

“Connect at the Crossroads”

September 20–21, 2024 (Livestreamed from Syracuse, NY)

September 20–November 1, 2024 (On-Demand Access)



NEW YORK
GENEALOGICAL
AND BIOGRAPHICAL
SOCIETY

As New York’s largest statewide family history conference, our 2024 New York State Family History Conference is a gathering point for the top voices and experts in the genealogy and family history fields. The conference brings together researchers, genealogists, and all those interested in family history for a deep dive on how to navigate family history in New York State.

This year’s conference, **Connect at the Crossroads**, will feature livestreamed presentations (subsequently made available on demand), **September 20–21, 2024**, from the historic Erie Canal Museum in Syracuse, New York, and more than 20 on-demand sessions for all conference registrants through **November 1, 2024**.



Grain-Boat on the Erie Canal.

PRICING

- Virtual Member Attendance: (early registration by June 14, 2024): **\$189**
- Virtual Member Attendance: (after June 14, 2024): **\$209**
- Virtual General Attendance: **\$245**
- In-person Member Attendance (Syracuse)*: **\$229**
- In-person General Attendance (Syracuse)*: **\$265**

REGISTER AT
newyorkfamilyhistory.org/register

** All in-person events will also be livestreamed and subsequently made available on-demand through November 1, 2024.*

What to Expect:

Whether you are just starting to build up your genealogy skills or are ready to tackle more advanced issues in your search, you will learn from the experts and connect with others in the field. Session topics will cover crucial resources like New York records and repositories; methodology; migration and settlement; immigration and immigrant communities; New Yorkers of color and others whose stories have been historically underrepresented; and much more.

- More than 20 of the top voices and experts in the genealogy field to lead sessions and answer your questions, including Michelle Tucker Chubenko, Skip Duett, Annette Burke Lyttle, Jeanette Sheliga, Jane E. Wilcox, and more.

- A total of 34 sessions and events (13 livestreamed and 21 on demand), all for less than \$10 a session.

- A rich array of programming—whether it’s mastering the basics or refining research to break through brick walls—on a variety of topics like navigating New York research; using maps, newspapers, letters, and journals; understanding immigration and migration patterns; accessing arrival, court, marriage, and military records; and much more.

- On-demand sessions grouped under three separate tracks for convenient reference: People of New York, Methods and Tools, and Records.

- Learning opportunities with the wider genealogy and family history community.



Livestreamed Program September 20–21, 2024

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The New York State Family History Conference offers a rich array of sessions to help participants learn the stories of their New York ancestors and hone their research skills. **Note: All livestreamed programming is subsequently made available on demand through November 1, 2024.**

FRIDAY, September 20, 2024

The Erie Canal Museum, 318 Erie Boulevard East, Syracuse, NY 13202

TIME (EDT)	SESSION	PRESENTER
9:00 a.m.–9:20 a.m. (replaying at 5:40 p.m.–6:00 p.m.)	Keynote Address (Pre-recorded broadcast, livestreamed)	To Be Announced
9:30 a.m.–10:30 a.m.	Ten Essentials for New York Research	Jane E. Wilcox
10:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.	Finding and Using Online New York Maps from the Library of Congress	Annette Burke Lyttle
12:00 p.m.–1:00 p.m.	A Case Study in Migration: A Three-Generation Family Diaspora	Iain H. Bruce
1:15 p.m.–1:45 p.m.	New York Stories: Pre-recorded, livestreamed video clips from the genealogy and family history community sharing memorable and notable stories.	Multiple presenters
2:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.	Search, Browse, and Discover NYG&B's Online Collections: Advanced Techniques	Ryan Gleason
3:15 p.m.–4:15 p.m.	New Yorkers and Florida: Find Your Sun-Loving Ancestors	Annette Burke Lyttle
4:30 p.m.–5:30 p.m.	What's New at the NYG&B	D. Joshua Taylor, MLS, FUGA
5:40 p.m.–6:00 p.m.	Keynote Address (Replay from morning's broadcast)	To Be Announced

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SATURDAY, September 21, 2024

The Erie Canal Museum, 318 Erie Boulevard East, Syracuse, NY 13202

TIME (EDT)	SESSION	PRESENTER
9:30 a.m.–10:30 a.m.	The Clerk Has What?	Jeanette Sheliga
10:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.	Keys to New York Success: Local Historians, Clerks, and Others	D. Joshua Taylor, MLS, FUGA
12:00 p.m.–1:00 p.m.	Using Family Letters as Sources and as Characters in Family History Research	Iain H. Bruce
1:15 p.m.–1:45 p.m.	New York Stories: Pre-recorded, livestreamed video clips from the genealogy and family history community sharing memorable and notable stories.	Multiple presenters
2:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.	Not Found in County Deeds! Western New York Land Company Records	Skip Duett
3:15 p.m.–4:15 p.m.	New York State Archives Guide—Your Turn	Jane E. Wilcox



ON-DEMAND SESSIONS

September 20–November 1, 2024

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Learn at your own pace and refine your skills with on-demand educational sessions, categorized under three separate tracks: **People of New York**, **Methods and Tools**, and **Records**.

TRACK: People of New York

SESSION	PRESENTER
Grandma Said She Was from Poznań: An Introduction to Polish Genealogy	Julie Roberts Szczepankiewicz
Melting Pot Metropolis: Tracing Ancestral Trails of Emigration and Immigration	Michelle Tucker Chubenko, AG®*
New York City's Moving Day: Tracing the Multiracial Family of Lewis Munday, 1850–1880	Pamela Vittorio, MA, PLCGS
The New York Gateway: Immigration, Emigration, and Migration	Jane E. Wilcox
New York Immigrant Aid Society Records	Melanie McComb
Returning to France: The Records of the Huguenots	Bryna O'Sullivan, PLCGS
Welcome to New York: All About Arrival Records	Alec Ferretti

TRACK: Methods and Tools

SESSION	PRESENTER
Everything Western New York Genealogy (that We Can Fit in an Hour)	Rhonda Hoffman, MLS, and Jeanette Sheliga
From Kings County to County Antrim: How at-DNA and Y-DNA Solved a Mystery!	Edward J. Swierczewski Jr., MA
Intersecting Lines: Pedigree Collapse Clarifies Maria Terwilliger's Parentage	Alice Childs, AG®*
New and Exciting Historical Records from New York on MyHeritage	Daniel Horowitz
New York at the Crossroads of Full Text Search	Robert Raymond
Searching the NYG&B Collections	Kayln Loewer, MA
Unearthing Hidden Gems: The Importance of Researching Your New York Collateral Ancestors	Stephanie O'Connell, CG®*

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ON-DEMAND SESSIONS

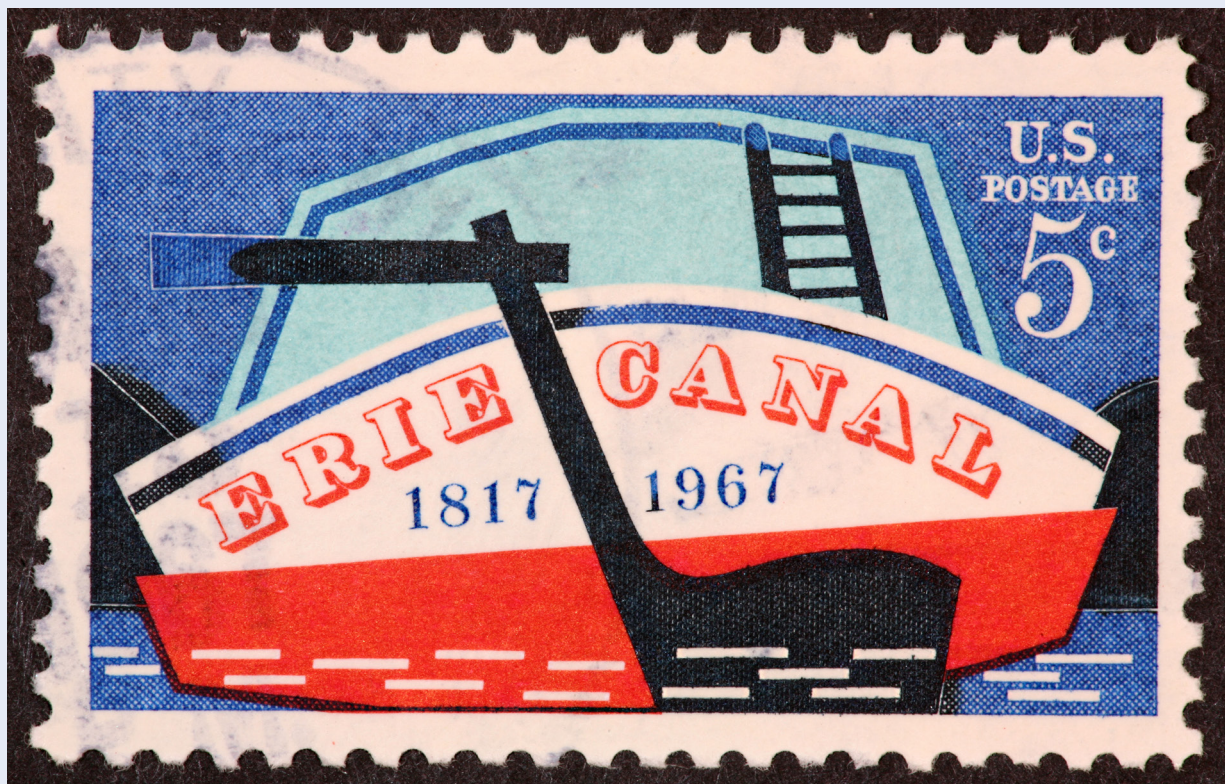
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TRACK: Records

SESSION	PRESENTER
1800s U.S. Income and N.Y. Statewide Tax Assessments: An Underutilized Resource	Pam Ricciardi Paschke
Across the Hudson: Garden State Records for Your New York Ancestor	Michelle Tucker Chubenko, AG®*
All the New York News That's Fit to Read Online	Janice M. Sellers
The Civil War Pension System: Union and Confederate	Bryna O'Sullivan, PLCGS
Commodious Accommodations: Accounts and Records of Erie Canal Travel, 1821–1848	Pamela Vittorio, MA, PLCGS
Indexing Chancery Court Records at the New York State Archives	Jamie Brinkman
Researching in New York Almshouses, Poorhouses, and Asylum Records	Melanie McComb



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FULL PROGRAM SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

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Session	Presenter	Description	Format*
1800s U.S. Income and N.Y. Statewide Tax Assessments: An Underutilized Resource	Pam Ricciardi Paschke	Did you know there are New York tax assessment rolls from around 1800? And Federal Internal Revenue assessment lists during the Civil War years? Learn the ins and outs of finding your people in these lists and how you can enhance your research.	On Demand
Across the Hudson: Garden State Records for Your New York Ancestor	Michelle Tucker Chubenko, AG ^{***}	The Hudson River and Kittatinny mountains were often traversed by New Yorkers to work, get married or divorced, visit family, and perform other activities in their lives. From colonial times through current events, New York and New Jersey have often shared an intertwined, common history. Two particular areas along the states' borders offer opportunities to find ancestors' lives straddled across these invisible lines. This presentation will highlight popular and obscure record sets to document your ancestor's life events in New Jersey.	On Demand
All the New York News That's Fit to Read Online	Janice M. Sellers	Newspapers are valuable because you can find life events, naturalizations, court cases, business, and more. Millions of pages of New York's historical newspapers are online, but there is no one place to find them all. This is an overview of what is available online where and techniques to improve your chances of finding information about your family.	On Demand
A Case Study in Migration: A Three-Generation Family Diaspora	Iain H. Bruce	This talk uses a three-generation diaspora within and beyond New York to examine the place of one family's migrations in the history of the 18th and 19th centuries. We will see how this family responded to the opportunities created by social, economic, and political change as well as learn about some of the records that help flesh out the family story.	Livestreamed

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The Clerk Has What?	Jeanette Sheliga	Using historic laws along with Works Progress Administration Historical Records Survey inventories, you will learn what records you may find at the Town, Village, City, and County Clerk's offices across New York State.	Livestreamed
The Civil War Pension System: Union and Confederate	Bryna O'Sullivan, PLCGS	Military pensions can serve as a valuable source of information on both military service and family events. The Civil War pension system is somewhat unique in its complexity, which can make finding records a challenge. This session will introduce the Union and Confederate pension systems and discuss how to access the records today.	On Demand
Commodious Accommodations: Accounts and Records of Erie Canal Travel, 1821-1848	Pamela Vittorio, MA, PLCGS	Even before its grand opening in 1825, residents of New York, tourists, and emigrants bought tickets to ride on the Erie Canal. Not only did the canal boat companies promise a smooth trip, they offered sleeping accommodations, meals, and entertainment in a 24-7 operation. Using manuscripts, letters, artwork, canal records, and passenger lists, this session details the ups and downs of packet boat travel.	On Demand
Everything Western New York (that We Can Fit in an Hour)	Rhonda Hoffman, MLS, and Jeanette Sheliga	Join two local genealogists on a tour across the eight counties of Western New York and learn about the region's history, records, and the numerous repositories that can help you find your ancestors.	On Demand
Finding and Using Online New York Maps from the Library of Congress	Annette Burke Lyttle	Maps are important resources for our genealogical research. They can place our ancestors on particular ground at a particular time; give us clues about how they lived and worked; help us understand who their neighbors were and how far they had to travel for goods, services, and activities; and allow us to go and stand on their land or in front of their houses. The Library of Congress has more than 435,000 maps, of which 56,350 are currently available online. Learn what this treasure trove contains and how maps are useful for your research.	Livestreamed

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From Kings County to County Antrim: How at-DNA and Y-DNA Solved a Mystery	Edward J. Swierczewski Jr., MA	It started with at-DNA results of distant cousin matches and admixture estimates that evolved over time, followed by more at-DNA testing and the Big Y-DNA test, which uncovered a patrilineal MPE. This session will give an overview of the discovery timeline and of the documentary, methodological, and identity issues raised in this case. The advantages and disadvantages of at-DNA will be examined as well as a WATO analysis that led to case resolution.	On Demand
Grandma Said She Was from Pozna: An Introduction to Polish Genealogy	Julie Roberts Szczepankiewicz	Using Buffalo, New York, examples, this session will demonstrate the process of tracing Polish immigrants back to their place of origin. It will identify key websites and strategies that will allow you to locate your family in both U.S. and Polish records. Recommended resources will also be highlighted for overcoming the language barrier and identifying locations that were misspelled in historical records.	On Demand
Indexing Chancery Court Records at the New York State Archives	Jamie Brinkman	Since 2020, the staff at the New York State Archives has worked on electronically indexing nearly 1,000 cubic feet of historical Chancery Court records. This session will examine what record series have been indexed, how to use the index to provide proper citations to reference staff, and what types of documents you can expect to see from your request.	On Demand
Intersecting Lines: Pedigree Collapse Clarifies Maria Terwilliger's Parentage	Alice Childs, AG ^{®**}	Documentary evidence revealed Maria Terwilliger as the wife of Solomon Dunn and placed a woman likely to be her in his household in New Paltz, New York, during the early 1800s. Pedigree collapse aided in identifying Maria's correct parents among several candidates.	On Demand

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Keys to New York Success: Local Historians, Clerks, and Others	D. Joshua Taylor, MLS, FUGA	While many New York records can be found online, many research projects require on-site research and engagement with local recordkeepers. This session will provide insights and steps for contacting New York's local historians, visiting county courthouses, and planning research at regional repositories.	Livestreamed
Melting Pot Metropolis: Tracing Ancestral Trails of Emigration and Immigration	Michelle Tucker Chubenko, AG ^{***}	Discover the rich mosaic of immigrant experiences that shaped the post-Revolutionary War landscape through the vibrant communities of the 20th century. Learn about the diverse groups that contributed to the growth throughout the decades, including Irish canal workers, Buffalo's Polish American community, African American migrants shaping New York State, and Latin Caribbean immigrants revitalizing urban centers. Through personal stories and historical insights, this session will explore how these ethnic hot spots contributed to cultural diversity.	On Demand
New and Exciting Historical Records from New York on MyHeritage	Daniel Horowitz	Discover the latest records from New York and around the world on the MyHeritage Search Engine and understand how to take advantage of them to trace your ancestors. Learn how to discover the rich details and histories about the lives of your ancestors by perusing historical newspaper collections.	On Demand
New York at the Crossroads of Full Text Search	Robert Raymond	FamilySearch's Full-Text Search experiment is a game changer. In this session, you will learn how to easily discover land, probate, and African American records that are otherwise nearly impossible to find.	On Demand

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New York City's Moving Day: Tracing the Multiracial Family of Lewis Munday, 1850–1880	Pamela Vittorio, MA, PLCGS	By digging into censuses; church, court, and vital records; city directories; newspapers; and maps, researchers have been able to uncover deep connections between Irish immigrants and free people of color in 19th-century New York City. This case study traces an Irish African American family each "Moving Day" (an annual event from colonial times and throughout the 19th century when leases in New York City expired) to identify Lewis Munday's father. This session tells his story from the piers of Manhattan to a fateful day on a schooner in harbor of Richmond, Virginia.	On Demand
The New York Gateway: Immigration, Emigration, and Migration	Jane E. Wilcox	New York has been the heart of U.S. immigration since the 1600s. Discover the origins of key immigrant and emigrant groups and settlers and where they went through 1940. Learn the New York migration routes and transportation modes that your New York ancestors may have taken. Putting your ancestors in the context of their times is key for researching them. Some research resources and ideas are featured.	On Demand
New York Immigrant Aid Society Records	Melanie McComb	Many immigrant aid societies were created to assist new arrivals with job placement, medical support, finding lost family, and getting acclimated to America. This session will provide a brief history of the U.S. immigrant aid society movement, how societies operated, what information can be found in records, and how to locate them.	On Demand
New York State Archives Guide—Your Turn	Jane E. Wilcox	Join Jane E. Wilcox for a live Q&A session about her book, <i>New York State Archives, A Guide: For Family Historians, Biographers, and Historical Research</i> . Participants will learn more about the featured topics and highlights of the book and how to best use the book. Then it's your turn to ask Jane questions.	Livestreamed

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New York Stories	Multiple presenters	The mysterious disappearance of an ancestor and his wife who kept the family going and protected the dairy farm. A man and his brother-in-law who joined the New York 26th Colored Regiment during the Civil War and what happened when they came home. Growing up in Brooklyn during the post-World War II years. All of these are just some of the New York stories previously told by our family history community. Watch these entertaining and enlightening video clips of New York stories that can inspire your own research journeys.	Livestreamed
New Yorkers and Florida: Find Your Sun-Loving Ancestors	Annette Burke Lyttle	New Yorkers have had a love affair with Florida since travel between the two states became easy in the mid-1800s. Many more New Yorkers got to know Florida through military service there. Learn to find the stories of New Yorkers who vacationed, snow birded, and settled in the sunshine state.	Livestreamed
Not Found in County Deeds! Western New York Land Company Records	Skip Duett	After the Revolutionary War, western New York was opened to white settlement. The Phelps and Gorham Company and the Holland Land Company were private companies that sold the land to smaller speculators and settlers. In this session, you will learn how these private company papers can fill in significant gaps in land ownership records for your ancestors.	On Demand
Researching in New York Almshouses, Poorhouses, and Asylum Records	Melanie McComb	Many of our ancestors came from humble beginnings, faced periods of economic hardship, or spent most of their lives in poverty. They may not appear in typical records such as deeds, probate records, or tax lists. There are, however, specialized records and research strategies to assist in tracing your economically disenfranchised ancestors.	On Demand

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Returning to France: The Records of the Huguenots	Bryna O'Sullivan, PLCGS	Huguenot families are responsible for the European settlement of the towns of New Paltz and New Rochelle, sections of Staten Island, and more in New York. But what were their lives like in France? This session will introduce the history of the Huguenots in France, discuss the common record groups that can be used to trace their ancestry, and offer suggestions for dealing with a possible language barrier.	On Demand
Search, Browse, and Discover NYG&B's Online Collections: Advanced Techniques	Ryan Gleason	In this session, the NYG&B's Vice President, Digital Services, will provide advanced techniques for accessing the NYG&B's vast online collections and resources, including an inside look at navigating between collections, improving search results, and making the most of your time at newyorkfamilyhistory.org .	Livestreamed
Searching the NYG&B Collections	Kalyn Loewer, MA	The NYG&B's online records and collections contain thousands of pages ranging from county histories, immigration records, vital record substitutes, and much more. In this session, the NYG&B's Digital Collections Manager will give an overview of these collections, sharing what you can find and how to search them.	On Demand
Ten Essentials for New York Research	Jane E. Wilcox	By understanding 10 key concepts, records, and resources for researching New York, people can gain more success navigating the challenges of New York research. This session will highlight these essentials by examining governmental jurisdictions; vital, probate, and land records; state censuses; online and offline resources; the New York State Library & Archives; and the New York Family History Research Guide and Gazetteer.	Livestreamed

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Unearthing Hidden Gems: The Importance of Researching Your New York Collateral Ancestors	Stephanie O'Connell, CG ^{®**}	Telling the stories of collateral relatives like veteran Joseph Griffith Jones of Port Chester, New York, who served in significant capacities during World War I, holds profound importance for several reasons, including offering detailed, personal insights into historical events. Many veterans like Joseph do not have direct descendants to tell their stories, which are at risk of being forgotten. Sharing their experiences ensures that their contributions and sacrifices are remembered and honored—keeping their legacy alive.	On Demand
Using Family Letters as Sources and as Characters in Family History Research	Iain H. Bruce	Letters are conversations on paper, holding families together, creating identities for writers and readers. They can bring ancestors to life, reveal hopes and fears, fill in our knowledge gaps, show us the human condition. This talk will address why letters were written & read, where to look for them, and how to use them to enhance family stories.	Livestreamed
Welcome to New York: All About Arrival Records	Alec Ferretti	Learn about the history of entry records in the United States, such as customs lists, passenger manifests, border-crossing records, and remedial records. This session will focus on records from the early 20th century and will examine the immigration process, how to locate the records themselves, and the information they contain.	On Demand
What's New at the NYG&B	D. Joshua Taylor, MLS, FUGA	In this session, D. Joshua Taylor, President of the NYG&B, will share exciting updates and resources to help you discover your New York story.	Livestreamed

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