

Genealogical Research at the New York Public Library

The Irma & Paul Milstein Division of United States History, Local History and Genealogy

Stephen A. Schwarzman Building, Room 121

Fifth Avenue & 42nd Street

New York, NY 10018

(212) 930-0828

Email: history@nypl.org

nypl.org/milstein

Twitter: [@nyplhistory](https://twitter.com/nyplhistory)

Hours: Monday 10–5:45; Tuesday & Wednesday 10–7:45, Thursday–Saturday 10–5:45

Introduction

The Milstein Division is one of the largest genealogical collections freely open to the public. What follows is a selective list of resources with an emphasis on NYC. All sources cited are located in the Milstein Division (Room 121) or the Microform Room (Room 119).

Library Catalog

The NYPL Classic Catalog (catalog.nypl.org) includes all of the books, periodicals and microforms in the Milstein Division, both current and retrospective, including all materials acquired from the New York Genealogical & Biographical Society Library (NYGB).

Databases

All Reading Rooms in the Stephen A. Schwarzman Building offer free access to the following databases:

- **Ancestry Library Edition** Census and Vital Records, birth, marriage and death notices, the Social Security Death Index, Passenger lists and naturalizations, Military and Holocaust Records, City Directories, New York Emigrant Savings Bank records, and African American and Native American Records.
- **American Ancestors** Databases of the New England Historic Genealogical Society. Includes the New England Historical and Genealogical Register (1847–1994), New England state vital records and index resources, including New York, and the New York Genealogical and Biographical Record (1870–1923).
- **Fold3** city directories, naturalization records, Civil War and Revolutionary War records, African American Archives, Native American Archives.
- **Find My Past** includes genealogical records from the United States, along with England, Ireland, New Zealand, and other smaller record sets from around the globe.
- **ProQuest Historical Newspapers** historical Newspaper databases, which include titles related to New York, Chicago, Atlanta, Baltimore, Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., the American Jewish Newspaper Series, and the United Kingdom.
- **America's Historical Newspapers, 1690–1922** newspapers from across the country including early newspapers, 1690–1922, African American Newspapers, 1827–1998; Ethnic American Newspapers from the Balch Collection, 1799–1971 and Hispanic American Newspapers, 1808–1980.

New York City Vital Records Indexes

(Formats: microfilm, microfiche and online)

- Index to NYC Births, 19th century–1909 (start date varies by borough; all boroughs 1898–1909)
- Manhattan Alphabetical Death Index Cards, 1866–1890 (Registers from 1801)
- Brooklyn, Kings County, Index to Deaths, 1848–1898 (incomplete)
- Richmond County, Index to Deaths, 1847–1897 (incomplete)

(continued..)

- Index to NYC Deaths, 1888–1948 (all boroughs, 1898–1948)
- Coroner's inquisitions, New York, NY, 1823–1898
- Index to NYC Marriages (Grooms), 1888–1937 (all boroughs, 1898–1936)
- Index to Marriages (Brides), 1869–1937 (Manhattan, Bronx, Queens, Richmond)
- Index to Divorces, Annulments, & Separations in New York County, 1784–1910

Free online NYC vital records indexes for select date ranges can be searched at:
<http://www.italiengen.org/VRECLIST.stm> and at <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/list>

United States Federal Census, 1790–1940

Ancestry Library Edition has digital images to all years of the Federal Census.
 Other databases for the Federal Census: **HeritageQuest Online**, **Fold3** and **FamilySearch.org**.

Also available on microfilm in Room 119

- New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, 1790–1880
- New York, New Jersey, Mortality Schedules, 1850–1880
- New York 1900
- New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Puerto Rico, 1910
- New York, Puerto Rico, 1920, 1930
- Soundex Index: 1880 (NY, NJ, CT); 1900 (NY); 1920 (NY, PR)

New York State Census

Milstein has all surviving New York State Census Records on microfilm for all counties!
 These microfilms are available self-service in Room 119. Many NY State Census are also online at **Ancestry** and **Family Search**

List for New York City ONLY. Check the **Catalog** for details on other New York State counties.

- 1855 Majority of counties, but among those lacking: Queens, Suffolk, Westchester
- 1865/1875 Kings and Richmond Counties
- 1892 Kings County
- 1905 New York (Bronx), Kings, Westchester
- 1915/1925 New York, Bronx, Kings, Queens, Richmond

1890 New York City "Police" Census

Includes Manhattan and the Bronx and is available on microfilm in Room 119. Searchable by address.
 Note: **Ancestry Library Edition** has indexed a small number of books from the "Police Census."

New Jersey State Census

N.J. State Census, 1855, 1865/75, 1885, 1895, 1905, 1915 available on microfilm in Room 119.
Online: FamilySearch.org has 1885 and Ancestry Library Edition has 1895.

Passenger Lists

Ancestry Library Edition's Immigration Collection indexed & digitized lists

Online: New York Castle Garden, 1850–1891 and Ellis Island, 1892–1924

<http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/EIDB/ellisgold.html>

Printed indexes in the Milstein Reading Room (Room 121)

- Filby, P. William. *Passenger and Immigration Lists Index*.
- *The Famine Immigrants: Lists of Irish Immigrants Arriving at the Port of New York, 1846–1851*.
- *Germans to America: Lists of Passengers Arriving at U.S. Ports, 1840–1897*.
- *Italians to America: Lists of Passengers Arriving at U.S. Ports, 1880–1899*.
- *Migration from the Russian Empire: Lists of Passengers Arriving at the Port of NY, 1875–1891*.

Also available on microfilm in Room 119

- Passenger lists of vessels arriving at New York, 1820–1910
- Registers of Vessels Arriving at the Port of New York from Foreign Ports, 1789–1919
- Passenger lists & index of the Holland-America Line, 1900–1940
- Index to Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at New York, NY 1820–1846 (also on **Ancestry Library Edition**)
- Index to Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at New York, NY 1897–June 30, 1902
- Index (Soundex) to Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at New York, NY July 1902–1943

Naturalization Records

Fold3

- Digitized petitions, US District Court, Eastern District of New York, 1865–1937 [in progress]
- Digitized petitions, US District Court, Southern District of New York, 1897–1944 [in progress]
- Index to Declarations of Intention, US District Court, Southern District of New York, 1917–1950
- Index to Petitions, US District Court [and Circuit Court], Southern District of New York, 1824–1941

Ancestry Library Edition

- Index to Petitions for Naturalization filed in New York City, 1792–1989.
- Index to Declaration of Intent: New York County, 1907–1924.
- Selected U.S. Naturalization Records – Original Documents, 1790–1974 (e.g., Petitions for Naturalization from the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York, 1897–1944)

Naturalization Indexes for Greater New York - <http://www.italiengen.org/databaselist.stm>

Naturalization Index, Kings County Clerk's, 1907–1924 - <http://www.jgsny.org/kingsintro2.htm>

Also available on microfilm in Room 119

- Naturalization Certificates, 1794–1906 & Index to Naturalizations, 1906–1941 (Queens)
- Record of Declarations of Intention, 1906–1926 (Queens)
- Declarations Index 1914–1952 & Petitions Index, 1914–1932 (Bronx)

U.S. Military Sources

Ancestry Library Edition's Military Records collection includes:

- Civil War Collection including indexes to Service and Pension Records
- WW I Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918
- WW II Army Enlistment Records, 1938–1946
- WW II "Old Men's" draft, 1942

Fold3

- Revolutionary War Pension Files and Service Records
- The Civil War Confederate Soldier Service Records AND Southern Claims Commission

HeritageQuest Online - Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Application Files

NOTE: Milstein Division also has an extensive collection of regimental histories in print and on microfilm.

D.A.R. & Loyalist Sources

The Milstein Division is a depository for New York State D.A.R. Genealogical Records Committee publications of New York Bible, Cemetery and Vital records. We also hold extensive collections of American Loyalist Claims from the British Public Records Office.

Irish Sources

- Griffith's Valuation, 1848–1864. Online at **Ancestry Library Edition**
- Tithe Applotment Books, 1823–1832. Online at **Ancestry Library Edition**
- New York Emigrant Savings Bank Records [**Microfilm**]. Also online at **Ancestry Library Edition**

African American Sources

- **African American Newspapers, 1827–1998. (Readex database)**
- **ProQuest Historical African-American Newspapers:** Atlanta *Daily World* (1931–2003), Chicago *Defender* (1905–1975), Los Angeles *Sentinel* (1934–2005), New York *Amsterdam News* (1922–1993), and Pittsburgh *Courier* (1911–2002)
- Freedman's Bank Records - Searchable in **HeritageQuest Online** and **Ancestry Library Edition**
- Danish West Indies, Slavery and Emancipation Records, 1672–1917. Searchable in **Fold3**
- U.S. Virgin Islands Census, 1835–1911 (Danish Period); Slave Registers of former British Colonial Dependencies, 1812–1834; U.S. Virgin Islands, St. Croix Slave Plantation and Head Tax Lists, 1772–1821 (only browsable; not indexed by name). Searchable online in **Ancestry Library Edition**
- Register of Freemen in New Amsterdam and New York, 1683–1775 [Microfilm].

City Directories and Telephone Directories

- All New York (City and State) city directories through 1930s available in Room 119.
- Extensive microfilm collection of city directories of other U.S. cities, request in Room 121.
- Digitized directories for the United States available through **Fold3**, and **Ancestry Library Edition**.
- Back files of telephone directories available in the Microforms Division, Room 119.

Newspapers

Searchable full-text and digital images of newspapers available onsite at the Library:

New York *Times*, 1851–2009

New York *Herald*, 1840–1865

Boston *Globe*, 1872–1981

Los Angeles *Times*, 1881–1988

Washington *Post*, 1877–1996

New York *Tribune*, 1841–1922

The Hartford *Courant*, 1764–1987

Chicago *Tribune*, 1849–1989

San Francisco *Chronicle*, 1865–1922

America's Historical Newspapers, 1690–1922

- Brooklyn Newsstand, including the Brooklyn *Daily Eagle*, 1841–1955
<http://bklyn.newspapers.com/>
- New York *Sun*, 1859–1920 & New York *Evening World*, 1887–1922 available at free website: <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>

Indexes

New York *Evening Post*: Deaths/Marriages Notices 1801–1890. Online via **American Ancestors**

Maher, James P. *Index to marriages and deaths in the New York Herald, 1835–1870.*

New York Herald Index, 1835–1918 (available in Microforms Division, Room 119)

Family Histories & Periodicals

The Library's large collection of family histories and subscription to hundreds of genealogical journals as well as some family newsletters are findable in the **NYPL Catalog** [<http://catalog.nypl.org/search>].

- **Family History Books Online.** <http://books.familysearch.org/>
- **HeritageQuest Online** gives full-text access to 25,000 books of genealogies & local histories, and includes **PERSI**, an index to genealogical and local history periodicals.
- **Google Books.** <http://books.google.com/>
Includes many pre-1923 full-text genealogies and local histories from NYPL and other libraries

Photographic Collections

Photographic Views of New York City, 1870s–1970s and other historic photographs available for **free** at

NYPL Digital Collections: digitalcollections.nypl.org

Old NYC: oldnyc.org