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New York State Family History Conference

The next biennial New York State Family History Conference commences 8–10 September 2022, with the in-person conference taking place in Albany, New York.

Publications (found at nygbs.org/store or the links below)

Biebel, Frank. *Marriage Notices from New York City Newspapers of the Early 1830s*. New York: New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, 2019.

Buiter, Anne Siebert. *Tracings Immigrants through the Port of New York: Early National Period to 1924*. New York: New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, 2020. [PDF](#) and [print](#) versions available.

Goodwin, Aaron. *New York City Municipal Archives: An Authorized Guide for Family Historians*. New York: New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, 2016. [PDF](#) and [print](#) versions available.

New York Guide to Birth, Marriage, and Death Records. New York: New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, 2017. Extracted from the *New York Family History Research Guide and Gazetteer*, revised edition 2017. [PDF](#) and [print](#) versions available.

New York Family History Research Guide and Gazetteer, revised edition 2017. New York: New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, 2017. [PDF](#) and [print](#) versions available.

County Guide Series, extracted from *New York Family History Research Guide and Gazetteer*, revised edition 2017. [Available in print](#).

Finding Samuel Fletcher: In New York Records and Beyond

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The lack of vital records does not mean identities cannot be discovered or children named. Digging deep into online records and manuscript collections turned up evidence to tie Samuel Fletcher of Westville, NY to his Vermont origins and provided names for his children. Selected tools to discover New York sources and two methods used in the case are outlined below.

Sources

History and Context

New York Family History Research Guide and Gazetteer. New York: New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, 2018.

FamilySearch Wiki locality guides

Interactive Map of New York County Formation History www.mapofus.org/newyork/

Digitized book catalogs for local and family histories:

- Google Books <https://books.google.com/>
- Internet Archive Books <https://archive.org/details/books>
- HathiTrust Digital Library <https://www.hathitrust.org/>
- Project Gutenberg <https://www.gutenberg.org/>
- FamilySearch Digital Library <https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/>

Manuscript Catalogs

Excelsior: New York State Library/Archives/Museum Catalog <https://nyst.sirsi.net/>
searchable by “Archive” for collections in Albany and “HDI “(Historical Document Inventory) for documents in repositories throughout the state

National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections (NUCMC) <https://www.loc.gov/coll/nucmc/>
includes collections described by the Library of Congress searchable through OCLC WorldCat

ArchiveGrid <https://researchworks.oclc.org/archivegrid/>
includes the collections described by the Library of Congress and other institutions, also accessible through an OCLC provided interface

New York state records

Vital Records

New York research challenges include Vital events not widely recorded before 1880. The brief exception was 1847 through about 1850. FamilySearch holds a collection of these records that is both searchable and browsable (browsing recommended)

“New York, County Marriages, 1847-1848; 1908-1936”

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1618491>

“New York Vital Records Timeline: Key dates that impact your research”

<https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/blog/new-york-vital-records-history>

Church Records

Cornell University Library catalog <https://newcatalog.library.cornell.edu/>

search by town name for church records in Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections on microfilm, use the limiter Manuscript/Archive (not Microform) to find the Western New York church records in the collection

Censuses

New York State Census Microfilm at New York State Library, New York State Library

<http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/genealogy/nyscens.htm>

New York State Census Records Online

<https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/subject-guide/new-york-state-census-records-online>

Birth year range chart

<http://dgmweb.net/Census/General/BirthYearRangesFromAgeClasses.html>

Tax Records

“New York, U.S., Tax Assessment Rolls of Real and Personal Estates, 1799-1804”

<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/6771/>

Microfilm held at the New York State Archives, Albany

Land Records

Most New York County land records are digitized and on FamilySearch. Consult the FamilySearch Wiki article on New York Land and Property

https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/New_York_Land_and_Property

Franklin County is not digitized and the deed books are available at the county courthouse or on microfilm at the Family History Library

Private land companies are also described on the New York Land and Property wiki article.

Holland Land Company records guide <https://fredonia.libguides.com/archives/holland>

A partial index to Holland Land Company records:

Karen E. Livsey. *Western New York Land Transactions, 1804–1835: Extracted from the Archives of the Holland Land Company*, Two Volumes. Baltimore, Maryland: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1991, 1996.

Digitized Newspapers

- Newspapers.com
- GenealogyBank.com
- Old Fulton Postcards www.fultonhistory.com
 - alternative search interface <https://fultonsearch.org/>
- NYS Historic Newspapers <https://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/>
- Chronicling America <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>

Methods for Analysis

Timelines

Patterns and gaps become apparent when events are viewed chronologically on a timeline. Timelining can be as simple as writing out the dates and places each event occurred on paper, entering them into a spreadsheet or table, or using mind mapping software. Carefully analyze the timeline to notice gaps, especially between locations that may indicate a move. Timelines can also expose more than one individual of the same name if they are located in two locations at the same time.

Census Correlation

Correlating tick marks across two or more censuses can help create hypothesized identities for the unnamed in early census households. Be aware of starting point assumptions that the household is a family of husband, wife, and children. Inconsistencies and illogical identities should become apparent in the analysis. Hypothesized individuals need to be supported by other evidence. Your table should have a column for the individual's name (when other evidence provides it), each census year, birth year range for the census year, and combined implication (the range of overlap for all the census years for a hypothesized individual). Each census tick mark gets its own line. The age category is entered in the appropriate census year.

Hypothesized Person	1800	1810	1820	Birth Year range	Combined Implication
Samuel	M 26-44	M 45+	M 45+	1755-1764	1755-1764
Wife	F 26-44			1755-1774	1755-1774
son		M 16-25		1784-1794	1784-1794
daughter	F U10			1790-1800	
		F 16-25		1784-1794	1790-1794
daughter	F U10			1790-1800	1790-1800
daughter	F U10			1790-1800	1790-1800
daughter		F U10		1800-1810	
			F 16-25	1794-1804	1800-1804
son		M U10		1800-1810	
			M 16-18	1802-1804	1802-1804
daughter		F U10		1800-1810	
			F 10-15	1804-1810	1804-1810
son			M U10	1810-1820	1810-1820

Articles Related to the Samuel Fletcher Case

Cross, Denise E. "Early Settlers of Fort Covington, Westville, and Constable are Hidden in Deed Books." *New York Researcher* 29 (Spring 2018): 5-8.

Cross, Denise E. "Identifying Samuel Fletcher (1758–1826) of South Hero, Vermont, and Westville, New York." *New York Biographical and Genealogical Record* 150 (October 2019): 245-260 and 151 (January 2020): 47-50.

Cross, Denise E. "The Neighborhood Did Not Move, A Case of Misassigned 1810 Census Pages." *New York Researcher* 26 (Winter 2015): 80-82.

Cross, Denise E. "Using the Lotting Plan, South Hero, 1794, to Place Settlers on the Map." *Vermont Genealogy* 22 (Fall 2017); 118-120.