrant Thomas<sup>2</sup> Chapman (1777-1862)"

In the introduction to this article, author Meryl Schumacker, CG, writes "Thomas<sup>2</sup> Chapman (1777-1862) was different than most early nineteenth-century New York City immigrants. He was born in colonial Bengal and had lived on two continents before he arrived in the United States. The search for

his parents relied upon traditional genealogical records and historical research, with conclusions supported by DNA evidence. Thomas was the son of Thomas Chapman, an English silk merchant, and "Ayrshree Beeby," likely Arshi Bibi, a Bengali woman. His parents' identities highlight a unique period in Indian history, when Bengal was controlled by the British East India Company."

As mentioned in the Editor's View above, Schumacker consults an impressive array of sources from all over the globe. This article is invaluable for anyone researching Bengali immigrants, but anyone interested in genealogy or history should read this fascinating piece of work—the article is filled with well-sourced insights about the East India Company's impact on family and society in Colonial India and other topics.

All genealogists looking to improve their skills should study the way original records, historical sources, and DNA evidence are combined to reach the conclusions.

## "The Parents of Elsje Jans, Wife of Conradus Van der Beek"

This article by Michael Rudy investigates the true origins of the frequently misidentified Elsje Jans, the wife of Conradus Van der Beek of Gowanus. She has been frequently misidentified as Elsje Schaers due to an incorrect supposition by a nineteenth-century researcher, which was discussed and rejected by Harry Macy Jr. in a *Record* article from [volume 142 \(2011\)](#), "Some New Light on Aeltje Braconie and Maria Badië."

According to Rudy, "by studying baptismal records of the children of Conradus Van der Beek and Elsje Jans, as well as records of baptisms at which Conradus, Elsje, and their associates served as witnesses, Elsje's parents can be properly identified."

The article should be studied by researchers with colonial Dutch ancestors and serves as yet another example of using periodicals for New York Dutch research (see our blog article at [newyorkfamilyhistory.org/blog/how-use-periodicals-new-york-dutch-genealogy-research](http://newyorkfamilyhistory.org/blog/how-use-periodicals-new-york-dutch-genealogy-research)).

## Articles Continued and a Book Review

*Record* issues continue with articles begun in previous issue. Also included are book review—only a limited number—which can help researchers decide whether a publication is needed in their personal or local library. Miss these reviews and you could miss an invaluable resource.



## Highlights from our blog ([nygbs.org/blog](https://nygbs.org/blog))

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

### Crown Agents on the Hudson: John Burnet's New York Story

On Friday, June 7, 1750, a coroner named John Burnet probably woke up thinking he was going to have a normal workday. But as Francis Sypher detailed in the NYG&B's *Minutes of Coroner's Proceedings: City and County of New York, John Burnet, Coroner, 1748–1758*, Burnet's "normal day" was far from typical.

In the introduction to this volume, Sypher notes that the English word coroner descends from the Latin *coronarius*, meaning "crown-agent." This means that when someone died, the king had "a voice in county affairs" through a coroner.<sup>1</sup>

Burnet was in charge of reporting deaths, investigating the nature of the death, and determining if a crime may have been committed.<sup>2</sup> He also presided over a jury, which, once the death was thoroughly investigated, helped him "transfer the case to the appropriate court," if necessary, once the death was thoroughly investigated.<sup>3</sup> At any given moment a person could die due to a freak accident or murder and it was Burnet's duty to investigate and report it. This made Burnet's job unpredictable. Life in 1750s New York was harsh and dangerous, thus making Burnet's job a reflection of that period.

Yet June 7, 1750 was different—even for Burnet.

This story begins when a small boat on the Hudson River did not salute a British navy vessel. This prompted John How, the lieutenant in command of the *H.M.S. Greyhound*, to aim a small cannon at the boat.<sup>4</sup>

What would happen next would cause John Burnet to find himself at the epicenter of a controversial event that inflamed tensions between local New Yorkers and the British colonial government. Read more in our blog article at [newyorkfamilyhistory.org/blog/john-burnet-colonial-coroner](https://newyorkfamilyhistory.org/blog/john-burnet-colonial-coroner).

Illustration: "The south prospect of the city of New York in America," (1761), as printed in *The London Magazine*, 1761 August. (Library of Congress, [2004672441](https://www.loc.gov/item/2004672441).)

### Tips for Finding Your Immigrant Ancestors

The stories of our immigrant ancestors are inspiring and fascinating. The genealogical records that help us piece together how, when, and why our ancestors immigrated to

1. Francis Sypher Jr., *Minutes Coroners Proceedings: City and Country of New York, John Burnet, Coroner, 1748–1758*, *Collections of the New York Genealogical & Biographical Society*, vol. 16 (New York: The New York Genealogical & Biographical Society, 2004), xii.

2. *Ibid*, xii

3. *Ibid*, xii

4. *Ibid*, xv.

America are some of the most sought-after for good reason.

These records can be hard to find, so it's important to take the right approach to accomplish this research goal. Since New York is one of the main gateways of immigration to America throughout history, the NYG&B has been helping people find their immigrant ancestors for more than 150 years. Earlier this year, we delivered an hour-long session at the RootsTech 2019 conference titled "Trace the Story of Immigrant Ancestors in 3 Steps".

We covered crucial strategies and looked in-depth at immigration and naturalization records. Read the blog article for a selection of tips from the lecture, and make sure to watch the entire recording for free through the video player on the article page. Good luck searching!

Learn more in our article at [newyorkfamilyhistory.org/blog/tips-finding-your-immigrant-ancestors](https://newyorkfamilyhistory.org/blog/tips-finding-your-immigrant-ancestors).

### Essential Steps to Find a New York State Marriage Record

Marriage records can be some of the most valuable documents that you uncover in researching your New York ancestors. It is often an important life event, and an official record of this act can be treasured in and of itself.

Of course, the information contained in a marriage certificate or license is also incredibly valuable to the family history researcher. Depending on the time and place of the marriage, you can find deep information on both spouses (possibly including a specific foreign birthplace if one was an immigrant), as well as deep information on parents and witnesses.

Finding a marriage record can be a real breakthrough—it may help you solve a long-standing mystery, or open up further avenues of research to explore.

But civil marriage records can be challenging to locate in New York State. Marriage records created in New York City are kept separately from those created elsewhere in New York State, and record keeping for all vital records (civil birth, marriage, and death records) was very spotty until about 1914. There are also plenty of local exceptions and idiosyncrasies that affect the research process.

That's why we're here to help! This article will provide an overview of the things you can do to find a marriage record for any ancestor outside of New York City. Learn more at [newyorkfamilyhistory.org/blog/essential-steps-find-new-york-state-marriage-record](https://newyorkfamilyhistory.org/blog/essential-steps-find-new-york-state-marriage-record).

# NYG&B 150th Anniversary Events



## Member Open Houses

**Wednesday, September 18,  
5:00–7:00 pm**

**Saturday, October 5,  
2:00–4:00 pm**

**Live-stream and in-person  
at the NYG&B Offices**

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

Meet the NYG&B team and learn about our digitization projects, programs and conferences, and more about our publications. And feel free to bring a friend who may wish to learn more about us!

RSVP at [nygbs.org/events](http://nygbs.org/events) or call 212-755-8532, ext. 207.

## The Future of Genealogy

**Wednesday, November 20,  
7:00–9:00 pm | New York  
Institute of Technology  
Auditorium, New York,  
New York**



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



We are grateful to FamilySearch for sponsoring this event.

Save the date!



## Roseanne Cash and Ry Cooder at Carnegie Hall

**Saturday, November 2,  
8:00 pm | Carnegie Hall,  
New York, New York**

In a once-in-a-lifetime event for New York City audiences, the incomparable Grammy-winning singer-songwriter Rosanne Cash teams up with guitar legend and song man Ry Cooder to interpret classics from Johnny Cash's treasure-filled songbook. We will be offering a limited-number of seats for this special night.

Tickets available at [nygbs.org/events](http://nygbs.org/events).



## Holiday Party

**Party Like It's 1869**

**Tuesday, December 3,  
5:00–7:00 pm | NYG&B Offices,  
New York, New York**

Join us as we celebrate the holidays by taking a look back at the year the NYG&B was formed. Save the date!

**More details to come on these events—please keep an eye on your email and the eNews!**

Left: "Annual Reception at the National Academy of Design," Harper's Weekly, 1868. The Clark Museum, 1955.4086. | clarkart.edu/Collection/3331. Top: Carnegie Hall. Ajay Suresh.

# NYG&B Week: September 16–20

Join us for special events that will help advance the NYG&B's collections and help you manage your own family archive!

## Caring for Keepsakes: Top 10 Family Treasures

Monday, September 16, 7:00 pm | Webinar  
Presented by Denise May Levenick,  
The Family Curator



Join us during NYG&B Week to learn how to care for the Top Ten Family Treasures from photographs to furniture, from love letters to lockets, clocks, and Bibles. Learn to identify common hazards such as silverfish, mold, acid migration, and how to set up a simple Home

Archive to safely store your heirlooms.

Denise May Levenick is a writer, researcher, and speaker with a passion for preserving and sharing family treasures of all kinds. She is the creator of the award-winning family history blog, *The Family Curator* ([TheFamilyCurator.com](http://TheFamilyCurator.com)) and author of two books on caring for family treasures.

Register at [attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4022568088998135820](http://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4022568088998135820).



## Digitization Days at the NYG&B

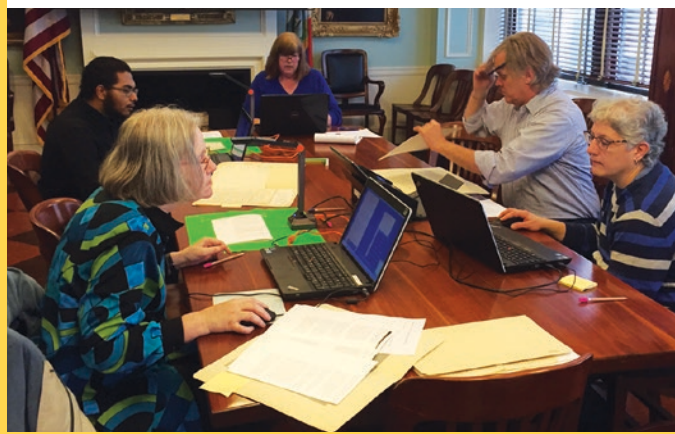
Tuesday, September 17, 10:30 am–3:30 pm  
Friday, September 20, 10:30 am–3:30 pm  
NYG&B Offices, 36 West 44th St., Suite 711,  
New York, NY

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

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

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

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



## Member Open Houses

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

Live-stream and in-person at the NYG&B Offices

All members, near or far, are invited to join us for our live-stream event or at the office during NYG&B week.

Meet the NYG&B team and learn about our digitization projects, programs and conferences, and more about our publications. And feel free to bring a friend who may wish to learn more about us!

RSVP at [nygbs.org/events](http://nygbs.org/events) or call 212-755-8532, ext. 207.



# Empire State Exploration

February 11-14, 2020 | New York Genealogical and Biographical Society

Our popular Empire State Exploration returns in 2020 for four days of uncovering your New York ancestors. With a home base at the NYG&B headquarters you will be steps away from the NYG&B's statewide collections at the New York Public Library—and access to experts to guide you along your way. **Empire State Exploration** is an ideal setting for those just beginning their search and those seeking to answer longstanding New York research questions.

A personal, one-on-one consultation will enable you to begin your search immediately, with advice from a New York-expert genealogist at the NYG&B offices. In addition to social events, the program also includes topical lectures on tracing New York ancestors, using *The Record*, and other essential topics to help guide you throughout the week. You can access millions of additional records on FamilySearch.org with the NYG&B's Affiliate Library status and will also easily visit some of the nation's best repositories for New York research including the New York Public Library (NYPL), the New York Historical Society, the Center for Jewish History, the National Archives at New York City and county and borough repositories for the New York City area.

Special access to data not yet released in the NYG&B Online Collections will be available to participants in the program.

This experience focuses on tracing ancestors from across the entire state of New York, not just within the New York City area.

Looking for more specialized assistance during your week? Additional consultations will be available for a small fee to program participants. Please note that this trip does not include individual tours of all the research repositories,

though a general orientation to the resources available at the major repositories will be given Monday morning.

Visiting New York City? Hotel options include accommodations one block from the NYG&B's headquarters Sunday through Wednesday night. Participants may extend their stay at the group rate.

Local to New York City? Commuter options are also available.

## Registration

	Early Registration (through Nov. 30)	Registration (after Nov. 30)
<b>Member–Commuter Registration</b>	<b>\$725</b>	<b>\$925</b>
<b>Member–Hotel Registration*</b>	<b>\$1,285</b>	<b>\$1,485</b>
Non-member–Commuter Registration	—	\$1,145
Non-member–Hotel Registration*	—	\$1,685

\* King room. Double room at an additional charge.

Register at [newyorkfamilyhistory.org](http://newyorkfamilyhistory.org) or call Susan R. Miller at 212-755-8532 x211.

## Program Schedule (May be subject to change.)

<b>Sunday</b>	Arrive in New York City
<b>Monday</b>	
9:00–10:30 am	Continental breakfast, followed by an orientation to New York State and New York City research repositories
11:00 am–4:00 pm	Individual Consultations at the NYG&B and research at the NYPL.
6:00–7:00 pm	Light dinner at the NYG&B
<b>Tuesday</b>	
All Day	Independent research and consultations
9:30 am	Lecture at the NYG&B (optional) <i>NYG&amp;B offices open 8:15 am to 6:00 pm</i> <i>NYPL is open until 7:45 pm</i>

<b>Wednesday</b>	
9:00 am–6:00 pm	Independent research and consultations
9:30 am	Lecture at the NYG&B (optional)
6:30–7:30 pm	Reception at the NYG&B <i>NYG&amp;B offices open 8:15 am to 6:00 pm</i> <i>NYPL is open until 7:45 pm</i>
<b>Thursday</b>	
9:00 am–5:00 pm	Independent research and optional consultations
12:30–2:30 pm	Wrap-up lunch at the NYG&B <i>NYG&amp;B offices open 9:00 am to 5:00 pm</i>



**NYG&B**



# New York Genealogy Seminar

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

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

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

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

## Program Schedule (May be subject to change)

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

## Directions to the Everson Museum of Art

**Everson Museum of Art**  
401 Harrison Street, Syracuse, NY

Convenient to Routes 81 and 690.

Parking is available in the museum lot and in the OnCenter parking garage (reduced rate). See directions at [everson.org/visit](http://everson.org/visit).

## Seminar Registration

	NYG&B and CNYGS Members	Non-Members
Full-day registration, including a print syllabus.	<b>\$48</b>	\$59

CNYGS member discount codes should be applied at check-out. Downloadable registration form and flyer are available on the New York Genealogical & Biographical Society and Central New York Genealogical Society ([cnygs.org](http://cnygs.org)) websites.

Online registration on the NYG&B website at [newyorkfamilyhistory.org/events](http://newyorkfamilyhistory.org/events).

Images courtesy of the Everson Museum of Art





# Genealogy and DNA: An Intermediate-level Seminar

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

After testing for genealogy with various DNA-testing companies, and then exploring the tools available on the company websites, do you know what to do next? This program is intended for intermediate-level genealogists with some experience using genetic genealogy tools. Our presenter is nationally known for his presentations and blog, *The Genetic Genealogist*.

Registrants should have tested at one or more genealogy-DNA testing companies, and be familiar with the tools of those websites, including cousin-matching functions. Beginning topics will not be discussed. If you are not sure if this program is for you, please contact Sue Miller at [smiller@nygbs.org](mailto:smiller@nygbs.org) or 212-755-8532 x211.

## Program Sessions

### Using Autosomal DNA to Explore Your Ancestry

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

### Using DNAPainter to Analyze Your Autosomal DNA

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

### Are You Doing Everything to Identify Your DNA Matches?

In this session, we will examine numerous ways you can use a match's profile to identify who they might be. We will also examine ways to use the In Common With tool and the Shared Matches tool to estimate how that elusive match is related to you.

### Evaluating a Genealogical Conclusion Including DNA

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

## Registration

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

	Registration
<b>Member Registration</b>	<b>\$169</b>
Non-member Registration	\$189
Optional box lunch (vegetarian, turkey, or salad)	\$26

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

## Program Schedule (May be subject to change)

<b>9:30 am</b>	<i>Office opens</i>
<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Using Autosomal DNA to Explore Your Ancestry</b>
<b>11:20 am</b>	<b>Using DNAPainter to Analyze Your Autosomal DNA</b>
<b>12:30 pm</b>	<i>Lunch break</i>
<b>1:20 pm</b>	<b>Are You Doing Everything to Identify Your DNA Matches?</b>
<b>2:40 pm</b>	<b>Evaluating a Genealogical Conclusion Including DNA</b>
<b>3:50 pm</b>	<i>Wrap-up reception</i>

## About Our Presenter



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

**To register, go to [nygbs.org/events](http://nygbs.org/events) or call 212-755-8532 x211.**

## North River Research

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## New York Articles From Beyond Our Boundaries

By Stanton Biddle, PhD

New York-related articles in selected 2018-2019 Issues of some non-New York Journals.

### “Orlando Jeremiah Howell”

**Julie Howell Sarno, *The Edward Howell Family Association Newsletter*, vol. 41, 3: 1, 4 (August 2019).**

Julie Howell Sarno, President of the Edward Howell Family Association, describes the Civil War military career of her great uncle, Orlando Jeremiah Howell, of Bridgehampton, Long Island, New York. Orlando Howell enlisted in the Union Army shortly after his 18th birthday in 1861. He served in the 81st Regiment of New York State. The unit saw action in a number of battles in Virginia and North Carolina in 1862–1864. Howell was mustered out in December 1864, four months before the end of the war. He returned to Bridgehampton, Long Island, where he spent the rest of his life.

### “The Kennedy-Burns Family of South Carolina and New York”

**Morna Lahnice Hollister, *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*, vol. 106, 4: 245–262 (December 2018).**

Winner of the 2017 National Genealogical Society Family History Writing Contest, Ms. Hollister researches how her African American family transitioned to freedom after the U.S. Civil War in South Carolina. Family members withheld accounts of the violence and racism they experienced. However, records reveal their lives in America’s turbulent past. Unexpectedly poignant details about a seemingly ordinary black family emerged from government and institutional records.

### “Researching Orphan Train Riders”

**Clark Kidder, *NGS Magazine*, vol. 45, 1 :31–38 (January–March 2019).**

The orphan train movement was responsible for transporting approximately 200,000, children to the west from New York City and Boston between 1854 and 1929. Descendants of these children now number some 2.5 million. Kidder discusses the organizations involved in this movement, the challenges descendants face in tracing their ancestry, and the tools available to help them in this pursuit.



**Stanton Biddle, PhD**, is a 20-plus year member of the NYG&B and a member of our corps of volunteers. He is a retired professor and former chief librarian at Baruch College. He earlier held senior administrative positions at SUNY Buffalo, at

Howard University Libraries, and at NYPL’s Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.



## New-York Historical Society Library Tour and Family History Experience

**Wednesday, October 23, 2019 2:00–4:00 pm, –OR– Wednesday, December 18, 2019 2:00–4:00 pm**

**The New-York Historical Society, Central Park West at Richard Gilder Way (77th St.), New York, NY 10024**

**Co-sponsored by the New-York Historical Society and the NYG&B**

Explore one of New York’s great genealogical libraries—the Patricia D. Klingenstein Library at the New-York Historical Society—in this joint program that examines a selection of historical documents and discusses techniques for family history research.

### Registration

This library tour is for all experience levels; the genealogy program is best for those who are just starting their own research. Tickets are \$50 per person, and \$40 for New-York Historical Society members.

**Sign up at [nygbs.org/events](http://nygbs.org/events)**

### Program Itinerary

**2:00–3:00 pm:** Learn how to conduct genealogical research in the special collections at the Patricia D. Klingenstein Library. Guided by an experienced reference librarian, learn about the vast collections at our esteemed research library as well as how to register and conduct research of your own and how to locate and contextualize primary and secondary resources.

**3:00–4:00 pm:** In the family history experience you learn 10 essential steps to discover your family’s story from a New York Genealogical and Biographical Society expert.

**NYG&B**

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NEW YORK STATE  
FAMILY HISTORY  
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**2020**

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