

Tracing Your New York Ancestors with the NYG&B

Presented by: D. Joshua Taylor, president@nygbs.org

The New York Genealogical and Biographical Society (NYG&B) offers numerous resources exist to expand your knowledge of New York records and resources. A terrific place to start is the free New York Genealogy Essentials page at <https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/free-new-york-genealogy-resources>.

Online Collections

The online home of the NYG&B, newyorkfamilyhistory.org is where you can find the NYG&B Online Records Collection. Online records include the full archive of *The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record*, abstracts and transcriptions from religious and cemetery records, biographical indexes, vital record indexes, and more. You search, browse, and view a list of online collections at <https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/online-records>.

Key collections to explore are:

- *The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record* (name index and keyword browse)
- Religious records (many transcriptions from the early 1900s, sorted by county)
- Periodicals from New York including *The Columbia*, *The Saratoga*, *The Capital*, and *The Mohawk*
- Cemetery extracts (transcriptions between 1900 and 1950, sorted by county)
- New York Biographical Index (more than 1 million entries from local histories)

When exploring the NYG&B's online collections, some collections are "indexed" while others are accessible in "full-text."

Indexed collections:

- Primarily for name search
- Keyword field searches indexed fields, not the text of the article
- More context in search results
- Created by human indexers

Full-text collections:

- Search names AND keywords. Keyword field searches the complete text of the article.
- Surrounding text displayed in search results
- Text extracted by computers

Publications and Resources

For over 150 years, the NYG&B has been creating publications designed to help amateur and professionals research New York families. Our publications provide crucial guidance and advice for researchers, and also preserve essential genealogical work and historical records.

The New York Researcher

The NYG&B's member magazine provides information about researching in New York, along with articles on specific family history topics. Updates on recently-released New York record sets (including those on other organization's sites) are included in every issue. Plus in-depth information about upcoming programs, new publications, and what's new at the NYG&B

Kinship Books

More than 350 titles published by Arthur and Nancy Kelly abstracting records from across the state of New York. A partial surname index is accessible at <http://www.kinshipny.com>.

NYG&B County Guides

Researching can vary from county to county in New York, so the NYG&B has produced a guide for every county in the state to help you out. Each guide contains a list of repositories, libraries, government offices, historical societies, and all other organizations that hold records and collections useful to genealogists. Included is an overview of what each organization holds, contact details, and other useful information.

The New York Family History Research Guide and Gazetteer (NYFHRGG)

This one-of-kind publication is the definitive source for anyone doing research in New York. This comprehensive, two-volume textbook contains an index of over 11,000 place names and place-name variants, past and present. More than 100 experts reviewed and contributed content to this exhaustive look at where to do

eNews

Sent twice per month, the NYG&B eNews offers new articles, upcoming events, and new record releases relating to New York family history. Sign-up for free at <https://newyorkfamilyhistory.org>.

NYG&B Webinars and On-demand Content

Dip your toe in the waters of learning with the NYG&B webinar series (see <https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/webinars>). Most webinars are open to the

public for the live broadcast. Topics include New York's records and how to access them, stories, research techniques, and records for the many cultural groups that populate New York case studies of how a genealogist solved a difficult problem. You can see the wide range of topics our NYG&B member on-demand webinar section. Members may watch on-demand programs unlimited times and can download the handout.

NYG&B Programs and Tours

NYG&B holds programs for all stages in your genealogy and family history journey. Programs range from book talks to deep-dive learning programs, such as workshops, research tours, and online experiences (see Empire State Exploration online).

The annual Research in Albany Tour provides hands-on guidance at the New York State Library and New York State Archives, two valuable research repositories for your research questions. We provide orientations, on-site assistance by professional genealogists, and a personal consultation to guide your individual research. And you have the fun of spending time with other researchers.

Empire State Exploration gives you assistance to research your ancestors all across the state, with an overview of New York research, and then a deeper exploration of research repositories that can assist you in finding more records. Plus New York experts are on hand for the questions that arise while you are delving into the collections and records. Both an online experience and an in-person program are available.

New York State Family History Conference

<https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/nysfhc>

The New York State Family History Conference (NYSFHC) is New York's only statewide family history event and includes camaraderie and learning experiences with researchers from across the United States with an interest in tracing New York families. The online event, NYSFHC@Home, provides sessions by some of the best presenters in topics including Records and Resources, New York's People, and Guides and Best Practices. The on-demand sessions are available until October 18. Registration is still open, so don't miss this great opportunity to connect with other researchers.

In 2022 the New York State Family History Conference will be both onsite in Albany, New York, and have an online opportunity for those who cannot travel to New York. Watch the NYG&B's eNews for program announcements.