



Family History Research in Central New York

12 October 2017



NYG&B

NEW YORK
GENEALOGICAL
AND BIOGRAPHICAL
SOCIETY



What can you expect tonight?

What you might normally expect:

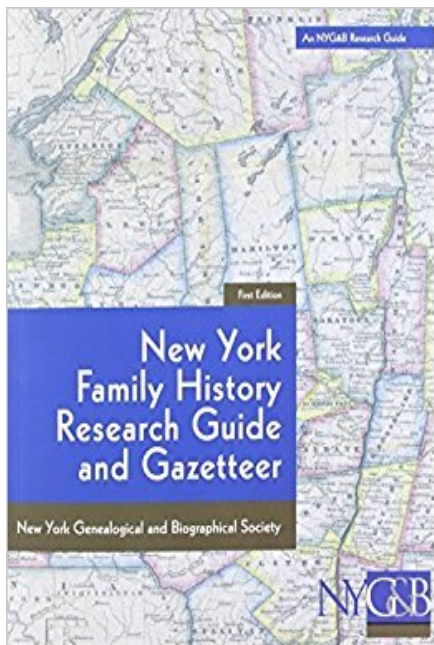
- Links
- Resources
- Lists
- Q & A

What I hope to give you:

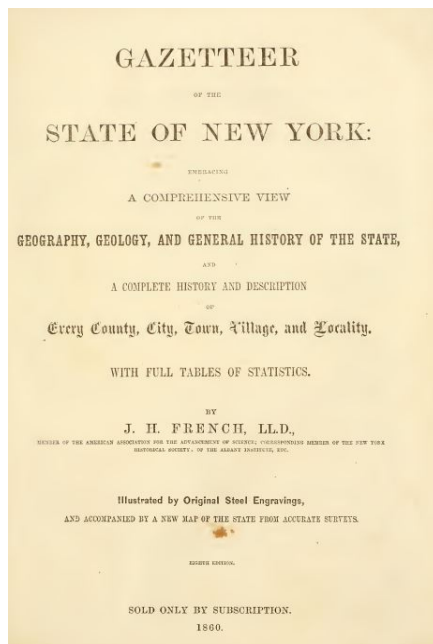
- Ideas and suggestions
- Methods
- Guidance
- Some links, resources & lists
- Q & A
- A desire to go searching ...

Must have resources for NYS researchers.

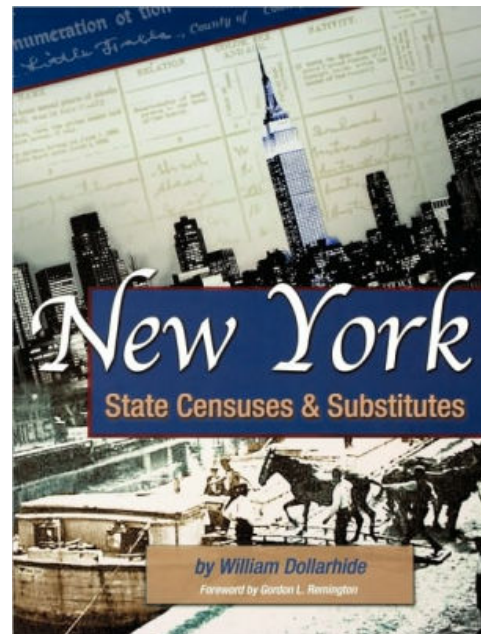
New York Family History Research Guide and Gazetteer, NYG&B



“French’s Gazetteer”



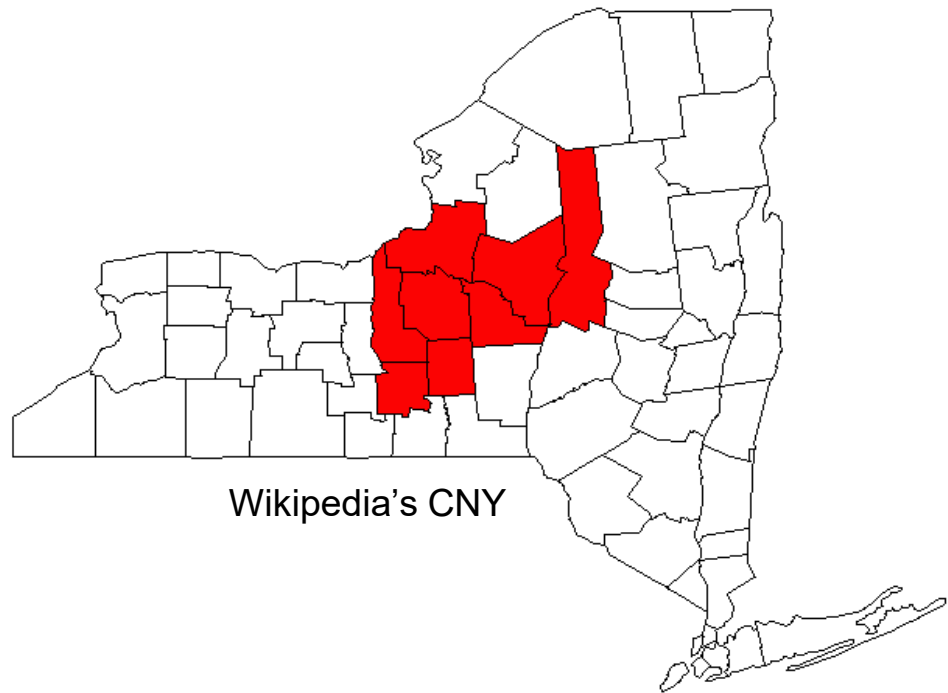
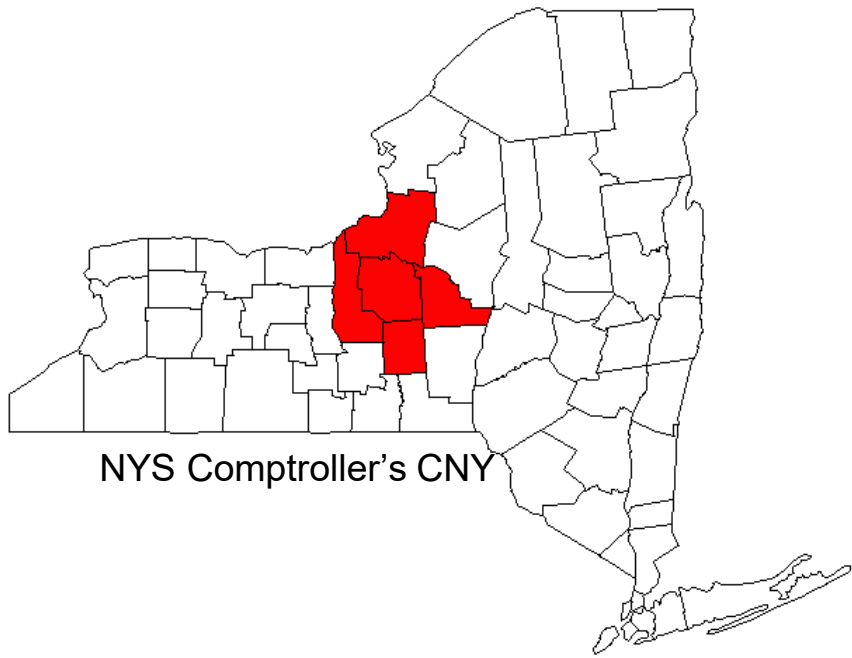
New York State Censuses & Substitutes, William Dollarhide



Define: Central New York

The *NY Comptroller's Office* defines it as the area around the metropolitan City of Syracuse, including the counties of:

- Onondaga
- Oswego
- Cortland
- Cayuga
- Madison



The link between geography and genealogy.

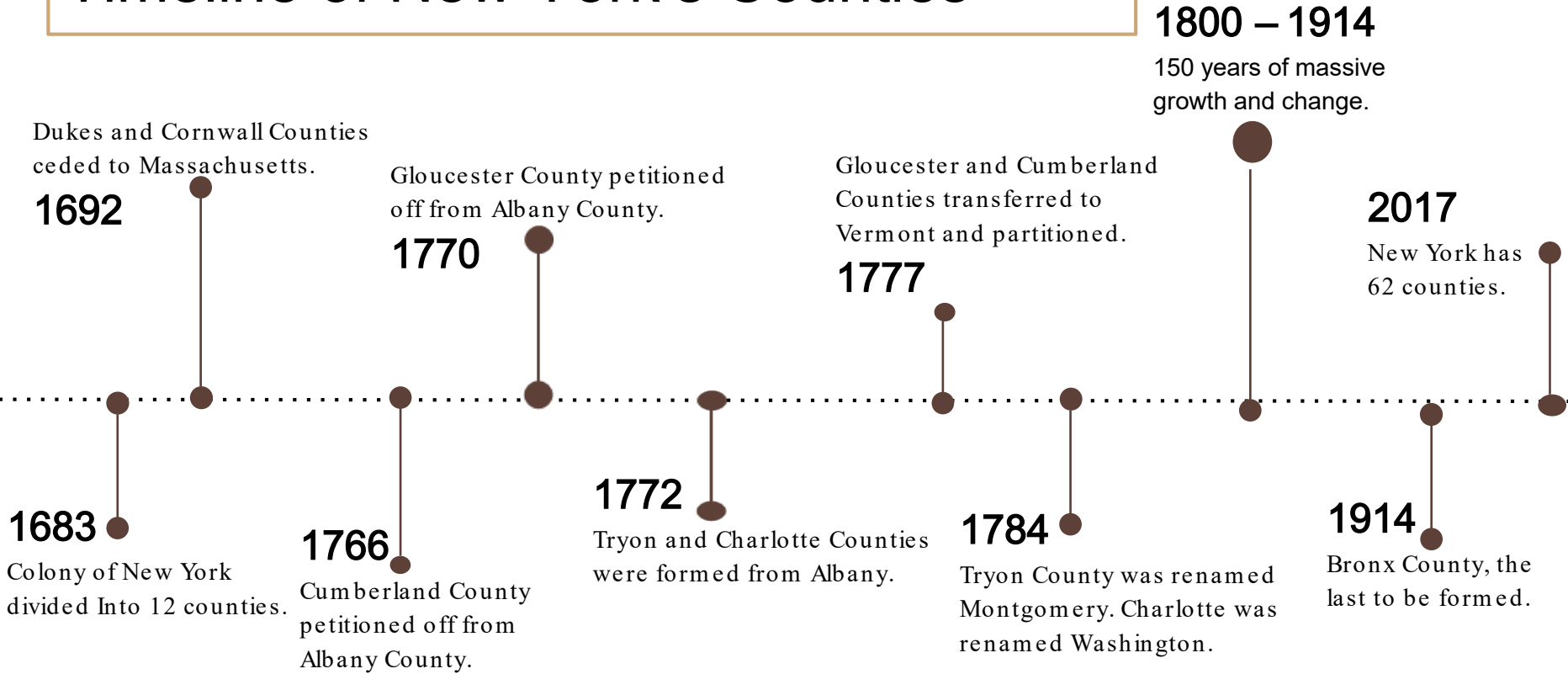


1800



2017

Timeline of New York's Counties



When Google, Ancestry and Family Search aren't producing results!

Types of Records	Where are records located?	Who to ask, after Google?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Vital Records✓ Land Records✓ Probate Records✓ Naturalization✓ Church✓ Census – state and federal✓ Newspapers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ State✓ County✓ City✓ Town✓ Village✓ Hamlet✓ Borough	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Libraries and archives.✓ County clerk.✓ Town and/or county historians.✓ Historical societies.

Vital Records in New York State:

- Virtually none were recorded before 1880
- NY has a period of privacy restriction
- ✓ 50 years for death and marriage and both people on marriage must be deceased.
- ✓ 75 years for births – and person must be deceased.
- Only indexes are available online or at certain locations.
- Copies of original certificates must be ordered from Albany, or transcripts can be requested from the locale where the event occurred.
- On the local level it can be challenging to find location of records.
- No consistent pattern of record keeping, or fees, or access exists. (Except in Albany)

Examples of the challenges to finding vital records in NY!

In Onondaga County

- Births and deaths are held on the county level.
- \$22 fee for birth and death transcripts.
- At least 6 week wait for request.
- Marriages are held at the local level.
- Marriages in Syracuse cost \$10 at City Hall, and early marriages are free at the county archives. Some marriage records exist prior to 1880.

In Oswego County

- Births, deaths and marriages are held at the local level.
- Fees vary by locale.
- In small towns requests are filled immediately, no waiting.

In Cayuga County

- Town of Brutus lets you look at the early record books.
- Town of Cato does not.

More importantly –

vital records are also kept in Albany, at the Department of Health.

- None for NYC.
- No records of birth, death and marriage from the Cities of Albany, Buffalo and Yonkers prior to January 1, 1914
- Copies of the original certificates (uncertified)
- \$22.00/copy
- Extensive waiting period. (6+ months)

Best practices for finding vital records in NY:

- Check the index first. Deaths online. Births and Marriages on microfiche.
- Get the state file number, and determine the place where the event occurred.
- If a derivative is okay, contact the locale.
- Originals can be ordered from Albany.

NYDeath Index online:

NYS Department of Health 1957-1967 Death Index

<https://health.data.ny.gov/Health/Genealogical-Research-Death-Index-Beginning-1957/vafa-pf2s/data>

NYS Department of Health Gazetteer Interactive Search - To determine locale of registrars

<https://health.data.ny.gov/Health/NYS-Gazetteer-Interactive-Search/xj6h-78ev>

NYS Department of Health 1880-1956 Death Index

www.archive.org Search: "New York Death Index xxxx" [year]

DEATH INDEX

1890

662

Salsler	Julia A. 16 Jul Boston	27700	Sand	Carl F. H. 26 Jun Astoria	25170
Salmme	Jacob 26 Apr Marion	17584	Sand	Mary 11 Nov Harts Id.	43757
Samberson	Albert 11 Sep Rockville Ctr.	36181	Sandel	Mary A. 22 Jul Lancaster	28551
Sandin	Harriet 3 Dec Brookfield	46181	Sanderl	Minnie 11 Nov Reh.	43750
Sane	John E. 17 Sep Reh.	37114	Sanders	Ann 30 May Stafford	22012
Sann	Dora D. 3 Oct Flattskill	39121		David 28 Jun N. Milton	25371
Sarric	Hallen L. 27 Aug Huntington	34172		Klon (M) 20 Oct Oakfield	41216
	Selar A. (M) 3 Oct W. Pabylon	39148		Stiel G. 24 Jul Moreau	28898
	Stephen 2 Jul Babylon	25879		Everett B. 6 Jun Charlton	22817
Sannon	Catherine 16 Mar Troy	11811		Floyd W. 28 Aug Ferrysburg	34285
	John 9 Jun Troy	23182		Fred P. 26 Jul Sing Sing	29105
	Thomas 18 Dec Flatbush	47894		John 9 May Lockport	19394
Sammond	Joseph 13 Dec Flatbush	48022		Lettie H. 8 Sep Windsor	35835
Sammons	Benjamin 1 Oct Syr.	38962		Margaret 17 Jan Youngsville	2953
	Frank E. 22 May Rosendale	20920		Maria R. 30 Jan Westville	5387
Sample	Bert J. 11 May Jamestown	19613		Martin 29 Mar Cortland	13096
	Mary 25 May	28777		Minnie 25 May	28897

DEATH INDEX

1927

Salvia	Francesco		
	5 Oct	Rch	57642
Salvinski	Agnes M.		
	11 Oct	Alb.	56264
Salva	Agnes		
	21 Mar	Lackawanna	14474
Salsena	Sittimis		
	19 Oct	Endicott	59431
San	Rasheed		
	29 Jan	Niagara Falls	2182
Sambrotto	Colomba		
	3 Apr	Buf.	20589
Samerny	Simon A.		
	26 Sep	Buf.	51703
Samluk	John		
	11 Jul	Buf.	40015
Sammaroo	Marion SB.		
	20 Mar	Lockport	15111
Sammatino	Antonio		
	15 Jun	Islip	38569
Sammis	Alfred		
	11 Dec	Huntington	73631
	Anna E.		
	26 Jan	Huntington	6355
	Emily A.		
	16 Apr	Northport	25763
	Frances J.		
	12 Apr	Lindenhurst	25708
	Mary E.		
	3 May	Huntington	32427
	Stephen P.		
	1 Oct	Oyster Bay	64562
Sammo	Alfred		
	6 Jan	Sch.	3156
Sammon	Cecilia		
	29 Aug	Mt. Pleasant	50530
	Theodore		
	16 Sep	G'ville	51865
Sammons	Anna M.		
	10 Sep	Uta.	52576
	Mary E.		
	21 Aug	Syr.	46982

Sampson	Gordon		
	24 Jan	Farmersville	3898
	James A.		
	8 May	Ynk.	29244
	Luthera		
	9 Jun	Concord	36864
	Violet		
	10 Jun	Buf.	33919
Sansel	Henry		
	4 Sep	Syr.	52612
Samson	Edwin W.		
	30 May	Buf.	27801
	Martha		
	3 Sep	Buf.	51274
Samuel	Rueben H.		
	23 Jun	Buf.	34205
Samuelis	Amil		
	26 Apr	Oyster Bay	24812
Samuels	Lillian D.		
	2 Feb	Andes	10648
	Milage		
	5 Jun	Glen Cove	34852
Samuelson	Clara C.		
	23 May	Kiantone	30230
	Josephine		
	6 Mar	Persia	16874
Samulka	Stephen		
	30 Sep	Bing.	50903
Sanborn	Clinton F.		
	3 Mar	Lewiston	31455
	Melvin M.		
	15 Nov	Dansville	66098
	Nelly A.		
	27 May	Plattsburg	26983
Sanchez	Frank J.		
	21 Sep	Liberty	55793
Sanchez	Mary		
	19 Aug	Ossining	47729
Sanchirico	Anthony		
	21 Mar	Ynk.	16596
Sancomb	Festro		
	23 Dec	Chateaugay	72023

DEATH INDEX

NO.

700

SOUNDIX	NAME OF DECEDENT	PLACE OF DEATH	AGE	DATE	CERT. NO.
5552	SAMMOZ J	JOHNSTOWN	86Y	7 25	39389
5552	SAMMOZ N	ISLIP	88Y	1 15	5325
5552	SAMMOZ N	STONEY	72Y	5 5	25851
5552	SAMMOZ W	BUFFALO	1D	6 28	32925
5552	SAMMOZ W	ITHACA	52Y	11 21	66108
5552	SAMMOZ C	BRISTOL	69Y	6 5	35221
5552	SAMMOZ C	BABYON	67Y	4 17	23893
5552	SAMMOZ C	WOODHURST	51Y	10 5	56950
5552	SAMMOZ Y	FOWLER	47Y	10 22	59194
5552	SAMMOZ Y	WHITE PLAIN	56Y	5 25	30787
5552	SAMMOZ	ROSLYN	37Y	3 8	15658
5552	SAMMOZ	NYC	50Y	1 8	20094
5552	SAMMOZ	ROCHESTER	64Y	11 11	63228
5552	SAMMOZ	YONKERS	89Y	8 7	48845
5552	SAMMOZ	PORT JEFFERSON	77Y	9 29	52741
5552	SAMMOZ	OTIS	88Y	5 25	28225
5552	SAMMOZ	ROCHESTER	62Y	3 8	15260
5552	SAMMOZ	ISLIP	56Y	8 10	47969
5552	SAMMOZ	WESTFIELD	87Y	7 15	37692
5552	SAMMOZ	JAMESTOWN	52Y	5 25	25534
5552	SAMMOZ	ISLIP	63Y	11 5	65788
5552	SAMMOZ	ROCHESTER	38Y	12 25	69954
5552	SAMMOZ	WOODHURST	87Y	3 19	17506
5552	SAMMOZ	ITHACA	62Y	5 21	30495
5552	SAMMOZ	ALTAONA	50Y	3 13	14359
5552	SAMMOZ	GOUVERNEUR	3M	5 11	29647
5552	SAMMOZ	SYRACUSE	42Y	5 25	28870
5552	SAMMOZ	NEWBURGH	49Y	6 5	35676
5552	SAMMOZ	ISLIP	65Y	10 15	59608
5552	SAMMOZ	POKERIDGE	86Y	4 1	19725
5552	SAMMOZ	JOHNSTOWN	88Y	12 7	69309
5552	SAMMOZ	BUFFALO	1D	8 5	44344
5552	SAMMOZ	ROCHESTER	1D	4 5	21214
5552	SAMMOZ	BUFFALO	77Y	6 2	33035
5552	SAMMOZ	SMITHTOWN	64Y	10 17	57653
5552	SAMMOZ	ALBANY	41Y	8 19	43278
5552	SAMMOZ	DENVER	70Y	11 18	66120
5552	SAMMOZ	TANNERS	80Y	3 12	14506
5552	SAMMOZ	DEPOUIT	69Y	2 24	44076
5552	SAMMOZ	MOUNT KISCO	75Y	3 5	18453
5552	SAMMOZ	W. SENECOA	48Y	6 25	13191

1945 Death Index using
the Soundex

Where are the indexes available?

- New York State Archives, Albany
- National Archives at New York City (Northeast Region)
- Rochester Public Library, Rochester
- Onondaga County Public Library, Syracuse
- Buffalo & Erie County Public Library, Buffalo
- Steele Memorial Library Elmira
- Crandall Public Library, Glens Falls
- Patchogue-Medford Library, Patchogue
- Flower Memorial Library, Watertown
- Broome County Public Library, Binghamton

Onondaga County Public Library – Local History and Genealogy

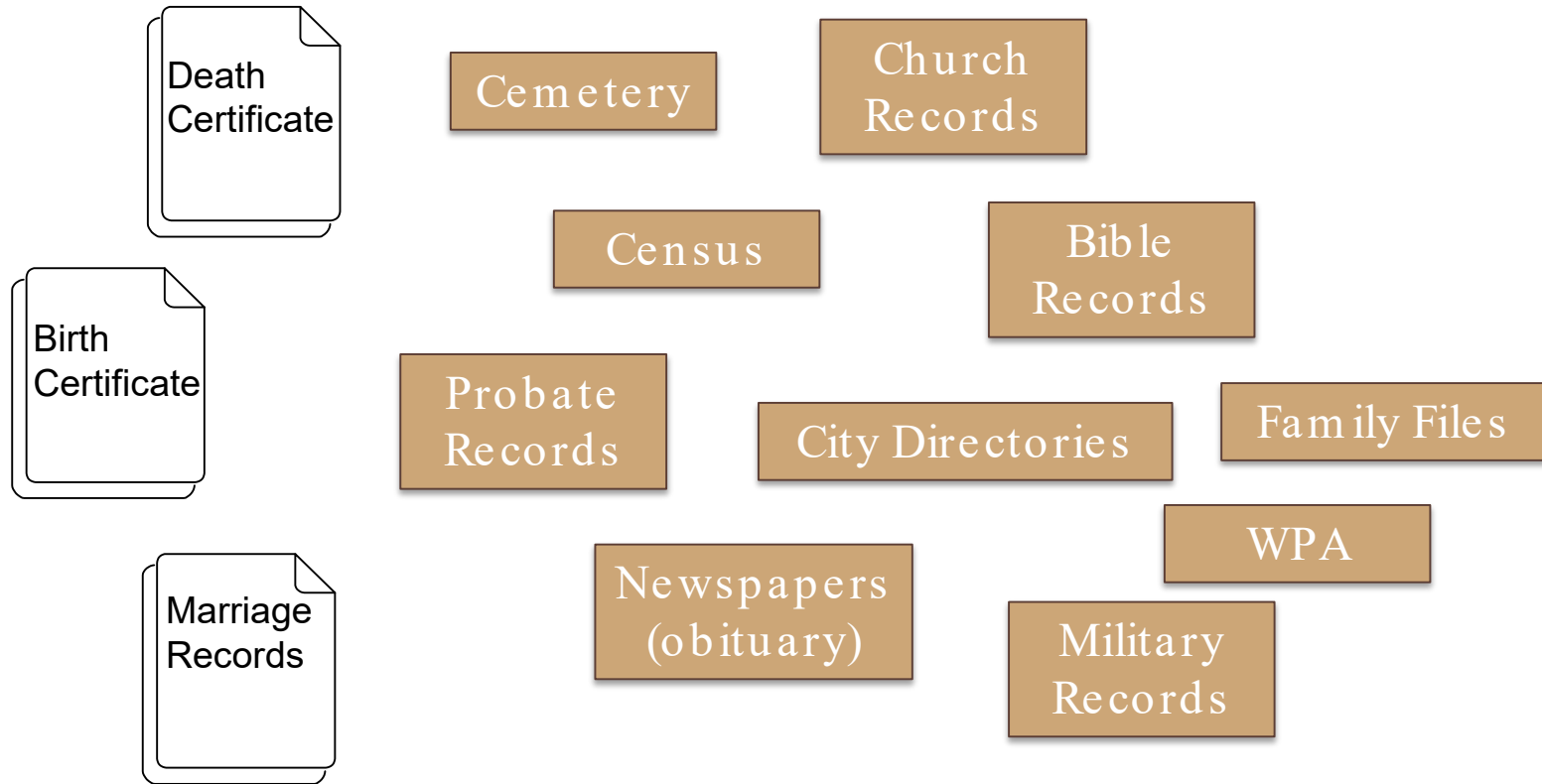
lhg@onlib.org

5 year limit

3 name limit

The more specific, the better.

When the vital record you want doesn't exist.



Court Records – Land, probate, naturalization, et. al.

- Some availability on Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org
- Records vary by county – not all are available online.
- More records often available at the county courthouse.
- Some records available online, through the counties or the court system.

Check with the county courthouse or county clerk's office first.

5th Judicial District website:

<https://www.nycourts.gov/courts/5jd/onondaga/surrogate/onbase.shtml>

Onondaga, Oneida, Oswego, Herkimer, Lewis and Jefferson Counties

Cortland County

<https://www.searchiqs.com/NYCOR/Login.aspx>

1808-1985 Deeds – index with images. And other public records.

Cayuga County Land records:

<https://www.nylandrecords.com/nylr/NylrApp/index.jsp>

1972 – current. Some other counties available.

Naturalization Records:

- Before 1906 most were filed with the county courts.
- Most people naturalized in the county they were living in.
- Family Search has a database 1791-1980 online.
- Some transcriptions (indexes) are available online, but only for certain counties.
<http://www.sampubco.com/nats/ny/newyork.htm>
- Immigration and naturalization records, Onondaga County, New York, 1802-1859. Online at Family Search Books.

NYS Census Records

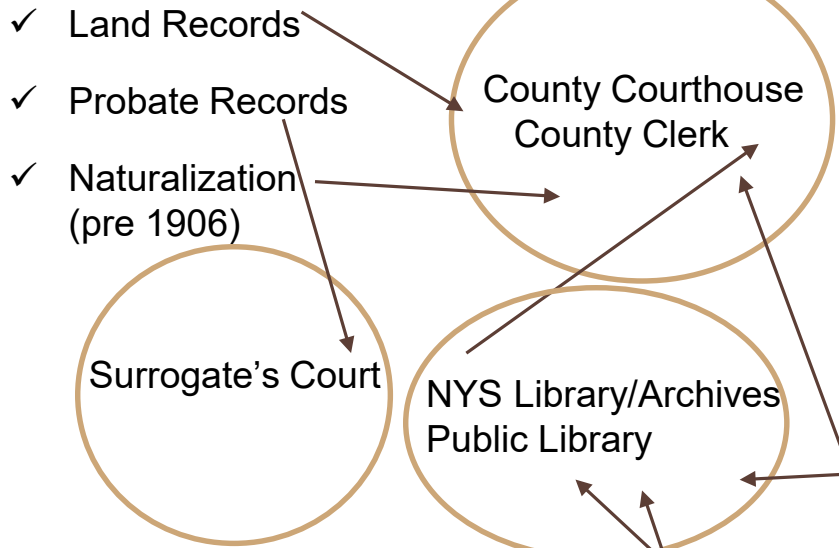
- 1825-1925
- Originals before 1915 are kept at the county level.
- Some online at Family Search and Ancestry
- Be careful of missing towns.
- Use Dollarhide's guide!

◆ Available at the Onondaga County Public Library and the NYS Library
 ▲ Available online.

County	1825	1835	1845	1855	1865	1875	1892	1905	1915	1925
CAYUGA				◆ ▲	◆ ▲	◆ ▲	◆ ▲	▲	◆ ▲	◆ ▲
CORTLAND	◆	◆	*	◆ ▲	◆ ▲	◆ ▲	◆ ▲	◆ ▲	◆ ▲	◆ ▲
MADISON				◆ ▲	◆ ▲	◆ ▲	◆ ▲	◆ ▲	◆ ▲	◆ ▲
ONONDAGA				◆ ▲	◆ ▲	◆ ▲	◆ ▲	◆ ▲	◆ ▲	◆ ▲
OSWEGO				◆ ▲	◆ ▲	◆ ▲	◆ ▲	▲	◆ ▲	◆ ▲

*

Towns of Scott, Solon and Willet only.



✓ Vital Records

Only death indexes available online.

- 1880-1966 Archiv.org
- 1957-67 NYS Department of Health.

Copies of original vital records in Albany

Birth and marriage indexes available at certain locations around the state.

Family Search has digitized some land and probate records for NY. Search by county. The records available differ by county. Its still a good practice to ask at the county level what is available.

✓ NYS Census Records

Microfilm, books, some originals in Albany and at the county level.

Some online at Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org

Transcriptions, indexes and other derivative formats in libraries, archives, historical societies and online.

Central New York Genealogical Society's *Tree Talks*

- Began in 1961.
- Published quarterly.
- At different times covered 46-49 of NY's 62 counties.
- Abstracts genealogical records.
- Census, wills, church and many other records.
- County packets combine all the records abstracted for each county.

www.cnygs.org

Beyond the obvious.

Records/Resources

- WPA Records
- WPA Record Surveys
- Cemetery Transcriptions
- Cemetery Records
- Church Records
- Family files
- Card files
- Manuscripts
- Yearbooks
- Scrapbooks
- Archival records

Experts

- County and Town Historians
- Historical Societies
- Librarians and archivists

From the Guide to vital statistics records of churches in New York state, exclusive of New York City; in 2 volumes.
Done by the Historical Records Survey.

All online at Family Search Books
www.books.familysearch.org

Cayuga County

AUBURN

PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL

1. St. John's Church, 1868--
68 East Genesee Street
Register: Record of Baptisms, 1868--; Burials, 1870--;
(1868--) Confirmations, 1870--; and Marriages, 1871--,
5 vols., kept at church sacristy
2. St. Peter's Church, 1803--
171 Genesee Street
Register: Record of Baptisms, Burials, Confirmations and
(1803--) Marriages, 6 vols., kept at rectory, 173 Genesee Street

ROMAN CATHOLIC

1. St. Aloysius' Church, 1901--
162 Van Anden Street
Register: Record of Baptisms, Burials, Confirmations,
(1901--) Marriages and Members, 5 vols., kept at rectory,
160 Van Anden Street
2. St. Alphonsus' Church, 1853--
99 East Genesee Street
Register: Record of Baptisms, Burials, Confirmations,
(1853--) Marriages and Members, 10 vols. and 1 file,
kept at rectory, 95 East Genesee Street

UNDEDOMINATIONAL

- Church of the Open Bible, 1938--
72 South Street
Register: Record of Baptisms, Deaths, Marriages and Mem-
(1938--) bers, 1 vol., kept at church

UNIVERSALIST

- First Universalist Church, 1821--
20½ South Street
Register: Record of Baptisms, Burials, Marriages and
(1833--) Members, included with church minutes, 3 vols.,
in custody of church clerk, Mr. Poacock, 24
Franklin Street. Earlier records not accounted
for.

Experts, experts, experts.

Historical and Genealogical Societies.

- NYG&B
- Central New York Genealogical Society
<http://cnygs.org/>
- Cortland County Historical Society
<http://cortlandhistory.com/>
- Oneida County Historical Society
<https://www.oneidacountyhistory.org/>
- Jefferson County Genealogical Society
<http://jcnygs.com/>
- Oswego County Historical Society
<http://www.rbhousemuseum.org/>
- Half Shire Historical Society (Northern Oswego)
<http://halfshire.org/>
- Madison County Historical Society
<http://mchs1900.org/>

Experts, experts, experts.

County and Town Historians.

There are over 1,600 local government historians in New York State. The state historian law requires that a local historian is appointed in each city, town, village, or borough, and allows for the appointment of a historian in each county.

A complete list can be found:

The Association of Public Historians of NYS

<http://www.aphnys.org/historian-lookup/>

Experts, experts, experts.

Libraries and Archives - CNY

Onondaga County Public Library
Flower Memorial Library, Watertown (Jefferson County)
Utica Public Library, Utica (Oneida County)
Seymour Public Library, Auburn (Cayuga County)
Oswego County Records Center, 315-349-8460
Oneida Public Library, Oneida (Madison County)
Steele Memorial Library, Elmira (Chemung County)
Montgomery County Department of History Archives, Fonda
New York State Historical Association Library, Cooperstown

Syracuse University Library
Cornell University Library

Family Search Books <https://books.familysearch.org/>
New York Heritage <https://www.nyheritage.org/>
ArchiveGrid <https://beta.worldcat.org/archivegrid/>

Holly Sammons, MLS
genealogy@820research.com
www.820research.com

All the links, titles, sites, online books
used in this webinar are available at:
www.820research.com/cny



Presenter, Holly J. Sammons, MLS

NYG&B

NEW YORK
GENEALOGICAL
AND BIOGRAPHICAL
SOCIETY