



**NYG&B**

# Empire State Exploration

**Monday, February 5–Thursday February 8, 2018**

**New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, NYC**

Join New York's largest genealogical society for four days of research as you uncover your New York ancestors. With a home base at the NYG&B headquarters you will be steps away from the NYG&B's statewide collections at the New York Public Library—and access to experts to guide you along your way.

Empire State Exploration is an ideal setting for those just beginning their search and those seeking to answer longstanding New York research questions.

Options available for commuters as well as those requiring hotel accommodations.

---

**See information on page 18. Register at [newyorkfamilyhistory.org](http://newyorkfamilyhistory.org) or call 212-755-8532.**



**NEW EVENT!—Register at [newyorkfamilyhistory.org](http://newyorkfamilyhistory.org)**

## Dear Friends,

At this busy time of year, I am glad you have taken a few moments to settle in with the *New York Researcher*. It has certainly been an adventure-filled year at the NYG&B. With your support, we released a refresh of our website [newyorkfamilyhistory.org](http://newyorkfamilyhistory.org), unveiled new branding, launched the New York digitization and indexing project, opened NYG&B Labs, and added hundreds of thousands of pages to the NYG&B eLibrary. However, our work did not stop there.

In October we advocated for open access to New York City’s vital records with the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (see our blog and page 12). Throughout the year we interacted with thousands of members of the NYG&B community at conferences, seminars, and other events across the country. We expanded our partnerships, collaborating with the Western New York Genealogical Society for a joint conference in Buffalo, New York, and began working with educators to introduce family history into classrooms in New York City. A revised edition of the *New York Family History Research Guide and Gazetteer*, at the printer now, will round out a full year for the NYG&B. Together we have made great strides towards advancing our mission of collecting, sharing, and preserving the stories of New York families.

As we reflect on 2017 and prepare for the year ahead, I encourage you to take a moment to consider ways in which you can help the NYG&B’s work. Membership dues provide only a small amount of the overall funds required to support our mission. In the spirit of sharing stories, I invite you to discover the story of Nathaniel “King” Rider Brown, my second great-grandfather, and his gift (page 17). As the year ends, please consider supporting the NYG&B’s Annual Fund with a tax-deductible gift. Thank you for your support of the NYG&B—because of your support and commitment we are able to ensure that the stories of all New Yorkers will be preserved for the future.

Looking ahead—there is a tremendous amount of activity on the horizon! In January 2018, we officially

welcome Laura Murphy DeGrazia as editor of *The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record*. A renowned New York scholar, you can learn more about Ms. DeGrazia and what lies ahead for *The Record* (page 9) and can expect the January 2018 issue in your mailbox shortly.

January continues with the celebration of our second annual NYG&B Week with a series of free webinars and other events. As 2018 moves forward, we will gather in Syracuse for a writing seminar, welcome researchers to New York City on the new Empire State Exploration trip, travel to Albany for our annual research tour, and meet with friends at conferences throughout the United States. All the while, we will continue developing new educational materials, publishing essential New York references, delivering issues of our two hallmark publications—the *New York Researcher* and *The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record*, and adding new materials to the eLibrary. In September we will come together for the New York State Family History Conference in Tarrytown—an event not to be missed for anyone tracing New York families.

As always—your support of the NYG&B is deeply appreciated.

Until next time,



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joshua".

D. JOSHUA TAYLOR

Susan R. Miller, Editor

### CONTENTS

The Thorne-Family Burying Ground: Hidden in Plain Site.....	5	Broome County Local History and Genealogy Center: Where the Past Meets the Future.....	13	Empire State Exploration.....	18
Laura Murphy DeGrazia, CG, Takes the Helm of <i>The Record</i> .....	9	NYG&B Week.....	15	Write It Up! A Workshop for Family Historians, Syracuse, NY.....	19
In Other Lines, Shannon Green, Greenwich, Connecticut.....	10	NYG&B Upcoming Webinars.....	16	New York State Family History Conference 2018, Tarrytown, NY.....	20
New at the NYG&B eLibrary.....	11	NYG&B 2018 Conference Schedule.....	16	Research in Albany Tour 2018.....	21
Highlights from Our Blog.....	12	NYG&B Annual Appeal: What’s your New York story?.....	17	NYG&B Fall Benefit Luncheon.....	21
				Book Notes.....	22

# About the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society

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

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

## CONTACT

New York Genealogical  
and Biographical Society  
36 West 44th Street, 7th Floor  
New York, NY 10036-8105  
212-755-8532  
[newyorkfamilyhistory.org](http://newyorkfamilyhistory.org)

## OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

Iain H. Bruce, Chairman  
Kathleen Hill Tesluk, Vice-Chairman  
D. Joshua Taylor, MLS, President, Ex Officio  
Luke Ives Pontifell, Secretary  
William C. Hallett, PharmD, Treasurer  
Bruce W. Addison  
Lorraine D. Bell  
Blaine Bettinger, PhD, JD  
Elizabeth L. Bradley, PhD  
Anne Sibert Buitter, PhD  
John C. Harvey  
A. J. Jacobs  
Elbrun Kimmelman  
Stephen S. Madsen, JD  
William G. Pomeroy  
Robert S. Roberson  
Jeanne Sloane  
Waddell W. Stillman  
Missy Wolfe

## TRUSTEES EMERITI

Robert G. Goelet  
Henry B. Hoff, CG, FASG, FGBS  
William P. Johns  
Anita Anderson Lustenberger, CG, FGBS  
W. Francis Price, Jr.  
Walter Wilmerding

## FELLOWS

Leslie Corn, CG  
Laura Murphy DeGrazia, CG  
John Blythe Dobson, FASG  
James D. Folts, PhD  
Frederick C. Hart, CG, FASG  
Charlotte Megill Hix  
Henry B. Hoff, CG, FASG  
Henry Z Jones Jr., FASG  
Karen Mauer Jones, CG  
Roger D. Joslyn, CG, FASG  
Arthur C. M. Kelly  
Nancy V. Kelly  
Anita Anderson Lustenberger, CG  
Harry Macy Jr., FASG  
David Kendall Martin, FASG  
Suzanne McVetty, CG  
Meriwether C. Schmid  
Edward H. L. Smith, MLS  
Francis J. Sypher, Jr.  
Walter Wilmerding

## FAMILY HISTORY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Ruth A. Carr, MLS  
Mack D. (Skip) Duett  
Avrum Geller  
Karen Mauer Jones, CG, FGBS  
Terry Koch-Bostic  
Anita Anderson Lustenberger, CG, FGBS  
Kathleen Hill Tesluk  
Jane E. Wilcox

## NYG&B STAFF

M. Pamela Campbell,  
Office Manager and Accounts Manager  
Jennifer A. Davis,  
Director of Development and Membership  
Karen Mauer Jones, CG, FGBS,  
Editor, *The NYG&B Record*  
Anna King, Administrative Assistant  
Susan R. Miller, Director of Programs;  
Editor, *New York Researcher*  
D. Joshua Taylor, MLS, President  
Frederick J. Wertz,  
Digital Services Manager

## ADVERTISING WITH NYG&B

Both the *New York Researcher* and *The NYG&B Record*, quarterly publications of the NYG&B, welcome advertising. The members of the NYG&B receive both publications as benefits of membership, and about 300 libraries also subscribe. The *New York Researcher* is also circulated at conferences and special events.

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*.

See [newyorkfamilyhistory.org](http://newyorkfamilyhistory.org), email [education@nygbs.org](mailto:education@nygbs.org), or call 212-755-8532, ext. 211.

Products or services advertised in NYG&B publications do not equate endorsement by the NYG&B.

## About Genealogical Credentials

FGBS designates fellows of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society. FASG designates fellows of the American Society of Genealogists. The designations CG and CGL are service marks of the Board for Certification of Genealogists®. Accredited Genealogist and AG are certification marks of the International Commission for Accreditation of Professional Genealogists. Individuals are licensed to use the credential designations after meeting the competency standards of those organizations.

## Image Usage

Except where noted otherwise, all images are in the public domain and supplied by the entity credited in the caption. Images without credits are supplied by the NYG&B and the Editor of the *New York Researcher*.

Design by MND ([www.mnd.nyc](http://www.mnd.nyc)). Designed and printed in New York State.

©2017 New York Genealogical and Biographical Society



## ON THE COVER

**MAIN:** Images of the Flushing Remonstrance from the New York State Archives, Series A1809, Dutch Colonial Council Minutes 1638–1665, volume 8; NYSA identifier NYSA \_ A1809-78 \_ V08 \_ 0625. [[http://digitalcollections.archives.nysed.gov/index.php/Detail/Object/Show/object\\_id/56218](http://digitalcollections.archives.nysed.gov/index.php/Detail/Object/Show/object_id/56218)]

**INSET:** Map of The City of New—York and Its Environs from Actual Survey under the direction of H. F. Walling. Published By S. D. Tilden. 356, 358 & 360, Pearl Street, New York 1860; David Rumsey Historical Map Collection, Image number 3503001. [<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~200181~3000106:New-York-City-and-Environs->]

---

# Hidden in Plain Site: The Thorne–Wilkins Burying Ground

By Joan H. Geismar, Ph.D.

---

First, full disclosure: I am an urban archaeologist in New York City, and although neither a genealogist nor a historian, I am often immersed in both history and genealogy. The act of discovery in archives and records is as exciting to me as it is in the ground, and these discoveries have proved wonderfully complementary. And now to the issue of the Thorne-Wilkins Burying Ground at Fort Totten on Willets Point in Bayside, New York.

## The Project

Vincent Loggia is a descendant of the historical Thorne/Wilkins family, originally of Flushing, New York (out of England). He wanted to make a case to the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation (Parks) that a small cemetery plot within the bounds of Fort Totten was misidentified as the Charles A. Willets' mid-nineteenth-century family cemetery. In fact, it was his family's ancestral burying ground that dated to the seventeenth-century. After intermittent attempts to draw me in (and apparently others as well), I finally was convinced to become involved with the project<sup>1</sup>. Whatever the outcome, the cemetery was unique in that it was a private cemetery within a former military preserve, now a public park.

Before engaging me in the project, Vincent Loggia contacted the Parks Department about this matter. As a historical archaeologist, I am aware of the intricacies of careful research, but this time a treasure trove of detailed information, beautifully researched, was presented to me in an impressive, organized binder. Undoubtedly the binder, when previously submitted to the Parks Department, proved overwhelming to them—it was voluminous.

---

## The Evidence

Clearly the first task was to identify the salient points and, like a lawyer, make a case to Parks on behalf of my “client.” But first, did the case hold up? Did the Thorne-Wilkins family burying ground predate government acquisition of the land? If so, does it still exist? And, again if so, who is buried in this cemetery identified/implied as the Willets Cemetery? Finally, what is the cemetery's appropriate name?

While Vincent Loggia and his family had long sought recognition of their family's burial ground, did the facts support their claim? There were maps, deeds, and wills. There was also testimony that followed the

government's initial acquisition of the property in 1857/1858 to create the military preserve and later letters from a commanding officer. Moreover, there were burial records from Brooklyn's Green-Wood Cemetery that clearly indicated that wherever Charles A. Willets initially was buried after his death 1833—even if on the land in question that came into his possession in 1829—his family removed his remains to Green-Wood in 1855.

---

## The Submission

Within the binder's approximately 200 pages, the crucial documents were several maps, the property's early deed succession, mid-nineteenth- and late-nineteenth-century government testimonies, and a page of headstone sketches recorded in 1857. These formed the key evidence of the submission to Parks Department for their review. The following relates the predominant information of the land that is now the Thorne-Wilken Burial Ground at Fort Totten.<sup>2</sup>

---

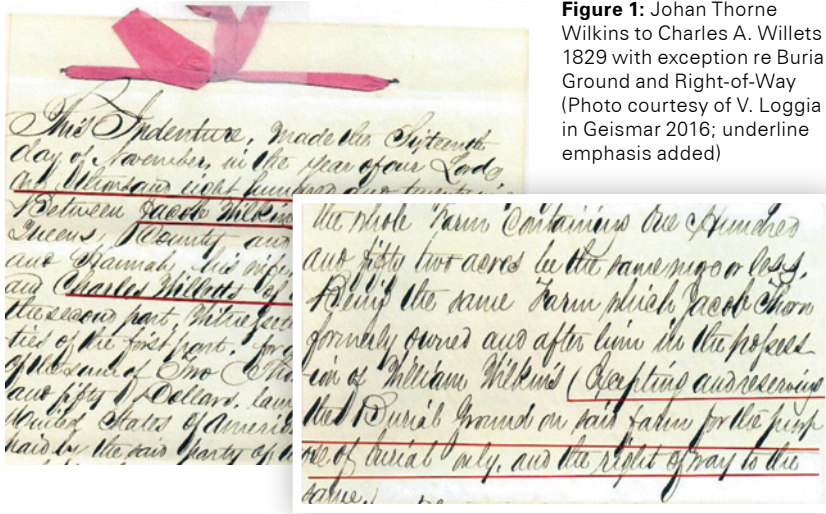
## Land Ownership

At the time of the American Revolutionary War, Willet's Point was known as Thorne's Neck, or Thorne's Point, and it remained private property until the process of acquisition by the government began approximately in 1856. According to Clyde A. Syze, who researched the site and recorded his findings in 1967, the Thorne name is cited in military dispatches associated with the short-lived but decisive Battle of Long Island on August 27, 1776, when the English routed colonial troops and took what is now Brooklyn (and New York City and Staten Island). Vincent Loggia traced the property's history and ownership to his seventeenth-century Thorne ancestors. Beginning in 1645 with a Dutch grant to William Thorne, Sr., an Englishman, this family ownership endured for ten generations (see 1860 map, cover).

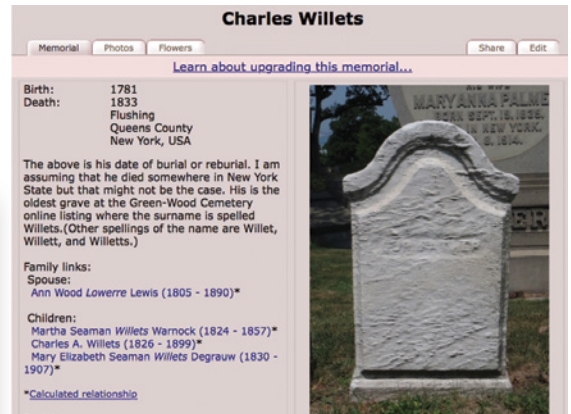
---

<sup>1</sup> NYG&B intern Andrea Ditkoff researched the property and family in 2015, writing a 13-page report and a timeline. Mr. Loggia began the project prior to 2014.

<sup>2</sup> This information was taken from a memo report presented to Parks (Geismar, Joan H., Thorne/Wilkins/Willets Cemetery, Fort Totten, Queens, June 27, 2016).



**Figure 1:** Johan Thorne Wilkins to Charles A. Willets 1829 with exception re Burial Ground and Right-of-Way (Photo courtesy of V. Loggia in Geismar 2016; underline emphasis added)



**Figure 2:** Charles Willets' gravestone in plot 95 in Green-Wood Cemetery (Find A Grave, image by Wallace G. Lane Jr., researched by V. Loggia). Although severely weathered, the inscription reads, "OUR FATHER."

### The Grave of Charles A. Willets

Charles A. Willets died in 1833 and was likely buried on his farm at Willets' Point, possibly on the land he had recently acquired from Jacob Thorne Wilkins and where he had built a dwelling. However, he was a resident of Flushing prior to obtaining the Thorne-Wilkins property, and he could have been buried elsewhere on other nearby land he owned. According to Mr. Loggia's research, if he was buried in the Thorne-Wilkins cemetery, it would have been at the discretion of Jacob Thorne Wilkins, the last Thorne-Wilkins owner of the property since the cemetery was excepted from Willets' purchase and remained the property of the Thorne-Wilkins family (see figure 1).

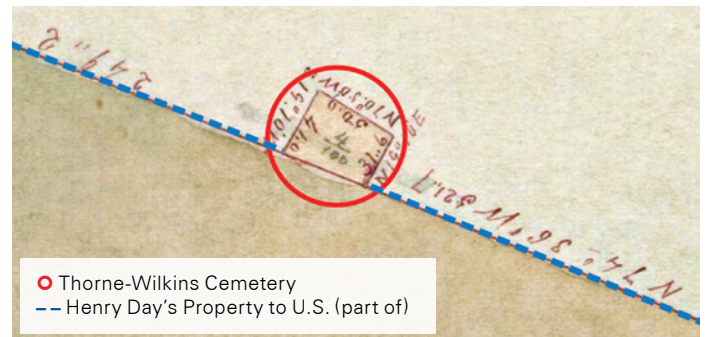
Wherever Willets was buried in 1833, the family removed his remains from his "Flushing farm" in 1855 for reinterment at Green-Wood Cemetery in Kings County (figure 2). Just why this occurred more than twenty years after Willets' death is unrecorded. However, even if Charles Willets initially was buried in the Thorne-Wilkins family cemetery, his remains were removed a year or so before the government began to acquire the portion of the property that includes the cemetery (the imminent land transfer to the government may have prompted the removal, but this is speculative).<sup>3</sup>

### The Thorne Property

The original 152-plus-acre Thorne family tract and the cemetery exception remained inviolate through two subsequent owners. However, in 1856 the land was divided and part of it sold to Henry Day. An "indenture of agreement" mentions a provision to release the burial ground from Thorne control (Liber of Deeds [LD] 147: 201–203), but this did not happen. The following year, the remainder

<sup>3</sup> Parenthetically, Willets' widow and two of his children—two daughters—are interred in Green-Wood near Willets, her first husband and their father. A son, Charles A. Willets, Jr. (1826–1899) is buried in Flushing Cemetery ([findagrave.com](http://findagrave.com)) with other members of the family who died after 1857.

of the Thorne-Wilkins tract—the lion's share—was sold to George Irving (LD 150: 605–608). An 1857 letter from surveyor John F. Carll to Brigadier General Joseph G. Totten, Chief of U.S. Army Engineers, after whom Fort Totten is named, reiterates the cemetery exception in reference to George Irving's deed to the government. It also provides a sketch of the burial ground's corrected dimensions (figure 3). This information not only defines the cemetery, but also its location on Henry Day's land.

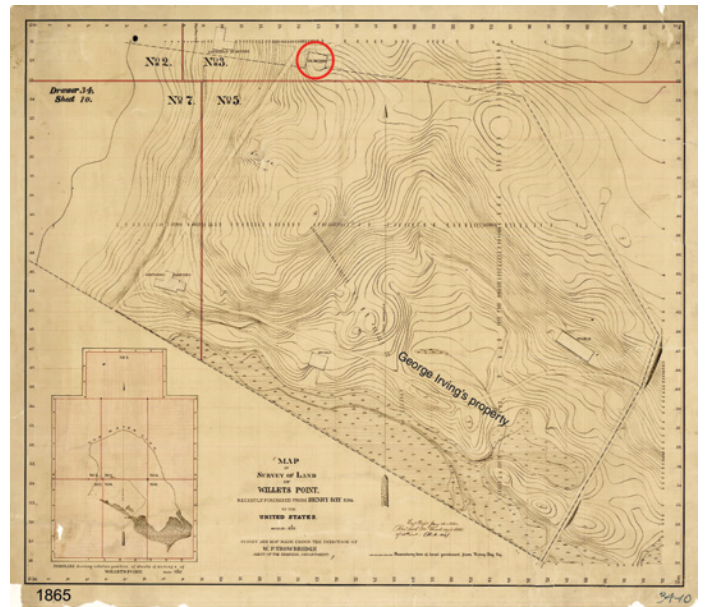
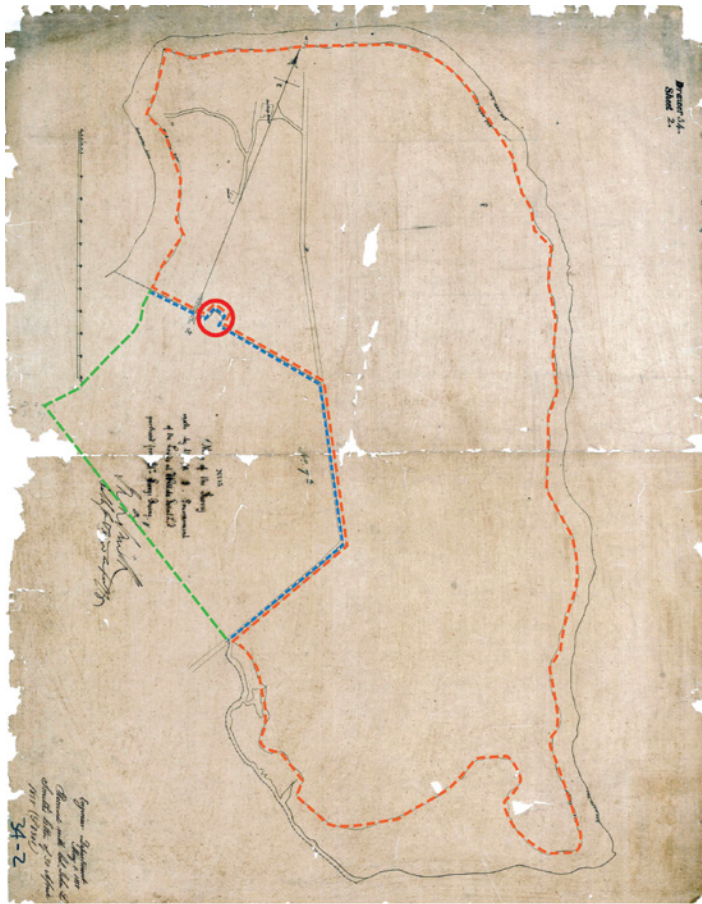


**Figure 3:** Thorne-Wilkins Cemetery re dimensions corrected by John Carll, Surveyor, in regard to George Irving's 1857 deed to the U.S. government (Letter to Brigadier General Joseph G. Totten, November 10, 1857, detail. In Geismar 2016).

### Surveys

Between April 1857 and April 1863, the U.S. Government finalized acquisition of the Irving and Day properties to create Fort Totten. In addition to the 1857 Carll sketch, there are several government surveys that document the Thorne-Wilkins Cemetery on the property (e.g., figures 4 and 5). Testimony from an 1858 Congressional hearing confirms the cemetery's existence, and its persistence is acknowledged despite some ambiguity about being located on the Day or Irving property.

The government surveys, one related to the 1857 purchase of Irving's Willets Neck land (see figure 4), the other to the finalized purchase of Day's property in 1863 (see figure 5), indicate what was then a 50 by 30 or 40 foot



**Map Key:** ○ Thorne-Wilkins Cemetery; — — Henry Day's Property to U.S.; - - - George Irving's Property; - - - Approximate West Boundary (not shown)

**Figure 4 (Left):** 1860 Government Survey indicating the Thorne-Wilkins Cemetery included in Henry Day's Property. Survey based on 1858 survey notes (NARA, courtesy of V. Loggia).

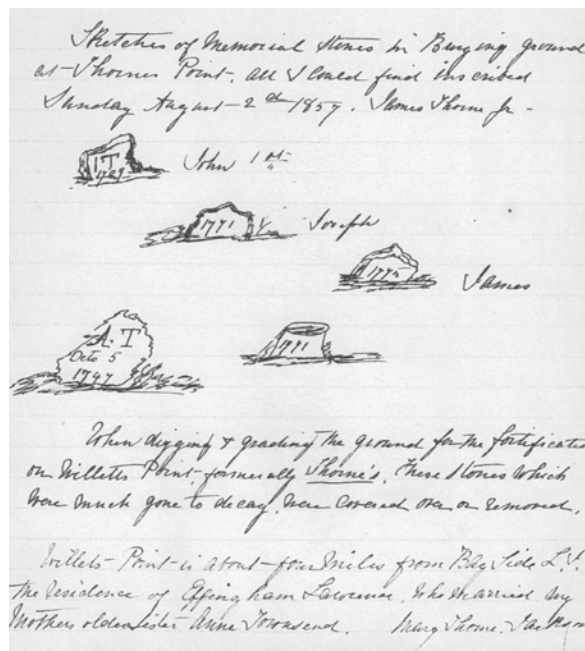
**Figure 5 (Above):** Detail of Henry Day's property on an 1865 U.S. government survey prepared under the direction of W. P. Trowbridge, agent of the Engineer Department. The Thorne-Wilkins Cemetery is documented as part of Day's tract. (NARA, courtesy of V. Loggia in Geismar 2016, enhanced and oriented north.)

(15.2 m by 9.1/12.2m) burial ground located on a rise where the Willets memorial stone now stands, albeit now a larger gore.<sup>4</sup> By 1895, a Civil War-era cemetery is documented about a third of a mile to the south, but the Thorne-Wilkins burial ground is no longer identified.

James Thorne, Jr. visited the burial ground on August 2, 1857, about the time the U.S. government began to acquire the land, and sketched five badly weathered tombstones (figure 6). Among them is a stone believed to mark the grave of John Thorne who died in 1709 ["I.T. 1709"] (Syze 1967); excerpts from the notebook of Mary Thorne Jackson [1966]. To date, there has

4 In the collection of the U.S. Cartographic Archives, NARA, College Park, MD.

**Figure 6:** Sketch by James Thorne of memorial stones in the Thorne-Wilkins Burial Ground on August 2, 1857, subsequently covered over or removed. (Transcript of Mary Thorne Jackson's notebook from the collection of the Connecticut Historical Society, Hartford; photo courtesy of V. Loggia in Geismar 2016).



been no indication that generations of Thorne-Wilkins family members buried in the cemetery were ever removed.

In 2016 a lone memorial stone stood on the site of the burial ground supposedly to mark Charles Willets, Sr.'s grave (figure 7). In fact, it may merely have marked his former presence in the cemetery, and even this is specula-

tive. When and by whom the stone was erected is also speculative, but a 1937 newspaper article, albeit with egregious historical information, indicates it was then in place (*Brooklyn Eagle*, June 17, 1937: 1). A weathered stone in Green-Wood Cemetery marks Charles Willets' actual grave. This is corroborated by Green-Wood's records that also document the date of Willets' birth (1781) and death (1833) as well as his 1855 reinterment in Green-Wood.<sup>5</sup> It seems, therefore, that the Willets stone on the former fort

5 The Willets memorial stone records an incorrect date (1832 rather than 1833) for Willets' death.

property does not mark an actual grave but merely documents the possible former burial place of the progenitor of the Willets Point name. Rather, extensive and compelling evidence suggests this stone actually identifies the location of the small, family burial ground of the property's original owners, the Thorne-Wilkins Family, at what was initially Thorne's Point or Neck.

## Report to Parks

The 2016 memo report to Parks ended with the following statement:

“I do hope the information presented here clarifies any issues regarding the cemetery's association and location as well as bolsters the Loggia's request to identify their family's ancestral cemetery and provide a historically valid name, the Thorne-Wilkins Burial Ground. To do so will not only set the historical record to rights but also will provide an intriguing detail of Fort Totten's history and make it known to park visitors.”

## A Successful Conclusion

In December 2016, Vincent Loggia sent a photo of a new sign that Parks had erected near the Charles A. Willets stone (figure 7). More than that, it provides the familial association and the site's history. Parks is to be commended for setting the record straight, and the Loggias are to be commended for their diligence in collecting the necessary information to do so and for their persistence in making it happen. I personally am thrilled to have been the enabler.



**Figure 7:** The Charles A. Willets' memorial stone with the new Parks' sign that identifies the cemetery as the Thorne-Wilkins Cemetery photographed in December 2016 (photo courtesy of Vincent Loggia).

The text of the new sign that identifies the private burial ground of the Thorne–Wilkins family within the former Fort Totten military compound (left).

### THORNE–WILKINS CEMETERY FORT TOTTEN PARK

The Thorne–Wilkins Cemetery is located on the grounds of Fort Totten at Willets Point and dates to the 17th century. The property's earliest settler, Englishman William Thorne Sr. (1617–1664), settled this area and established his farm on the point of land in 1645, calling it Thorne's Neck. He along with 17 other men founded “Vlissingen,” known today as Flushing, Queens.

William Thorne Sr. was also one of the 30 signers of the 1657 Flushing Remonstrance, the first document for religious freedom in America and regarded as the precursor to the United States' Bill of Rights.

The property passed through six generations of the Thorne–Wilkins family before it was sold to Charles Willets (1781–1833) on Nov. 16, 1829. With the purchase, the land became known as Willets Point, but the Thorne-Wilkins burial ground remained the family's domain to ensure the graves remained undisturbed. Starting in 1852, the land passed through several hands, but documents reiterated the cemetery exemption.

Between April 1857 and April 1863, the United States Government acquired the properties to create Fort Totten, which hosted a series of military services until a large portion of the land was secured by NYC Parks in 2001.

Today Charles Willets' memorial stone stands on the site of the burial ground, but records show his body was reinterred in Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn, in 1855. Willets' stone on the former fort property does not mark his actual grave, but documents the possible former burial place of the namesake of the Willets Point. Historic deeds, surveys, and maps suggest the marker actually identifies the location of the small family burial ground of the property's original owners: the Thorne–Wilkins family.

Joan H. Geismar, Ph.D., an archaeological consultant, has been a practicing urban archaeologist in the New York-metropolitan area since 1981. Dr. Geismar, who received her doctorate in Anthropology from Columbia University, has extensive experience in documenting the history of sites in the New York-metropolitan area, assessing their archaeological potential, and implementing and carrying out fieldwork when necessary. Many of her projects have fulfilled the cultural resources requirement for environmental assessments and impact statements or permitting.

## Loggia Project Timeline—Created by Andrea Ditkoff, 2015

<b>1638</b>	William Thorne admitted as a freeman to Lynn, Massachusetts.
<b>1642</b>	William Thorne fled Lynn for Long Island.
<b>1645</b>	William Thorne named on the Flushing Patent.
<b>1657</b>	William Thorne signed the Flushing Remonstrance.
<b>1709</b>	John Thorne died, and left his land to his son William Thorne.
<b>1768</b>	William Thorne died, and left his land to his son Jacob Thorne.
<b>1770</b>	Jacob Thorne married Ida Suydam.
<b>1771</b>	Jacob Thorne died, and left his land to his wife Ida and unborn daughter Ann Thorne.
<b>1788</b>	Ann Thorne married William Wilkins.
<b>1798</b>	William Wilkins died. Ann Wilkins declined to manage the property, and her mother Ida Thorne took over the land.
<b>1819</b>	Ida Thorne died, and left her land to her four grandchildren (including Jacob Thorne Wilkins).
<b>1829</b>	Jacob Thorne Wilkins sold the land to Charles Willets, with the exception of a family burial ground.

<b>1833</b>	Charles Willets died, and left his land to his son, Charles Willets. He was buried on the property.
<b>1852</b>	Charles Willets sold the land to John De Ruyter.
<b>1854</b>	John De Ruyter sold the land to Frederick Wissman.
<b>1855</b>	Charles Willets' grave possibly moved to Green-Wood Cemetery.
<b>1856</b>	Frederick Wissman sold a part of the land to Henry Day.
<b>1857</b>	Frederick Wissman sold the rest of the land to George Irving. George Irving sold his land to the United States. James Thorne (a descendant of the Thorne family) transcribed remaining tombstones. Congressional investigation of the price paid for the land.
<b>1862</b>	The Army began construction of Fort Totten.
<b>1863</b>	Henry Day sold his land to the United States.
<b>1987</b>	Fort Totten developed as a public park.



---

# Laura Murphy DeGrazia, CG, FGBS, Takes the Helm of *The Record*



Earlier this year the NYG&B announced that, beginning with the January 2018 issue of *The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record*, noted genealogist Laura Murphy DeGrazia, CG, FGBS, will assume editorship of New York's oldest—and most recognized—genealogical periodical.

Laura is no stranger to the NYG&B—or to *The Record* itself, having previously co-edited the publication. She also served for nearly 10 years as a member of the NYG&B's Education Committee and was a review committee member who worked to produce the award-winning *New York Family History Research Guide and Gazetteer*. In 2013 the NYG&B bestowed the honor of Fellow upon her, in recognition of her tremendous contributions to New York genealogy and biography.

As a genealogist, she specializes in nineteenth- and

twentieth-century research in the New York City area. A Board-certified genealogist for 19 years, Laura is a past president and former trustee of the Board for Certification of Genealogists and is a noted author of articles in *The Record*, the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*, and the *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*. As an advisor to *NGS Magazine* and editor of *NGS Monthly*, Laura frequently works with authors on a variety of topics relating to genealogy and family history.

We asked Laura a few questions about her new role...

---

## What excites you about taking on the editorship of *The Record*?

Editing *The Record*—the second oldest genealogical journal in the country—is an honor. For nearly 150 years, countless genealogists and historians have benefitted from work published in the pages of *The Record*, and playing a part in its continued history is an opportunity and responsibility I take very seriously.

As editor, I interface with authors, peer reviewers, and the editorial board. All of these people are important to the strength of the material that is published each issue. I enjoy learning from them—and I learn every step of the way.

## What makes *The Record* such an essential publication?

*The Record* is essential for researchers interested in families and individuals tied to New York. Articles include transcribed church and Bible records, analytical discussions about solutions to problems, and compiled genealogies. Family historians often find references to the people they're researching, but even if they don't, studying *The Record* will help genealogists improve their knowledge and skills:

- They'll learn about sources that might help in their own research.
- They'll be exposed to methods used by advanced researchers. Sometimes knowing how to use evidence makes the difference between resolving a problem and hitting a wall.
- They'll see sound genealogical practices in action.
- They'll notice documentation.
- They'll be exposed to discussions of analysis and correlation and will learn what to do when faced with conflicting evidence.
- And they'll learn about the value of presenting findings in writing.

---

## What was the first article you authored in *The Record*? Can you tell us a bit about that process?

"'Her Brother Went to China'—Identifying Parents by Widening the Focus: The Hencher Family of Kingston and New York City," *Record* 134 (2003): 83–94.

My first article in *The Record* was about Charlotte Hencher, my great-great-great-grandmother. I wrote this article after connecting with a distant cousin whose father was interested in genealogy and collected family treasures. He had very little information about the Henchers. One of the few items was a Civil War-era photograph of a man. Her father had written on the reverse that the man was Isabella Hencher's brother who had "gone to China." Although the line didn't seem like much to my cousin, it meant the world to me—for my Charlotte Hencher's brother had sailed to China while in the Navy. Before finding my cousin I had built a strong case using indirect evidence that Isabella and Charlotte were siblings but the picture was the lynchpin in my argument.

My article was edited by Harry Macy, who stressed to me that writing for a peer-reviewed journal is a learning opportunity for the author. After Harry evaluated my initial manuscript, he sent it to a team of experts who provided analytical reviews and feedback to help me strengthen it. There's no better way to learn than to have experts give you feedback on your work. Writing for *The Record* is one way to get that feedback.

## What advice would you give aspiring authors?

Before writing for *The Record* or any other peer-reviewed journal, it's a good idea to spend time reading that journal—both current and past issues. Pay attention to the type of material that is published and the style of presentation. Look for authors' guidelines, which are often available online. Reach out to the editor ahead of time to ask about potential interest in your idea.

(Continued)

---

## Laura Murphy DeGrazia, CG, takes the helm of *The Record* (Continued)

You usually will not have to include every detail you've uncovered. You might not even mention every source you examined. Select the strongest pieces of evidence and present the evidence in a logical order that will help readers understand, not the order in which it was uncovered.

You don't have to wait until you're completely finished to begin setting your words to paper. Our work may not ever be completely finished. It's better to put something in writing so others can benefit from your work.

### Can you share any hints at what's in store for future issues?

January 2019 will begin the 150th volume of *The Record*—

that's certainly worth celebrating. I'll be working with the editorial board to develop ideas to honor that important milestone.

I'd like to encourage articles from researchers who are working on families from backgrounds that are covered less frequently in *The Record*—immigrants of the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries, African Americans, and families of Jewish, Asian, Hispanic descent. I aim to celebrate New York's diversity in the pages of *The Record*. But we can't publish articles that we don't receive. Ultimately it's up to our readers to submit their writing—to join in the learning process and be part of the exciting history of *The Record*.

---

## In Other Lines

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

### Shannon Green, Greenwich, Connecticut | Member since 2011

#### What is your earliest genealogical recollection?

When I was eight years old, my little sister was born, and my parents named her Ryan. I remember my mother telling me it was a "family name," but even she wasn't sure from where. I recall thinking that I wanted to find the answer to that question.

#### Who sparked your interest in genealogy?

My mother's family lore was that three of her South Carolina ancestors signed the Declaration of Independence. When she was ill, we decided that when she got better we would work together to research whether or not that was true. Unfortunately, she never did recover. A couple of years later, in her memory, I embarked upon the task myself.

#### Tell me about your career?

After I earned my M.B.A. from Vanderbilt University, I entered a management-training program with a company called Nortel Networks. I worked for there for eight years, the last few years in Mergers and Acquisitions. I "retired" when I got married. After three children, I found my passion for genealogy. My professional genealogy career lasted about a dozen or so clients. Honestly, the better I got at researching, the more I wanted to focus my skills on my own brick walls.

#### What are your other-than-genealogy interests?

I am a wife and mother of three young children: Maya (11), Owen (9), and Clara (7). They take up most of my time (happily), but I love reading, scrapbooking, and I am involved with my synagogue. When I worked in the business world, I began scrapbooking to satisfy my creative needs. As a stay-at-home mother, I began genealogy to satisfy my intellectual needs. It all balances out!



#### Interesting family story?

I'm descended from Charlemagne – but aren't we all?

#### Family reunion—have you planned/held one?

I have not planned an extended family reunion, but my brother comes to Maryland with his family each summer. My sister and I head down there with our families and take over my father's house. We invite all of our aunt and uncles, their children, and grandchildren for backyard bar-b-que and swim. It is always wonderful to catch up. That's when I get to tell them about new discoveries I've made (and I try to convince

them all to do DNA testing).

#### What brought you to the NYG&B?

I initially joined the NYG&B for a subscription to *The Record*. Since then, I have really enjoyed the programming. I have gone on a few different repository tours, and in the last year I have really enjoyed the NYG&B's writing and DNA seminars.

#### What is the most surprising thing you have ever found in your research/studies/etc.?

One day I was googling various combinations of names for one of my ancestors when I found a book review from the *New York Times*. Apparently, my fifth-great-grandfather wrote his autobiography and left it with his will for his children. His granddaughter had it privately published. I found a digitized version of the book online, and I was shaking as I read every word.

---

Read even more about Shannon our the NYG&B blog ([nygbs.org/blog](http://nygbs.org/blog)).

# New at the NYG&B eLibrary

This fall, we added more than 100,000 new images to the NYG&B eLibrary. Our new digital records added to the New York State Religious Records (1639–1914) and new collections are the New York State Death Index (1880–1955), and New York City marriage announcements (1833–1836).

## New York State Religious Records (1639–1914)

[newyorkfamilyhistory.org/elibrary/religious-records-new-york-state-1639-1914](http://newyorkfamilyhistory.org/elibrary/religious-records-new-york-state-1639-1914)

This collection now contains transcriptions of religious records from various denominations throughout New York State. Over 120 congregations from 22 counties are included, and the NYG&B eLibrary is the only place to access all these records online.

Most of the transcriptions were edited by NYG&B Historian and Archivist Royden Woodward Vosburgh in the early twentieth century. He and his team painstakingly captured every detail and was incredibly thorough in his work and methods.

Religious records are important to New York researchers for several reasons. In general, civil vital records birth, marriage, or death records from the 1700s and most of the 1800s were rarely created, making religious records the most likely available resource for this information.

Depending on the type of record you are viewing, researchers can discover the following information from these records:

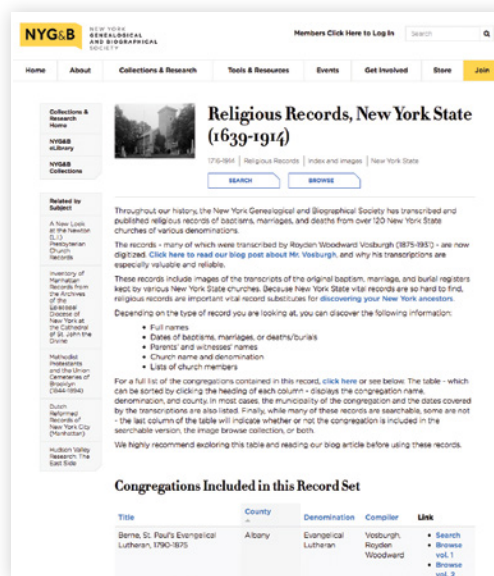
- Full names
- Dates of baptisms, marriages, or deaths/burials
- Parents' and witnesses' names
- Church name and denomination
- Lists of church members

But there's more than just names and dates in these volumes. We highly recommend browsing a congregation's records before performing a search—each volume of transcriptions has crucial information at the beginning, which researchers would miss if searching only for names.

The table of contents, found at the beginning of each volume, provides an essential overview of what's included. Historical narratives about the church, region of the state, and religious denomination may be available, and will provide invaluable contextual clues for your research.

## Marriage Announcements, New York City (1833–1836)

This volume, created by Frank A. Biebel, contains transcriptions of marriage announcements found in two significant New York City newspapers, *The Sun* and the *New York Transcript*.



Explore the NYG&B Religious Records collection at [newyorkfamilyhistory.org/elibrary/religious-records-new-york-state-1639-1914](http://newyorkfamilyhistory.org/elibrary/religious-records-new-york-state-1639-1914)

As mentioned in the section above, civil marriage records can be difficult to find for the time covered by this record set, and newspaper announcements serve as a satisfactory substitute. The years covered by this work are significant as the 1830s saw the first "penny press" newspapers, which greatly increased readership and circulation beyond the upper and financial classes in New York.

Researchers can hope to find announcements from the general public, which may not have been contained in newspapers established before this time period. You can expect to find the following information for each entry:

- Name of the groom
- Name of the bride
- Name of the minister (each record contains a number, which corresponds to the name of a minister in a separate table within the book)
- Marriage date and place (other information if available)
- The newspaper and date for an entry

## New York State Death Index (1880–1955)

Images of the official New York State death index from the Department of Health are contained in this record set. They were digitized recently and were previously only available to view on microfilm onsite at a handful of repositories throughout New York State. The index was digitized and made available thanks to the work of the organization Reclaim the Records.

This record set is not searchable, but the images can be easily browsed and are organized by year, with names arranged alphabetically by the first letter of the last name. The images in this collection will often provide the following details:

- Name of decedent
- Place of death
- Date of death
- Certificate number—with the certificate number, you can order the original death certificate.

Some anomalies have been noted for the 1940s, where a certificate was not indexed in the correct year. Corroborating the year of death through a cemetery record or newspaper before requesting the copy from the New York State Health Department would be a best practice. And if a negative result to a request is returned, an expanded time period for the search would be recommended.

(Continued)

---

## The NYG&B Record and the New York Researcher: Recent Issues Easier to Access [newyorkfamilyhistory.org/read-online](http://newyorkfamilyhistory.org/read-online)

We reported in the last issue that recent issues of *The Record* and the *New York Researcher* are now available to members in PDF format, making it easier to access. NYG&B members also can select digital only delivery of either or both publications.

---

## New NYG&B Genealogy Tips on YouTube [nygbs.org/blog](http://nygbs.org/blog) or [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com)

The NYG&B YouTube channel offers short genealogy tips from our recent YouTube Live sessions. Watch them in our blog posts or see all available clips on YouTube.

---

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

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



On 24 October, Trustees and members of the NYG&B, Reclaim the Records, and other interested organizations and individuals attended a hearing of the New York City Department of Health about the proposed plan to restrict vital records.

---

## New York Vital Record Substitutes: Religious Records

Vital records—records of birth, marriage, and death events—are some of the most important records to pursue when piecing together your family history. Some states in America have complete, well-preserved vital records that date back well into the 1700s or even earlier—but not New York!

As many family history researchers with New York State ancestry know, finding vital records from before the 1900s can be a very frustrating endeavor. Our blog article examines why and suggest some ways to use religious records to overcome this common challenge in New York State research.

There were very few government-kept vital records for the New York in the 1600s and 1700s. The Dutch colonials viewed this to be a function of the church, not the state. When the English took over administration in 1664, they took a similar approach. Even after the American Revolution, this attitude remained present in many localities well into the 1800s.

For this reason, if you can't find an official town or state vital record, religious records are an excellent alternative. Our blog has tips for using these records, and suggestions for where to find them.

---

## Christmas Traditions with New York State Roots

There's nothing like Christmas in New York! While that statement may conjure up images of Rockefeller Center and 34th Street, all of New York State—from the high peaks of the Adirondacks to Lake Erie—is steeped in holiday tradition.

In fact, many of the traditions that are integral parts of the Christmas experience across the nation have roots in the towns and cities of New York State. From Santa Claus to illuminated trees, Christmas wouldn't be the same without the many contributions from the Empire State.

You might be surprised that New York has played a part in the creation of Christmas decoration, traditions, lore, and literature.

Read our blog to see how New York has shaped the most familiar traditions of the holiday season.

---

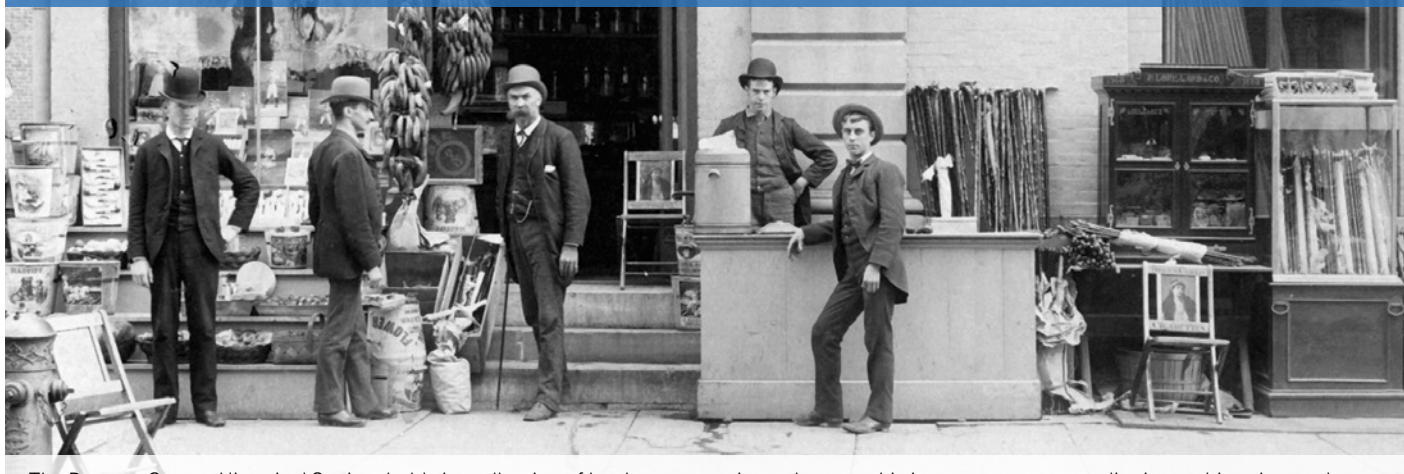
## Genealogy Groups and Community Members Unite to Preserve Access to Records

This past fall, members of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society joined dozens of others from the genealogy community to combat an unacceptable proposal that would greatly restrict access to New York City vital records.

We had more than 3,880 people sign our official public comment, including signatures from all 50 states and from countries around the globe—the PDF document was 325 pages long!

We owe special thanks to the more than 60 people who attended the hearing in October. During two and a half hours, members from the New York City government listened to comment after comment in opposition to this proposal. Not a single person commented in favor of it!

Read our blog for a wrap-up of the hearing, including some of the organizations that were there, and some of the arguments made against the proposal—now we await the decision from New York City. Stay tuned...



The Broome County Historical Society holds its collection of books, manuscripts, photographic images, newspaper clippings, obituaries, and an index of names in the Local History & Genealogy Center in the Broome County Public Library.

## Broome County Local History and Genealogy Center: Where the Past Meets the Future

The Broome County Local History Center resides on the second floor of the Broome County Public Library at 185 Court Street in Binghamton, New York. The Center incorporates the local history and genealogy holdings of the Broome County Public Library, the Broome County Historical Society, the Broome County Historian, and the City of Binghamton Historian.

The Center's collections of photographic images, printed histories and genealogical resources, maps, vertical files, obituaries and abstracted indexes are described below. The Center has computers for internet access or for using the large collection of CD-ROMs on genealogy. The Center is one of eleven New York repositories in possession of the

microfiche New York State vital records indexes.

While the Center is supported through some public funds, the Broome County Historical Society provides both monetary support as well as volunteer assistance. Use of the Center is free, although membership in the Broome County Historical Society is encouraged.

### Major Resources of the Broome County Local History and Genealogy Center

The Center's collections are rich with primary and secondary sources [original records, derivative material, and authored works]. The Center is adjacent to the Microfilm Collections that provides access to newspapers dating to 1815. Highlights of the collections follow.

#### Maps

Major maps of the area included in the collection:

- *1855 Map of Broome County*—the first major map to show owners of property
- *1866 Atlas of Broome County*
- *1876 Everts & Everts Atlas of Broome County*—with good illustrations of major buildings
- *1873 Birds-Eye View of Binghamton*
- *1882 Birds-Eye View of Binghamton*
- *1885 Hopkins Atlas of Binghamton*
- *1908 Plat Book of Broome County*
- *Sanborn maps of Binghamton area for 1887 (microfilm), 1891, 1898, 1918, 1952*
- *Sanborn maps of Johnson City (1931) and Endicott (1927)*

#### Collections

A strength of county and regional repositories and a reason to research onsite are card collections. The Broome County collection is an excellent research facility holding these indexes:

- **Name Index System (also called the Woodward files)**—Alphabetized abstracts of local records, 225,000 cards, including census from 1790 to 1892, cemetery records, church records, newspaper articles.
- **Obituary Collection**—clipped obituaries from approximately 1960 to the present, 150,000 cards. Missing most of years from 1975 to 1980.
- **Newspaper Index**—by using the online catalog of the Broome County Public Library, users can access

(Continued)

an index to over 40,000 local newspaper articles ([www.bclibrary.info](http://www.bclibrary.info)).

- **X-Files**—Other indexed materials from scrapbooks, 1925 census for Binghamton, Vestal & Union, and many other materials.
- **New York State Vital Records Microfiche Index**—Includes non-confidential index to marriages, deaths, and births in the state starting in 1880.

---

### Vertical Files

Local and regional historians and genealogists have generated file folders of records including:

- **Cemetery Records**—cemetery records for approximately 140 cemeteries within Broome County
- **Family Files**—more than 2,000 files on area families
- **General Files**—approximately 4,000 subject headings on businesses, disasters, etc.
- **Military Records**—contains records and files of military units with local residents
- **Municipal Files**—contains article dealing with various governmental aspects, including early school records, tax records, etc.

---

### Archival Collections

More than 60,000 individual items and collections are located in the climate-controlled vault. The collections range from early maps and broadsides to business records, early published books, and personal letters and diaries. Major collections include:

- **William Bingham Collection**—dating from the 1780s to the early 1800s detailing the creation of Binghamton
- **William L. Ford Collection**—related to a Deposit, New York, businessman 1840s–1860s (more than 1,400 items)
- **Funeral Record Collection**—various records 1897–1996 for several local funeral homes
- **Uriah Gregory Collection**—more than 800 items related to an eastern Broome family from the 1840s
- **IBM collection**—several boxes of items related to the early years of this major corporation
- **J. Edward Turner Collection**—from the creator of the New York State Inebriate Asylum
- **Weather Records**—local records 1896 to present
- **Whitney Collection**—more than 1,600 documents from member of the Joshua Whitney family dating from the late 1780s

---

### Book Collection

More than 8,000 books concerning genealogy and the history of Broome County and the greater northeastern United States form the core of the published works.

Topics covered range from city directories, government proceedings, and yearbooks to area histories and family histories. Popular works for research are:

- Wilkinson, J.B. *The Annals of Binghamton of 1840*. Binghamton, 1840. The first published history of this region. [Archive.org]
- Smith, H.P. *History of Broome County*. Syracuse, 1885. [Archive.org]
- Lawyer, William S., ed. *Binghamton: Its Settlement, Growth and Development and the Factors of its History, 1800–1900*. Century Memorial Publishing Co. 1900 [Archive.org]
- Seward, William Foote, ed. *Binghamton and Broome County, New York: A History*. New York: Lewis Publishing Co., 1924. 3 volumes.
- Bothwell, Lawrence and Broome County Historical Society. *Broome County Heritage: An Illustrative History*. Woodland Hills, California: Windsor Publications, 1983.
- Smith, Gerald R. *The Valley of Opportunity: A Pictorial History of the Greater Binghamton Area*. Norfolk, Virginia: Donning Co., 1988.
- Smith, Gerald R. *Partners All: A History of Broome County, New York*. Virginia Beach, Virginia: Donning Co., 2006.

---

### Local Newspapers and Censuses

The Center has local newspapers on microfilm dating from 1815 to the present. Regional census microfilm from 1790 to 1930 are available in the adjacent microfilm room.

---

### Photographic Collections

The Center maintains a collection of 80,000 plus images related to the region. Many are indexed by topic into binders covering areas such as transportation, streets, and people. The originals are kept in the Center's climate-controlled vault.

---

### Broome County Historical Society and Card File

The Broome County Historical Society maintains its library and archival collections at the Broome County Local History & Genealogy Center. Former Broome County historian Shirley Woodward created a card file estimated at 335,000 cards of genealogical and historical information held at the Center.

---

### Location and Contact Information

185 Court Street  
Binghamton, NY 13901-3503

Phone: (607) 778-3572

Fax: (607) 778-6429

[localhistory@bclibrary.info](mailto:localhistory@bclibrary.info)  
[www.bclibrary.info/history](http://www.bclibrary.info/history)

# NYG&B Week

January 8–12, 2018 | New York City and Online Webinars

NYG&B Week is a celebration of your membership and support of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society and the beginning of its 149th year! Events take place both online and in person in NYC.

We invite you to participate in one or more of the six expert-led webinars over the course of five days. A diverse array of topics focuses on topics of interest for both New York researchers and general genealogy enthusiasts. The live broadcast of each webinar is free and open to the public, so share the news with a friend. As always, NYG&B members will have access to

on-demand recordings in our webinar library. Once registered for a webinar, you will receive an email the day of the broadcast with a special link to the live presentation.

A special event in at the NYG&B with Living DNA on Scottish Genealogy and DNA will bring together members of the NYG&B and the New York Caledonian Club.

## NYG&B Week Schedule

**W** = Webinar. Register online at [nygbs.org/events](http://nygbs.org/events). The live broadcasts of our webinars are free and open to the public. (Schedule may be subject to change.) A recording will be available on-demand for NYG&B members after the broadcast.

### **W** Getting Started with Jewish Genealogy



**Monday, January 8, 2018, 1:00 p.m.**  
Presented by **Meryl Schumacker**,  
NYG&B Genealogist-in-Residence

This webinar will share essential techniques for tracing your Jewish ancestry.

Meryl is a genealogist, writer, and the NYG&B's Genealogist-in-Residence. She earned her Certificate in Genealogical Research from Boston University and completed continuing education at the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research (IGHR) in Athens, Georgia.

Register by using the link on [nygbs.org/events](http://nygbs.org/events).

James is the author of *The Family Tree German Genealogy Book* as well as writes *Roots & Branches*, an award-winning weekly newspaper column on genealogy that is the only syndicated feature on genealogy in Pennsylvania.

Register by using the link on [nygbs.org/events](http://nygbs.org/events).

### **W** Dual Citizenship: Italy and Ireland



**Wednesday, January 10, 2018, 7:00 p.m.**  
Presented by **Melissa A. Johnson, CG**

This webinar discusses the benefits of obtaining dual citizenship, the laws governing Irish and Italian citizenship by descent, eligibility requirements, the records needed

to apply, and other information necessary for compiling a successful dual citizenship application.

Melissa is a professional genealogist, writer, and editor. She specializes in Italian-American and Irish-American dual citizenship, with a focus on New Jersey and New York City ancestral families.

Register by using the link on [nygbs.org/events](http://nygbs.org/events).

## Scottish DNA and Genealogy

**Monday, January 8, 2018, 6:30 p.m.**  
NYG&B with Living DNA | NYG&B,  
36 W 44th Street, New York, NY 10036

Join the NYG&B and New York Caledonian Club for evening talks about DNA, genetic genealogy, and Scottish genealogy. In the first talk, you will hear about currently available DNA tests for individuals and how these tests can apply to learning about your recent cousins and your deep ancestry. The second talk, presented by NYG&B President D. Joshua Taylor, discusses foundational elements of Scottish genealogy.

### **Early Registration (through December 31):**

\$30 for members; \$35 for non-members

**Registration:** \$35 for members; \$40 for non-members

Register by using the link on [nygbs.org/events](http://nygbs.org/events).

## Digitization Day

**Thursday, January 11, 2018, 10:30a.m.–3:30 p.m.**  
NYG&B, 36 W 44th Street, New York, NY 10036

Join us during NYG&B Week to kick off our second year of continuous digitization. Camera and scanning equipment—purchased with funds raised on "Giving Tools Day"—allows volunteers to capture information from delicate papers, cards, and manuscripts.

Register by using the link on [nygbs.org/events](http://nygbs.org/events).

### **W** German Names and Naming Patterns



**Tuesday, January 9, 2018, 7:00 p.m.**  
Presented by **James M. Beidler**

The naming patterns and quirks that are found in German names range from needing to "look in the middle" for first names to dealing with families who used the identical name for surviving children. This webinar will demystify these and other potential problems.

### **W** A Look at 2018 and 2019 for the NYG&B

**Thursday, January 11, 2018, 4:00 p.m.**  
Presented by **D. Joshua Taylor**

Join NYG&B President Josh Taylor as he gives a sneak peek into our big and exciting plans for 2018 and 2019.

Register by using the link on [nygbs.org/events](http://nygbs.org/events).

(Continued)

**W** Irish Church Records:  
Church of Ireland–Presbyterian–Catholic



**Thursday, January 11, 2018, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Presented by David E. Rencher, AG, CG, FUGA, FIRGS, Chief Genealogical Officer of FamilySearch**

This webinar combines information about the time period, content, and availability of records for the three major religions in Ireland—Catholic, Church of Ireland, and Presbyterian. Additional information on some of the non-conformist sects is also included.

David has been a professional genealogist since 1977 and is employed by the Family History Department in Salt Lake City as the Chief Genealogical Officer for FamilySearch. He is vice-president of the International Society for British Genealogy and Family History and an instructor for the British Institute.

Register by using the link on [nygbs.org/events](http://nygbs.org/events).

**W** Examining African American Migrations



**Friday, January 12, 2018, 6:00 p.m.**  
**Presented by Tim Pinnick**

This webinar will explore African American migrations large and small, along with many of the factors that spurred movement. Oftentimes genealogists are faced with the perplexing movements of their ancestors. Armed with a better understanding of black migrations, researchers can increase their ability to explain inexplicable moves and solve lingering mysteries.

Tim is an author and national speaker with more than 30 years overall research experience including all the major U.S. repositories. He is an associate instructor in the biennial “Researching African American Ancestors” course at the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research.

Register by using the link on [nygbs.org/events](http://nygbs.org/events).

## NYG&B Upcoming Webinars

**W** = Webinar. Register online at [nygbs.org/events](http://nygbs.org/events). The live broadcasts of our webinars are free and open to the public. (Schedule may be subject to change.) A recording will be available on-demand for NYG&B members after the broadcast.

**W** Using Autosomal DNA for  
18th and 19th Century Mysteries



**Tuesday, February 13, 2018, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Presented by Blaine T. Bettinger, PhD, JD**

Even though our 18th and 19th century ancestors have been dead for decades, their DNA still survives in their descendants. Learn how to use autosomal DNA to attack and potentially solve genealogical mysteries and brick walls for ancestors who were born or lived in the 1800s, 1700s, and beyond. Together we’ll also examine some of the ways that leaders in the field have attacked or solved their 18th and 19th century mysteries using autosomal DNA.

**W** Alsatian-American Case Studies



**Thursday, March 8, 2018, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Presented by Richard Haberstroh, PhD, AG**

Two unrelated case studies, in which Alsatian immigrants to the United States are traced back to their specific towns of birth in the old country, are discussed. Illustrations include the nature and accessibility of Alsatian records, the value of U.S. church records, internet resources, and the use of circumstantial evidence in genealogy. In addition, a little bit of the history and culture of the area will be discussed, in order to put the Alsatian genealogical experience into fuller context.

## NYG&B 2018 Conference Schedule

Join us at the NYG&B booth, attend a NYG&B sponsored talk, or catch a NYG&B presenter at these events.

### RootsTech 2018

**February 28–March 3 | Salt Lake City, Utah**

Details and registration (now open, early bird pricing) at [rootstech.org](http://rootstech.org).

### Ohio Genealogical Society 2018 Conference: *Blazing New Trails*

**April 11–14, 2018 | Columbus, Ohio**

See [ogs.org](http://ogs.org) for details.

### NGS 2018 Family History Conference:

*Paths to Your Past*

**May 2–5 2018 | Grand Rapids, Michigan**

NYG&B will present five talks and one luncheon presentation relevant to those researching New York. (Other talks about New York research are also on the schedule.) NYG&B will also exhibit at the conference’s Family Expo—which is free and open to the public.

Details and registration (now open, early bird pricing) at [conference.ngsgenealogy.org](http://conference.ngsgenealogy.org). Note that the NYG&B luncheon usually sells out so register early!



# What's *your* New York story?

Please join with us in celebrating the importance of family legacy and the stories we share across generations. Make your gift today (visit [newyorkfamilyhistory.org](http://newyorkfamilyhistory.org) or use the enclosed envelope) and help ensure your story and the stories of your friends, colleagues, neighbors and community members are preserved.

## King Brown's Gift: From New York to Idaho...and Back Again

By D. Joshua Taylor

**A**mong the treasures I gathered over the years, few are as precious as a handmade wooden chest. Cracked and nicked from many years of use, the chest was constructed from apple boxes by my second great-grandfather, Nathaniel "King" Rider Brown. It passed from his grandson, to his grandson's sister (my grandmother), to me when I was 12 years old. This chest connects four generations and is one of my most treasured links to New York.

King (as he was known by his family and friends) was born in Cornwall, New York, in 1870. In his youth, he sold apples from his family's farm on the streets of New York City. Sometime in his mid-20s, he headed off for adventures in the Klondike Gold Rush. King used the boxes that had once held the apples he sold to cart his possessions west.

Though he did not find fortune in the Klondike, he found a treasure—my second great-grandmother, Hattie Jane Stiles. Both had New York family but settled in Idaho raising their children there.

For one Idaho grandchild, Robert Quimby, King kept the extremely special wooden box constructed from apple boxes to be used as a toy chest. It was amongst his most precious belongings. His sister, my grandmother, held onto the chest with the intention of passing it (and the story of King Brown) along to a grandchild of her own in the future.

When I began my first genealogical adventures in New York, my grandmother gave me the box and passed along the story of King Brown, his time in the Klondike, and his tales of selling fruit from apple boxes on the streets of New York City. She also told me of her brother and the adventures they had found themselves in as children. Through King

Brown's gift, my own New York story had been preserved and sat waiting to be rediscovered.

This precious box has traveled

with me across the country. It has seen the snow in Boston, the sunshine in Los Angeles, and now the vibrant energy of New York City. It seems extremely fitting that the chest made from apple boxes now sits in the same city where its maker had once sold apples on the streets. After more than 100 years and four generations, King Brown's gift has returned to New York. Though simple and a bit worn, the chest is part of my New York story.

Yet, King Brown's gift is far more than the wooden chest that sits atop my bookshelf. A legacy of strength and adventures connects multiple generations of the family—and will continue to do so for many years to come.

### King Brown's Line of Descent from William Thorne

(see the full line of descent on our blog):

- William Thorne
- John Thorne
- Sarah Thorne
- Joshua Cornell
- William Cornell
- David Cornell
- Rebecca Cornell
- Joshua Quimby Brown
- Nathaniel King Rider Brown

**BELOW-RIGHT:** The apple box used by King Brown made from the boxes King used to sell apples on the streets of NYC and, later, to carry his possessions to the Klondike. **BELOW-LEFT:** King Brown and Hattie Jane Stiles (on steps) on their wedding day in Caldwell, Canyon, Idaho, March 11, 1902. Collection of Orinda (Hamon) Spence.





**NEW EVENT!**—Register at [newyorkfamilyhistory.org](http://newyorkfamilyhistory.org)

# Empire State Exploration

**February 5–8, 2018 | New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, New York, New York**

Join New York’s largest genealogical society for four days of research as you uncover your New York ancestors. With a home base at the NYG&B headquarters you will be steps away from the NYG&B’s statewide collections at the New York Public Library—and access to experts to guide you along your way. Empire State Exploration is an ideal setting for those just beginning their search and those seeking to answer longstanding New York research questions.

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

Unlike the New York City Research Trip offered by the NYG&B, this experience focuses on tracing ancestors from across the entire state of New York, not just within the New York City area.

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

Visiting New York City? Hotel options include accommodations one block from the NYG&B’s headquarters Sunday through Wednesday night. Participants may extend their stay at the group rate. Local to New York City? Commuter options are also available.

## Registration

<b>Member—Commuter Registration</b>	<b>\$925</b>
<b>Member—Hotel Registration</b>	<b>\$1,485</b>
Non-member—Hotel Registration	\$1,685

**Cancellation Policy**—Cancellations prior to and including sixty days before the event are subject to an administrative fee. Cancellations later than sixty days prior to the event are not refundable. No partial refunds are given if the registrant does not complete the event.

[Register at newyorkfamilyhistory.org.](http://newyorkfamilyhistory.org)

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

Sunday		Wednesday	
	Arrive in New York City		
Monday		9:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.	Independent research and consultations <i>NYG&amp;B offices open 8:15am to 6:00pm</i> <i>NYPL is open until 7:45 p.m.</i>
9:00–10:30 a.m.	Continental breakfast, followed by an orientation to New York State and New York City research repositories	9:30 a.m.	Optional Lecture at the NYG&B
11:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.	Individual Consultations at the NYG&B and research at the NYPL.	6:30–7:30 p.m.	Reception at the NYG&B
6:00–7:00 p.m.	Light dinner at the NYG&B	Thursday	
Tuesday		9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.	Independent research and optional consultations <i>NYG&amp;B offices open 9:00am to 5:00pm</i>
All Day	Independent research and consultations <i>NYG&amp;B offices open 8:15am to 6:00pm</i>	12:30–2:30 p.m.	Wrap-up lunch at the NYG&B
9:30 a.m.	Optional Lecture at the NYG&B <i>NYPL is open until 7:45 p.m.</i>		



See “A Genealogical Writing Journey” (Nov. 16) at [newyorkfamilyhistory.org/blog](http://newyorkfamilyhistory.org/blog)

## Write It Up! A Workshop for Family Historians



March 16–17, 2018 | Syracuse, New York

Presented by Thomas W. Jones, PhD, CG, CGL, FASG, FUGA, FNGS

Whether you are just beginning to write or have written reams but need to refine your work, this workshop is for you. Learn from an expert genealogical writer and editor, Thomas W. Jones, PhD, CG. This two-day hands-on workshop gives family historians practice in writing, experience in self-editing, and feedback on their writing samples. Topics focus on gearing up to write, writing processes, and structures and formats specific to genealogical writing.

Participants will bring a 500-word genealogical writing sample in an editable format. There is pre-reading and overnight homework. Each session will include at least one hands-on writing activity.

This seven-session workshop includes:

- **Gearing Up and Getting Started.** This session focuses on six essential tools for genealogical writers and the process of starting a writing project.
- **Shaping Your Writing.** Participants will learn about word choice, structuring sentences and paragraphs, reducing word count, and other strategies to improve their genealogical writing’s readability.
- **Infusing Structure and Flow.** Students will learn techniques for structuring genealogical essays with sentences, paragraphs, and sections that flow from one to the next.
- **Documenting Your Writing.** Students will learn how to answer five questions about each source supporting their research conclusions, and then to use those answers to craft citations to document their writing. Citing online sources will receive emphasis.
- **Self-editing feedback I.** The instructor will “live edit” student writing samples to demonstrate and apply the principles taught in sessions 1–3.
- **Self-editing Feedback II.** The instructor will “live edit” student writing samples to demonstrate and apply the principles taught in sessions 1–3.
- **Creating Genealogy Compilations and Summaries.** This session focuses on organizing, structuring, and numbering compiled genealogies and genealogical summaries.

### Location

492 E. Brighton Avenue, Syracuse, NY 13210

Close to downtown Syracuse, and 20 minutes from airport; there are hotels in the vicinity.

### Registration

Fee includes seven sessions, morning coffee, soft drinks, and an end of day social gathering. A lunch break is scheduled (neighborhood lunch options are available or bring your own).

	Early Registration (through Jan. 31)	Registration (after Jan. 31)
<b>Member Registration</b>	<b>\$235</b>	<b>\$260</b>
Non-member registration	—	\$290

**Cancellation Policy**—Cancellations prior to and including sixty days before the event are subject to an administrative fee. Cancellations later than sixty days prior to the event are not refundable. No partial refunds are given if the registrant does not complete the event.

[Register at newyorkfamilyhistory.org.](http://newyorkfamilyhistory.org)

# New York State Family History Conference 2018

13–15 September 2018 | DoubleTree by Hilton, 455 South Broadway, Tarrytown, New York, 10951

For those tracing their New York ancestors—this is an event not to be missed. In addition to educational opportunities, the conference provides networking and social events, and a vibrant, close-to-the-lectures exhibit hall.

## Topics and Speakers

Conference speakers will lecture on New York records, methodology, genetic genealogy, online sources, case studies and more. Planned lecturers include:

- **Blaine Bettinger**, PhD, JD, The Genetic Genealogist
- **Cherie Bush**, Deputy Chief Genealogical Officer, FamilySearch
- **Aaron Goodwin**, author of *New York City Municipal Archives: An Authorized Guide for Family Historians*
- **Thomas W. Jones**, PhD, CG, CGL, FASG, FUGA, FNGS
- Terry Koch-Bostic
- **Susan R. Miller**, NYG&B
- **Judy D. Russell**, JD, CG, CGL
- **D. Joshua Taylor**, President NYG&B
- **Jane E. Wilcox**

Speakers and schedule are being finalized and will be announced in January 2018.

## New for 2018

Every paid registrant at the conference gets \$10 in **NYSFHC Notes**, redeemable within the NYSFHC exhibit hall.

For those beginning in genealogy and without conference experience, the 2018 NYSFHC features a new **Family History Jumpstart Day**, aimed at bringing hundreds of those just beginning their family history journey to the event on Saturday, September 15.

## Conference Schedule (subject to change)

<b>Thursday, 13 September</b>	Noon–6 p.m.	Exhibit Hall opens
	1:00–4:45 p.m.	Lectures
	Evening	NYG&B member reception
<b>Friday, 14 September</b>	8:00 a.m.	Opening session
	9:00 a.m.–6:30 p.m.	Exhibit Hall
	9:15–6:00 p.m.	Lectures
<b>Saturday, 15 September</b>	8:30 a.m.–3:00 p.m.	Exhibit Hall
	9:15–4:00 p.m.	Lectures

## Registration

Registration is open on [nysfhc.org](http://nysfhc.org), with the early-bird rate available through May 31. (Cancellation policy available on [nysfhc.org](http://nysfhc.org).) Registration includes a downloaded version of the syllabus and a copy on a flash drive distributed at registration.

	Early Registration (through May 31)	Registration (after 31 May)
<b>NYG&amp;B Members</b>	<b>\$165</b>	<b>\$190</b>
Nonmembers	\$195	\$215

## Additional registration required for:

Friday Luncheon, speaker from FamilySearch	\$39
Friday Dinner, speaker TBD	\$48
Saturday Luncheon (speaker TBD)	\$39
Print syllabus	\$27
Workshops and repository tours	(TBD)

## Hotel

Hotel reservations at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Tarrytown, NY, are now open. Make sure to use the code **GBS** to receive the special conference rate. Alternatively, you can call (914) 524-6418 to make a reservation. See [nysfhc.newyorkfamily-history.org/venue-hotel](http://nysfhc.newyorkfamily-history.org/venue-hotel) for more information.

Register at [nysfhc.newyorkfamilyhistory.org](http://nysfhc.newyorkfamilyhistory.org).



Thank You to  
Our Sponsors



Living DNA



FamilySearch



MyHeritage

findmypast

This event usually sells out so register early!

# 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 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

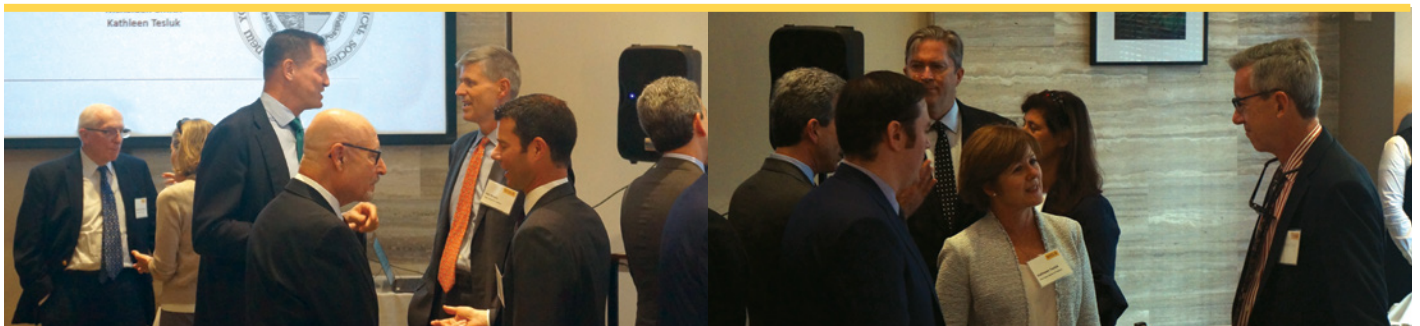
important statewide collections that include city residents (military records, land grants/patents, etc.).

### 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
- 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](http://newyorkfamilyhistory.org) or call 212-755-8532, ext. 211.



## NYG&B Fall Benefit Luncheon—Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the annual Fall Benefit Luncheon in October 10. Attendees enjoyed a delicious lunch at Sarabeth's and a fascinating talk by Brooke Kroeger, author of *The Suffragents*. In it she reveals the untold story of how some of New York's most powerful men formed the Men's League for Woman Suffrage, which grew between 1909 and 1917 from 150 founding members into a force thousands strong across thirty-five states.

Ms. Kroeger explores the formation of the League and the men who instigated it to involve themselves with the suffrage campaign, what they did at the behest of the movement's female leadership, and why and how together they swayed

the course of history. (Copies available in the NYG&B store.)

Ms. Kroeger is a journalist, author of five books, a professor of journalism at the New York University Arthur L. Carter Journalism Institute and director of its MA unit, Global and Joint Program Studies, which she founded in 2007.

We are grateful to Ms. Kroeger for her incredible talk, and we thank the members of the Benefit Committee for all they did to make this event a success.

**BENEFIT COMMITTEE**—Bruce Addison, Adrienne Aueberbach, Lorraine D. Bell, Iain Bruce, McKelden Smith, and Kathleen Tesluk

## Book Notes

### *The Brick Presbyterian Church in the City of New York*



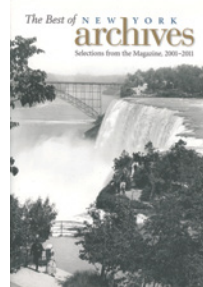
By **E. Deane Turner**

The Brick Presbyterian Church on Park Avenue, New York City, is celebrating its 250th anniversary, which is the occasion for this lavish publication. It would be difficult to envision a more handsome and more beautifully presented church history than this one. The price is a bargain. The church history is completely comprehensive. Family historians will

be especially interested in the long lists of church leadership, staff, and committees of all kinds. The author of this masterpiece is a church lay leader and a prominent lawyer.

Privately published by the Corporation, 2017. Two oversized, hardcover volumes in a hard slipcase. 565 pages. Black and white and color illustrations and photographs. Bibliography. Index. \$100 from the church at [brickchurch.org](http://brickchurch.org).

### *The Best of New York Archives: Selections from the Magazine, 2001-2011*



This very handsomely produced book contains 78 short articles, most about four pages each, on topics related to New York State history. As the title explains, they are reprinted from *New York Archives*, an appealing magazine published by the New York State Archives Partnership Trust. Many of the authors are well known to people interested in the subject, including

A. J. Williams-Myers, Russell Shorto, Harold Holzer, Field Horne, and Richard Norton Smith, to name just five. The short pieces are authoritative, well written, and highly entertaining, covering topics large and small. What is puzzling is that there are no descriptions of the authors' credentials and expertise, a most unfortunate omission.

State University of New York Press, 2016. Hardcover. 468 pages. Photographs and illustrations, mostly black and white. Index. \$60 at [sunypress.edu](http://sunypress.edu).

## GRIP 2018 Registration Opens February 14

Courses in Buffalo, New York and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania



### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY COURSES

Intermediate Genealogy, Strategies for Tough Problems, Writing Proof Arguments, Advanced Methods, Documentation, Using Standards to Evaluate Work

### GEOGRAPHY-BASED RESEARCH

Advanced Land Research, Irish, Pennsylvania Research, **New York Research Strategies**

### GENETIC GENEALOGY COURSES

Chromosome Mapping, Practical Genetic Genealogy, Advanced Genetic Genealogy

### 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

For Details Visit

[www.GRIPitt.org/news](http://www.GRIPitt.org/news)

Genealogical Research  
Institute of Pittsburgh

Choose from  
**23 courses in  
three weeks!**

#### Pittsburgh

- 24–29 June
- 22–27 July

#### Buffalo (Amherst)

- 29 July–3 August

**Dorm housing  
available!**

## North River Research

---

**Sylvia Hasenkopf**  
Genealogist and Historian

518-821-3852  
Sylvia@northriverresearch.com

### Specializing in

Albany, Columbia, Delaware,  
Dutchess, Greene, Otsego, Putnam,  
Rensselaer, Rockland, Schoharie,  
Sullivan, Ulster, Washington, and  
Westchester counties.

Family genealogies, historical  
research, lineage societies, house  
histories, deeds, surrogate records,  
military records  
Over 20 years of experience

New York City  
across all time periods

**AARON GOODWIN**

from the Dutch colonial era  
to the 20th century

AARONGOODWIN.NYC

**Melissa A. Johnson, CG**

mjohnson@johnsongenealogyservices.com

phone: 732-365-2680 • fax: 866-525-9606

www.johnsongenealogyservices.com

**JOHNSON**

genealogy services

*Specializing in New York City, New Jersey, and English research*

---

## What treasures tell your New York story?

---

Family treasures play such an important part in telling our families' stories. They are shared from generation to generation and tell the stories of those who came before us. One of the many ways we are preparing for our 150th anniversary in 2019 is by encouraging our community to share the stories, mementos, and artifacts that mean so much to your family.

**But most importantly, we need your financial support to continue connecting families to their New York history. [Please donate to the NYG&B Annual Fund today.](http://newyorkfamilyhistory.org/donate)**



As you know, the NYG&B relies upon those with a fervent interest in genealogy, biography, and family history to support our education programs, website upgrades, webinars, publications, and new projects. Please donate now to support the NYG&B's annual fund; making your gift today ensures the preservation of your story and the stories of your friends, colleagues, neighbors and community members.

---

Use the enclosed envelope or visit [newyorkfamilyhistory.org/donate](http://newyorkfamilyhistory.org/donate)