

NYG&B

NEW YORK
Researcher

NEW YORK GENEALOGICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY | VOLUME 29, NUMBER 2 | SUMMER 2018

NYG&B 2017 Year in Review PAGE 35



NEW YORK STATE FAMILY HISTORY CONFERENCE 2018

SEPTEMBER 13-15, 2018
TARRYTOWN, NY

Come to New York's only statewide family history event.

The New York State Family History Conference is the only statewide conference focused on New York genealogy and family history—and it comes downstate to Tarrytown at the DoubleTree Hilton hotel for the first time.

This unique gathering provides networking and social events alongside the latest tools and methods for tracing New York families. Conference sessions, led by New York's experts, cover topics including New York records, methodology, genetic genealogy, online sources, case studies, and more.

Register
today at
nysfhc.org

The 2018 conference features two and a half days of lectures, workshops, and a vibrant exhibit hall. Your paid conference registration automatically gives you a \$10 NYSFHC Note, redeemable within the NYSFHC exhibit hall. See the options for workshops, luncheons, and pre-conference local tours (all of which require separate registration) on nysfhc.org.

Conference Schedule At-A-Glance *(Subject to change)*

Wednesday, September 12	(Various Times)	Pre-Conference Tours & Events <i>(Additional registration required)</i>
Thursday, September 13	9:30 am	Workshops <i>(Additional registration required)</i>
	Noon–6 pm	Exhibit Hall Open
	1:15–4:30 pm	Sessions
	Evening	NYG&B Member Reception

Friday, September 14	8 am	Opening Session
	9 am–6:30 pm	Exhibit Hall Open
	9:15 am–6 pm	Sessions
	12:30 pm	Luncheon and Talk <i>(Additional registration required)</i>
	6:30 pm	Dinner and Talk <i>(Additional registration required)</i>
Saturday, September 15	8:30 am–3:15 pm	Exhibit Hall Open
	9:15 am–4:00 pm	Sessions
	12:15 pm	Luncheon and Talk <i>(Additional registration required)</i>
	4:15 pm	Wrap-Up Reception

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

Those interested in family history always seem to enjoy the months of summer, specifically when family vacations veer into the occasional cemetery or courthouse visit. Summer outings create lasting memories and bonds between friends and family and are often a time when stories of the past are told. Even with the immense amount of online resources at our disposal for tracing New York families, the stories passed down to us from our relatives hold a special place in our lives. We yearn to visit the places our ancestors once lived, and we diligently search for original records that document their lives. A visit to the farmland once occupied by an ancestor is just as thrilling as a journey to the apartment building in New York City where an ancestor lived after first coming to America.

These adventures would not be possible without the drive to preserve and share the stories of New York's past. In recent months the NYG&B has worked diligently to protect your access to records. With fellow members and other New York-based genealogical organizations, we attended a hearing of the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene regarding the proposed amendment to broaden access to the recently restricted birth and death records from New York City. With your support we were able to submit a petition with nearly 1,000 signatures supporting expanded access to these important records. Subscribing to the NYG&B eNews is an excellent way to be one of the first to know of changes to access for New York's records.

The NYG&B provides continuous opportunities for you to expand your knowledge and connect with an exciting community of genealogists, biographers, and other researchers. Inside this issue of the *New York Researcher* you can discover a few of our upcoming activities, including a newly announced NYG&B Week in October, new Summer and Fall webinars, and our Fall Benefit Luncheon featuring author Russell Shorto. These are just a few events where you can interact with the NYG&B and fellow New York research enthusiasts. In just a few short months hundreds of attendees will visit Tarrytown to participate in the biennial

New York State Family History Conference. Conference events are filling quickly and if you have not already registered, please do so now to ensure you have a spot.

Our Annual Review, on page 35, provides an in-depth look at our activities during 2017. Please take a brief moment to catch up on the many advancements and successes we experienced (with your support) last year. Our work is supported by your membership and generosity, and I am extremely grateful to those who continually contribute to our success.

The NYG&B continues to be engaged in a flurry of activities. This summer we will welcome eleven interns to our offices, each of whom will work on a variety of projects. In May we announced that a guide to the New York State Archives (with the expert assistance of the team there) is underway, and we will soon add additional content to Mapping *The Record*. We also had a few changes to the NYG&B staff. After more than 10 years of service at the NYG&B, M. Pamella Campbell, Accounts Coordinator, has retired. We are deeply grateful for her dedication to the organization. I am also pleased to welcome Michelle Granger to the team, who will take up the duties Ms. Campbell previously maintained. Earlier this year we restored a portion of the NYG&B's stained glass window (on the cover), which now greets visitors to our offices. We are also expanding our volunteer program and invite members near and far to participate.

As always, I wish you all the best in your research explorations and hope you make many discoveries in the months ahead.

Until next time,



D. JOSHUA TAYLOR

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Susan R. Miller, Editor

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About the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society

Since 1869, the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society (NYG&B) has been preserving, documenting, and sharing the stories of families across the state of New York. Through our programs, resources, publications, and services we actively engage with genealogists, biographers, historians, and organizations to establish the broader contexts of New York's past and foster connections between New York's past and the present.

The NYG&B publishes the *New York Researcher* and *The NYG&B Record*; both are quarterlies. Subscriptions to each are among the many benefits of Membership. The NYG&B warmly welcomes new members; information on Membership and benefits may be found on our website, newyorkfamilyhistory.org.

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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

The NYG&B window was recently restored and now lights the foyer of the NYG&B offices. NYG&B staff funded the project. See more about NYG&B projects in the 2017 Year in review on pages 35–38.




Image 1. City Register Office (Manhattan). Hundreds of index books help researchers locate microfilm and microfiche images of conveyances, mortgages, deeds, and other property records.

Office of the City Register (Manhattan)

Excavating New York County Land Records

By Molly Charboneau

Records of land and real estate purchases, sales, and transfers help genealogists and family historians establish kinship ties and place individuals in a location and time period. Conveyance and mortgage records are also invaluable for house and building historians.

The Office of the City Register maintains real property records for New York County (Manhattan) in the Department of Finance Manhattan Business Center at 66 John Street (image 1). The office provides public access to Manhattan records from 1654 to 1966. Records from 1966 on are freely available online through the Automated City Register Information System (ACRIS).¹

The City Register has a small staff to assist the public, but researchers must pull and refile their own bound volumes, microfilm, or microfiche in the Microfilm and Research room. This article will highlight some of the office's substantial holdings and briefly outline the research process.

Background

In 1812 the state established the Office of the City Register to assume registration and indexing of New York County land conveyances from the County Clerk. Subsequent laws refined the office's operation. Starting in 1891, Manhattan

conveyances and mortgages were indexed by the property's section and block on the land map. In 1911 a Reindexing Department was created to simplify retrieval of earlier instruments by reindexing most pre-1891 real estate records under the new block system, also identifying affected lots.²

Thus, an important first step in researching a Manhattan property is determining its block and, if available, its lot number. This can be done online by entering a property address into ACRIS or into the city's Building Information System (BIS).³ Blocks and lots can also be looked up onsite using computers or printed resources.⁴

Getting Started: Conveyances

The **Block Index of Reindexed Conveyances prior to 1917**, more than 230 volumes in cabinets near the windows, is a key resource of the Office of the City Register (image 2). Consulting this index first will establish a timeline of early property transfers, as well as a block's history.

Block sections in each pre-1917 book begin with a General Statement of Early Title (image 3)—a sourced block history that may include notes from early tract reports and farm histories along with tract maps superimposed on block maps with known lot numbers (image 4).

Conveyances are listed chronologically in each block starting with the oldest. Skim down the Index Lot Numbers column to pinpoint which conveyances apply to a specific lotted property. “Not lotted” will appear where there is no lot number (image 6).

Entries name the grantors and grantees and give the recording date and the conveyance liber and page numbers. A remarks column sometimes includes record details such as “quit claim” or “trust deed” or “lease” or “release of dower.”

About 90 additional volumes of block indexes of conveyances cover three subsequent time periods: 1917–1937, 1938–1962, and 1962–1965. These provide the same entry details, but do not contain maps and block histories. In

addition, conveyance indexes for 1945–1962 are in a half-drawer of microfilm.

Locating and Copying Records

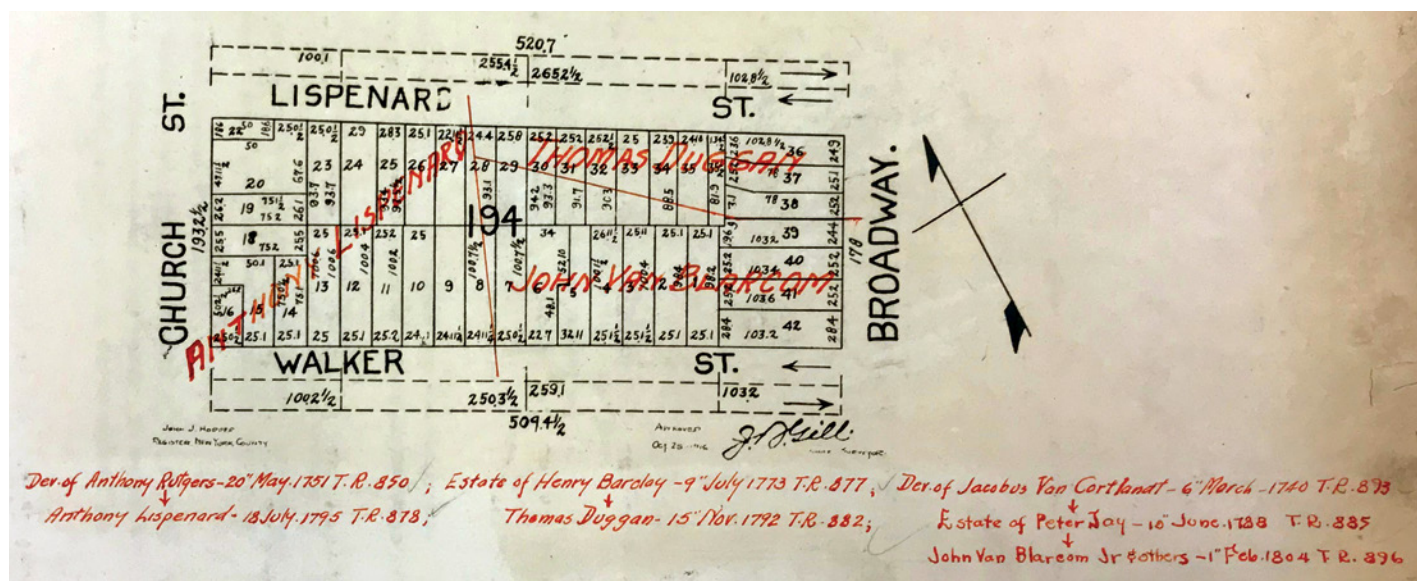
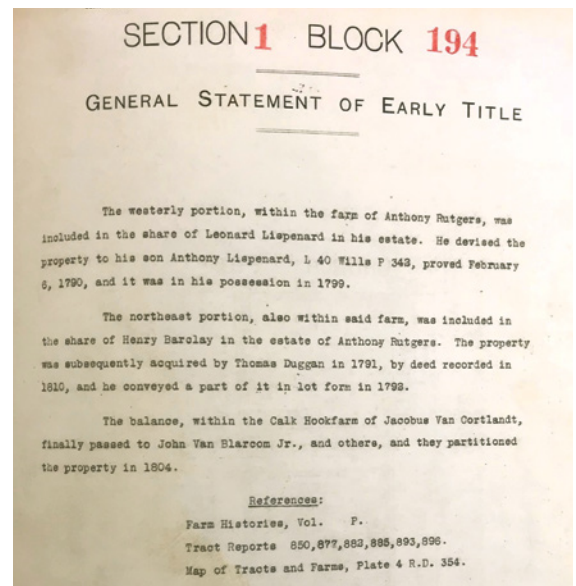
Next, use the liber and page numbers to locate the image(s) of the conveyance record. Cabinets at the center of the research room contain consecutively numbered microfilm reels of conveyances labeled NC (35 drawers). These are duplicated on microfiche labeled CP (33 drawers). There is also a backup set of microfilm on shelves at the front of the room. If a microfilm image is hard to read, the fiche or backup microfilm image may be clearer.

Film and fiche readers are available, some with USB ports. However, copying an image electronically requires payment (see Visiting/Using ACRIS below). Browsable images of these conveyances for 1654–1886 are also available on FamilySearch, as are images of other Manhattan property indexes and records that partially overlap or supplement the City Register holdings (see Learn More).

Image 2 (Near-Right): Block Index of Reindexed Conveyances prior to 1917. Consulting this index first will establish a timeline of early property transfers, as well as a block’s history.

Image 3 (Far Right): General Statement of Early Title. Each block in the Block Index of Reindexed Conveyances prior to 1917 begins with a sourced history of early property ownership that may include notes from early tract reports and farm histories.

Image 4 (Below): Map of Block 194 in lower Manhattan. The Block Index of Reindexed Conveyances prior to 1917 includes tract maps superimposed on block maps with known lot numbers.



Mortgages

The **Block Index of Reindexed Mortgages prior to 1917**, more than 75 volumes, is another key resource. Block sections in each book begin with a notice page describing omissions along with a block diagram showing known lot numbers, but without historical notations. Only open mortgages prior to Jan. 1, 1891 were reindexed by block and lot.⁵ Closed mortgages must be located using the microfilmed alphabetical mortgagee index (see Name Indexes below).

Pre-1917 open mortgages are listed chronologically within each block. Entries identify mortgagors, mortgagees, the recording date, the mortgage liber and page numbers, and known lot numbers. A remarks column sometimes includes record details such as “foreclosed” or “discharged” along with related mortgage liber and page numbers and dates (image 7).

About 390 volumes of block indexes of mortgages cover six subsequent time periods from 1917 to 1982 and provide the same entry details. However, some give additional information. The 1917–1937 mortgage books, for example, contain block and lot maps and also give the mortgage discharge date and the liber and page number of the mortgage satisfaction. Mortgages from 1965 on are indexed in “tickler-block mortgage” books that give the liber (reel) and page for both mortgages and deeds; this index is also available on microfilm (1 drawer) and microfiche (1 drawer).

Most images of mortgage records are available on microfilm labeled NM (45 drawers), microfiche labeled

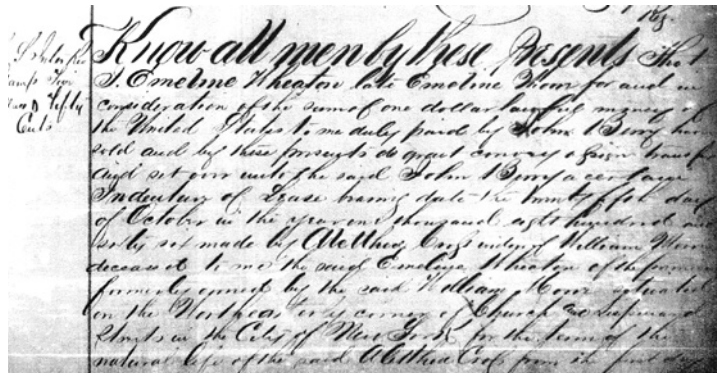


Image 5: Property record. Index entries lead to images of property records, such as this conveyance recorded Jan. 8, 1867 from Emeline Wheaton to John Berry of property at 36 Lisenard St. (block 194, lot 22), where African American abolitionist David Ruggles once lived and where Frederick Douglass stayed briefly after his escape from slavery.

corresponding reel/fiche number or ask staff for assistance. Mortgages dated 1966 or later are also online in ACRIS.

Name Indexes

When party names are known, records can be located by looking up grantors, grantees, mortgagors, or mortgagees in alphabetical name indexes.

Alphabetical Indexes. A single book for 1910 to 1948 alphabetically lists party names and addresses, the kind and number of papers filed, the filing date, and the application filing and certificate numbers. About 35 volumes (1966–1982) alphabetically list grantors, grantees, mortgagors, mortgagees, lessors, lessees, assignors, and assignees, and provide the property block and lot numbers, the record date, and the liber (reel) and page.

Miscellaneous Indexes. Five volumes of name indexes to miscellaneous records 1944–1980 alphabetically list parties in six categories: Decedents Estates, General Assignments (Court Orders), Power of Attorney, Transfer Tax, Wills, and Miscellaneous. Entries name the first and second party, give the record date, liber (reel) and page, and sometimes include brief identifying notes such as “P of A” or “Resolution” or

GRANTORS		GRANTEES		DATE OF RECORDING	CONVEYANCE		INDEX LOT NUMBERS	REMARKS
					LIBER	PAGE		
Section 1 Block 194 Page 6								
1811								
BOSTON	John	JACOBSON	John	Feb 2	90	399 11		
BOSTON	John	FERGUSON DAY	Sammal John	Feb 2	90	401	12,13	
McVEERS	Charles	LISPENARD	Leonard	May 18	93	372	not lotted	Quit claim
ELECKER	Margaret James Sarah							
STEWART	Alexander L Sarah							
DUTCHER	William Anne	ASBOUGH	William	Sept 13	95	288	14,15,16, 18	
LISPENARD	Anthony Sarah	HOPPER	John	Dec 19	94	497	19,20,22	
HOPPER	John Jr Eunice	HALSEY	Jacob	Dec 19	94	500	19,20,22	
HALSEY	Jacob Ann	BAXTER	Stephen	Dec 19	94	502	19,20,22	

Image 6: Block 194 conveyance index page (detail). A typical page from the Block Index of Reindexed Conveyances prior to 1917.

MORTGAGORS		MORTGAGEES		DATE OF RECORDING	MORTGAGE		INDEX LOT NUMBERS	REMARKS
					LIBER	PAGE		
Section 1 Block 194 Page								
1865 (Cont'd)								
MEYER	Christo-pher	ROBERT LOWTHER TAYLOR	Thomas K George J Howard	Apr 2	25	385 8		Last of Mortgage See L 1355 Mp 346
MARTIN TAYLOR DEHNER	(Exe and Trust of)	Malion C Henry A James (Trustees)						
1865								
ROBERT LOWTHER TAYLOR	Thomas K (Exo of) George John-Howard	LE COMTE	Robert C	Feb 6	99	216 9		Last of Mortgage See L 1355 Mp 346
COPEMAN	Arthur J Frances	GRACE	Lillius Joseph P William R Trustees will of William R	May 15	101	408 33,34		Fore-closed See L 143 Cp 358

Image 7: Block 194 mortgage index page (detail). A typical page from the Block Index of Reindexed Mortgages prior to 1917.

“Court Order.” Miscellaneous indexes for circa 1898 to 1955 are also available on several rolls of microfilm.

Grantor and Grantee Indexes.

More than 40 printed volumes alphabetically list grantors and grantees before 1857 and give the record liber and page, the instrument date, and the recording date. Forty-four additional volumes 1949–1965 provide block and lot numbers and the recording date. Grantor/grantee indexes for the late 1600s to mid-1900s are available on microfilm (2 drawers).

Mortgagor and Mortgagee Indexes. For 1949 to 1962, more than 50 printed name indexes of mortgagors and mortgagees give the property block and lot numbers, mortgage liber and page numbers, and the recording date. For 1962 to 1966, about sixteen bound printouts of mortgagors and mortgagees also include the record type (deed or mortgage) and remarks columns noting leases, easements, etc. Mortgagee indexes for circa 1749 to 1890 can be found in a half-drawer of microfilm.

Other Resources

Exploring the research room and searching there for records is the best way to become familiar with all the resources and holdings of the City Register office, including those highlighted below.

Miscellaneous Records. Fifty-one liber volumes 1949–1965 contain photocopies of original instruments, including



Image 8: Works Progress Administration volumes.

WPA abstracts of Manhattan property records are worth a quick look for the property maps they contain, along with the names of grantors, grantees, mortgagors, and mortgagees.

decedents estates, court orders, powers of attorney, transfer taxes, wills, and miscellaneous documents. The liber books are numbered 39–89, and records are organized chronologically by date in each volume. These records are good sources of party names and relationships, property addresses and descriptions, block and lot numbers and other details. A half-drawer of microfilm contains images from these volumes and from

miscellaneous liber books 1–38.

WPA Abstracts. During the Great Depression, the Works Progress Administration abstracted Manhattan property records. Green-covered WPA binders, organized by block and lot, cover four walls five or more shelves high (image 8). Images of their contents are also available on microfilm. The books appear to have been maintained until the launch of ACRIS and include abstracts of conveyances, mortgages, encumbrances, deeds, and general block information, in some cases back to the 1800s. These unofficial sources are worth a quick look for the property maps they contain along with names of grantors, grantees, mortgagors, and mortgagees.

Filed Maps. A bound typescript on the front desk titled Inventory of Register’s Office (R.O.) Filed Maps—January 1, 1944 contains a numbered list and brief description of maps referenced in the WPA abstracts and elsewhere dated 1806–1943 (up to map 2572). Images by map number are



Image 9: Surveyors Maps and Indexes. Surveyors maps (foreground) are one source of property section, block, and lot numbers, which is how property records were indexed and reindexed after 1891. Detail of survey map (above right) for Hudson Street and Grove Street, Greenwich Village.



available on microfilm (up to map 4154) and microfiche (up to map 3996).

Surveyor's Maps and Alteration Books. The City Register inherited more than 260 bound volumes of **Block Maps of Taxes and Assessments** from the city surveyor's office (image 9). Stored on three sets of shelves and in double-doored cabinets, the folio-sized books spanning the 1800s to 1990s are organized by city section number with the year of printing on the cover page. The maps are a visual reference and another source of block and lot numbers. Thirteen **Alteration Books** chronologically list changes to the maps from 1889 to 2000 in handwritten ledgers.

Visiting/Using ACRIS

The Office of the City Register (Manhattan) is in the Dept. of Finance Manhattan Business Center at 66 John Street, 13th Floor, New York, N.Y. 10038. The office is

open to the public on weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Copies of records are \$1 per printed or downloaded page (or \$4 a page if certified) payable by a Venda card purchased in the office lobby (credit card) or on the second floor (cash).⁶ A cash-operated photocopy machine is also available at 25 cents per copy.

To look up a property block and lot on ACRIS, from the home page at www.nyc.gov/acris click **Begin Using ACRIS > Find Addresses and Parcels > Property Address**, then enter the borough and street address and click Find BBL or Enter. This can be done in advance or on the City Register's public computers.



Molly Charboneau, MS, is an award-winning writer and website content editor, and an NYG&B member. A genealogy researcher for more than 25 years, she blogs regularly about her family history at mollyscanopy.com.

Learn More

These research guides and indexes are worth consulting to understand the history and supplement the holdings of the Manhattan City Register office.

Goodwin, Aaron, *New York City Municipal Archives: An Authorized Guide for Family Historians* (New York: New York Genealogical & Biographical Society, 2016), 103–112; ch. 10: Farm Histories.

Guzik, Estelle M., editor, *Genealogical Resources in New York* (New York: Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc., 2003), 61–64; City Register's Office Manhattan.

Bailey, Rosalie Fellows, *Guide to Genealogical and Biographical Sources for New York City (Manhattan) 1783–1898* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1998), 38–43, 78; Maps, Street, and Land Records.

Hopper, John J., "The Register's Office of New York County." *Proceedings of the Academy of Political Science in the City of New York*, Vol. V, No. 3 (1915), 170–74; digital image, JSTOR ([jstor.org](http://www.jstor.org)): accessed 16 April 2018).

Stokes, I. N. Phelps, *The Iconography of Manhattan Island, 1498–1909, 6 vols.* (New York: Robert H. Dodd, 1915) 6:

216–220; History of early land transactions and the Register's Office, New York County.

New York Land Records, 1630–1975, New York County; online database, FamilySearch (familysearch.org): accessed 16 April 2018); Images of early grantor, grantee, mortgagor, mortgagee, conveyance, and old general assignment indexes; conveyances, mortgages, docketts, estate accounts, and foreclosures. Consult this database in tandem with onsite research as its images partially overlap or supplement the Manhattan City Register holdings.

Glossary

Conveyance: An instrument such as a deed, bond, or agreement that transfers a property title.

Deed: Signed and usually sealed evidence of a property title.

Instrument: A formal legal document (such as a deed, bond, or agreement).

Liber: A book of records, such as deeds or wills, that provides the file number of the record.⁷

ENDNOTES

1 NYC Dept. of Finance, Automated City Register Information System (ACRIS); searchable database (www.nyc.gov/acris): accessed 16 April 2018).

2 I.N. Phelps Stokes, *The Iconography of Manhattan Island 1498-1909*, 6 vols. (New York City: Robert H. Dodd, 1915) 6: 216; digital images, Internet Archive (<http://archive.org>): accessed 16 April 2018); also, John H. Hopper, "The Register's Office of New York County." *Proceedings of the Academy of Political Science in the City of*

New York Vol. V, No. 3 (1915): 170-74; digital images, JSTOR (www.jstor.org/stable/1193414): accessed 16 April 2018).

3 NYC Dept. of Buildings, Building Information System (BIS); searchable database (<http://a810-bisweb.nyc.gov/bisweb/bispi00.jsp>): accessed 16 April 2018).

4 *Real Estate Directory of Manhattan* (Weehawken, N.J.: First American Real Estate Solutions, 2002); also, *Sanborn Manhattan Land Book of the City of N.Y.*, undated: 1-100; in a standing rack in the lobby.

5 I.N. Phelps Stokes, *The Iconography of Manhattan Island 1498-1909*, 6:216.

6 "How do I get copy of a property record or deed?" webpage (<http://www1.nyc.gov/nyc-resources/faq/378/how-do-i-get-a-copy-of-a-property-record-or-deed>): accessed 16 April 2018).

7 *Merriam-Webster dictionary*, s.v. "conveyance," "deed," "instrument," "liber," (merriam-webster.com): accessed 16 April 2018

New Content from the NYG&B

NYG&B Labs: Mapping *The Record*

We uploaded another batch of data to our searchable location-based index to articles in *The Record*.

Mapping *The Record* allows you to search an index of articles from *The Record*—the quarterly journal of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, which has been published continuously since 1870—and view results organized on an interactive map interface, so you can find articles about a New York State location easily.

Each article in *The Record* has been assigned a relevant location or locations—locations have been determined by article title, and/or the location of vital events related to the main individual or family covered in the article. This tool will allow you to see what record set transcriptions, case studies, compiled genealogies or other articles have been written about your New York State locations of interest.

Our newest upload includes all articles published from 1869–1900. Mapping *The Record* now includes articles from 1869–1900 and 1970–2017. We look forward to completing the index in the coming months.

New York Knowledge Base: Reformed Dutch and German Churches of Manhattan and the Bronx

Harry Macy, Jr., former editor of *The Record*, has contributed major updates to his comprehensive article in our New York Knowledge Base on the Reformed Dutch and German churches of Manhattan and the Bronx.

During the 16th century, many Christians in the Netherlands broke with Rome and affiliated with Calvinist Protestantism, forming the *Nederlands Hervormde Kerk*, or the Dutch Reformed Church.

The screenshot shows the NYG&B website interface. The main article title is "Reformed Dutch and German churches of Manhattan and the Bronx" by Harry Macy, Jr., dated Friday, April 27, 2018 - 1:30pm. The article text discusses the Dutch Reformed Church's role in early colonial New York and provides a comprehensive overview of churches in Manhattan and the Bronx. It includes a section titled "1. For a time, Dutch Reformed was the only permitted denomination in New Amsterdam" and another titled "2. The church that holds the oldest religious marriage record in New York is still active to this day". A 1879 drawing of the Reformed Dutch Church at 5th Ave. & 48th St. is also visible.

Many of the leaders of the Dutch war for independence from Spain were a part of this church, as well as directors of the West India Company, which created the colony of New Netherland. The Dutch Reformed Church was a major presence in early colonial New York, and its records serve as a crucial genealogical source.

The Reformed Church is important for far more researchers than just those with Dutch roots—read the article for a comprehensive overview of Reformed Churches in the Bronx and Manhattan to see if you might be overlooking their relevance to your own genealogy.

This article is a crucial resource for anyone who wants to find these types of records. It includes a comprehensive overview of all churches in this category, including where to find their existing records, and tips for genealogy research.

New On-Demand Webinar: All the Scottish Genealogy Sources You Didn't Know You Needed to Know Presented by Dr. Bruce Durie



Genealogist and author Dr. Bruce Durie guides us wittily through Scottish records that are not as commonly used. He covers sources far beyond censuses and birth, marriage, and burial records. A four-page handout accompanies this recorded program.

Bruce Durie, PhD, BSc (Hons), OMLJ, FColIT, FIGRS, FHEA, QG, is considered one of Scotland's top genealogists, with an international reputation in researching, lecturing, writing, and broadcasting. Dr. Durie recently released *Your Scottish-American Ancestry*.

The screenshot shows the NYG&B website interface for a webinar. The title is "All the Scottish Genealogy Sources You Didn't Know You Needed to Know" presented by Dr. Bruce Durie on Friday, April 6, 2018. The duration is 1 hour, 27 minutes. A list of related subjects includes "Webinar: Scottish Genealogy - Finding Records and Where to Get the Records" and "A Selected Bibliography for Scottish Research". A "Click here to download the PDF handout" button is visible. Below the text is a video player showing a slide titled "How do we track people?" with a list of 9 items: 1. Start with a census (if you can) 1841 - 1911, 2. Birth, Marriage Death from 1855 to now, 3. Baptism, Marriage, Burial 1560s - 1854, 4. Wills & Testaments 1513 to 1925, 5. Tax records, 6. Land records and Maps, 7. Older documents - Charters, Scottish Parliament, etc., 8. Retours of Services of Heirs, 9. Heraldic records (Arms). A photo of two men in historical attire is also shown.

2017 Annual Review

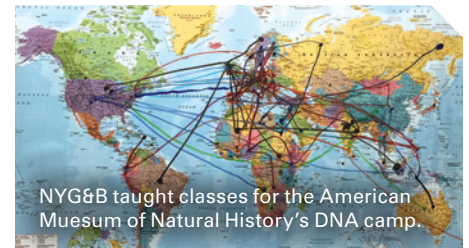
FROM D. JOSHUA TAYLOR, NYG&B PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

As New York’s oldest—and largest—genealogical organization, the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society continued advancing its mission to gather, share, and preserve New York’s stories over the past year. A wide variety of public programs, expanded membership benefits, and new services enabled our organization to advance its remarkable and steadfast pattern of growth. I am happy to share that by the close of the year, the NYG&B boasted its highest membership figures in more than 12 years.

Like many non-profit organizations, membership dues cover only a portion of operating costs; we are deeply grateful for the generous support from individuals and organizations that empower us to move forward. In 2017 more than 30% of our support came from first-time donors—a remarkable

testament to the importance of the NYG&B’s mission. Your support of our Fall Benefit Luncheon ¹, annual giving, publications, and internship program are the cornerstone of our growth and achievements last year.



NYG&B taught classes for the American Museum of Natural History’s DNA camp.

Thank you to our Patron Members

- | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Sandra E. Atkins | Kathleen Hendrickson | Dennis C. O’Dowd |
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What can your Annual Fund gift do?

- Purchase digitization equipment
- Provide a webinar
- Enable NYG&B staff to visit a school to speak about family history
- Fund a project to save local records
- Preserve New York stories!

Visit newyorkfamilyhistory.org/donate or call Jen Davis at **212-755-8532 x208** to discuss how you can help.



More Opportunities to Connect

Our staff interacted with more than 7,000 constituents in 2017. Members connected at events including the return of the New York City Research Tour and the launch of the first NYG&B Week—featuring webinars and activities at our Manhattan headquarters. The first Western New York Genealogy Conference ², in partnership with the Western New York Genealogical Society took place in Buffalo. We also met members and renewed friendships at the New England Regional Conference, the National Genealogical Society

Family History Conference ³, the Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference, and RootsTech.

We launched a series of interactive live videos, answering questions from our community and sharing the latest updates on New York family history. Our webinar series expanded with topics related to DNA research, resources available at the New York Public Library, researching in Central New York, the New York state canal system, and using the NYG&B's online tools.



Expanded Services

We worked diligently to offer new benefits and services to the more than 75% of our members living outside of New York State. An updated version of newyorkfamilyhistory.org allows members to change their address, auto-renew their membership, and update their publication preferences to receive publications in a digital format. And members now have easier access to discounts and other benefits of membership in the NYG&B.

The year also saw the launch of three new paid services: individual consultations, hourly research ⁴, and New York Concierge. Consultations offer a personalized approach, for those just starting their journey, planning research onsite in New York, or striving to answer longstanding research questions. Hourly research unlocks the NYG&B's expertise for your specific research project, while New York Concierge offers personalized publications, research tours, and other experiences as part of a unique and exclusive service.

The NYG&B actively engaged the next generation of family historians, taking part in programs with students at New York University, Manhattan College, and assisting teenagers in summer camps ⁵ as they explored their family history through DNA and research in original materials.

2017 Additions to the NYG&B On-demand Library

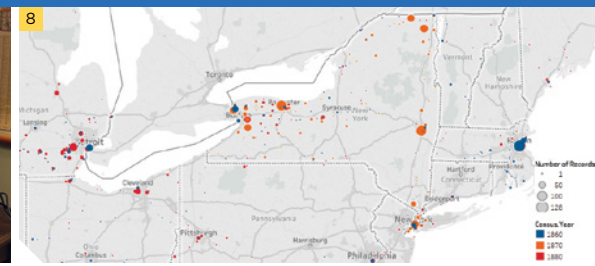
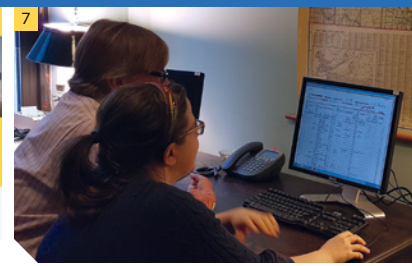
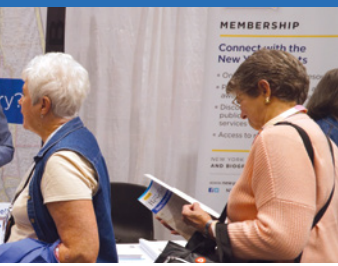
- Finding Their Routes: Navigating Records of the New York State Canal System
- Find Relatives with MyHeritage DNA Matching
- Using the NYG&B Website for Family History Research
- Should You Add DNA Testing to Your Genealogy Toolbox?
- Family History Research in Central New York
- NYG&B eLibrary Overview Tutorial
- NYG&B Labs: Mapping *The Record* Search Tutorial
- Genealogy Research at The New York Public Library

NYG&B Genealogy on YouTube

Live Genealogy Q&As with D. Joshua Taylor and Susan R. Miller

Genealogy Tips:

- New York State Land Records
- Finding an Immigrant Ancestor's Birthplace
- Using the New York State Red Books
- Finding Naturalization Records for Ancestors with Common Surnames
- Writing Your Family History
- 19th Century Land Records in Western New York State
- Records Being Digitized by the NYG&B
- Similarly Named Locations
- The Genealogy Interview: Asking Relatives Questions to Grow Your Family Tree



New Innovation

We launched the NYG&B's new branding, beginning with a refresh of *New York Researcher* as we celebrated New York State's 240th birthday. We released a new version of our website, newyorkfamilyhistory.org **6**. Materials across the site—including the eLibrary, articles, blogs, and county guides—are now linked by geographical location and subject. Newyorkfamilyhistory.org features the New York Knowledge Base, an exclusive collection of hundreds of county guides, research aids, and subject guides. The website's improved navigation allows for greater access to materials in the NYG&B eLibrary, easier registration for events and programs, and a forum where members can connect with one another.

Our innovations paired technological tools with advancements in resources for New York family history. Our dedicated team of volunteers reignited work on digitization and indexing projects. Throughout the year, volunteers

participated in Digitization Days **7** at the NYG&B and indexed records from the comfort of their own home. Initially focused on religious records, these projects now include compiled genealogical materials, biographies, census substitutes, and other collections that gradually become available through the NYG&B eLibrary.

Supported by our generous donors, we launched NYG&B Labs, an innovative program combining technological advances with genealogical and biographical subject matter. Our first project, in cooperation with Manhattan College studied (and mapped) the migration patterns of African Americans through New York to Canada **8**. Our second project mapped articles from *The Record*—the first time a scholarly genealogical journal has been integrated with new geographic tools.

Continued Excellence

For nearly 150 years, the NYG&B has published New York's hallmark scholarly journal for genealogy and biography. During 2017 *The Record* continued this tradition of excellence, highlighting families from across the state of New York, including those living in Schenectady, Schoharie, Orange, Dutchess, Jefferson, Westchester, Albany, and Madison counties and featuring groundbreaking research into the origins of numerous New Yorkers. After six years Karen Mauer Jones, CG®, FGBS retired as editor, and Laura Murphy DeGrazia, CG®, FGBS was announced as her successor—continuing the legacy that documents and preserves the story of more than one million New Yorkers.



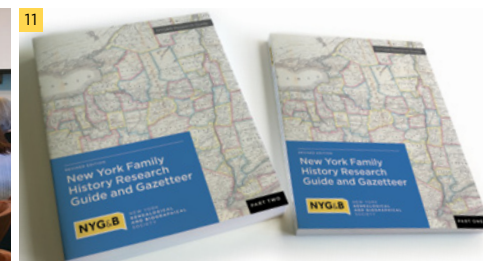
Karen Mauer Jones, CG®, FGBS



Laura Murphy DeGrazia, CG®, FGBS

and participants spent days carefully pouring over materials in New York's state capital. The return of the New York City Research Tour **10** saw fortuitous discoveries throughout multiple repositories, including the New York Public Library, the NYC Municipal Archives, and the Center of Jewish History. In addition, the NYG&B held two sold-out interactive seminars focused on writing your family history and DNA and genealogy.

The release of a revised edition of the award-winning *New York Family History Research Guide and Gazetteer* **11** in two volumes arrived at the end of the year and included a digital version of New York's only statewide guide for research. With updated guides to New York's 62 counties, expanded vital records details, and other important additions, the revised edition clearly made a popular gift for genealogists around the holidays.





Our People

The work of the NYG&B is accomplished by a dedicated staff including Susan R. Miller, who oversees educational programs and edits the *New York Researcher*; Frederick Wertz, who manages the NYG&B's digital services, including newyorkfamilyhistory.org; and Pamela Campbell, our accounts supervisor. This year we welcomed three new faces to the team—Jennifer Davis, who carefully directs our membership and development activities; Anna King, who manages our offices; and Meryl Schumacker, our genealogist. (12 NYG&B staff, pictured left to right: Anna King, Meryl Schumacker, D. Joshua Taylor, Jennifer Davis, Frederick Wertz, Susan R. Miller, and Pamela Campbell.)

The careful oversight of our Board of Trustees, whose constant support enable the NYG&B to maintain its long-term aspirations, was bolstered by the addition of Lorraine D. Bell in January 2017. After many years of valiant service to the organization, Treasurer Robert F. Hendrickson retired. We remain deeply



Lorraine D. Bell



Robert F. Hendrickson



William C. Hallett, PharmD

appreciative of Mr. Hendrickson's service to the NYG&B. The Board of Trustees unanimously elected him as a Trustee Emeriti, noting his long record of diligent service to the NYG&B. Following Mr. Hendrickson's retirement, trustee William C. Hallett assumed the duties of the Treasurer.

Advocacy

Threats to access of New York City's birth and death records in October 2017 launched a concentrated effort to gather signatures and letters of comment from the NYG&B's community. More than 4,000 individuals took up our call to action and made their voices heard (13). The NYG&B formulated partnerships with other New York-based organizations to advocate for access to collections and maintains a constant watch on changes in legislation and other proposals which would restrict individuals from gathering, preserving, and sharing New York stories.

Looking Ahead

The NYG&B's strategic plan calls for increased community involvement and expanded services. As we look ahead to our 150th anniversary in 2019, there is no shortage of exciting activities underway. We remain committed to making resources for tracing New York stories more accessible while also supporting the tradition of genealogical and biographical scholarship instilled in our organization by our founders many years ago.

Though the tools and methods will continue to change, and challenges will always arise, the NYG&B looks steadfastly forward to its future.

We look forward to accomplishing great things this year and next,

D. JOSHUA TAYLOR, PRESIDENT

NYG&B

NEW YORK **GENEALOGICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL** SOCIETY

36 West 44th Street, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10036-8105 | 212-755-8532 | newyorkfamilyhistory.org

New Online Records

Findmypast: New York Catholic Heritage Archive

Records from the New York Archdiocese of Roman Catholic Church are indexed and images of the records are coming online. The initial phase includes those records already microfilmed. With the project expected to last for several years, batches of images and indexes will be released on an ongoing basis. Later, original parish registers that have not been available in any other format before will be digitized.

For more information see: <https://blog.findmypast.com/your-catholic-heritage-archive-questions-answered-2544512988.html>

NYG&B members have access to the New York Catholic items as a member benefit.

BELOW: New Catholic record images on Findmypast from the New York Archdiocese are coming online.

St. Joseph's in Westchester County is one parish with live images. (https://search.findmypast.com/record?id=S2/US/NEW_YORK/DRIVE_4/0020/ROLL_021/00151&parentid=US/NY/CATH/PR/BAP/00032549)

NY Heritage Newspapers Online—New Titles Added

Additional newspapers accessible on New York Heritage Digital Collections (nyheritage.org) include:

The Elmira Gazette, Elmira, Tioga County, New York 1828–185?

The Dragon Chronicle, Cortland, Cortland, New York, 1990–current

Hilltop Press, Cortland, Cortland, New York, 1942–1971

The Press, Cortland, Cortland, New York, 1972–1990

Fulton County Democrat, Johnstown, Fulton, New York, 1838–1925

Fulton County Republican, Johnstown, Fulton, New York, 1870–1877

Fulton County Republican, Johnstown, Fulton, New York, 1881–1927

Lansingburgh Gazette, Lansingburgh, Rensselaer, New York, 1798–1826

Lansingburgh Gazette, Lansingburgh, Rensselaer, New York, 1826–1880

Lansingburgh State Gazette, Lansingburgh, Rensselaer, New York, 1880–1883

The Broadalbin Herald, Broadalbin, Fulton, New York, 1880–19??

Granville Sentinel, Granville, Washington, New York, 188?–current
The Summary, Elmira, Chemung County, New York, 1883–18??

Historic Huguenot Street (HHS) Digitizes Early Church Records

Thanks to a grant from the Consulate General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, HHS has digitized records from the Reformed Church of New Paltz dating back to the 1680s and early 1700s. Two volumes of records, consisting of over 100 pages, document the community's first marriages and baptisms, revealing the growth of the town and the social relationships between the French and Dutch settlers during the early colonial period.

Both volumes have been digitized and uploaded online in their entirety, courtesy of the Reformed Church and through the efforts of HHS staff members and interns. The documents have been uploaded to Hudson River Valley Heritage, a digital library that provides visitors with free access to search and browse historical materials. The records can be accessed by searching for "first register" and "second register" at hrvh.org/hhs, as well as by searching for names that appear within.

No.	FAMILIAE NOMEN	PATRIS MATRIS	RESIDENTIA	INFANTIS NOMEN	DIES NATIVITATIS	DIES BAPTISMI	PATRINI	SACERDOS	MATRIMONII REGISTRATIO
1261	Shallow, William Green, Mary G.			Thomas Patrick	Aug 21 1881	Aug 26 1881	Samuel O. Gorman Mary Green	A. Molloy.	
1262	Mulligan John Harrath, Catharine			James	Aug 23 1881	Aug 28 1881	John Stearns Mary Mulligan	A. Molloy.	
1263	McCarthy Daniel McPhilippe Mary Ann			Charles	Aug 25 1881	Aug 28 1881	Timothy Harrigan Honora Terry	A. Molloy.	
1264	Spence James Sullivan Elizabeth			Catharine	Aug 7 1881	Aug 31 1881	David Gorman Mary Murphy	A. G. Lunge	
1265	McDonnell John Joyce, Bridget			John	Aug 27 1881	Sept 1 1881	Francis Terry? Abigail Cahill	A. G. Lunge	
1266	Ryan, John F.			Henry H.	Sept 4	Sept 11	Jacob Christman	A. G. Lunge	

In Other Lines

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

Michelle Caruso-Cabrera, New York, New York | Life Member

What is your earliest genealogical recollection?

My earliest recollection is asking my paternal grandfather the names of his parents and his grandparents—and being disappointed he didn't know the names of his great grandparents. I was probably in my early teens.

How did you get started in genealogy?

I have no idea. The concept of a family tree fascinated me when I was little so I tried to make them, but I wanted to go really far back—much farther than anyone in my family knew about. And that made me sad. Those huge trees you would see in the European history books evoked jealousy in me.

The arrival of genealogy software in the early 2000s was the next major step. That's when I started inputting all of my family's data. In Ancestry.com's early days when they had only census data that was not searchable, I had to go page-by-page to find the street where my grandparents lived. But I loved it when I found my grandparents names—they were young children living on the same street in Somerville, Massachusetts. Did they know back then they would grow up and marry each other?

Tell us about your career?

TV journalists always ask questions. It is a skill set that serves me well in researching my family roots. I travel a lot as well. So I've been able to research my heritage in Havana, Paris, and Galicia in Spain. I anchor a show on CNBC called *Power Lunch*. It airs Monday through Friday from 1–3pm. I'm also the Chief International Correspondent and travel quite a lot as a result.

What are your other-than-genealogy interests?

My husband and I attend the opera about 10–12 times each year. I am on the board of the Ballet Hispanico, headquartered in NYC, and the premiere Latino dance troupe in the United States.

Interesting family story?

During an interview with my mother four years ago, she said off handedly, "My grandmother had two sisters who moved to New York City in the 1920s. Can you imagine? Who on earth would leave Havana for New York in the 1920s? We never understood why."

She told me their names, and while I was still on the phone with her, up popped their naturalization papers on Ancestry.com—photos and all. In an incredible coincidence they lived on the Upper West Side, close to where I live now.



"They left [Cuba in the 1920s] with trunks full of belongings: photos, birth certificates, memorabilia. Elvira left Cuba in the mid-1960s to escape communism carrying only one suitcase."

I couldn't believe it. And now I was on the hunt to find out why they left Havana in the 1920s.

The ship manifest indicated that one of the sisters was carrying \$1,000 cash and the other had a letter of credit that said she would be receive \$75 per month from Havana. That was a lot of money back then.

The naturalization papers and the ship manifest at Ellis Island indicated that one of them brought over an eight-year-old daughter. Quickly doing the math, I thought "That eight-year-old daughter could still be alive! She'd be very elderly, but it is possible." It was then a race against time as I tried to find her. Someone that age could pass away any time, and I needed to rush.

I ordered their death certificates and drove up to the cemetery in Somers, Westchester County, New York, where both sisters are buried. In the tax collector's office a friendly bureaucrat gave me the email address of the

president of the local historical society. Within 20 minutes the president responded, said she had done "some sleuthing" and found the daughter and her children had moved to Arizona. One ran a business, and she gave me an email address.

My email to this unknown, distant cousin read: "I hope you don't find this email disturbing, but I think we may be related. My great-grandmother had a sister named Esperanza, and I think that may be your grandmother. She had a daughter named [name redacted]. Is that your mother?"

My cousin responded: "Michelle, it is so wonderful to hear from you. Yes, Esperanza was my grandmother. My mother died three months ago." Good God I was heart-broken. I wanted to ask her mother all about coming over on that ship when she was eight-years-old, and now that story was gone forever.

But despite that, disappointment ended quickly. My cousin had an incredible box of her mother's and grandmother's belongings. It was a treasure trove of photos and documents. In it were photos of my great-great grandparents that hadn't been seen by any of my Cuban relatives living in Miami.

Because the sisters left in the 1920s, they did not leave Cuba under duress. It was a trip very unlike that of their oldest sister Elvira, my great-grandmother. They left with trunks full of belongings: photos, birth certificates, memorabilia. Elvira left Cuba in the mid-1960s to escape communism carrying only one suitcase.

In that box, my cousin had amazing things like my great great-great grandfather's Mason certificate. One document was a birth certificate, which indicated the names of my



LEFT: Augustina Lopez y Lopez and Jose Torrente y Lopez with their children. ABOVE: Jose Torrente y Lopez at his restaurant in Havana, Cuba. (Photographs courtesy of Michelle Caruso-Cabrera.)

great-great-great-grandparents and where they were from: Ares in Galicia, Spain. I traveled there last year and found an historian who specialized in the emigration of Spaniards to Cuba in the late 1800s. He had a beautiful collection of yearbooks from a Cuban society of Galician and my great-grandfather was one of the early members.

And why did those two sisters leave Havana in the 1920s? Perhaps they just wanted to start a new life.

What brought you to the NYG&B?

I came across the website and found some of the webinars useful. And realizing that it was one of the oldest in the country I wanted to help it achieve its mission.

What is the most surprising thing I've learned?

My great-grandfather in Cuba had a second family. A second woman whom he didn't marry and who lived "out in the country." One of my great-uncles was also an ancestry enthusiast, and he left behind a hand-written family tree that shows both women and their children. It seems it was an open secret. My great-grandfather named the children he had with each woman with the same first names.

I looked those descendants up on Ancestry.com and, sure enough, one of them had also built a family tree including my great-grandfather. We've since become pen pals.

Michelle is a journalist, CNBC Chief International Correspondent, and anchor of *Power Lunch* on CNBC.

Calling All Volunteers!

The NYG&B is always in need of volunteers. Can you lend a hand?

Volunteers for the New York State Family History Conference, Tarrytown, NY

We need volunteers to assist at the Conference with:

- **Volunteering at the Registration desk.** Our greatest need is for volunteers Thursday morning/afternoon and Friday morning on-site at the Conference venue in Tarrytown, NY. Early-birds are especially appreciated!
- **Monitoring lecture rooms.** "Room Monitors" check that those entering the lecture room have conference badges, monitor the room during presentations, and assist the speaker if they need anything during their talk.

And volunteers to assist before the Conference with:

- **Preparing Conference tote bags.** Help us stuff conference tote bags in late August at the NYG&B office, Manhattan, NY. It's always a fun event!
- **Preparing Conference USB flash drives.** Help us copy electronic syllabus files to Conference attendees' USB flash drives. We'll be preparing the drives in early September at the NYG&B office, Manhattan, NY.

Volunteer at the NYG&B Offices, Manhattan, NY

Volunteer opportunities at the NYG&B office happen year-round—join us!

- **Digitizing Records and Documents**—Volunteer on-site at the NYG&B office scanning documents and books in the NYG&B's collection. Digitizing our records helps researchers access important New York records and preserves them for future generations. We provide training for digitization; no experience required, though comfort using a computer and scanner is helpful.
- **Assisting with Office Tasks**—Our staff can always use a hand with the mail—preparing mailings, stuffing envelopes, sealing, etc. Campaigns are important to the financial health of our society and keeping members informed and engaged!

We appreciate volunteer help, so contact Anna King at aking@nygbs.org with your availability.

Highlights from our blog (nygbs.org/blog)

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

New York Vital Records Access Update: The Official Vote

This past spring we continued to rally support for better access to New York City vital records. In March the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene unfortunately voted to pass the restrictive new rules which were proposed last October, however not all was lost.

Thanks to your efforts and the outpouring of public comments—more than 5,000 of them—an amendment to this rule was proposed, which would reduce how restrictive the new rule is. This proposed amendment allows aunts and uncles, nieces and nephews, siblings, partners, and more to have easier access to birth and death certificates than they would have if the original rule wasn't amended.

With your help, we spoke up in support of this amendment in April, and are still waiting to hear the results. Read more about the amendment and our efforts on our blog.

Researching Irish Ancestors in New York State: What You Need to Know

Finding your New York ancestors can be challenging—so can finding your Irish ancestors. When you're looking for Irish ancestors who settled in New York State, the various challenges compound, making for a possibly frustrating genealogical situation!

The good news is that while still difficult, with the right historical knowledge and a few record set suggestions, you will be better equipped to tackle the challenge.

The Irish immigrated to New York State since the earliest days of settlement, and major changes in immigration patterns and immigrant demographics are crucial for researchers to know—they will be invaluable in forming research plans or hypotheses to test.

Our blog reviews some of the “must know” facts about the Irish in New York State, and suggests some of our favorite often-overlooked resources.

Why You Need to Have Your Ancestor's New York Death Certificate

Whether you're just getting started or trying to break through a longtime brick wall, we have a suggestion for you—make sure you have your ancestor's New York death certificate.

It's one of the most important records to have and can be instrumental in making future discoveries.

Finding New York death records can be challenging due to the complexity of birth, marriage, death records in New York, but it's not so hard with a little guidance.

Read our blog to see why it's the first vital record you should seek, what you can learn from it, and where to look for clues to locating it.

The screenshot shows the NYG&B website interface. The main article is titled "Researching Irish ancestors in New York State: What you need to know" and is dated Friday, March 16, 2018 - 2:45pm. The article text discusses the challenges of finding Irish ancestors in New York State and provides tips on how to overcome them. A sidebar on the left contains navigation links and related content. A social media share button is visible below the article title.

The screenshot shows the NYG&B website interface. The main article is titled "Why you need to have your ancestor's New York death certificate" and is dated Sunday, April 15, 2018 - 9:30am. The article text explains the importance of a death certificate in genealogy and provides guidance on how to find one. A sidebar on the left contains navigation links and related content. A social media share button is visible below the article title.


NYG&B Upcoming Programs (Schedule may be subject to change.)

W *Soy Boricua*: Researching Your Puerto Rican Roots

Webinar, Tuesday, June 12, 7:00 p.m. ET

Presented by Renée K. Carl



 This webinar examines digital sources for getting started and going deeper in Puerto Rican genealogy. Examples will highlight some of the challenges and unique opportunities for research, as well as how to build out your family history story using online newspaper and photograph collections.

Renée K. Carl drew her first family tree in grade school, but chose a career path in education policy and politics, before switching to genealogy full time in 2012, launching Eastern European Mutt. Renée researched for PBS's *Genealogy Roadshow*, Seasons 2 & 3, and is currently working with private clients. She regularly researches at the National Archives, Library of Congress, and U.S. Holocaust Memorial and Museum.

This live webinar is open to the public, please register at newyorkfamilyhistory.org/events. A recording will be available to NYG&B Members.

Tracing World War I Relatives

Saturday, June 23, 3:00 p.m.

Robins Family Forum, Virginia Museum of History & Culture, 428 N Boulevard, Richmond, Virginia

Presented by D. Joshua Taylor, NYG&B



Please join the NYG&B and the Virginia Museum of History and Culture for a joint program that celebrates genealogy, discusses research methods, and commemorates World War I.

Beginning in 1917, millions of American men and women played important roles during the first World War. D. Joshua Taylor will discuss a variety of sources and tools to tracing family members who served during the conflict, including draft registrations, surviving service records, unit histories, and other materials.

Tickets are \$10 for NYG&B and VMHC members and \$15 for the general public. Includes suggested admission to the museum and a post-program reception from 4–5 p.m.

This event will not be recorded. Please register at newyorkfamilyhistory.org/events.

Save the Date: *Filles du Roi*

November 15 at the NYG&B

Details on the program will be coming soon.

W Exploring New York's Catholic Stories: the Archdiocese of New York Collection on Findmypast

Webinar, Thursday, July 12, 7:00pm ET

Presented by Jen Baldwin, Data Acquisition Manager, North America, Findmypast



The New York Roman Catholic story is one that impacts thousands of people across the country. Findmypast and the Archdiocese of New York have partnered to bring Sacramental Registers up to 1918 online for the first time. Through this ground-breaking project, family historians are finally able to tell their New York Catholic story.

This presentation will expose unique records, background and history of the Catholic tradition in New York, and provide best practices for research both within the records and for historical context.

Jen Baldwin lectures, writes, and consults on a variety of genealogy and technology topics, with a specific interest in fraternal organizations. She is a proud volunteer for the Federation of Genealogical Societies, and the Larimer County Genealogical Society, CO.

This live webinar is open to NYG&B members only, please register at newyorkfamilyhistory.org/events. A recording will be available to NYG&B Members.

Proving Parentage Through Indirect Evidence: The Importance of Sibling Records

Webinar, Thursday, November 15, 7:00 p.m. ET

Presented by Judith A. Herbert, CG®



Understanding source context, and nuances of the records they contain, is critical to accurate interpretation of the information they provide. An early-nineteenth-century Connecticut, New York and Vermont example demonstrates how your research can succeed, even no direct parent/child relationship evidence can be found. Attendees will learn the value in using multiple (and frequently ignored) sources to solve questions of parentage.

Judith A. Herbert, CG, is a member of the Editorial Board of *The Record*. She specializes in research in New York, Connecticut, and Massachusetts from the colonial period to the early 20th century. She teaches genealogy classes in partnership with the Schenectady County Historical Society and is a guest lecturer on a variety of genealogical topics. She serves as mentor for the ProGen 38 Study Group and lives in New York's Capital District.

This live webinar is open to NYG&B members only, please register at newyorkfamilyhistory.org/events. A recording will be available to NYG&B Members.

Register for all at events at newyorkfamilyhistory.org/events or call 212-755-8532 x211.

W = Online Webinar. Unless otherwise stated, the live broadcast of webinars are free and open to the public. On-demand recordings of webinars, and select other talks, will be available to NYG&B Society members.



Early registration ends June 30!

Research in Albany Tour 2018

Wednesday, October 31 through Friday, November 2, 2018 | Albany, New York

Join the NYG&B for the annual Research in Albany Tour that features three days of assisted research and genealogical camaraderie with the people who know New York best. A few format changes are in store for 2018—we open the tour with a group breakfast on Wednesday morning, and then proceed to the Archives and Library for orientation.

One of the best features of the research tour has not changed—the research questionnaire participants complete before the trip. Consultants provide feedback to the attendees on not only their question, but how to focus the research question itself.

The Library and the Archives are both rich in material available nowhere else that pertains to people who have lived throughout New York State. The Library holds extensive collections that include family genealogies, local histories, DAR records, church records, census records, early newspapers on film, and city directories, as well as archives and manuscripts. The holdings of the Archives include State records relating to military service (War of 1812 through World War I); land records (mostly transactions involving the Colony or State of New York); court records (including colonial wills and early nineteenth-century civil cases); records of some correctional and custodial institutions; and indexes to New York state vital records (excluding New York City). Please note that the Archives and the Library have few resources specific to New York City

(most of those are held in New York City), but they do have important statewide collections that include city residents (military records, land grants/patents, etc.).

The program includes:

- Orientation to the New York State Archives and the New York State Library by staff experts
- A private consultation with a professional genealogist and follow up as needed
- Access to professional genealogists for all three days of the program
- Orientation breakfast on Wednesday morning, October 31
- Thursday breakfast, November 1
- Wine and cheese reception on Wednesday and Thursday evenings
- Reduced special room rate at the Albany Hilton of \$144 per night, single or double. To make a reservation, please call the hotel directly at 866-691-1183 and use the code **1NYGBS** to get this rate.

	Early Registration (through June 30)	Registration (after June 30)
Member Registration	\$390	\$425
Non-member Registration	—	\$455

Register at newyorkfamilyhistory.org or call 212-755-8532, ext. 211.

2018 NYG&B Week

Join us for another fun filled week of NYG&B events and webinars. (Schedule subject to change.)

W Webinar: Mapping Your New York Ancestors
Monday, October 15, 7 pm, ET
 By Frederick Wertz

Digitization Day—Onsite at the NYG&B
Tuesday, October 16, 10:30 am–3:30 pm

W Webinar: Finding Ancestors in New York City Vital Records in the 1800s and early-1900s
Tuesday, October 16, 7 pm, ET
 By Susan R. Miller

Colonial Dames Fall Benefit Honoring NYG&B
Wednesday, October 17, 7 pm
 D. Joshua Taylor is featured at Colonial Dames Fall Benefit Program at the Union Club. The benefit this year honors the venerable New York Genealogical & Biographical Society (NYGB), founded in 1869.

W Webinar: Western NY Land Records
Thursday, October 18, 7 pm ET
 By D. Joshua Taylor

W Webinar: Using the NYG&B website
Friday, October 19, 3pm ET
 By Frederick Wertz

NYG&B

NYG&B Fall Benefit Luncheon Featuring Russell Shorto

**Save The Date—Friday, October 26, 2018, 12:30pm
Down Town Association, 60 Pine Street, New York, New York**

Russell Shorto's work has been praised as "first-rate intellectual history" (*Wall Street Journal*), "literary alchemy" (*Chicago Tribune*) and simply "astonishing" (*New York Times*). Please join us as he discusses his newest book *Revolution Song* and the ever-popular *Island at the Center of the World*, as well as history and family history and how they tie together.

Save the date—tickets will go on sale soon—call **212-755-8532 x208** with any questions.



Melissa A. Johnson, CG

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SPECIAL TOPIC COURSES

Family and Society Archiving: Heirlooms in the Digital Age, Church Records, Forensic Genealogy, U.S. Military Research, Women and Children, Internet and Computers

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Book Notes

Adriaen van der Donck: A Dutch Rebel in Seventeenth-Century America



By **J. van den Hout**

Adriaen van der Donck (c.1619–1655) was a university-trained lawyer, government administrator, landowner, entrepreneur, political activist, and author who played an outsized role in New Netherland.

In 1641 he was sent to the Dutch colony in the employ of Kiliaen van Rensselaer, to take a position he used to advance the interests both of his employer and of himself, to the extent that he might justifiably be described as insubordinate. Over the years, he took on the van Rensselaer interests, the West India Company, the colony's director-general William Kieft, director-general Peter Stuyvesant, and others in authority. He was a strong advocate for local government, which eventually gained acceptance after years of political disharmony. He married Mary Doughty, the daughter of a controversial English cleric whose theology made him unwelcome in New England. The marriage was complicated; the couple had no children.

Adriaen van der Donck is thought to have been killed in an Indian raid in 1655, when he was only in his mid-thirties. Ironically, he had taken the trouble to learn the Indian language and to build relationships with the Native American community; and he seemed particularly sensitive to the injustices done to the Indians by the Dutch settlers.

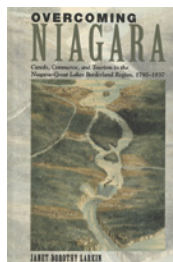
He was the primary author of *Remonstrance of New Netherland*, partly a political tract, written in 1649. In 1655, his *Description of New Netherland* was published. It was a commercial success and highly influential in attracting immigrants to the New Netherland colony; it is considered a classic work of colonial New Netherland, although it was not properly translated into English until 2008.

This book is described by the publisher as the first biography ever written of Adriaen van der Donck. It tells the story of his short but energetic life, and it also paints a sweeping and breathless picture of the political turbulence of New Netherland during his lifetime. The book is a quick and briskly-paced read, but suffers by being too short, as many issues are unexplained and differing historical interpretations are not discussed. Readers will be motivated to seek more information, a desirable effect.

The author, Julie van den Hout, who recently earned a BA at the University of California, Berkeley, is an independent scholar and a digital archivist at Berkeley. The study of New Netherland is her second career; this is her first book-length work as an historian.

Excelsior Editions, State University of New York Press, Albany, 2018. Hardcover. Black and white illustrations, index, bibliography, footnotes. 203 pages. \$28. A Kindle edition is also available at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).

Overcoming Niagara: Canals, Commerce, Tourism in the Niagara-Great Lakes Borderland Region, 1792–1837



By **Janet Dorothy Larkin**

This book will be reviewed in a future issue of *The Record*.

OTHER RECENT RELEASES

The Bowery Boys: Adventures of Old New York

By **Greg Young and Tom Meyers**



Ulysses Press, Berkeley, 2016. Softcover. Index, suggested reading, black and white images and photographs. 508 pages. \$18.

Council Minutes, 1656–1658

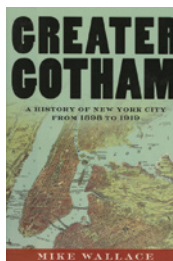
New Netherland Institute



New Netherland Institute, Albany, NY, 2018. Hardcover. Bibliography, index of subjects, index of names, bibliography, footnotes, references. 612 pages. \$125 (On sale from \$150). <https://shop.newnetherlandinstitute.org/collections/books>

Greater Gotham: A History of New York City from 1898 to 1919

By **Mike Wallace**



Oxford University Press, New York, 2017. Hardcover. Bibliography, index of subjects, index of names, bibliography, footnotes, references, black and white illustrations and photographs. 1,182 pages. \$45.

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Russell Shorto's work has been praised as "first-rate intellectual history" (*Wall Street Journal*), "literary alchemy" (*Chicago Tribune*) and simply "astonishing" (*New York Times*). Please join us as he discusses his newest book *Revolution Song* and the ever-popular *Island at the Center of the World*, as well as history and family history and how they tie together.

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