

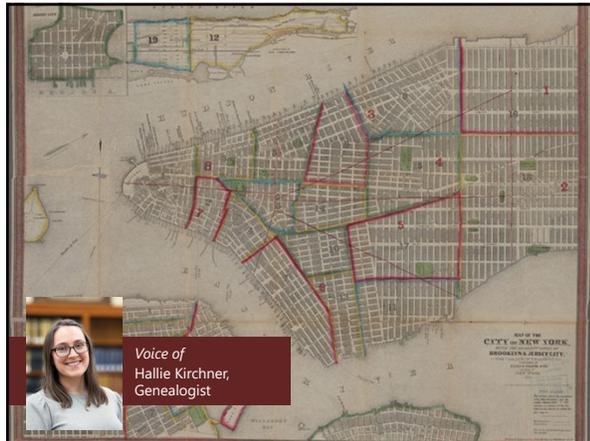
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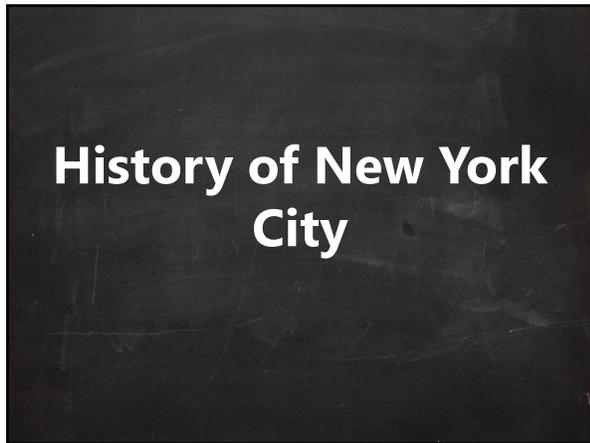
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4



5

A century of changes

- Population of Manhattan in 1800: about 60,000
- Population of Manhattan in 1900: about 2 million
 - Population of all five boroughs: about 3.4 million
- Settled land area in 1800: Lower Manhattan (Lower East Side, Chinatown, Tribeca, Financial District, the Battery). Outlying towns/farming communities on Long Island and in Westchester County.
- Settled land area in 1900: City of Greater New York with five boroughs (Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, the Bronx, Staten Island)

6

A century of changes

- Urbanization and suburbanization
 - Starting from Lower Manhattan, the city develops and expands northward
 - Other four boroughs remain relatively rural for longer
- Physical connections
 - 1832: first street-level railway
 - 1851: Hudson River RR connects NYC to Troy, NY
 - 1867: first elevated railway
 - 1874/5: parts of Westchester County annexed
 - 1883: Brooklyn Bridge
 - 1898: City of Greater New York

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**A century of changes:
genealogical records**

- Implementation of vital records
- Expansion of newspapers
- Expansion of city directories
- Passenger lists required
- All members of household named in the census
- Introduction of the state census
- Special federal censuses: mortality schedules, American Indians, agriculture, slave schedules
- Military pensions for veterans without restrictions
- I.R.S. formed (federal taxes)

8

New York City street grid

- Street grid designed 1807-1811 by city commissioners
 - City had grown rapidly in post-Revolutionary War period, wanted to structure future growth
- Street grid took about 60 years to build
 - Built to 155th St.
 - Not entirely a welcome change: expansion of municipal authority and displaced property owners

9

Fort Clinton/Castle Garden/Castle Clinton

- Battery Park
- Built 1808-1811 as a fort, though never used
- 1824-1855 Castle Garden entertainment venue
- 1855-1890 first American immigration station
- 1896-1941 New York Aquarium
- 1897 fire destroyed many records



10

Brooklyn Bridge

- Opens on May 24, 1883
- Longest suspension bridge in the world (in 1883)
- Spans the East River, connecting Manhattan and Brooklyn
- Pedestrians, vehicles, cable cars



11

Ellis Island

- Island in Upper New York Bay, land shared by NY and NJ
- 27 acres, mostly landfill
- Immigration station from 1892 to 1954 (closed 1897-1900)
- 12 million immigrants processed
- Coast Guard base and hospital in later years



12

“City of Greater New York”

- January 1, 1898
 - Referendum vote had taken place in 1894
- Consolidated the five boroughs into one city
 - The Bronx, New York County (Bronx Co. 1914)
 - Manhattan, New York County
 - Queens, Queens County
 - Brooklyn, Kings County
 - Staten Island, Richmond County
 - Hempstead, North Hempstead, Oyster bay leave in 1899 to form Nassau County
- Where did the records go?
 - Many records were centralized and are now in New York City repositories

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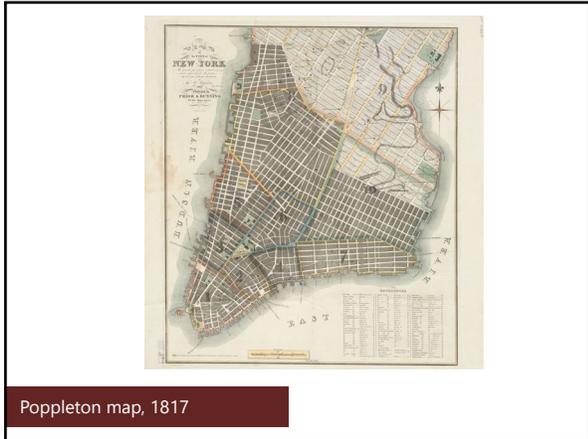
NYC Expansion in Maps

14

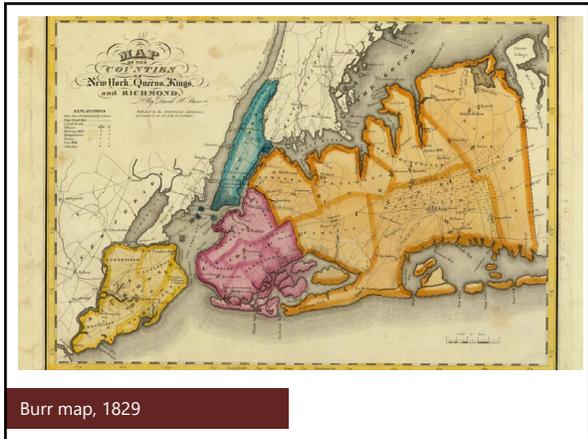


Ratzer map, 1776

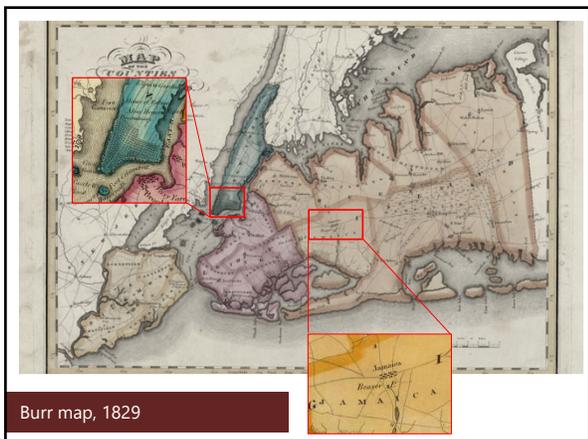
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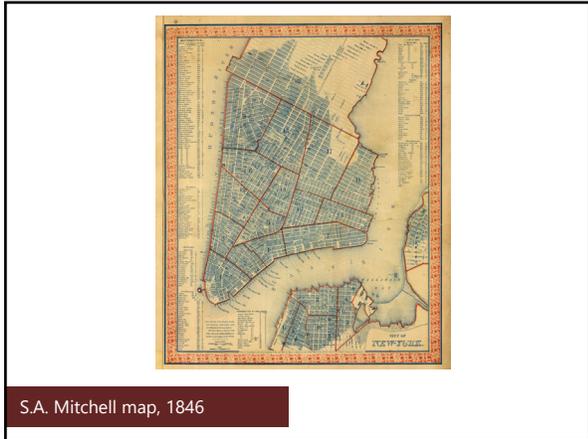
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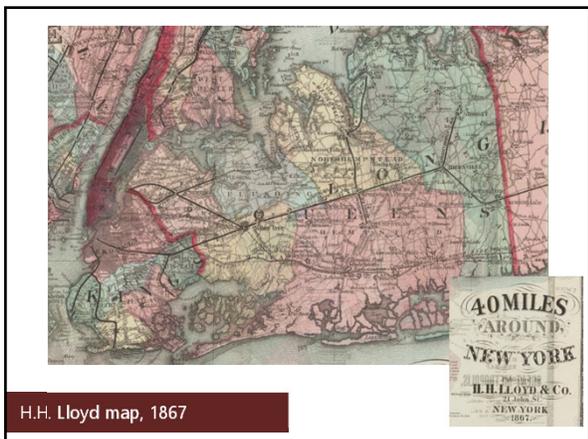
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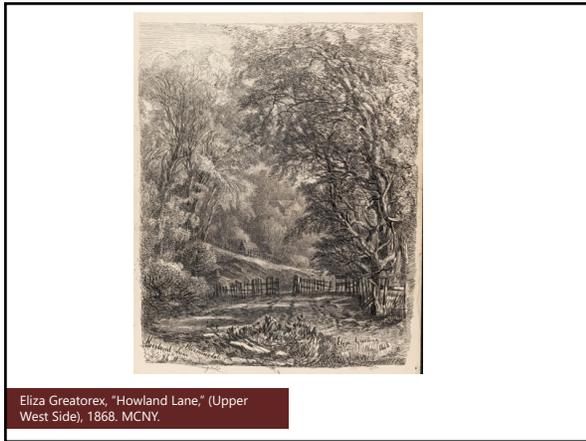
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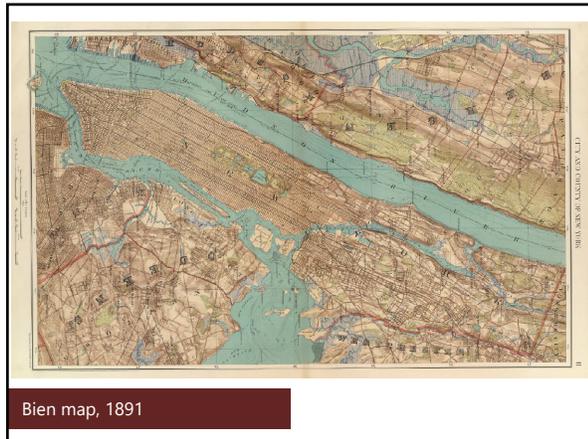
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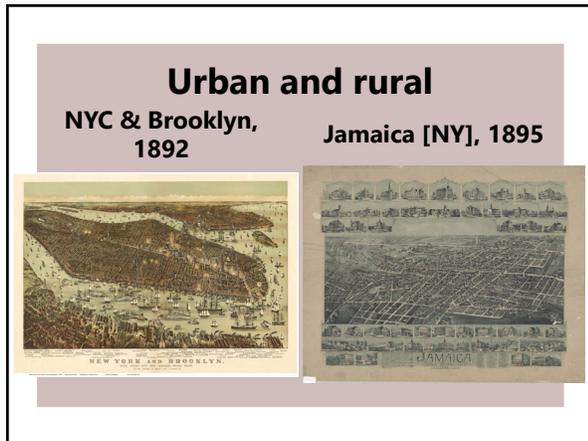
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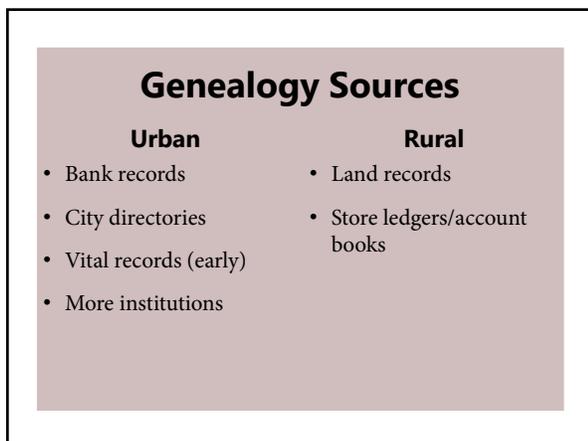
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26



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Towns and cities that formed NYC

- Manhattan/New York County
- Bronx/Westchester County: Kingsbridge, West Farms, Morrisania, Westchester, parts of Eastchester and Pelham
– Bronc County formed in 1914
- Brooklyn/Kings County: Bushwick, New Lots, Flatlands, Gravesend, New Utrecht, Flatbush, Williamsburg, Brooklyn
- Queens/Queens County: Long Island City, Newtown, Flushing, Jamaica, North Hempstead, Hempstead, Oyster Bay
– North Hempstead, Hempstead, Oyster Bay – Nassau County, 1899
- Staten Island/Richmond County: Northfield, Castleton, Middletown, Southfield, Westfield

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Sources for NYC Maps

- Oldmapsonline.org
- DavidRumsey.com
- The Greatest Grid (virtual exhibit):
<https://thegreatestgrid.mcny.org/greatest-grid/>
- NYPL Digital Map Collection:
<https://digitalcollections.nypl.org/collections/maps-of-new-york-city-and-state>
- Brooklyn Historical Map Collection:
<https://mapcollections.brooklynhistory.org/>
- Queens Public Library Map Collection:
<https://queenslibrary.org/research/local-history/maps-atlases>

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Immigration to NYC

30

History of Immigration to NYC

- NYC is a port city
- Immigration was a huge factor in the city's growth over the course of the 19th century
 - In 1860, 74% of all arrivals in the U.S. came through NYC
- Three official immigration stations: Castle Garden (1855-1890), Barge Office (1890-1891), and Ellis Island (1892-1954)
 - Castle Garden Emigrant Landing Depot: state
 - Barge Office and Ellis Island: federal
- Steerage Act, 1819: All captains of vessels arriving from foreign ports had to file passenger lists with the U.S. Customs Collector
- Immigration Act, 1893: Expands information collected on passenger manifest

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Passenger details required by the Act of 1893

- Name, age, sex, marital status
- Occupation
- Literacy
- Nationality
- Last residence
- U.S. port of landing
- Final destination and whether in possession of a ticket to final destination
- Who paid for passage
- Whether joining a relative
- Whether ever in the U.S. previously
- Whether ever imprisoned or in almshouse
- Whether a polygamist
- Whether under contract to work in the U.S.
- Mental and physical health condition

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NYC Immigration Statistics

	Total Population of NYC	Percent Foreign-Born
1850	515,547	45.7%
1870	942,292	44.5%
1900*	3,437,202	37%

*All five boroughs
Source: Table 19, Table 21, Campbell J. Gibson & Emily Lennon, "Historical Census Statistics on the Foreign-born Population of the United States: 1850-1990," <https://www.census.gov/library/working-papers/1999/demo/POP-twp0029.html>

	Irish-Born Population of NYC	German-Born Population of NYC
1860	25%	16%

Source: The Thorny Rose: The Americanization Of An Urban, Immigrant, Working Class Regiment In The Civil War: A Social History Of The 39th New York Volunteer Infantry, <https://museum.dmna.ny.gov/unit-history/infantry/39th-infantry-regiment/thorny-rose/brief-look-life-immigrant-wards-new-york-mid-century>

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Origins of immigrants

- “Old” immigrants from Northern Europe (i.e. Ireland, England, Germany, etc.) dominate until about 1880s
 - 1855: Manhattan has the third-largest German-born population after Berlin and Vienna
- “New” immigrants from Southern and Eastern Europe (i.e. Russia, Italy, etc.) dominate from about 1880 to WWI

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, National of Immigration Statistics (Washington, DC: U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security, 2015).

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Origins of immigrants

Ca. 1790-1890

Ca. 1892-1931

Source: <https://accn.loc.gov/07019233>

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Immigrant settlement in NYC

- Many settled in the Lower East Side; the ethnic makeup of the neighborhood changed as waves of immigrants changed
- Ethnic enclaves--neighborhoods developed around a particular ethnic/national origin
 - German: Kleindeutschland, Yorkville
 - Chinatown
 - Little Italy
 - Bensonhurst
- In 1900, about 37% of the city’s population was foreign-born

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Resources on 19th Century Immigration

- “Helpful Facts About Immigration to New York”
<https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/blog/helpful-facts-about-immigration-new-york>
- “Immigration to New York State, 1650-1950,”
<https://nyheritage.org/exhibits/immigration>
- Gjenwick-Gjønvik Archives: Immigration,
<https://www.ggarchives.com/Immigration/index.html>

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Research guide

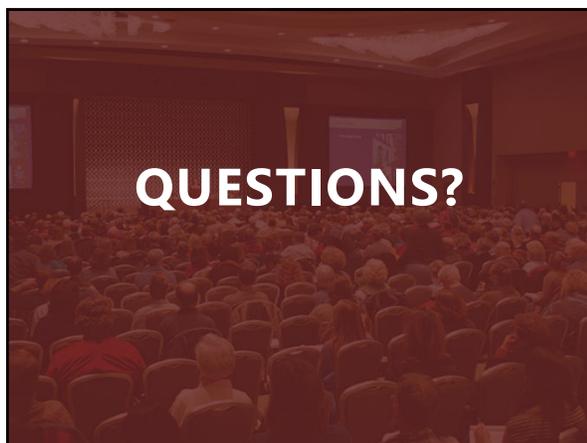


- *Tracing Immigrants through the Port of New York* by Anne Sibert
 - Immigration stations
 - Immigrant experience
 - Naturalization records
 - Ethnic groups

Tracing Immigrants through the Port of New York: Early National Period to 1924
Anne Sibert Butler
NYG&S

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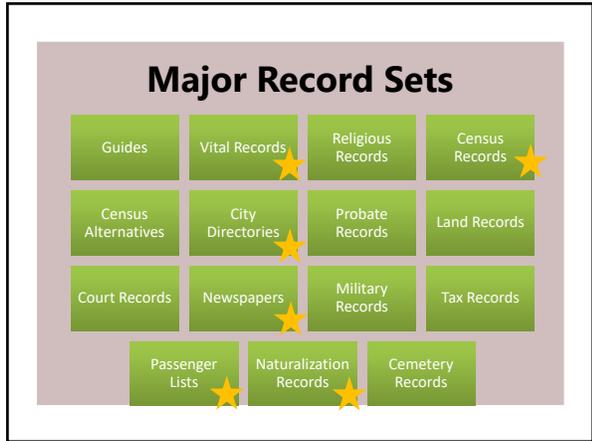
QUESTIONS?



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41



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Key dates

- Coverage varies widely by location (*urban vs. rural*)
- 1802: City Board of Health begins recording burials
- 1847: State law directs town clerks to register births, marriages, and deaths; compliance is low
- 1866: Metropolitan Board of Health created to maintain records of births, marriages, and deaths
- 1880: State Board of Health and Bureau of Vital Statistics created; registration of births, marriages, and deaths begins the following year
- 1898: consolidated 5-borough city

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Resources on NYC Vital Records

- “New York Vital Records Timeline: Key Dates That Impact Your Research,”
<https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/blog/new-york-vital-records-history>
- NYC Municipal Archives Genealogy Page,
<https://www.nyc.gov/site/records/historical-records/genealogy.page>

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Record Sets

- 1881-1897 vital records for Kings, Queens, Staten Island: NY State
 - New York State, Birth Index, 1881-1942
 - New York State, Marriage Index, 1881-1967
 - New York, U.S., Death Index, 1852-1956
- Manhattan, West Bronx (1874-1898), all boroughs (1898-present): NYC
 - New York, New York, U.S., Index to Birth Certificates, 1866-1909
 - New York, New York, U.S., Extracted Marriage Index, 1866-1937
 - New York, New York, U.S., Index to Death Certificates, 1862-1948

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Vital Records at the NYC Municipal Archives

	Births	Marriages	Deaths
Manhattan	1855, 1857 to 1861, 1863 to 1865, 1866 to 1909	1866 to 1937	1866 to 1867, 1871 to 1875, 1920 to 1948
Brooklyn	1866 to 1909	1866 to 1937	1862 to 1948
Queens	1866, 1876, 1883, 1886, 1888 to 1909	1898 to 1937	1881-1892, 1898 to 1948
The Bronx	1872 to 1873, 1876, 1888 to 1891, 1895 to 1909	1898 to 1937	1898 to 1948
Staten Island	1898 to 1909	1898 to 1937	1898 to 1948

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<https://a860-historicalvitalrecords.nyc.gov/>

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More from the NYC Municipal Archives

<https://a860-historicalvitalrecords.nyc.gov/digital-vital-records>

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Obtain and search by cert.

Last Name	Given Name	Date	Year	Cert#tr	Town/County
Vorborstel		Sep 10	1888	8720	Kings
Vorborstel		Aug 20	1892	10016	Kings
Vorborstel		Feb 23	1895	2949	Kings
Vorborstel		Jun 28	1897	6960	Kings
Vorborstel		Feb 18	1901	3751	Kings

Search
By Certificate Number

The fastest way to locate a vital record is by using the certificate number. Note that certificate numbering restarts at 000001 annually for each borough and you must limit by borough and year to retrieve a unique record.

Certificate Type* Certificate Number* Borough Year

Birth Certificate 8720 Kings (Brooklyn) 1888

Findings Certificate Numbers

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Historical Vital Records
The New York City Municipal Archives

Browse All Search Digital Vital Records About FAQ

B-K-1888-0008720

Name: Vorborstel
Surname: VITIS
Age:
Type: Birth Certificate
Borough: Kings (Brooklyn)
Date: 1888-09-10
Certificate: 8720

Purchase Certified Copy

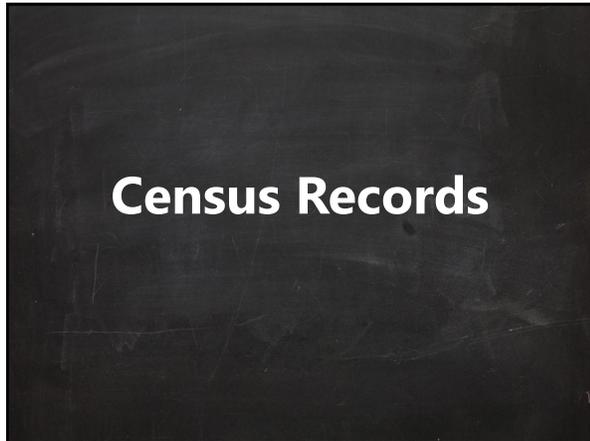
NYC Historical Vital Records Site

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Vital record substitutes

- FamilySearch (available at FHC)
 - Coroner's inquisitions 1823-1898
- NYC Municipal Archives
 - Bodies in transit 1859-1894
 - Coroner reports 1859-1869
 - Police Court coroner inquisitions 1818-1898

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NYC Wards

- What is a ward?
 - Political designation used for electing city aldermen
 - Smallest political division
 - Used in NYC since 1686; numerical system established in 1791
 - Used in Brooklyn since 1837
- Manhattan had 22 wards until it annexed parts of the Bronx in 1874; those parts became Wards 23 and 24
- Brooklyn began with 9 wards, by 1898 it had 32 wards

56

Federal decennial census

- For later censuses, wards used in conjunction with election districts
- 1800-1840
 - Names only the head of household
- 1850-1870
 - Names all members of the household
 - Two enumerations in 1870 (Manhattan, Philadelphia, Indianapolis)
 - 1st Enumeration conducted beginning 1 June 1870. 2nd Enumeration conducted about 6 months later.
 - Election Districts redrawn following the 1st Enumeration. Addresses were recorded for the first time in the 2nd Enumeration.
- 1880
 - Names all members of the household
 - Includes relationships
 - Includes street address

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1st Division 1st Ward:
Location within the city

Dwelling and Family #: General idea of how big a building he is living in

Value of personal/real estate: Economic status

Place of birth: Whether or not he is living in an ethnic enclave

1860 U.S. Census, New York City

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1st Division 1st Ward: → Determine location using ward descriptions/maps
Location within the city

Dwelling and Family #: General idea of how big a building he is living in

Value of real/personal estate: Economic status

Place of birth: Whether or not he is living in an ethnic enclave

1860 U.S. Census, New York City

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1855 State Census 1855 Election District Boundaries Manhattan

Division of NYC-Data LLC, a [Charitable 501\(c\)\(3\)](#)

The articles of these 1855 census pages are at the New York Public Library. The 1855 census records are available from the New York State Archives.

If not an index and there are no street addresses shown (except for a few parishes in the margins), if you have an address from the city directory or a city map, this ID description might help you find your family.

New York City 1855 Election District Boundaries

1855 State

- 1855: Madison Lane - Liberty St. - Broadway - Battery St. - Hudson River - East River - (Division Governor's, Ellis & Nelson's Islands)
- 280: Battery St. - Broadway - Market St. - Hudson River
- 185: Market St. - Broadway - Liberty St. - Hudson River
- 184: East River - Broadway - Liberty St. - William St. - Spruce St.
- 183: Liberty St. - Madison Lane - South St. - South Slip - Ferry St. - West St. - Hudson St. - William St.
- 182: East River
- 181: Broadway - Liberty St. - Hudson River - Fulton St.
- 180: Broadway - Fulton St. - Greenwich St. - Murray St.
- 179: Broadway - Murray St. - Greenwich St. - Nass St.
- 178: Greenwich St. - Fulton St. - Hudson River - Nass St.

http://bklyn-genealogy-info.stevemorse.org/Ward/1855.St.ward.html

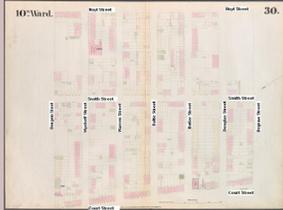
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Guides to NYC Wards, Districts, and Streets

- Wards of NYC:
<http://bklyn-genealogy-info.stevemorse.org/Ward/index.html>
- Street names:
<http://www.oldstreets.com/index-2.html>



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Newspapers

- Marriage and death announcements
- Obituaries
- Business and real estate transactions
- Estate administration notices
- Court case notices
- Advertisements
- Social news/society pages
- Guide: <https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/subject-guide/online-historical-new-york-newspapers>

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NYC Newspapers

- 1865 - 54 papers published in the city
- *New York Evening-Post* (1801-, now the *New York Post*)
- *Long Island Farmer* (1821-, now the *Long Island Press*)
- *New York Herald* (1835-1924)
- *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* (1841-1955)
- *New York Times* (1851-)
- *New York World* (1860-1931)

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SETTLED BY THE DIAMOND.
The Dispute Between the Retail-Grocers and Retail Merchants.

An interesting game of ball was played yesterday between the Brooklyn, Jersey, Orange and Dutchess counties. The game was held at the grounds of the Brooklyn Athletic Association. The other members of the team were from the Jersey Athletic Association. The game was held at the grounds of the Brooklyn Athletic Association. The other members of the team were from the Jersey Athletic Association.

Brooklyn Citizen
23 Aug 1895
Page 5

Brooklyn Times-Union
15 June 1888
Page 4

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NYC Newspaper Sources

- Newspapers.com (\$)
- GenealogyBank.com (\$)
- NewspaperArchive.com (\$)
- FultonHistory.com and FultonSearch.org
- NYSHistoricNewspapers.org
- <https://bklyn.newspapers.com/>
- <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>
- Early American Newspapers (NEHGS members)

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City Directories

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New York City Directories

- Listings of residents, businesses, and institutions in the city
 - Elective listings
 - May also include maps, street directories, statistics, deaths, advertisements
 - “Business directory” will only include residents
 - “Blue book” or “social register” for elite (upper class) members of society
- First published
 - Manhattan: 1786
 - Brooklyn: 1796 (3 pages), 1823
 - Queens: various Long Island towns beginning mid-1800s
 - Staten Island: 1886

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New York City Directories

- Guides
 - <https://www.nypl.org/blog/2012/06/08/direct-me-1786-history-city-directories-US-NYC>
 - <https://libguides.nypl.org/genealogy/gettingstarted/citydirectories>
- Sources
 - Ancestry.com (\$)
 - NYPL
 - Bklyn Public Library via Internet Archive



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Immigration & Citizenship Records

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Passenger lists/manifests

- Steerage Act of 1819: Captains required to report names, ages, sex, and occupations of passengers to U.S. Customs
- Passenger Act of 1882: Required that captains report to Customs “the name, age, sex, calling, and native country of each emigrant passenger, or passengers other than cabin passengers, and their intended destination or location, and the number of pieces of baggage belonging to each passenger, and also the location of the compartment or space occupied by each of such passengers during the voyage.”

75

MADE BY PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 118, MARCH 18, 1836, N. Y.

DISTRICT OF NEW-YORK, PORT OF NEW-YORK.

1836-1837-38-39

I, *John J. B. Burt*, Master of the *Thistle*, do hereby certify that the following List of Passengers, subscribed and signed by me, and now delivered by me to the Collector of the Customs of the District of New York, contains the true and correct List of the Passengers landed on board the *Thistle* from *London* on the *12th* of *July* 1836.

Ships to, the *12th* of *July* 1836.

Ships from *London*.

Ships to, the *12th* of *July* 1836.

Ships from *London*.

NAME	AGE	SEX	OCCUPATION	Place or Birth	Country to which they belong	Particulars
<i>James Brown</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	
<i>John D.</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	
<i>John B.</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	
<i>John C.</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	
<i>John D.</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	
<i>John E.</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	
<i>John F.</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	
<i>John G.</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	
<i>John H.</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	
<i>John I.</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	
<i>John J.</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	
<i>John K.</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	
<i>John L.</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	
<i>John M.</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	
<i>John N.</i>	<i>34</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	
<i>John O.</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	
<i>John P.</i>	<i>36</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	
<i>John Q.</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	
<i>John R.</i>	<i>38</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	
<i>John S.</i>	<i>39</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	
<i>John T.</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	
<i>John U.</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	
<i>John V.</i>	<i>42</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	
<i>John W.</i>	<i>43</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	
<i>John X.</i>	<i>44</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	
<i>John Y.</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	
<i>John Z.</i>	<i>46</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	

Thistle passenger manifest, 1836

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NAME	AGE	SEX	OCCUPATION	Place or Birth	Country to which they belong	Particulars
<i>John Brown</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	
<i>John D.</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	
<i>John E.</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	
<i>John F.</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	
<i>John G.</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	
<i>John H.</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	
<i>John I.</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	
<i>John J.</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	
<i>John K.</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	
<i>John L.</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	
<i>John M.</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	
<i>John N.</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	
<i>John O.</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	
<i>John P.</i>	<i>34</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	
<i>John Q.</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	
<i>John R.</i>	<i>36</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	
<i>John S.</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	
<i>John T.</i>	<i>38</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	
<i>John U.</i>	<i>39</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	
<i>John V.</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	
<i>John W.</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	
<i>John X.</i>	<i>42</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	
<i>John Y.</i>	<i>43</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	
<i>John Z.</i>	<i>44</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	

Humboldt passenger manifest, 8 May 1852

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DISTRICT OF NEW-YORK, PORT OF NEW-YORK.

1836-1837-38-39

I, *Frederick B. Baker*, Master of the *Niagara*, do hereby certify that the following List of Passengers, subscribed and signed by me, and now delivered by me to the Collector of the Customs of the District of New York, contains the true and correct List of the Passengers landed on board the *Niagara* from *London* on the *12th* of *July* 1836.

Ships to, the *12th* of *July* 1836.

Ships from *London*.

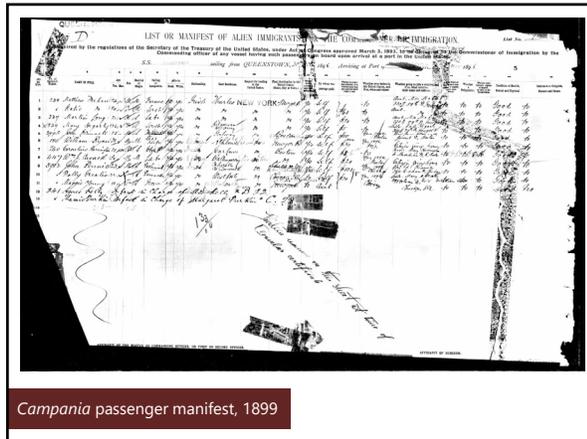
Ships to, the *12th* of *July* 1836.

Ships from *London*.

NAME	AGE	SEX	OCCUPATION	Place or Birth	Country to which they belong	Particulars
<i>John Brown</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	
<i>John D.</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	
<i>John E.</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	
<i>John F.</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	
<i>John G.</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	
<i>John H.</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	
<i>John I.</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	
<i>John J.</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	
<i>John K.</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	
<i>John L.</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	
<i>John M.</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	
<i>John N.</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	
<i>John O.</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	
<i>John P.</i>	<i>34</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	
<i>John Q.</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	
<i>John R.</i>	<i>36</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	
<i>John S.</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	
<i>John T.</i>	<i>38</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	
<i>John U.</i>	<i>39</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	
<i>John V.</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	
<i>John W.</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	
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<i>John Z.</i>	<i>44</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>laborer</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>England</i>	

Niagara passenger manifest, 1884

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Campania passenger manifest, 1899

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Sources for passenger lists

- Ancestry.com (\$)
 - New York, U.S., Arriving Passenger and Immigration Lists, 1820-1850
 - New York, U.S., Arriving Passenger and Crew Lists (including Castle Garden and Ellis Island), 1820-1957
- FamilySearch.org
 - New York Passenger Lists, 1820-1891
- FindMyPast.com (\$)
 - New York City Passenger Lists, 1820-1957
- SteveMorse.org One-Step
 - <https://stevemorse.org/ellis/passengers.php>
- Ellis Island (1820-1957)
 - <https://heritage.statueofliberty.org/passenger>
- Original customs passenger lists at NARA

80

19th century naturalization law

- Law of 1802
 - Repeals the Act of 1798
 - Residency period of 5 years
 - Declaration of intention period of 3 years
- Act of 1870
 - Allows naturalization of people of African descent

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Naturalization

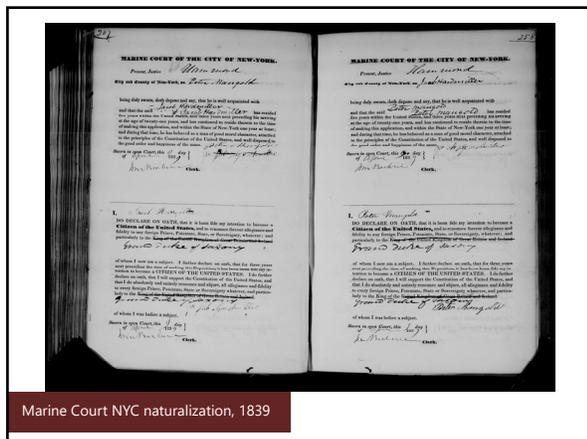
- Multi-step process
 - Declaration of intention (first papers)
 - Petition
 - Oath of allegiance
 - Certificate
- Could take place at any court, different steps could take place at different courts
- Witness(es) needed

82

Naturalization

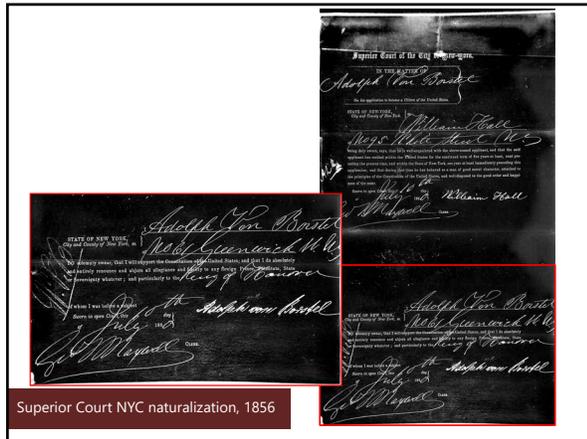
- 19th century records contain basic info on the applicant, 20th century records are more complete
 - Name
 - Approximate age
 - Nativity (birth country)
 - Current place of residence
 - Name of witness and his place of residence

83



Marine Court NYC naturalization, 1839

84



85

Naturalization sources

- Ancestry.com (\$)
 - U.S., Naturalization Record Indexes, 1791-1992 (Indexed in World Archives Project)
- FamilySearch
 - New York Naturalization Index (Soundex), 1792-1906

PARTY NAME		DATE OF BIRTH	
JOHN GORSIEL		1811	
RESIDENCE			
NEW YORK COUNTY			
DATE OF NATURALIZATION	WARRANT NUMBER	PAGE NO.	CHIEF CLERK NO.
JULY 10, 1850	106		242
OFFICE OF NATURALIZATION			
NEW YORK COUNTY			
DEPARTMENT	DATE OF ARRIVAL	OFFICE OF NATURALIZATION	DATE OF ARRIVAL
NAME, ADDRESS AND OCCUPATION OF APPLICANT TO NATURALIZATION			
WILLIAM WALL 100 WHITE ST. N.Y.			

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Naturalization sources

- Some complete packets are searchable on Ancestry.com
 - New York, U.S., State and Federal Naturalization Records, 1794-1943
- Otherwise, check the FamilySearch catalog to locate copies
 - Navigate to the county of interest
 - Choose “Naturalization and citizenship”

87

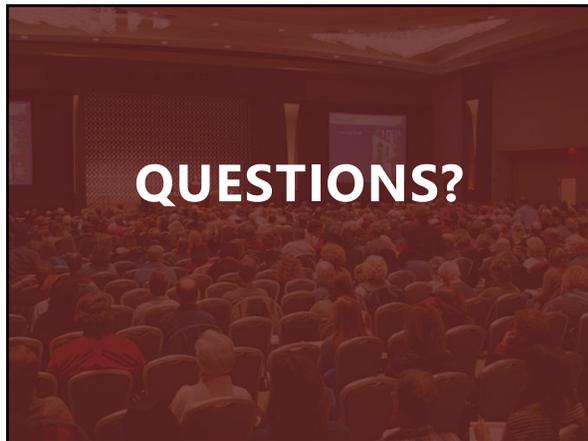
Name change myth

- “Their name was changed at Ellis Island.”
- Passenger lists were prepared when passengers boarded in Europe and those lists were used when passing through the immigration station
- Many names were changed informally—spelling not standardized
- Some immigrants changed upon naturalization
- Some immigrants changed legally in the court system



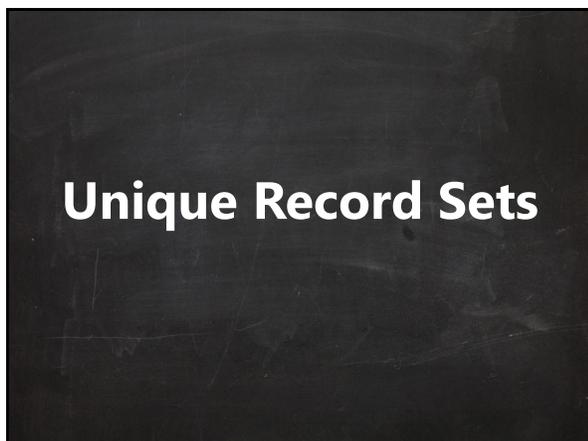
88

QUESTIONS?



89

Unique Record Sets



90

Be aware

- Many individuals listed with first initial only (M.W. as opposed to Marcus William)
- Many individuals listed by last name only (Mr. Simpson)
- Many servants listed without a last name (Catherine)
- Many lodgers listed only by age and nationality (Unknown, age 25, male, German)

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1890 Police Census

- City officials were unsure that the 1890 federal census had correctly counted Manhattan's population, so it sent police officers out to do their own tabulation
- Only the most basic data was collected
 - street and number, name, sex, and age, patrolman and enumerator, and police precinct
- Guide: <https://libguides.nypl.org/nycpolicecensus/researchguide>
- Available from FamilySearch, index only online, images available at an FHC
 - <https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/203070>

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The screenshot shows a FamilySearch record for Thomas E. Byrnes, 1890 Police Census. The record includes a table with the following data:

Name	Thomas E. Byrnes
Event Type	Census
Event Date	1890
Event Place	New York, New York, United States
Election District Number	17
Assembly District Number	11
Gender	Male
Age	48
Birth Year (Estimated)	1842
Volume	Vol. 740

Below the table is a small image of a handwritten index card with the name 'Thomas E. Byrnes' and other illegible text.

1890 Police Census

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Emigrant Savings Bank

- Founded in 1850 by members of the Irish Emigrant Society; located at 49 Chamber St
- Records donated to the NYPL and now on Ancestry.com

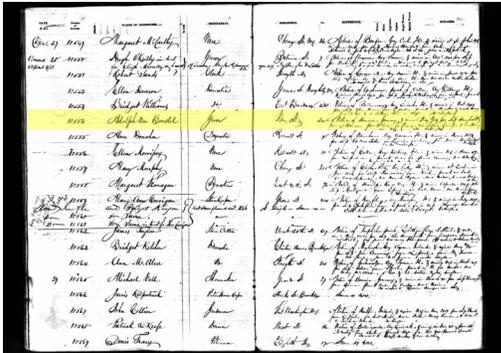


97

Emigrant Savings Bank

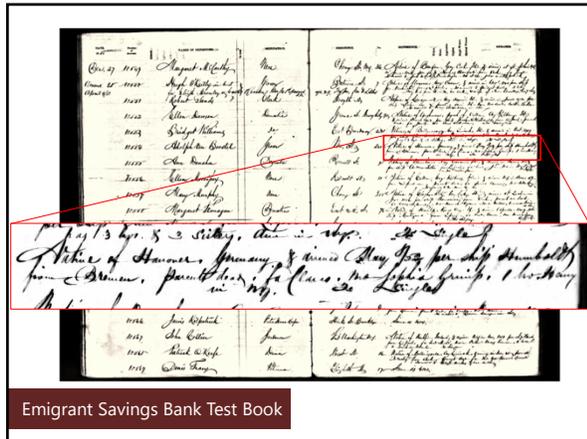
- *New York, U.S., Emigrant Savings Bank Records, 1850-1883* on Ancestry.com
- Records
 - Index Book
 - Test Book
 - Date, account no., name, occupation, residence, reference, remarks
 - Transfer, Signature, and Test Book
 - Deposit-Account Ledger

98

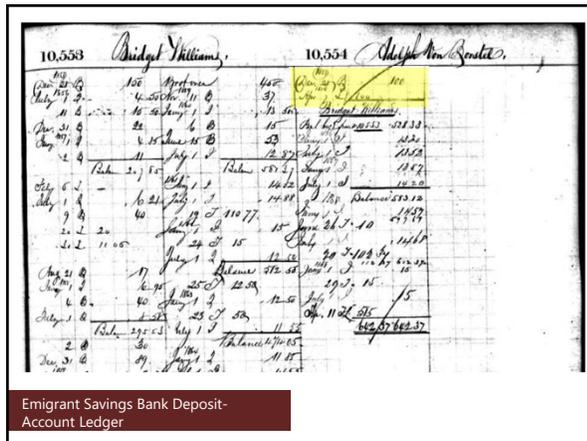


Emigrant Savings Bank Test Book

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100



101

Almshouse records

- Blackwell's Island (now Roosevelt Island) was home to a prison, several hospitals, almshouse, and workhouses
 - "Welfare Island"
- Almshouse ledger collection housed at NYC Municipal Archives and available online
 - Covers 1758-1952, bulk 1832-1925
 - <https://nycma.lunaimaging.com/luna/servlet/NYCMA-2-2> (images)
 - <https://a860-collectionguides.nyc.gov/repositories/2/resources/24> (guide)
 - <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/62048/> (no images)

ALMS HOUSE BUILDINGS,
Blackwell's Island.

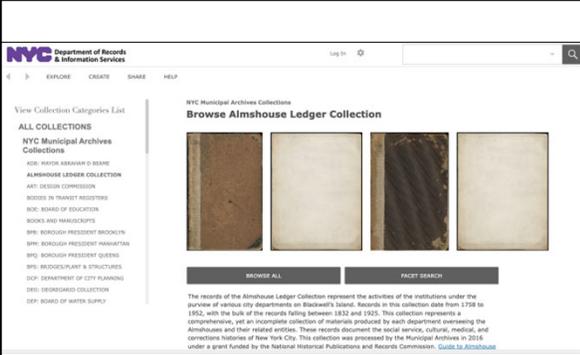
102

Almshouse ledgers



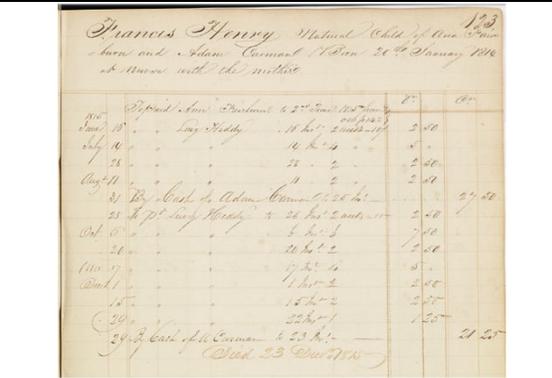
- Account books, census records, letter books of outgoing correspondence from the Wardens, workhouse and hospital registers, hospital supplies and inventories
- Admissions, census, discharge, deaths and illnesses ledgers
- Bond ledgers

103



<https://nycma.lunaimaging.com/luna/servlet/NYCM~2~2>

104



Child Accounts and Receipts Ledger 1815-1820

105

New York Census of Inmates

- New York, U.S., Census of Inmates in Almshouses and Poorhouses, 1830-1920 on Ancestry.com
- Hempstead Town Poor House
- Kings County Alms House
- NYC Almshouse (Blackwell's Island)
- NYC Farm Colony (Staten Island)
- NYC Home, Manhattan Division
- NYC Idiot Asylum (Randall's Island)
- Queen's County Poor House
- Richmond County Poorhouse

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Record of Inmates, Queens County Poor House, under Act Chap. 140, Laws of 1870.

Name, Christian Name	Age	Sex	Color	Married	Widower	Single	With Family	State or Country
Board Number	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Date of Admission	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
By Authority	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

QUESTIONS

1. What kind of labor is the Person able to perform, and in what season? ...
2. Has the Person received Public or Private Aid since Admission? If so, how long? ...
3. Has the Person or other relative been blind since? If so, state the fact. ...
4. Has the Person been benefited by treatment of Poor House? If so, how long? ...
5. Has the Person been an inmate of any other Charitable Institution? If so, state the fact. ...
6. What is the present status of this Person as regards recovery from the cause of Impairment? ...

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Orphanages in NYC

The St. Joseph's Asylum.
INCORPORATED BY SPECIAL ACT OF THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, FEBRUARY 20th OF THE YEAR OF 1854.
Located at East Eighty-sixth Street, corner of Avenue A.

- With increasing immigration, number of homeless and destitute children increased
- Welfare institutions established by reform groups, churches, wealthy benefactors
- City-run institutions on Blackwell's island
- 1850 – 27 orphanages in NYC, both public and private
- 1880 – children no longer housed in almshouses with adults

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Orphanage records

- Note: privacy restrictions placed on some collections or portions of collections
- American Female Guardian Society (FamilySearch.org)
- Children's Aid Society (held at NYHS)
- New York Foundling Hospital (held at NYHS)
- New York Hebrew Orphan Asylum (Ancestry.com)
- Brooklyn Hebrew Orphan Asylum (Ancestry.com)
- Orphans Placed in the New York Foundling Hospital and Children's Aid Society, 1855-1925 (Ancestry.com)
- Association for the Benefit of Colored Orphan Records (held at NYHS)
- New York Juvenile Asylum

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“Orphan Train”

- Out-placement program that sent orphaned city children to live with families
 - Initially sent children to upstate NY, CT, and PA
 - 1854, first large-scale placement, sent children to the Midwest
- Children's Aid Society, New York Foundling Hospital
- “Orphan train” phrase not widely used at the time

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Guides to orphans’ records

- Orphan Finder: New York
 - <https://orphanfinder.com/state-search/new-york/>
- Olive Tree Genealogy: New York Orphan Records
 - <https://sites.rootsweb.com/~ote/orphans/>
- Orphan Trains: A Brief History
 - <https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/blog/orphan-trains-brief-history-and-research-how>

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Review

- 19th century is a time of expansion and development
- As NYC develops, so does record-keeping
- Standard genealogical records are essential for NYC research, but there are also unique record sets to explore



Wall St., ca. 1872. Source: NYPL.

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QUESTIONS?

Schedule a consultation
consultations@nehgs.org

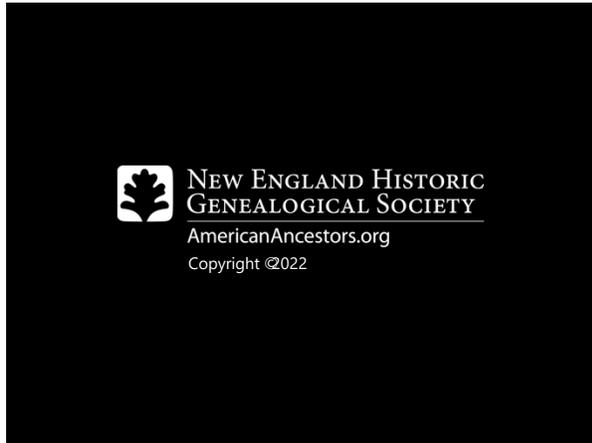
Hire Research Services
research@nehgs.org

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THANK YOU!

AmericanAncestors.org/Education

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