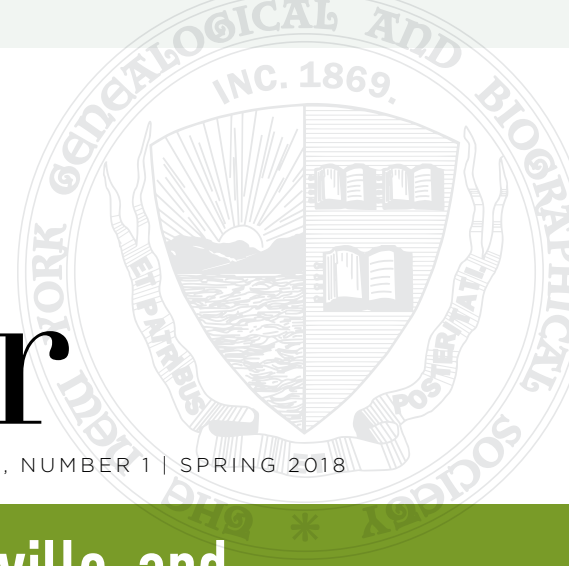


NYG&B

NEW YORK
Researcher

NEW YORK **GENEALOGICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL** SOCIETY | VOLUME 29, NUMBER 1 | SPRING 2018

**Early Settlers of Fort Covington, Westville, and
Constable are Hidden in Deed Books** PAGE 5



Revised Edition Now Available

New York Family History Research Guide and Gazetteer

The *New York Family History Research Guide and Gazetteer* is an essential New York resource and serves as the textbook for researching New York genealogy.

The NYG&B is proud to announce the third printing of this award-winning guide, which includes several very exciting additions.

An updated vital records chapter keeps researchers informed on the many new online indexes. Revised tables accompany the new chapter organization for this critical and often confusing subject. And more than one hundred other revisions keep researchers up to date.

Print Edition

The print edition has been reformatted into two volumes.

Part One contains 16 chapters on the many record types and major ethnic and religious groups of New York genealogy.

Part Two encompasses guides for each of New York's 62 counties plus a separate guide for New York City and one for Long Island. A place-name index for more than 11,000 communities assists researchers in finding a locale.

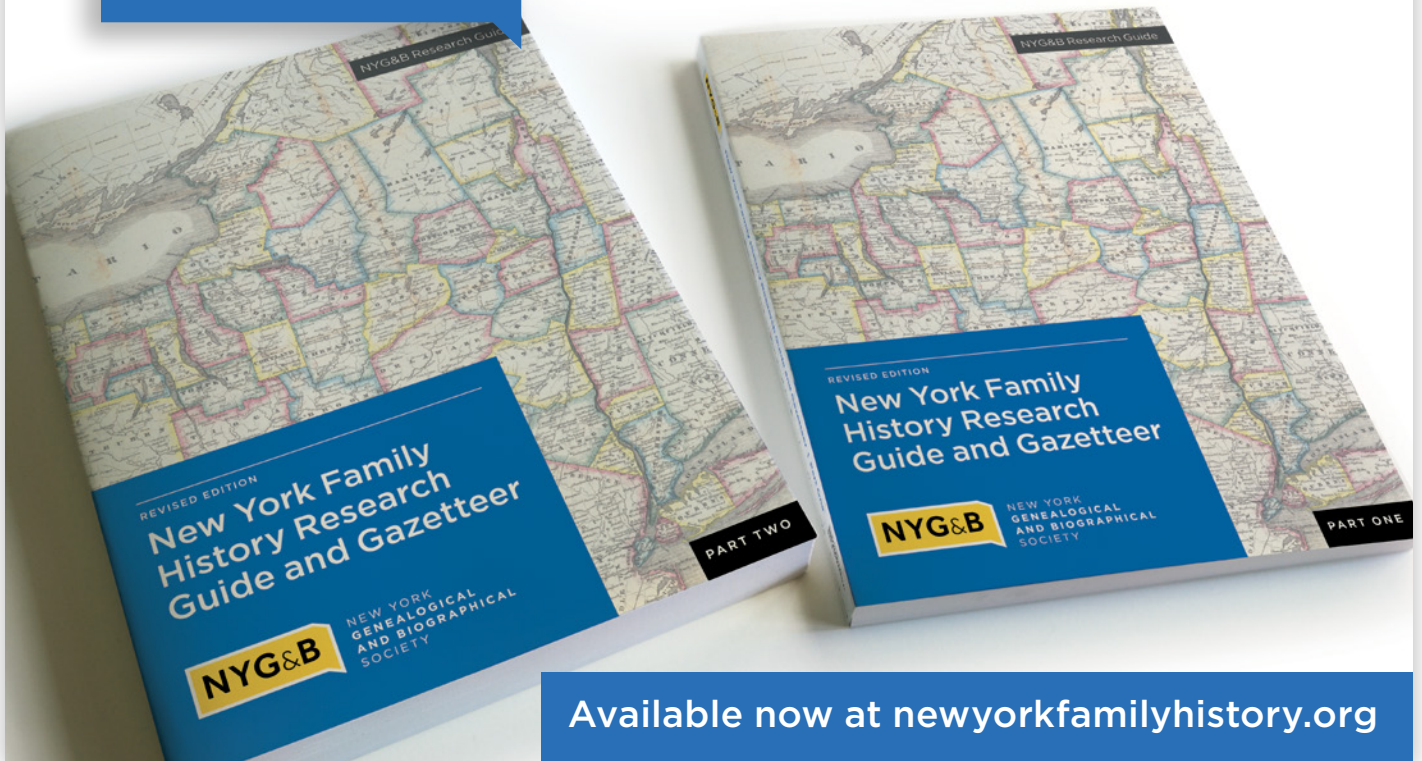
Digital PDF Edition

A digital version of the guide is available for purchase to all who bought the print edition. The digital edition is PDF format which may be word-searched and is readable on computers as well as many tablets and smartphones. This digital version is limited to those buyers and proof of purchase is required to access the PDF.

Availability

The Revised Edition and the Digital PDF Edition is available now from the NYG&B Bookstore at newyorkfamilyhistory.org.

Winner—2016 National Genealogical Society Award for Excellence: Genealogical Methods and Sources



Available now at newyorkfamilyhistory.org

Dear Friends,

What an exciting time it is to be involved in the NYG&B!

In our 149th year we continue to break new ground in New York history and genealogy. Recently, we launched a series of “firsts” aimed at delivering materials to you that allow you to discover your own New York story. A few weeks ago we released the index to *New York Times* obituaries in our eLibrary. This essential resource offers instant access to more than 700,000 entries between 1858 and 1968 never before seen online. Around the same time, we launched “Mapping *The Record*,” produced by NYG&B Labs. This unique, free resource places essential materials related to New York’s stories in a geographical context. This exciting new development marks the first time that material from a scholarly, peer-reviewed genealogical journal has been accessible through a mapping interface—and we are just getting started. Additional years from *The Record’s* archives will be added periodically alongside other content.

The NYG&B continues to expand our team and range of services. In January we formally welcomed Meryl Schumacker as a full-time genealogist to the team. Ms. Schumacker provides consultations, hourly research, lineage society application assistance, lectures, and an array of other activities that support our mission. You can learn more about Ms. Schumacker (and how she can assist you) on page 9.

A new research trip, Empire State Exploration, provided researchers with hands-on experience in tracing their own New York families through the NYG&B’s collections at the New York Public Library and elsewhere. In Syracuse, we were joined by Thomas W. Jones, PhD, CG*, who presented an interactive workshop focused on writing your family history. However, we are expanding our services

well outside New York. Throughout 2018 members of the NYG&B team will attend or sponsor events in California, Connecticut, Florida, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Virginia. In Virginia, I am delighted to be joining the Virginia Museum of History and Culture for a special program related to researching World War I relatives. In Michigan, the NYG&B will sponsor a full day of sessions related to New York methodology and records at the National Genealogical Society’s 2018 conference (see page 18).

In addition, we are making plans for New York’s only statewide genealogy conference. Inside this edition of the *New York Researcher* you can explore more details about the 2018 New York State Family History Conference in Tarrytown, New York. The program features a dazzling array of topics from the nation’s leading New York experts. Register early—the conference is expected to sell-out.

The path ahead is exhilarating for anyone keen to learn more about their own New York families. I deeply appreciate the support of donors, partners, and friends throughout the country. Each of you play a special role in the NYG&B, and we are delighted to have you as part of our community.

Until next time,



Handwritten signature of D. Joshua Taylor

D. JOSHUA TAYLOR

NEW YORK RESEARCHER | VOLUME 29, NUMBER 1 | SPRING 2018

Susan R. Miller, Editor

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About the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society

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

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

CONTACT

New York Genealogical
and Biographical Society
36 West 44th Street, 7th Floor
New York, NY 10036-8105
212-755-8532
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The NYG&B's website includes detailed, current information on advertising sizes and rates. We offer combination rates for those advertisers wishing to appear in both the *New York Researcher* and *The NYG&B Record*.

See newyorkfamilyhistory.org, email education@nygbs.org, or call 212-755-8532, ext. 211.

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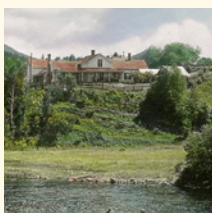
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ON THE COVER

Author Robert Lewis Stevenson sought treatment for tuberculosis in 1887–1888 and stayed at the Baker Cottage, Saranac Lake, Franklin County, New York. Now a museum, the cottage is open to visitors during the summer (robert-louis-stevenson.org/107-baker-cottage-saranac-lake).

IMAGE CREDIT: Baker Cottage, dwelling place of Robert Louis Stevenson, New York State Archives, NYSA_A3045_A607 (accessed 28 February 2018, http://digitalcollections.archives.nysed.gov/index.php/Detail/Object/Show/object_id/385).



Early Settlers of Fort Covington, Westville, and Constable are Hidden in Deed Books

By Denise E. Cross, MSLIS

The Challenge

Locating the land of the first settlers in an area is not an easy task. They often bought from original proprietors or land speculators who subdivided large tracts into lots that were described in ways that may not remain consistent over time. They did not always rush to a distant county courthouse to record their deeds. For those who did, grantor and grantee indexes do not capture the names of witnesses, abutters, spouses, and others mentioned in land transactions. And yet, early tax rolls list owners paying real estate taxes. They certainly acquired land that required them to pay the tax. Reading the deed book, page by page, may be the only way to discover the names of the early settlers.

Their transactions may be hidden in the recorded deeds of large tract owners.

The History

Reading the early deeds conveys a sense of the history of the ownership and descriptions of the land. The land now in Fort Covington, Westville, and Constable were part of Macomb's Purchase. The descriptions in early deeds refers to "land lying and being in the County of Clinton known and distinguished as Towns number two and three of Great Allotment number one of Macombs Purchase."¹ The associates of Alexander Macomb first recorded their transactions in Clinton County, the parent county of Franklin County. Transactions were then recorded in

Franklin County after 1808, when Franklin County was created from Clinton County. William Constable was a partner of Alexander Macomb. On 27 April 1802, William Constable of New York City, appointed William Bailey, of Clinton County, New York, his attorney to enter into contracts on Constable's behalf. By 29 July 1803, Constable's executors, James Constable, John McVickar, and Hezekiah B. Pierpont, continued the power of attorney arrangement with William Bailey.² Portions of

Constable's land in townships number 2 and 3 passed to Hezekiah Pierpont through his wife Anna Marie Constable Pierpont, Constable's daughter. For a fuller history of these land transactions see *The Law Practice of Alexander Hamilton*.³

The Land Transactions

The townships were divided into lots that were subdivided and sold to individuals. Maps produced in the period can assist with placing the lots. A Franklin County deed (see figure 1) contains a lot plan of the land covered by that transaction. A similar map attributed to Alric Man, circa 1815–1820, in color and labeled with owners' names is in the Schryer Center, Franklin County Historical and Museum Society, Malone, New York. This map is labeled with owners' names and the color coding appears to correspond with the three schedules presented in this article.

The two earlier deeds recorded in Franklin County contain schedules of exclusion for lots previously sold off from the larger tract. These two deeds transfer the same land in townships two and three, with exceptions presented in Schedules 1 and 2, from John McVickar and Hezekiah Pierpont as executors of William Constable to Daniel McCormack on 7 Dec 1807, and then from McCormack back to Pierpont on 8 Dec 1807. The exceptions are identical lists, save the clerk apparently skipped one name, Christopher Norton Austin, and wrote Albon instead of Alric Man in the latter deed.⁴

“Schedule number one of lands excepted and reserved in the deed to which this annexed out of Township number two of the town of Constable in the County of Clinton being number two in the subdivision of great lot number one of Macombs purchase.”⁵ (See Schedule 1 and 2.)

A transaction between Hezekiah Pierpont, of Kings County, New York, and Edwin Ellice, of London, on 20 May 1822, was an agreement for final settlement on “all residue unconveyed and all bonds contracts and surities arising from the said sales or agreements” made

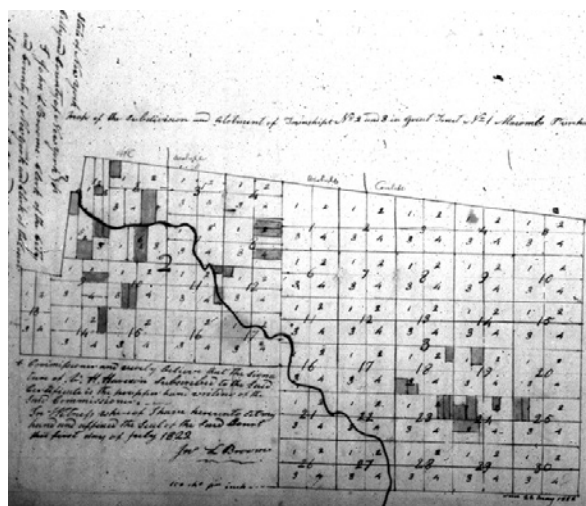


Figure 1: Map in Pierpont-Ellice deed, 874600 v.2, p.147

by Pierpont “be released and assigned” to Ellice, except lots and farms on schedule A.⁶ Pierpont was to retain the bonds, contracts, and surities income, implying this schedule of purchasers may have not bought the lots outright. He conveyed the remainder of the tract to Ellice for \$1. The deed includes boundary descriptions not present in earlier transactions of the tract. Lot numbers in the exclusion schedule are noted on the map included in the recorded deed. The parcel

covered portions in two townships:

- The Northern part of Township number 2 of Great Tract number one of Macombs purchase consisting of 17 lots subdivided according to the map-bounded to the North by the Canadian line, to the East by Township number 3 (later described), to the South by Daniel McCormick's purchase, and the West by Township number one and the Saint Regis Reservation.
- The whole of Township number 3 consisting of 30 lots, bordered to the North by the Canadian border, to the East by township number 7 (Chateaugay), to the South by Township number 6 (Malone), and to the West by township number 2.

This 1822 transaction refers to a 12 Dec 1807 agreement that does not appear to be recorded in Franklin or Clinton counties' deed books establishing that Pierpont should sell and dispose of the land. Presumably Ellice provided financing to Pierpont.

“Schedule referred to in the within Indenture being a Description of Farms or part of Lots reserved to remain in the full right and exclusive Property of the Said Hezikiah B Pierpont.”⁷

Reading deed books page by page can be a rewarding experience. Researchers will gain an understanding of the early history of the land and the people involved in shaping it. And they may find tables of buyers in other counties like these found in the early Franklin County deed books. Those gems may be the only trace of an ancestor's land which is otherwise not recorded and indexed.

Denise E. Cross, CG®, MSLIS, is an NYG&B member and Certified Genealogist®. Her previous *New York Researcher* article appeared in vol. 25, no. 4 (Winter 2015).

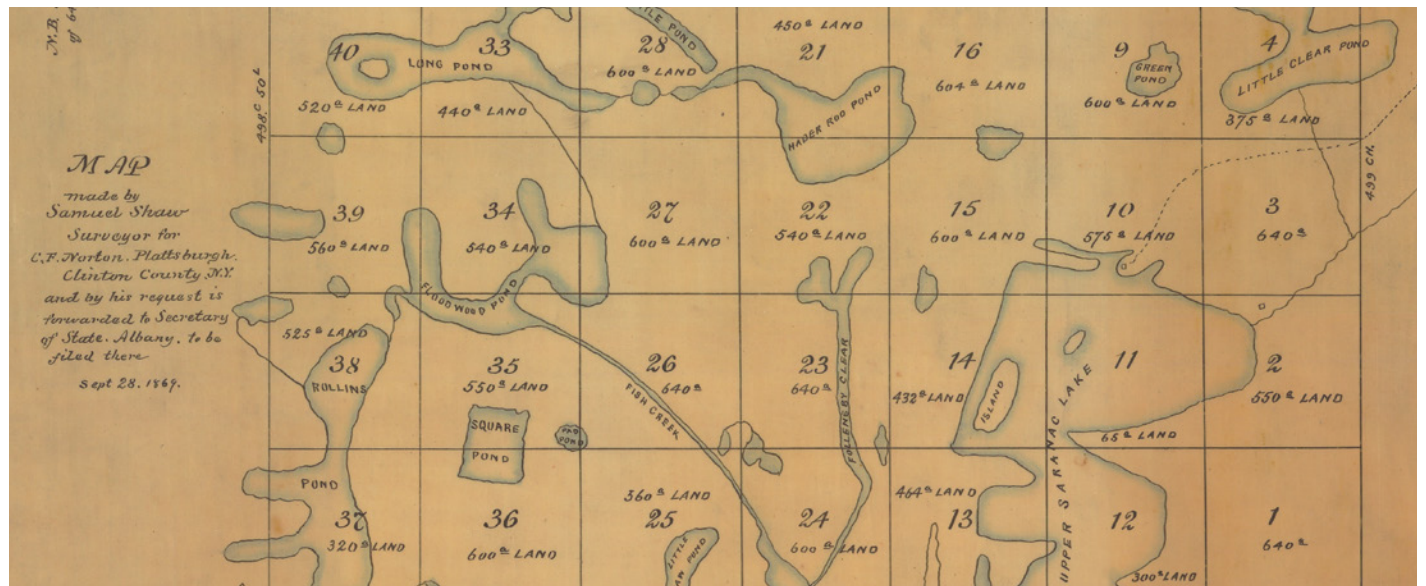
Schedule 1: Exceptions from part of Constable in Township 2 in Great Lot 1 of Macombs Purchase

Names of Purchasers	No. of Great Lots	No. of Small Lots	Parts of Lots	Acres
Jonathan Luiklin	1	1	North part	160.21
David Danforth	"	1	South half	160.21
Robert Stinson	2	3	whole lot	253.74
Hubbard Spencer	"	4	East part	100.00
Ambrose Cushman	"	5	East half	144.86
Isaac Fairchild	6	3	North east part	52.3
Silas Cushman	7	1	West part	108
Joseph & Thomas Wright	"	3	South part	200
Do	"	4	South West part	13
John Livingston	"	4	West part	100
Henry Briggs	8	4	South part	100
Seth Blanchard	10	1	South West part	100
Robert Creighton	11	2	South East part	50
Henry Briggs	12	2	North part	100
Sullivan Ellsworth	14	4	North part	100
Frederick Shipman	"	4	middle part	100
Ezekiel Payne	17	1	East end	50
Alric Man	"	2	whole lot	272.71
Robert Creighton	"	3	North part	100

Schedule 2: Exceptions from part of Constable in Township 3 in Great Lot 1 of Macombs Purchase

Names of Purchasers	No. of Great Lots	No. of Small Lots	Parts of Lots	Acres
Alric Man	11	3	South West part	125
Do	16	1	whole lot	269.48
Joseph & Thomas Wright	"	4	whole lot	240.85
Jacob Settle	"	3	North part	120
John Cadwell	19	1	West part	50
Reuben Grinnell	"	1	middle part	100
Solomon Cooth	"	3	West half	138.36
Anthony Sprague	"	3	East half	138.36
John Livingston	21	2	North east corner	75
Joseph & Thomas Wright	22	1	whole lot	247.9
William Buell	"	2	middle	100
James Lyman	"	2	West part	100
Joseph & Thomas Wright	"	3	North part	50
William Perry	"	3	South part	212.21
William Cooper	23	2	South West part	100
James Welch	"	2 }	Six chains off the South	
"	"	4 }	North part	140
Solomon Cooth	24	1	North West corner	50
John Cadwell	"	1	Middle east part	60
Nathan Lawrence	25	4	South east corner	50
Christopher Norton Austin	28	4	whole lot	267.66
Solomon Wyman	29	1	North east part	200
Artemas Smith	"	2	North part	200
Peleg Austin	"	3	North West part	90
Jonathan Hapgood	"	3	South West corner	100
John Smith	30	3	South West part	100

BELOW: Detail of Macomb's Purchase. Great Lot No. 1, Township 20, Franklin County. Copy from map in Comptroller's office, New York State Archives ID NYSA_A0273-78_513 (http://digitalcollections.archives.nysed.gov/index.php/Detail/Object/Show/object_id/37077)



Transcription of Schedule A

Schedule A. 874600 v.2 p.148

In Township No 2. Towns of Fort Covington and Constable

No. of Bond or Covenant	Names of Original Purchasers	Lot No.	Sub-division	Description	Acres
58	Luther Danforth	1	2	Middle to be divided [?&?]	20
18	John L Burns	2	1	North West Corner	50
15	Samuel Fletcher	2	5	West Half	144.86
32	Arlus M Hitchcock	5	1	North End	100
31	William Perry	5	2	South End	121.3
53	William Livingston	5	3	North End	100
11	Charles Sabin	6	2	Middle by North & South Lines	100
34	Alexander Walker	8	2	South of 20 37/100 sold to T Ostrander	100
80	Simeon Smith	8	2	Bounded N by A. Walker & by P. Berry	100
96	Philimon Berry	8	4	Middle bounded S on Henry Briggs	100
51	George D Smith	9	2	South End	95.29
91	Sullivan Ellsworth	10	3	Middle by North & South Lines	38.20
56	Alpheus Ellsworth	10	3	East Side	50
17	E & J Leonard part	11	2	North East Corner	25
	to Guy Meigs }	12	1	North West Corner	50
116	Alexander Erwing	11	4	North East part	50
5	Robert Buchanun	14	2	East Side	100

In Township No 3. Town of Constable

No. of Bond or Covenant	Names of Original Purchasers	Lot No.	Sub-division	Description	Acres
110	Jonas Lord	18	2	North East Corner	50
107	George R Upton	18	3	South West Corner	52.50
79	Joel Bailey	18	3	Middle Lot South End	25
104	Jon Langdon	19	1	North East part	112
38	William Cooper	23	2	Middle by North & South lines	57
61	Jon ⁿ Bellows	23	2	Adjoining the last on the East	29.51
Certificate	Peter B Davenport	23	2	East Side	30.64
	<i>Ditto</i>	24	1	South West Corner	41.75
30	Charles Huntington	24	1	Middle by North & South lines	75
27	John Cadwell	24	2	Middle North part	30
86	John Hobbs	24	3	North West Corner	77.66
33	Allen Hinman	25	1	West Side	50
16	Ezra Hoit	25	1	Adjoining Last on the East	50

ENDNOTES

- 1 Clinton County, New York, deeds, v. B, p.374-376, power of attorney, William Constable to William Bailey, 27 April 1802; digital image, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-89W2-58FD>), images 491 and 492 of 578.
- 2 Clinton County, New York, deeds, v. B, p.476-478, power of attorney, James Constable, John McVickar, and Hezekiah B Pierpont to William Bailey, 29 July 1803; digital image, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-L9W2-5DV5>), image 543 and 544 of 578.
- 3 Alexander Hamilton and Julius Goebel, *The Law Practice of Alexander Hamilton* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1980); digital images, Google Books (<https://books.google.com/books?id=I90ak0rKB8gC>).
- 4 Franklin County, New York, deed records, v.1-2, 1808-1825, McVickar and Pierpont to McCormack, v.1, p.54-58, 7 December 1807 and McCormack to Pierpont, v.1, p. 58-61; FHL film number 874600.
- 5 Schedule 1 and 2 from McVickar and Pierpont to McCormack, v.1 p.57-58.
- 6 Franklin County, New York, deed records, v.1-2, 1808-1825, Pierpont to Ellice, v.2, p.141-148, 20 May 1822; FHL film number 874600.
- 7 Pierpont to Ellice, v.2, p148; FHL #874600.

Meet the NYG&B Genealogist Meryl Schumacker

Meryl Schumacker joined the NYG&B as our Genealogist-in-Residence in 2017, and now is the NYG&B's full-time genealogist. She performs research services for clients and conducts consultations with members and non-members. To learn more about the NYG&B's research services, visit nygbs.org/research-services.

Tell us about your genealogy journey; what inspired you to become a professional?

My first cousin once removed was my family's unofficial genealogist. She knew all the family stories, the family mysteries, and she was always working on *something*. When I was in high school, she died suddenly of cancer. In her will, she left me all of her genealogical research—family trees, vital records, photographs; I got every scrap of paper with a name or date on it. That inspired me to start exploring my family history. Now that I use probate records all the time in research, I think there's something wonderful and perfect about the catalyst for all of that being written in a will. Someone in the future could say, "I wonder how Meryl started doing genealogy," and find all the evidence right there, just like we do today.



isn't there, what doesn't make sense, and what records I might need to resolve the problem. Analytical skills and tools like timelines and tables oftentimes lead to bigger breakthroughs than "smoking gun" records.

What is most challenging about New York research, and what research recommendations do you have?

New York gets a bad rap over vital records. It certainly makes research challenging. For me, the challenge is what I enjoy about New York. It forces me to be creative, stretch myself, and keep learning new things. For folks doing research in New York—learn as much as you can about the history and laws of the area. Articles from the *New York Researcher*, *The Record*, and books like the *New York City Municipal Archives: An Authorized Guide for Family Historians* are my personal favorites.

For members who are interested in the NYG&B's research services, how can they make the most of your expertise?

Having a clear research question or goal is essential—whether it's for a half-hour consultation or a hundred-hour research project. When members know what they're looking for, it allows me to be much more specific in my recommendations in a consultation and makes research time more efficient. Beyond that, it's wonderful when members can provide a research log: a list of collections that they've already searched, what they searched for, and if they found anything (or not). If a member has already exhausted a collection or other resource, that's something I want to know about.

In your opinion, what was the most difficult brick wall you have successfully broken through?

I traced a career criminal from birth until death, from coast to coast, under more than half a dozen aliases. The more I learned about his early life, the better I was able to see that his fabricated identities weren't chosen at random. They were all grounded in truth. Magpie-like, he collected bits and pieces of past experiences and used them to remake himself over and over again. I'm immensely proud of that one.

What's something people would be surprised to know about you?

I've written episodes and songs for animated kids' TV shows on PBS KIDS and Nick Jr. Also, I can tap dance.

What are you reading?

I just finished Avram Finkelstein's memoir, *After Silence*. Next, I'd like to read Ron Chernow's biography of Ulysses S. Grant.

Do you have any New York ancestors?

Yes, on both sides of my family. My nerdiest genealogical discovery was that my fourth-great-grandfather was a census enumerator here in the early 19th century. He signed and doodled on the back pages of the census! Seeing that was about the coolest thing ever.

What are your areas of genealogical expertise?

Prior to joining the NYG&B, I specialized in New York City, Westchester County, Jewish, and African American research. I've also done a great deal of British, German, Midwestern, and upstate New York research. Moving forward, I'm excited to continue incorporating DNA evidence into my work.

What do you wish you'd known about genealogy when you first started?

I used to focus on the blank spaces in my tree—those missing birth, marriage, and death dates—but I didn't think to ask who my ancestors *were*. What did they believe? What were their lives like? Today, I encourage researchers to explore those details about their ancestors' lives, their beliefs, and the events they witnessed in history.

What has helped you improve your skills the most?

I learn the most when I step outside of my comfort zone and try something new. The times I made myself a little uncomfortable—by attending an unfamiliar program or conference session, for example—were the most enriching.

When you're hired to consult or research, how do you break down brick walls and find family members?

I've worked hard to hone my diagnostic skills: how to analyze my work, poke holes in it, figure out what isn't working, and make it better. I approach new brick wall problems the same way: I look at what's there, what

Highlights from our blog (nygbs.org/blog)

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

Eleven Ways to Use the NYG&B Website

Have you explored our website recently? A wide variety of resources can help members to discover, preserve, and share family history.

This article outlines 11 ways NYG&B members can use the website to further their research. Each tip explains the resource and contains a link for easy access:

- Get to know *The Record*
- Browse our religious records
- Explore our other eLibrary collections (more than 50 digital collections!)
- Learn from genealogy experts in the New York Knowledge Base
- Explore our free Subject Guides (links to all)
- Search our website for specific locations and subjects
- Browse our online store for in-depth research guides
- Browse our genealogy community forum
- Get on track with a research consultation
- Attend one of our events for education and networking opportunities
- Watch a webinar to learn more

If you have never visited our website, or would like a quick refresher, make sure to read this blog. It's worth reviewing—you might not even know what you're missing!

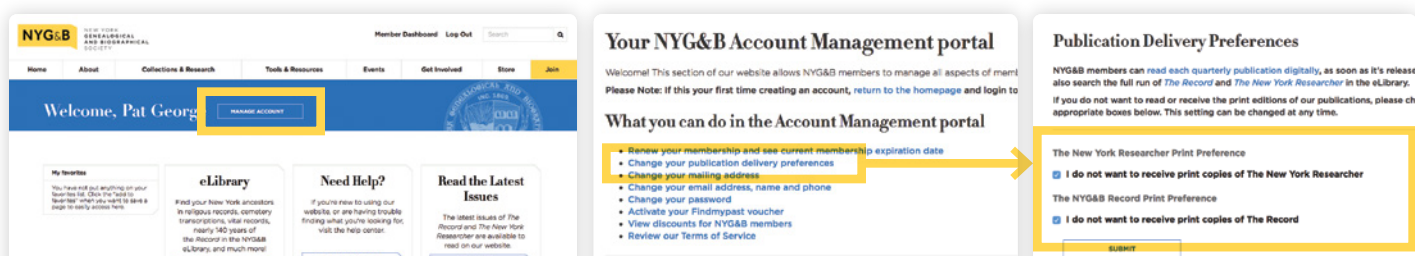


Essential Resources for African American Research on the NYG&B Website

Researching African American ancestors is challenging on many levels. Those first individuals brought as slaves to America by early colonists and later, by the thousands in slave ships, and those who gained their freedom or who were born free all pose unique research challenges and the records they left may be scattered among far-flung repositories.

In this blog post, the NYG&B brings together webinars about African American genealogy and research, links to a number of scholarly articles published in *The Record*, and a

useful bibliography for further reading. From these materials, researchers can learn about key events that shaped the lives of African Americans and explore narratives that demonstrate how researchers have created family history from disparate evidence. All materials are available to NYG&B Members only.



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You can also let us know by email at membership@nygbs.org, or by calling us at 212-755-8532.



**NEW YORK STATE
FAMILY HISTORY
CONFERENCE
2018**

**SEPTEMBER 13-15, 2018
TARRYTOWN, NY**

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

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

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

The 2018 conference features two and a half days of lectures, workshops, and a vibrant exhibit hall. Your paid conference registration automatically gives you a \$10 NYSFHC Note, redeemable within the NYSFHC exhibit hall. Use your NYSFHC Note towards a DNA testing kit, the latest NYG&B publication, or any number of other products and services from exhibitors.

See the options for workshops, luncheons, and pre-conference local tours (all of which require separate registration) on nysfhc.org



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

Wednesday, September 12	(Various Times)	Pre-Conference Tours & Events <i>(Additional registration required)</i>
Thursday, September 13	9:30 am	Workshops <i>(Additional registration required)</i>
	Noon–6 pm	Exhibit Hall Opens
	1:15–4:30 pm	Sessions
Friday, September 14	Evening	NYG&B Member Reception
	8 am	Opening Session
	9 am–6:30 pm	Exhibit Hall Opens
	9:15 am–6 pm	Sessions
	12:30 pm	Luncheon and Talk <i>(Additional registration required)</i>
Saturday, September 15	6:30 pm	Dinner and Talk <i>(Additional registration required)</i>
	8:30 am–3:15 pm	Exhibit Hall Open
	9:15 am–4:00 pm	Sessions
	12:15 pm	Luncheon and Talk <i>(Additional registration required)</i>
	4:15 pm	Wrap-Up Reception

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2018 New York State Family History Conference Schedule

Wednesday, September 12, 2018



Special pre-conference tours and events, see nysfhc.org. (Advance ticket required, no on-site sales.)

Thursday, September 13, 2018 (Schedule may be subject to change.)

9:30 am–Noon	Workshop #1 (Advance ticket required.) Mapping Your Ancestors Frederick Wertz, NYG&B		Workshop #2 (Advance ticket required.) Developing Research Questions and Hypotheses; Planning an Exhaustive Search Thomas W. Jones	
Noon	<i>Exhibit Hall Opens</i>			
1:15–2:30 pm	30 Resources for Tracing New Englanders in New York D. Joshua Taylor, NYG&B	More than Just Names: Advanced US Census Research Judy G. Russell	Unlocking Roman Catholic Records on Findmypast Jen Baldwin, Findmypast	DNA Testing for Genealogy: The Basics Janine Cloud, Family Tree DNA
3:15–4:30 pm	A Tour of Upstate New York Genealogical Research Repositories: Some Gems Jane E. Wilcox	Lesser-Known Collections at the NYC Municipal Archives Susan R. Miller, NYG&B	Westchester County Archives Jackie Graziano Interviewed by Meryl Schumacker, NYG&B	Behind the Scenes of DNA Testing and Living DNA David Nicholson and Katie Welka, Living DNA
4:30–6:00 pm	<i>Unopposed Exhibit Hall Time</i>			
6:00 pm	NYG&B Member Reception			

Friday, September 14, 2018 (Schedule may be subject to change.)

8:00–9:15 am	Plenary Session —The Future of Family History and DNA David Nicholson and Katie Welka, Living DNA			
9:00 am	<i>Exhibit Hall Opens</i>			
9:45–10:45 am	Courting the Empire State: New York's Early Court Records Judy G. Russell	Genealogy and Maps Philip Sutton, New York Public Library	Solve Research Problems Using Surname Variants & Surname Mapping Tools Terry Koch-Bostic	Tracing Your European Ancestry David Nicholson and Katie Welka, Living DNA
11:15 am–12:15 pm	Using Geo-Tech Tools to Answer New York Research Questions Frederick Wertz, NYG&B	Finding Your Own Jewish Roots Lauren Orenstein, Jewish Genealogical Society	New Jersey's Early Land Records: Unprecedented Access to Colonial Sources Joseph R. Klett, New Jersey State Archives; Sponsored by GSNJ	DNA 101: From Taking the Test to Understanding the Results Mike Mansfield, MyHeritage
12:30 pm	Luncheon and Presentation —FamilySearch and the Future for Genealogists Michael Provard; Sponsored by FamilySearch (Advance ticket required.)			
2:00–3:00 pm	Researching New York Dutch Families Henry B. Hoff, NEHGS	African-American Families in The Hills Community, 1830–1890s, Westchester County, NY Edythe Ann Quinn	Converting a Bunch of Information into a Credible Conclusion Thomas W. Jones	Are You Doing Everything to Identify Your DNA Matches? Blaine T. Bettinger
3:30–4:30 pm	Pre-1850 New York City Methodology Meryl Schumacker, NYG&B	New York State Archives Content Digitized by Ancestry.com Presented by the New York State Archives	Writ in Stone: Cemeteries and Genealogy Judy G. Russell	Y-DNA and the Peopling of Europe Jim Brewster, Family Tree DNA
5:00–6:00 pm	Happily (N)ever After: Using Divorce Records Michael Provard, FamilySearch	Using Ancestry.com's Records Online D. Joshua Taylor, NYG&B	Genealogy Resources at the Center for Jewish History J.D. Arden, Center for Jewish History	DNA and the Genealogical Proof Standard Blaine T. Bettinger
6:00–6:30	<i>Unopposed Exhibit Hall Time</i>			
6:30 pm	Dinner and Presentation —From Wigwams to Corporate Headquarters: 400 Years of Westchester History Patrick Raferty, Westchester County Historical Society (Advance ticket required.)			

Saturday, September 15, 2018 *(Schedule may be subject to change.)*

8:30 am *Exhibit Hall Opens*

9:15–10:15 am	New York Records and Resources at FamilySearch.org Cherie Bush, FamilySearch	Chancery Court Records Held at the New York State Archives Presented by the New York State Archives	MyHeritage's Powerful and Unique Technologies for Genealogy Discoveries Mike Mansfield, MyHeritage	Shared Matches and Genetic Networks Blaine T. Bettinger
11:00 am–Noon	Outstanding Long Island Research Repositories and Resources Terry Koch-Bostic	Researching African Americans in Pre-Emancipation New York Meryl Schumacker, NYG&B	Genealogy in Context: Using History to Find (more than just) Family Facts Susan Kriete, New York Public Library	The Science of Genetic Genealogy David Nicholson and Katie Welka, Living DNA
12:15 pm	Luncheon and Presentation —Genealogical Records in the Path of Destruction & Neglect – Past, Present & Future Sponsored by MyHeritage <i>(Advance ticket required.)</i>			
1:45–2:45 pm	Navigating NYG&B Member Resources for New York Genealogy Fredrick Wertz and Susan R. Miller, NYG&B	They Became American: Our Ancestor's Naturalization Jen Baldwin, Findmypast	Documentation: The What, Why, Where, and How Thomas W. Jones	Writing Your Family History Kyle Hurst, NEHGS/Newbury Press
<i>Unopposed Exhibit Hall Time—Exhibit Hall Closes at 3:15 pm</i>				
3:15–4:15 pm	Small Footprint, Big Apple: Researching Ancestors of Meager Means and even Less Fame in 18th Century NYC Judith A. Herbert	Turnpikes, Canals, and Railroads: Transportation and Migration in New York State Karen Mauer Jones	Uncharted Waters: Diving into the Holdings of the New York State Archives Jane E. Wilcox	Copyright Mythconceptions Judy G. Russell
4:15–5:00 pm	Closing Reception <i>(Open to all Conference Badge Holders/cash bar)</i>			

Speakers

J.D. Arden, Center for Jewish History	Karen Mauer Jones, CG, FGBS	Michael Provard, FamilySearch
Jen Baldwin, Findmypast	Thomas W. Jones, PhD, CG, CGL, FASG, FUGA, FNGS	Edyth Ann Quinn, PhD
Blaine T. Bettinger, PhD, JD, The Genetic Genealogist	Joseph R. Klett, Executive Director, New Jersey State Archives	Patrick Raferty, Westchester County Historical Society
Jim Brewster, Family Tree DNA	Terry Koch-Bostic, Vice President, National Genealogical Society	Judy D. Russell, JD CG, CGL
Cherie Bush, Deputy Chief Genealogical Officer, FamilySearch	Susan Kriete, JD, MLS, New York Public Library	Meryl Schumacker, NYG&B Genealogist
Janine Cloud, Family Tree DNA	Mike Mansfield, MyHeritage	Philip Sutton, MSc, New York Public Library
Jackie Graziano, Archivist, Westchester County Archives	Susan R. Miller, NYG&B Director of Programs	D. Joshua Taylor, MLS, NYG&B President
Judith A. Herbert, CG	David Nicholson, Living DNA	Katie Welka, Living DNA
Henry B. Hoff, CG, FASG, Editor NEHGS <i>Register</i>	Lauren Orenstein, MA, Jewish Genealogical Society	Fredrick Wertz, NYG&B Digital Services Manager
Kyle Hurst, NEHGS/Newbury Press		Jane E. Wilcox, President, Forget-Me-Not Ancestry

Participating Organizations

List in formation, please see website for updated, growing list of Societies, organizations, and companies. Visit nysfhc.org to reserve your space today!

The Genealogical Society of New Jersey (GSNJ)	New York Public Library (NYPL)
Jewish Genealogical Society (of New York)	Westchester County Archives
New York State Archives (NYSA)	Westchester County Historical Society (WCHS)

COVER IMAGES (CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP-LEFT): Francis Augustus Silva, "The Hudson at the Tappan Zee," Brooklyn Museum; NYG&B offices, NYC; D. Joshua Taylor, Jane E. Wilcox, and Susan R. Miller; Steve Strummer, "Tarrytown Lighthouse and Tappan Zee Bridge, 2011"; Tarrytown DoubleTree Hilton (conference hotel); Alexander Jackson Davis, Architect, Lyndhurst, Tarrytown, NY, 1865, The Met Museum; 2015 New York State Family History Conference, Syracuse, NY; Old Dutch Reformed Church, Tarrytown, NY, c1933, Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) NY-6143, Library of Congress.

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 exhibit hall.

New for 2018

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

Conference Venue

Tarrytown and the DoubleTree are easily accessible by car and rail. By car, the hotel is located near the exit from the Mario Cuomo/Tappan Zee Bridge (New York State Thruway), and just off the Cross Westchester Thruway. By rail, take MetroNorth to the Tarrytown station just seven minutes from the hotel.

Airport options include Westchester County Airport, LaGuardia Airport, and other New York City terminals.

Conference Hotel

Hotel reservations at the DoubleTree by Hilton are open. To receive the conference rate of \$151, please use group code **GBS**. Reservation must be made by Monday, August 13 to receive the group rate. For those staying September 11 and/or September 15, please call the hotel directly for your reservation at (914) 524-6418. Online reservations: doubletree3.hilton.com (or use the link at nysfhc.org).

Registration

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

NYG&B

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Conference Registration

Thursday September 13–Saturday September 15, 2018

	Early Registration (through May 31)	Registration (after 31 May)
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NYG&B Members	\$165	\$195
Non-members	\$195	\$215

Registration Add-Ons *(Advance tickets required for all.)*

Wednesday, September 11 *(Various times and pricing.)*

Pre-Conference Tours and Events

Tour local archives, explore resources, and more. Please see nysfhc.org for more information.

Thursday, September 13, 9:30–Noon \$48

Workshop 1: Mapping Your Ancestors

Frederick Wertz, NYG&B Digital Services Manager
This workshop will teach you the basics of incorporating geography, maps, and geo-technology in your family history research. Learn how to use historical maps, geographic data, and the most cutting-edge geo-technology tools to recreate the world your ancestors inhabited and break through brick walls in your research. We will use Google Earth to map events in a sample family tree, and import geospatial data from various sources to create a useful template that can be applied to your own research.

Thursday, September 13, 9:30–Noon \$58

Workshop 2: Developing Research Questions and Hypotheses; Planning an Exhaustive Search

Thomas W. Jones, PhD, CG, CGL, FASG, FUGA, FNGS
This workshop covers pinpointing what a researcher wants to learn about an ancestor; developing strategies for determining which records to consult and where to find them; and planning research of sufficient scope to answer a genealogical question convincingly.

Friday, September 14, 12:30 pm \$39

Luncheon and Presentation by FamilySearch

Friday, September 14, 6:30 pm \$48

Dinner and Presentation by the Westchester County Historical Society

Saturday, September 15, 12:15 pm \$39

Luncheon and Presentation by MyHeritage

Print Syllabus \$27

Register at nysfhc.org

NYG&B Recent On-Demand Webinars

Missing the live webinar doesn't mean missing out forever—view NYG&B's recorded webinars at newyorkfamilyhistory.org/webinars. (An exclusive NYG&B Member benefit!)

w Alsatian-American Case Studies



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 are discussed, in order to put the Alsatian genealogical experience into fuller context.

w Using Autosomal DNA for 18th and 19th Century Mysteries



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 Examining African American Migrations



Presented by Tim Pinnick

Join an exploration of 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.

w Irish Church Records: Church of Ireland, Presbyterian & Catholic



Presented by
David E. Rencher, AG, CG

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.

w A look ahead to 2018 and 2019 for the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society



Presented by D. Joshua Taylor, MLS

In this webinar, New York G&B President D. Joshua Taylor previews new and exciting initiatives, upcoming releases of online New York records, and can't-miss genealogy events in 2018 and 2019.

w Dual Citizenship Italy and Ireland



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.

w German Names and Naming Patterns



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 are covered in this presentation.

w Getting Started with Jewish Genealogy



Meryl Schumacker, NYG&B Genealogist

This webinar tackles essential techniques for tracing your Jewish ancestry. Topics covered include naturalization and immigration records, geography and tools for town names, language, and name changes and naming patterns.

w Family History Research in Central New York



Holly Sammons, MLS

This webinar takes a look at the resources available in Central New York including the Syracuse area. Did your family settle or move through this area of New York State? Are you interested in learning more about where to find information and documentation for those people? This presentation will provide an overview of where you might look, what archives, repositories, resources are available to you—in brick and mortar settings or available remotely.

NYG&B Upcoming Programs

W = Webinar. Register online at nygbs.org/events. The live broadcasts of our webinars are free and open to the public. (Schedule may be subject to change.)

All the Scottish Genealogy Sources You Didn't Know You Needed to Know

April 6, 2018, 2:30 p.m. ET

New York Genealogical and Biographical Society
Presented by Dr. Bruce Durie



Join the NYG&B after the Tartan Day Observance in Bryant Park (12:30 p.m. at the Bryant Park Fountain Terrace) for a look at Scottish genealogy resources

from genealogist and author Dr. Bruce Durie. This lecture takes place on the anniversary of the Declaration of Arbroath (6 April 1320), which declared Scottish independence. This lecture will be recorded for later NYG&B member access.

Bruce Durie, PhD, BSc (Hons), OMLJ, FColIT, FIGRS, FHEA, QG, is considered one of Scotland's top genealogists, with an international reputation in researching, lecturing, writing, and broadcasting. An Academician of the prestigious Académie Internationale de Généalogie he is Shennachie (Genealogist and Historian) to the Chief of Durie, and Shennachie to COSCA (Council of Scottish Clans and Associations). In 2016 he was the Fulbright Senior Scottish Studies Scholar. His best-selling book *Scottish Genealogy* is now in its 4th edition, and his new book *Your Scottish-American Ancestry* is just published.

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

Prepare for a Cemetery (Search, Photo, and Index) Trip

June 7, 2018, 6:00 p.m. ET

New York Genealogical and Biographical Society
Presented by Daniel Horowitz



Cemeteries are a great source of genealogical information. Be prepared to make the most out of your visit, no matter if it's for your personal research or if your group is planning an indexing project; this is the lecture to attend. Don't die without hearing this lecture. (This lecture will be recorded for later NYG&B member access.)

Daniel Horowitz is the Genealogy Expert at MyHeritage, providing key contributions in the areas of product development, and public affairs; liaising with genealogy societies, bloggers and media, lecturing, and attending conferences around the world. Dedicated to genealogy for +30 years, he was the teacher and the study guide editor of the family history project "Searching for My Roots" in Venezuela for 15 years. Daniel holds board level positions at the Israel Genealogy Research Association (IGRA) & the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS).

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



Getting Started on Puerto Rico Research



Tuesday, June 12, 7:00 p.m.
Presented by Renée K. Carl

Save the date—more information on this webinar coming soon.

LEFT: San Juan, Puerto Rico, street scene. Jack Delano, photographer, December, 1941. (Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/2017799057/>.)

BELOW: Map of the 78 Municipalities of Puerto Rico, Wikimedia Commons, courtesy of Oliver Zena.



New York Sessions at the 2018 National Genealogical Society Family History Conference | Grand Rapids, Michigan | May 2-5

Join the NYG&B at the National Genealogical Society's (NGS) Family History Conference, especially on 5 May for the NYG&B-sponsored lecture track. Registration is required—and may be purchased for the day or the whole conference.

Conference Information and Registration conference.ngsgenealogy.org

■ Denotes sessions sponsored by NYG&B.

Genealogical Mis-adventures from New York

Social Meal Event (Advance Ticket Required)

W133 | Wednesday, May 2, 2018, 12:15 p.m.

D. Joshua Taylor

■ Not every New York ancestor quest turns out as expected—it can lead to triumph or tears, laughs or laments, and maybe even some hair-pulling.

D. Joshua Taylor is president of the NYG&B.

Fifteen Tools for Tracing Your New York Ancestors Online

T245 | Thursday, May 3, 2018, 02:30 pm

State Research Track

D. Joshua Taylor

New York represents challenges for many genealogists. Go beyond commercial websites to explore private and public websites for tracing your New York ancestors.

Catholic History and Records in New York State

F323 | May 4, 2018, 11:00 am | Religion Track

Terry Koch-Bostic

Protestant penal laws suppressed Catholicism in NY until the Revolution and influx of Irish and German Catholics. An overview of dioceses, parishes, and records available.

Terry Koch-Bostic is a professional genealogist and vice president of NGS, an APG-NY chapter representative, and a contributing author and reviewer for NYG&B's *New York Family History Research Guide and Gazetteer*.

Saturday, May 5, NYG&B-Sponsored Track

Colonial Research: New York and Dutch

S402 | Saturday, May 5, 2018, 8:00 a.m.

William T. Ruddock

■ Early colonization of what is now New York State resulted in challenges which can be overcome through understanding the available records.

William T. Ruddock, a New York native and researcher for thirty-five years, serves on the *NYG&B Record's* editorial board, and is the retired editor for the *Detroit Society for Genealogical Research Magazine*.

Trace Your 18th and 19th Century Midwest Ancestors Back to New York

S412 | Saturday, May 5, 2018, 09:30 am

Terry Koch-Bostic

■ Records say "Born in NY" but where? Using migration routes from 1750 to 1850, travel backwards to find records that uncover your NY ancestor's origins.

Three Keys to New York: State Censuses, NY Public Library, and NYG&B's Vast Collections

S422 | Saturday, May 5, 2018, 11:00 a.m.

Susan R. Miller

■ Learn to uncover the secrets of New York state censuses, the breadth of NYPL nationwide holdings, and NYG&B's extensive research guides and databases.

Susan R. Miller is the NYG&B's director of programs; editor of the *New York Researcher*; and a managing editor of the *New York Family History Research Guide and Gazetteer*.

Finding Their Routes: Travelers and Boatmen on the North American Canals

S442 | Saturday, May 5, 2018, 2:30 p.m.

Pamela J. Vittorio

■ An overview of migration patterns of travelers and boatmen of the North American Canals reflected in available online and archival resources.

Pamela J. Vittorio is an associate professor in NYC. She frequently lectures on historical and genealogical topics associated with North American canals and their workers.

Afloat or Ashore: Tracing and Tracking Erie Canal Workers, 1817-1918

S452 | Saturday, May 5, 2018 4:00 p.m.

Pamela J. Vittorio

■ An exploration of the available online and archival resources offers great details on the lives of canal workers from the 19th to early 20th centuries.

NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
2018 FAMILY HISTORY CONFERENCE
2-5 MAY 2018 | GRAND RAPIDS, MI

Paths to Your Past





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

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

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

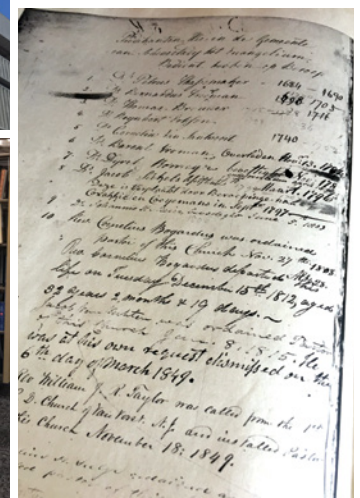
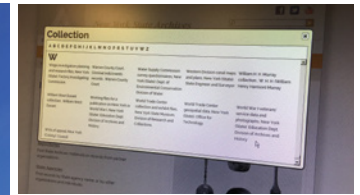
(most of those are held in New York City), but they do have important statewide collections that include city residents (military records, land grants/patents, etc.).

The program includes:

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

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

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



Easier Searching with FultonSearch.org

A recently created website may help researchers navigate a favorite online newspaper site, Old Fulton Postcards, fultonhistory.com. The quirky Old Fulton Postcards has more than 41 million pages of newspapers, but searching the site can be challenging, especially on a phone or browser without Flash. Enter FultonSearch, a website with the sole purpose of easier searching of Old Fulton Postcards.

The interface is simple, and the results contain a link directly to the page on Fulton History. According to the site author, John Schroedel, the advantages to the site are:

- Works without Flash!
- Hackable URLs and linkable searches
- Simplified (but still powerful) search interface
- Easily restrict search by region and date range (not 100% accurate)
- Search by paper / document collection
- Sortable columns, including name of paper, date range, and date added. (Date range is extracted from the filename)
- Filterable search results
- Color highlighting of search words
- Multiple column sort available by using the shift key
- Easy links to surrounding pages, unhighlighted version, and optical character recognized (OCRd) / extracted text
- A cleaned-up table of materials available at FultonHistory, with links

SEARCH QUERY

In the example shown at left, “Rodefield” is entered in the search box and filters, limiting the results to New York State, are applied. This yielded 17 files/78 hits for the search term. You filter or expand results by a number of variables, including date range, synonyms, and exact term. *(Continued below.)*

SEARCH RESULTS

[Direct Link](#)
[Highlighted](#)
[Text](#)

Clicking the **Direct Link** button below the result entry takes the researcher to the corresponding fultonhistory.com page.

Once there, use **Find (ctrl-f or command-f)** to locate the desired term on the page. Optical character recognition (OCR) technology is not foolproof in recognizing text, but in many cases, it will catch some, if not all, of the instances of the term used on the page.

In Other Lines

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

Will Hallett, Sea Cliff, New York | Member since 2012; Board of Trustees member

Why do you like genealogy?

I think we all ask ourselves, at least at some point in life, that very basic question of who we are. To help answer such a deep question, it just made sense to me to learn more about my family: Who we were as individuals and collectively, and as much as I could about those family members who came before us. It is also why I love to hear family history stories from anyone willing to share. Besides often being simply fascinating, these stories allow me an opportunity to understand that person as an individual in a very unique and different way.

What is your earliest genealogical recollection?

For me, if you will excuse the double negative, I can't remember ever not having an interest in my New York roots. Perhaps this is because I grew up knowing that I was named after the first Hallett to come to New York. My direct ancestor, William Hallett, was born in England in 1616 and arrived in New England prior to 1644. He and his family settled in what is now Astoria, Queens, New York in 1652 and led, by all accounts, fascinating lives in early America. Even as a young child, I had this feeling of wonder and amazement that over 300 years later, my family still (at the time) lived within 10 miles of the original family farm, and I could—and did—literally walk the same ground that so many generations of my family had walked before me. To this day, I still go back to Astoria and imagine what it must have looked like to them, and still look to find out everything I can about what their lives were like.

Who sparked your interest in genealogy?

I was fortunate to have had elder relatives who actively encouraged my interest and would tell wonderful stories of family lore. Luckier still, these relatives possessed a trove of family documents, some dating back to the earliest days in New York, that they eagerly and gratefully shared with me.

What brought you to the NYG&B?

I was drawn to the NYG&B a few years back as I was doing some basic family history research. Full disclosure: For as much as I love tracing my family's history, I am very much not a professional genealogist—not by any stretch of anyone's imagination. What I found at the NYG&B was something wonderful: Here was an organization that was dedicated to helping people discover and learn more about their New York roots, but it wasn't just for the professional genealogist. It was quite the opposite, in fact—while they assist the very best professionals, they were equally adept at helping someone like me—someone who simply wanted to learn



How did your involvement deepen with the NYG&B?

A couple of years after that first contact with the organization, I was offered the opportunity to join the renowned author and historian, Missy Wolfe, on the Board of Trustees—a Board I quickly learned was filled with wonderfully talented people with strong genealogy back-

grounds and research abilities. Believing firmly that the Board should include non-professionals, like myself, who share our common passion and desire to learn, I accepted and am glad I did because what I have witnessed over these past few years has been nothing short of spectacular. The NYG&B of today is engaging members in more ways than ever before, and making more and better use of the technology than we could have imagined a even a few short years ago. Seemingly with each passing day the G&B is adding more documents and research tools—all of which are available to our member genealogy professionals, as well as to people like me.

What do you see in the future for your genealogy research?

I am looking forward to days ahead when perhaps I can devote more time to exploring and documenting my New York history. Much has been documented about the "early years" of my family, but much of the research I want to do is in the relatively more recent years of the 19th and early 20th centuries, where waves of New York immigration moved my family in wonderful directions. In the meantime, I am excited to continue to work with NYG&B and help the organization further its mission.

In some ways, it feels like collectively we are at the dawn of a new golden age of genealogical research, where everyday people like me can access expanding stores of information, and better still, have access perhaps the best equipped professional genealogists, tapping into ever deeper resources, helping us all answer those great questions about these amazing New York families that set the stage for who we are today.

Explore Hallett's family history blog at williamhallett.com.

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Sylvia Hasenkopf
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518-821-3852
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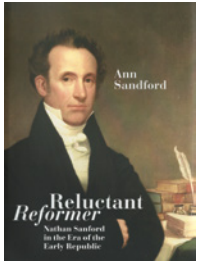
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Book Notes

Reluctant Reformer, Nathan Sanford in the Era of the Early Republic



By Ann Sanford

This is a highly competent and well-written biography of Long Island native Nathan Sanford (1777–1838), a progressive lawyer and politician who, for example, opposed slavery and favored universal manhood suffrage and the popular election of presidential electors. He represented New York for two terms in the United States Senate and was Henry Clay's running mate in 1824. He held no executive positions in government, and left little in the way of personal papers, so his place in history is obscure. He had children and three wives: Eliza Van Horne, married in 1801; Mary Esther Isaacs, married in 1813; and Mary Buchanan, married in 1828. Family information can be teased from the text; however, the book was not intended as a family history and does not describe the family genealogically. (Note that Nathan Sanford's name was originally Sandford, which he changed early in his life; the author's collateral line of descent in the family continues the original spelling.)

State University of New York Press, Albany. 2018. Index. Footnotes. Black and white illustrations and photographs. 204 pages. \$30. sunypress.edu/p-6451-reluctant-reformer.aspx

The Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy



By Val D. Greenwood

The fourth edition of *The Researcher's Guide* will be reviewed in future issue of *The Record*.

Genealogical Publishing Company, 2017. Softcover. Index, illustrations, examples. 778 pages. \$50. Genealogical.com or NYG&B online store.

Mastering Genealogical Documentation

By Thomas W. Jones, PhD, CG, CGL, FASG, FUGA, FNGS

A review of *Mastering Genealogical Documentation* appeared in the October issue of *The Record* (v. 148, no 4:315–316).

National Genealogical Society, 2017. Softcover. 286 pages. Index, appendices, glossary, reading and source lists, exercise examples, tables, and figures. \$37. Kindle edition \$10. nsgenealogy.org

Melissa A. Johnson, CG

mjohnson@johnsongenealogyservices.com

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

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