# **Table of Contents**

Foreword	xiii
Preface	χV
Introduction—How to Use This Book	1
Frequently Used Abbreviations in This Book	1
A Chronological Snapshot of New York History and Family History, 1609-1945	2
PART ONE	
Each chapter includes a selected bibliography and suggestions for further reading, as well as descriptions of selected selected bibliography and suggestions for further reading, as well as descriptions of selected selected bibliography and suggestions for further reading, as well as descriptions of selected selected bibliography and suggestions for further reading, as well as descriptions of selected selected bibliography and suggestions for further reading, as well as descriptions of selected selected selected bibliography and suggestions for further reading, as well as descriptions of selected sel	cted
Chapter 1: Colonial Era  Historical Overview; Governmental Records; Non-Governmental Records; Religious Records; Personal Papers and Accounts; The Calendar—Julian and Gregorian	9
Chapter 2: Vital Records	
History of Vital Record Keeping, Colonial Era-Present; New York State Department of Health (NYSDH); Municipal Archives of New York City (MUNI); Divorce and Adoption Records; Vital Records Substitutes	15
Table 1: Vital Records Held by Selected Cities from 1852 to the present	17
Table 2: Locations of New York State Vital Records Microfiche Indexes	20
Table 3: Summary of New York City Vital Records Held at MUNI by Borough	21
Table 4: Summary of New York City Vital Records Location and Accessibility	23
Table 5: Main Online Indexes for Vital Records	24
Table 6: Original Card Indexes to New York City Vital Records at MUNI	27
Chapter 3: Census Records  Federal Census for New York State; Federal Census Special Schedules; New York State Census (1825–1925);  American Indians and the New York State Census; Early Census Records and Lists; Alternative Census Resources and Census Substitutes	33
Table 1: New York State Census: Preserved and Lost Records	36
Table 2: New York State Census: Selected Questions Asked 1855-1925	38
Table 3: Transcriptions of Colonial Censuses	
Table 4: Information Collected on the New York City Jury and Electoral Censuses	
Table 4. Information confected on the New York City Sury and Electoral Censuses	

### Chapter 4: Immigration, Migration, and Naturalization

Chapter 4. Intilingration, Physician, and Naturalization	
New Netherland, English, and Revolutionary Periods (1609-1783); Early Statehood Period (1783-1825); National Period (1825-1866); Civil War and Peak Immigration Period (1866-1924); Current Era (1924-present); Immigration Records; Naturalization Records	43
Table 1: Selected Naturalization Records: Originals and Online Locations	45
Table 2: Differences Between AR-2 Files and A-Files	48
Table 3: Selected Immigration Records (1820-1950s) and Indexes: Original Records, Online Locations	49
Chapter 5: Court Records	
Colonial Era Courts; New York State Courts and Court Structure; Federal Courts in New York State; Major Repositories of Court Records in New York State	54
Table 1: The New York State Unified Court System at a Glance	54
Table 2: Federal Court Districts of New York State	60
Chapter 6: Probate Records	
Records before 1787; Records after 1787; Guardianship Records	63
Table 1: Simplified Summary of Probate Jurisdiction in New York	66
Chapter 7: Land Records and Maps	
Historical Overview; Colonial Era; Revolutionary War and the New and Old Military Tracts; Expansion into Western New York; County Records; Deeds and Mortgages; Manors and Early Patents; Leases; Land Company Records; Loyalist Land Confiscations; Reservoir-Related, Surrogate's Court, Title, Transportation-Related, and Other Records; Major Sources for New York Maps	69
Table 1: Major Land Transactions: Grants, Patents, and Manors	78
Chapter 8: Military Records	
Record Types and Definitions; Bounty Land Records; Military Unit Histories; Pension Records; Historical Overview and War-Related Resources: Colonial Era to Vietnam; Sources of Military Records	83
Chapter 9: Cemetery Records	
Locating New York Cemeteries; Gravestones and Transcriptions; Burial Records; Cremation; Potter's Fields; Institutional and Military Cemeteries	95
Table 1: Selected New York City Cemeteries Prior to 1900	98
Chapter 10: Business, Institutional, and Organizational Records	
Almshouses and Poorhouses; Orphanage Records; School Records; Business and Employee Records; Fraternal and Benevolent Organizations; Corrections and Prison Records; Medical Records	101
Chapter 11: City Directories and Other Directories	
City Directories; Social, Business, Professional, Ethnic, Fraternal, and Other Directories	111
Chapter 12: Newspapers and Periodicals	
Historical Overview; Identifying Newspaper Titles; Online Newspaper Resources; Print and Microfilm Resources; Periodicals for Genealogical Research; Selected List of Periodicals	115

#### **Chapter 14: Peoples of New York**

Chapter Introduction: Notes about Indexes, Population Figures, and an Unlikely Resource; Selected Bibliography

Table 1: New York State's Foreign-born Population by Selected Place of Birth (1860–1920)

Table 2: New York State's Foreign-born Population by Selected Place of Birth (1930–2000)

131

## Individual sections provide a historical overview and a description of records, repositories, and resources pertinent to the following populations

African American	132
American Indian	140
Austro-Hungarian (and related but distinct ethnicities)	148
Chinese	153
Dutch	157
English	163
French and French-Speaking	166
German	171

Hispanic	176
Irish	179
Italian	184
Jewish	188
Polish	193
Russian (and related but distinct ethnicities)	196
Scandinavian	200
Scots and Ulster Scots	205

#### **Chapter 15: Religious Records of New York**

Chapter Introduction: Historical Overview; Transcribed, Published, and Digitized Church Records; Locating Religious Records; Selected Bibliography

209

## Individual sections provide a historical overview and a description of records, repositories, and resources pertinent to the following denominations:

Baptist	212
Catholic	216
Congregational (also Independent)	221
Eastern Rite Catholic and Eastern Orthodox	224
Episcopal	228
Jewish	232
Lutheran	234

237
240
241
245
248

#### **Chapter 16: National and Statewide Repositories & Resources**

Government Repositories and Libraries; Repositories, Libraries, Museums, and Genealogical Societies; University and College Libraries; Online Providers of Information; Lineage Societies

253

#### Chapter 17: Reference Shelf for New York Research

Research Guides for New York State and City; Essential References for Family History Research

271