

Finding Your Ancestors  
at the Troy Public Library  
A Guide to Genealogical Resources

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## PREFACE

The Troy Public Library has prepared this guide to assist the genealogical researcher in using many of the resources available in the Troy Room collection, and as a complement to **Rensselaer County from the Inside Out: A Selected Bibliography of Genealogical Sources**. Free copies of this guide and the bibliography are available to the public.

Each section of this guide deals with a different research tool or area of research. At the end of each section is a short bibliography and a list of subject headings for further research.

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## INTRODUCTION

The Troy Room collection at the Troy Public Library contains a wealth of resources for researching families in Rensselaer County. The researcher will find indexes of vital records, church and cemetery records, census records, city directories, genealogies, local histories and more. This guide is to help the researcher locate and better use these resources, many of which are unique to the Troy Public Library.

The Troy Room collection is divided into two rooms. The outer room is open to the public and has tables for study. Many commonly used books such as city directories, vital records indexes, census indexes and general works of genealogy are shelved in this room. The inner room contains the bulk of the collection and is closed to the public. To get books shelved in the inner room, please ask at the Information Desk. Troy Room books do not circulate.

The Troy Room is open during regular library hours. Patrons wishing to use the Troy Room must register at the Information Desk.

### **The Catalog**

Records for all Troy Room materials can be located through the web catalog of the Upper Hudson Library System, [www.uhls.org/uhls/catalog.cfm](http://www.uhls.org/uhls/catalog.cfm) which can be accessed from the library or from any computer with Internet access. Troy Room materials are also listed in the card catalog found in the Troy Room; outer room books generally have a plastic sleeve over the title card. The card catalog also contains the scrapbook index, the local history and portrait file, part of the death and marriage index and the special collections file.

### **The Vertical File**

The vertical file contains uncataloged materials and is arranged by subject. In addition to various lists, directories, newsletters and pamphlets, the vertical file contains family data for a number of local families.

### **Bibliography**

A special bibliography, **Rensselaer County from the Inside Out: A Selected Bibliography of Genealogical Sources**, is available for use in the Troy Room. This annotated bibliography is arranged by subject and includes the most frequently used items in the Troy Room. Copies of this bibliography are available for patrons to take home.

### **Binders**

Several works cited in this manual are in binders. With a few exceptions, these binders are filed in call number order with the rest of the collection.

## GETTING STARTED

Before beginning research in the library, you will need to gather and prepare the family information you already have.

Write down everything you already know. Begin with yourself and your parents. Any information, however incomplete, can assist you greatly in your search. From family members, get information such as birth dates, marriage dates, death dates, military service, towns and cities of residence, names of parents, children, etc.

Once you have gathered your information, you will need to organize it. Organizing your family information properly will help you determine what information you need to find. There are several books available to help you do this:

TR    **How to Trace Your Family Tree**  
929.1 by the American Genealogical Research Institute  
A      (Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1975)

TR    **Your Family History**  
929.1 by Allan J. Lichtman  
L      (NY: Vintage, 1978)

TR    **How to Find Your Family Roots**  
929.1 by Timothy Field Beard and Denise Demong  
B      (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1977)

TR    **Finding Your Roots**  
929.1 by Jeanne Eddy Westin  
W      (LA: T.P. Tarcher, 1977)

TR    **The Source: A Guidebook of American Genealogy**  
929.1 ed. by Loretto Dennis Szucs and Sandra Hargreaves Luebking  
S      (Salt Lake City, UT: Ancestry, 1997)

### Binder: **Records Available at the New York State Library**

This binder contains handouts on genealogy published by the New York State Library in Albany. Although they were created for use at the State Library, they contain a great deal of information that is applicable anywhere. They are also available on the State Library's website: <http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/gengen.htm>

Genealogies have been published for many families. The Library of Congress has one of the largest collections of family genealogies. Their collection is searchable at the following website: <http://catalog.loc.gov>

Tips for searching for genealogical materials in the Library of Congress online catalog can be found here: <http://www.loc.gov/rr/genealogy/tips.html>

For additional genealogical websites, see page 19 of this guide.

For more information, check in the web catalog under the following subject headings:

### **Genealogy**

#### **United States -- Genealogy**

[Family Name]

## FINDING VITAL RECORDS: VITAL RECORDS INDEXES

### Bound Indexes

These indexes cover Troy and Lansingburgh newspapers from 1787 to 1895, with several additional years in binders. The marriage and death entries in these books are organized by year or groups of years, and then alphabetically by surname. Each individual entry contains a surname, first name, date and location in the newspaper. Sometimes additional information is given. In the case of marriage notices, both the bride and groom are indexed, with the full entry given under the groom's name. The location in the newspaper is given in page:column format. Newspapers are available either in bound form or on microfilm. Consult a librarian for the exact location. Also, see "**Using Newspapers**" on page 5 of this guide.

TR 929.3 T	<b>Obituary Notices Appearing in Troy Newspapers 1797-1860</b>
TR 929.3 T	<b>Marriage Notices Appearing in Troy Newspapers 1797-1860</b>
TR 929.13 M	<b>Marriages, Deaths &amp; Miscellany from the W. Troy Advocate, 1837-1864</b>
TR 929.397471 V	<b>Vital Records: Troy Newspapers 1812-1885</b>
TR 929.397471 V	<b>Vital Records: Troy Daily Times 1861-1881</b>
TR 929.397471 V	<b>Vital Records: Troy Daily Whig 1834-1875</b>
TR 929.397471 V	<b>Vital Records from Troy Newspapers 1901, 1902, 1904</b>
TR 929.397471 O	<b>Obituaries from the Troy Record, 1991</b>
TR 929.5 T	<b>Obituary Notices Appearing in Lansingburgh Newspapers 1787-1895</b>
TR 929.5 T	<b>Marriage Notices Appearing in Lansingburgh Newspapers 1787-1895</b>

The bound volumes of the **Index to the Albany Times Union** (1982-1990, 1992-2006) contain obituary sections that alphabetically list names with the dates obituaries appeared in the newspaper. The volumes are shelved outside the Troy Room in the periodicals collection above back issues of the **Times Union (Albany, N.Y.)**.

### Card Indexes

Vital records on cards cover Troy newspapers from 1882-1900 and 1975-1992. The 1882-1992 records cover deaths and marriages. The 1975-1992 records also include births. The cards are arranged alphabetically in groups of years, and the entries are similar to the books. Entries in the 1882-1900 records are from the **Troy Times** unless otherwise indicated. Entries from 1975-1992 are from the **Troy Record**.

Deaths & Marriages	1882-1899	--	In Card Catalog
Deaths & Marriages	1900	--	In Card Catalog
Deaths & Marriages	1975-1979	--	In Card Catalog
Births	1975-1979	--	In Closet (Ask for assistance)
Deaths	1980-1984	--	In Card Catalog
Marriages	1980-1984	--	In Closet (Ask for assistance)
Births	1980-1984	--	In Card Catalog
Deaths	1985-1987	--	In Card Catalog
Marriages	1985-1988	--	In Card Catalog
Births	1985-1992	--	In Closet (Ask for assistance)
Deaths	1988-1991	--	In Closet (Ask for assistance)
Marriages	1989-1990	--	In Closet (Ask for assistance)

## USING NEWSPAPERS

Newspapers are an excellent source of vital records. Troy Public Library has a collection of newspapers from Troy and Lansingburgh dating from 1787 to the present. Much of the collection is on microfilm, which can be found in the Reading Room upstairs. Bound newspapers are in the Art Gallery; consult the reference librarian to use these.

When referring to the location of a vital record in a newspaper, most indexes give the location in a date, page:column format. For instance, Sept. 27, 1883, 2:3 would refer to the issue of the 27<sup>th</sup> of September, 1883, page 2, column 3.

Most newspapers establish a regular location for vital records. Places to look include the rightmost columns of page two, the financial page, in the "obituaries" column, or on the second editorial page beneath the weather column. More recent papers have an index on page one. Additional obituaries may be found in the local news section of the newspapers. These sections are an important place to look if the deceased lived outside of the city of Troy.

**TPL Newspaper Holdings** (some issues may be missing)

### On Microfilm:

**Aquarian (Troy, NY)** April 22, 1843 - July 27, 1844

**Federal Herald** May 5, 1788 - May 17, 1790

**Freie Deutsche Press** various years 1879 - 1949

**Lansingburgh Chronicle** April 6, 1864 - December 5, 1866

**Lansingburgh Courier** December 24, 1875 - July 19, 1894

**Lansingburgh Democrat** Feb. 12, 1828 - April 6, 1861

**Lansingburgh Democratic Press** January 13, 1838 - December 5, 1840

**Lansingburgh Gazette** December 4, 1798 - 1883 (some years missing)

**Lansingburgh Times** 1887 - 1895

**New York State Journal** September 14, 1836 - June 7, 1837

**Northern Budget** 1798 - May 1854, 1884 - 1931 (missing 1854-1883) (continues as Troy Observer Budget)

**Northern Centinel & Lansingburgh Advertiser** May 21, 1787 - January 1, 1788

**Rensselaer Beacon** November 26, 1996 - February 6, 2001

**Troy Daily Post** April 1846 - December 1851

**Troy Daily Press** Feb. 11, 1833 - June 1834, Dec. 1858 - June 1859, Aug. 8, 1863 - June 1911

**Troy Daily Record** January 1897 - December 1972

**Troy Daily Times** June 25, 1851 - February 1, 1935; semi-weekly Jan. 1903 - May 1929

**Troy Daily Whig** July 1834 - June 1836; January - December 1847

January - June 1851; January - June 1853

July - December 1856; January - June 1859

July 1861 - June 1862; July 1863 - January 1864

(\*\*\* All other dates are bound. \*\*\*)

**Troy Observer Budget** 1932 - 1953 (continues Northern Budget)

**Troy Post** September 1, 1812 - July 1, 1823

**Troy Times Record** May 1, 1935 - present (current title: The Record)

**Bound Newspapers** (archived in room off Reading Room; ask for assistance)

**American Spy** April 8, 1791 - June 6, 1797

**Family Journal** December 1852 - December 1857

**Farmer's Museum** (Walpole, NH) 1800 - 1801

**Morning Telegram** 1881 - 1891 (continued Troy Morning Whig)

**New York State Journal** September 9, 1835 - September 7, 1836

**New York Republican** January 8, 1850 - December 30, 1851

**Rensselaer County Post** September 22, 1846 - January 2, 1849

**Sunday Telegram** October 1870 - July 1871

**Troy Commercial Advertiser** March 28, 1848 - December 1848

**Troy Daily Arena** October 18, 1859 - April 29, 1861

**Troy Daily Morning Mail** 1837 - 1840

**Troy Daily Traveller** October 1854 - January 1856

**Troy Daily Union** May 18, 1861 - July 27, 1861

**Troy Daily Whig** July 1, 1834 - December 1873

**Troy Gazette** September 5, 1802 - May 1810

**Troy Morning Whig** January 1874 - December 1880

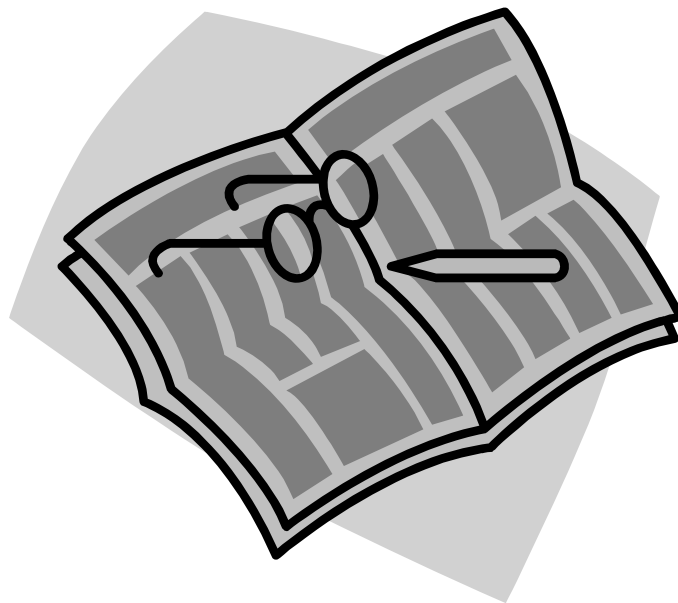
**Troy News** August 21, 1864 - November 1866

**Troy Record** (morning) April 1935 - December 1942

**Troy Republican** July 29, 1828 - January 5, 1830

**Troy Sentinel** July 15, 1823 - December 1832 (July 15, 1823 - July 9, 1824 in Troy Room)

**Troy Whig** (weekly) 1835, 1841 - 1868



## TROY CITY DIRECTORIES

Directories for the city of Troy have been published annually since 1829. City directories list various names, addresses and professions of heads of households and persons over 20 years of age. Various adjacent towns and cities have been added to the directory listings throughout the years. The directories also listed removals, sometimes indicating where the person moved to (i.e. removed to Buffalo).

Information on street names, ward boundaries, businesses, schools, churches, city and county government, fraternal and social organizations can also be found in the directories.

Directories from 1915 forward contain a cross reference section. The section is titled "Troy House Directory" in the 1915 Troy Directory and described as a "list of householders and business places arranged in numerical order upon their respective streets." The streets are arranged in alphabetical order. The section is typically colored blue or pink.

From about 1880 to 1960, death dates were listed in the city directory. This can be very helpful in locating obituaries that have not been indexed.

### Abbreviations used in City Directories:

A number of abbreviations are used in the city directories that may be unfamiliar to some people. A guide to abbreviations used is located at the beginning of the listings.

Here are a few commonly used abbreviations:

ab. = above	al. = alley	b. or bd. = boards
c. or cor. = corner	do. = ditto	h. = house
n. = near	opp. = opposite	pl. = place

### Some helpful hints for using directories:

1. Do a year-by-year survey of the directories. Take down all persons with the same surname, their professions and addresses. This can give you an idea of the neighborhoods they lived in, what kind of work they did, and who they may have been related to (persons living at the same address).
2. When searching for an individual, skip 3-5 years at a time. This can reduce your search time considerably, especially when looking for a death or removal.





## USING THE FEDERAL CENSUS

Federal census schedules are available for Rensselaer County from the first decennial census in 1790 to the most recently released decennial census (the 15<sup>th</sup>) taken in 1930. The 1790 schedules are in print (TR 929.1 U) and volumes are also available for several other states. The schedules from 1800 to 1930 are on microfilm. The 1880 census (Troy wards only) is also available as a printout located in several binders. The 1890 census schedules, except for the census of veterans and their widows, burned before the advent of microfilm.

Troy Public Library subscribes to two online databases that contain United States census records:

**Ancestry Library Edition** From Ancestry.com, this database, available in the library only, includes a large collection of census records from the United States covering 1790 - 1930.

**HeritageQuest Online** This database is accessible in the library or from home with a valid library card. It offers United States census data for most decennial censuses from 1790 - 1930.

The breadth of information to be found in the census schedules has changed over the decades. From the 1790 census to the 1840 census only heads of households were named. Starting in 1850, all family members were named. Other details, such as place of birth, education, language and parents' language were added as well.

### Using the Census Indexes

The index to the 1790 federal census is bound with the schedules. Indexes for 1800-1860 federal censuses for New York, as well as the 1890 census of veterans and their widows, are available for use with the census microfilm. (TR 929.3747 N)

Each index is arranged by surname, and each entry includes a frame number. Frame numbers are found on the upper right-hand corner of the microfilmed pages. Be careful, because sometimes there are more than one set of numbers. Each index volume has a preface including instructions for use.

A special kind of index, known as the Soundex, exists for the 1900-1910 censuses. This index is available at the New York State Library.

TR **Federal Population Census: Catalog of National Archives Microfilm**

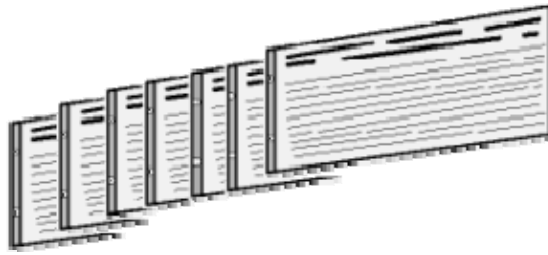
317.3 (Washington, DC: National Archives Trust Fund, 1971-)

UNI The introductions to these catalogs contain useful information on the census.

TR **Greenbush, Rensselaer County, New York State Census: 1850**

929.3 copied by Mrs. George C. Darbyshire. (Troy, NY: Philip Schuyler D.A.R., 1984)

D A detailed copy of the 1850 federal census for the town of Greenbush, Rensselaer County. Includes population, mortality and agricultural schedules. Indexed.



## NEW YORK STATE CENSUS RECORDS

The Troy Public Library has the following state census records available on microfilm:

<b>1855 -- Rensselaer County</b>	<b>1905 -- Troy</b>
<b>1865 -- Rensselaer County</b>	<b>1915 -- Rensselaer County</b>
<b>1875 -- Rensselaer County</b>	<b>1925 -- Rensselaer County</b>

**Please note:** The collection of Troy Public Library does not include an index to New York State census records.

Census records for the state of New York are not available in any one depository. The works listed below will help you locate state census records.

- TR    **New York State Census Records, 1790-1925**  
929.3 Bibliography Bulletin 88, compiled by Marilyn Douglas and Melinda Yates. (Albany,  
N    NY: State Education Department, 1981)  
      An inventory of federal and state census manuscripts in depositories throughout the state.
- TR    **State Census Records**  
929    by Ann S. Lainhart (Baltimore: Genealogical Pub. Cp., 1992)  
.397    A state-by-state inventory and description of state census records. The section on New  
L    York State is very helpful, as NYS census records are widely dispersed.

Information about New York State census records can be found on the website of the New York State Library on the "New York State Census Records" web page at [www.nysl.nysed.gov/genealogy/nyscens.htm](http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/genealogy/nyscens.htm)

## **SPECIAL INDEXES AND COLLECTIONS**

### **Scrapbook Index**

The Troy Room houses a collection of newspaper scrapbooks that were kept by the librarians up to 1969. The index to these scrapbooks is located in the card catalog in the Troy Room.

Organization is by subject. Each entry is referenced by its scrapbook number and page (i.e. L. Scr. 112, pg. 15) and by its source and date (i.e. Tr. Rec., Aug. 23, 1899). The source reference can be used to locate an item in the newspaper microfilm, which is the preferred method (see page 5 on Using Newspapers). The microfilm of the scrapbooks may also be used (located in Drawer #3; see page 15). Use of the original scrapbooks is discouraged, as they are very brittle.



### **Local History and Portrait Index**

These indexes, also located in the card catalog, help to locate photos and drawings of places and people. A guide card at the beginning of each explains the codes used in the entries. Most of the portraits indexed are from the Troy Times Art Section, a special weekly supplement that was published during the first two decades of the 1900's.

### **Special Collections**

The special collections are a growing collection of photographic and uncataloged materials such as pamphlets and other ephemera. An unpublished finding aid (in a binder kept on top of the card catalog) provides lists of some of the larger special collections. Special collections are organized by accession number (i.e. 92-16.234). The index to special collections is in the card catalog.

## CHURCH AND CEMETERY RECORDS

Church records are available for a number of Troy and Rensselaer County churches. Among the kinds of records available are baptismal records, church membership records, marriage records and death records. Cemetery records for many Troy and Rensselaer County cemeteries are available. Most of these records, many of which were compiled during the early 1900s by the D.A.R., are located on the shelves marked "Cemetery Records" and "Church Records."

The library's collection includes **Oakwood Cemetery Records (1851-1938)** on 5 reels of microfilm. Reel 1 contains a surname index of interments (A - Gemmill). Reel 2 contains a surname index of interments (Gemmill -Z). An entry in the surname index typically contains two sets of numbers at the end of the entry. The first set of numbers refers to Plot Book volume and page number (e.g. 4-267 refers to volume 4, page 267). The second set of numbers refers to Books of Interments page and volume number (e.g. 87-4 refers to page 87, volume 4). Reels 2 and 3 contain the Books of Interments within which the records of interments are arranged in numerical order and, for the most part, in chronological order. Entries in the Books of Interments include name, date of interment, age, place of birth, residence, cause of death, and lot number. An entry may also include additional information such as the name of the deceased's parents or nearest relative. Reels 3, 4, and 5 contain the Plot Books which include the names, burial numbers, and grave numbers of those interred in a plot along with a sketch of the arrangement of the graves on the plot. The burial numbers in the Plot Books refer to entries in the Books of Interments.

Also available is a microfilm copy of **Burial Records: Troy Burial Grounds (1833-1891)** that includes a list of plot owners for the New Mt. Ida Cemetery (1815-1969). To use these burial records, the date of death must be known. Among the information included in these records is the age, address, cause of death, place of birth, parents' names and place of burial. Not all information is included in all entries.

A master index, **Surname Index to Cemetery, Church and Miscellaneous Records Books**, is available. (TR 929.3 H) This index, compiled in 1990, lists surnames that appear in church, cemetery and other records books two or more times. **List of Clergymen in Troy, NY Churches** (TR 253 LIS), an alphabetical list of clergymen in Troy before 1889, can be used to determine church affiliation of persons listed in newspaper marriage records. **Rensselaer County Cemetery Inscriptions** (TR 929.5 REN) is a four-volume list of cemetery inscriptions found in the county (not including Troy), arranged alphabetically by surname.

TR **Guide to Vital Statistics of Churches** (2 vol.)  
929.3 (Albany, NY: Historical Records Survey, 1942)  
H Arranged by county, this lists individual churches and gives details on what vital records the churches possess.

For more information, check the library catalog under the following subject headings:

**Cemeteries**

[Name of cemetery]

[Name of church]

[Denomination of church]

**Cemeteries--New York (State)--Rensselaer County**

**Cemeteries--New York (State)--Troy**

**Troy (NY)—Churches**

## FINDING HIDDEN GENEALOGIES

The Troy Room maintains a collection of over 200 family genealogies. In many cases, genealogies index not only members of the subject family, but associated names as well. To facilitate finding these associated names, a master index was created. (**Family Name Index to Genealogical Books** (TR 929.1 F)--see below) This index is by no means complete, as it indexes only surnames that appear a significant number of times in any given genealogy's index. Instructions for using the master index are located on its second page.

Genealogies can be found in other sources as well. The **Compendium of American Genealogy** by Virkus is one such work (see below). The Troy Room collection also contains a number of town histories from the New England states. There are a number of indexes to genealogies found in these. The vertical file also contains some family data.

TR **The Abridged Compendium of American Genealogy: The Standard Genealogical**  
929.1 **Encyclopedia of the First Families of America** (7 vols.)  
V by Frederick A. Virkus (Chicago: F.A. Virkus, 1925-1942)  
v.1-7 This massive work contains more than 45,000 lineages, with indexes listing more than 425,000 names of ancestors.

TR **Family Name Index to Genealogical Books** (Troy Public Library, 1990)  
929.1 Indexes over 1600 surnames found in the indexes of Troy Public Library's collection of  
F genealogies. This is an abridged index.

TR **Bibliographia Genealogica Americana: An Alphabetical Index to American**  
929.1 **Genealogies and Pedigrees**  
D by Daniel S. Durrie (Albany, NY: Joel Munsell, 1868)

TR **Index to American Genealogies: and to Genealogical Material Contained in All**  
929.1 **Such as Town Histories, County Histories, Local Histories, Historical Society**  
I **Publications, Biographies, Historical Periodicals and Kindred Works,**  
**Alphabetically Arranged**  
(Albany, NY: Joel Munsell's Sons, 1900) (A 1908 supplement is also available.)

For more information, check the library catalog under the following subject headings:

[Family Name]  
**Genealogy**  
**Genealogy--Bibliography**  
**United States--Genealogy**  
**United States--Genealogy--Bibliography**

## IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION RECORDS

America's great cultural diversity is a result of immigration from all the nations of the world. There are several sources of information relating to immigration available at the Troy Public Library.

### Passenger Lists and Indexes:

These books list names of immigrants, their date and port of entry, and sometimes the name of the vessel they traveled on. Of the following titles, **Passenger and Immigration Lists Index** is the most extensive.

TR **Passenger and Immigration Lists Index** (3 vol. & supp.)  
929.3 ed. by P. William Philby with Mary K. Meyer  
P (Detroit: Gale Research Co., 1981-1992)

TR **The Famine Immigrants: Lists of Irish Immigrants Arriving at the Port of New**  
929.3 **York, 1846-1851**  
F ed. by Ira A. Glazier (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1983)

TR **Immigrants to New England, 1700-1775**  
929.3 by Ethel Stanwood Bolton (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1973)  
B

### Naturalization Records

Some naturalization records for Troy and Rensselaer County are available. A set of microfilm, **Rensselaer County Naturalizations & Alien Declarations** (1844-1906), contains alien declarations. (Located in Drawer #2; see page 15.)

TR **Early New York Naturalizations: Abstracts of Naturalization Records from**  
929.3 **Federal, State and Local Courts, 1792-1840**  
S by Kenneth Scott (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1981)

TR **Rensselaer County Court Naturalizations** (vols. 1-3)  
929.3 by Loretta M. Nial (Troy, NY: L.M. Niall, 1975, 1983)  
N

For more information, check the library catalog under the following subject headings:

**Immigrants--United States--Registers**  
**Immigrants--United States--Sources**  
**Naturalization records**  
**Ships--Passenger lists**

## FINDING MILITARY RECORDS

### Revolutionary War Records

- TR **Historical Register of Officers of the Continental Army During the War of the**  
929 **Revolution, April 1775 to December 1783**  
.31 by F.B. Heitman (Washington, DC: 1893)  
H Brief biographies of officers who served during the Revolutionary War.

- TR **New York in the Revolution as Colony and State**  
973 by James A. Roberts, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Albany, NY: Brandow Printing Co., 1898)  
.3447 A roster of the regiments during the Revolutionary War. Indexed.  
N

### Civil War Records

- TR **New York in the War of the Rebellion, 1861-1865**  
973 comp. by Frederick Phisterer (Albany, NY: J.R. Lyon Co., 1912)  
.7447 These volumes are arranged by branch of service and regiment. At the beginning  
N of each regimental entry is a brief description of the regiment's recruiting and service  
history. Next appears a chronological listing of the unit's battles and casualties. The  
main part of the entry is a list of the regiment's officers and a capsule service record of  
each officer. No information is provided on individual enlisted men. The best general  
sources of individual enlistment records are the New York State Adjutant General's  
records and the National Archives military and pension files. The New York State  
Adjutant General's records are available in the New York State Archives (NYS Archives,  
Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12230 518-474-8955) in printed and manuscript form.

- TR **A Record of the Commissioned Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Privates**  
973 **of the Regiments Which Were Organized in the State of New York and Called into**  
.7447 **the Service of the United States to Assist in Suppressing the Rebellion . . . .**  
N New York State Adjutant-General's Office (Albany, NY: Comstock & Cassidy, 1864)  
v.1-8 These records are arranged by branch of service, regiment and company. They  
include the names of individual enlisted men and officers. A major limitation to these  
records, besides being very brief, is they provide only the names of men who originally  
mustered in the regiment. Anyone who joined after the first muster is not included.

- TR **A Regimental History: The One Hundred and Twenty-fifth New York State**  
973 **Volunteers**  
.7447 by Ezra Simmons (NY: Ezra D. Simmons, 1888)  
S The only full-length history of a regiment recruited in Rensselaer County. The  
book includes biographical sketches and portraits of most of the officers, and a roster of  
the regiment by company. The index is poor.  
Other regiments that were principally recruited in Rensselaer County were the 2<sup>nd</sup>  
and 21<sup>st</sup> NY Cavalry, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 169<sup>th</sup> NY Infantry.

- TR **History of Rensselaer County, NY**  
974 by Nathaniel Sylvester (Philadelphia: Everts & Peck, 1880)  
.741 Includes lists of individuals who served during the Civil War. These lists,  
S located at the end of each chapter, include brief information on the individual's service.

## MICROFILM COLLECTION

Here is a listing, by drawer, of the Troy Room microfilm collection. Two viewer-printers are located in the Troy Room for use with this microfilm. The cost to print is 25¢ per page.

DRAWER #1 -- **Federal Census Schedules, 1800-1930**

**Abstract of Wills, Rensselaer County, 1787-1850** (Nassau, NY)  
(microfiche)

DRAWER #2 -- **Working Class Culture in the Gilded Age: The Iron Workers of Troy, NY and the Cotton Workers of Cohoes, NY, 1855-84** by Daniel Walkowitz

**Burial Records: Troy Burial Grounds**

v.1 -- 1833-1867

v.2 -- 1867-1882

v.3 -- 1882-1891 (includes Mt. Ida Cemetery plot owners, 1815-1969)

**Register of Interments, Forest Park Cemetery**

**New England Historical and Genealogical Society Register, 1855-1896**

**Scrapbooks of John A. Griswold & General John E. Wool**

**Rensselaer County Naturalizations & Alien Declarations, 1844-1906**

**New York State Census, 1855, 1865, 1875, 1905, 1915, 1925**

DRAWER #3 -- **Library Scrapbooks, 1804-1969**

**Sanborn Fire Maps (Troy)**

1885

1903-1904

1950-1970

These maps, intended for fire insurance use, are also a good source of information on buildings. Street names, house numbers, and lot and building outlines are among the details included.

DRAWER #4 -- **Troy City Directories, 1829-1974**





## COLLEGE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Students from across the country have come to Troy to attend Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Russell Sage and the Emma Willard School. Lists of students who have attended these institutions are available in the Troy Room.

TR     **Emma Willard and Her Pupils, 1822-1872**  
92     by Mrs. Russell Sage (Troy, 1898)  
W     Contains short biographies of Emma Willard students.

TR     **Biographical Record of the Officers and Graduates of the Rensselaer Polytechnic**  
607    **Institute, 1824-1886**  
R     by Henry B. Nason (Troy: William H. Young, 1887)  
       RPI graduates by year of graduation. Indexed.

High school and college yearbooks are a great source of photographs, as well as students' memberships in academic clubs. The Troy Room houses the following yearbooks:

TR             **Dardanian** -- Troy High School  
379.74741     1916-1918, 1923-1938, 1943, 1946, 1949, 1951, 1953, 1955, 1957, 1959-1977,  
T             1979-1996, 2001-  
               also: **Janus** (January graduates) 1931-1933

TR             **Odyssey** -- Lansingburgh High School  
379.747       1917-1919, 1921, 1924, 1931-1933, 1938-1944, 1967  
L

TR             **Islander** -- Heatly High School (Green Island)  
379            1959, 1975, 1977-1979, 1981-1984, 1987, 1989-1993  
ISL

TR             **Catholicon** -- Catholic Central High School  
379            1939, 1941, 1982  
CAT

TR             **Gargoyle** -- Emma Willard  
373.747       1921-1925, 1936, 1945-1947  
E

TR             **Trocoday** -- Troy Country Day School  
373.747       1929-1931  
T

TR             **Sage Leaves** -- Russell Sage College  
376.8         1927-1938, 1940, 1970  
R

TR             **Transit** -- Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
607            1896, 1903, 1915, 1919, 1920, 1956, 1957, 1959, 1962, 1963  
R

## WILLS

Wills and their abstracts are a good source for finding names of relatives. Wills are housed mainly at county courthouses. Abstracts and indexes of wills are available:

- TR           **Calendar of Wills: 1626-1836**  
929.3        by Berthold Fernow  
F            (New York: Colonial Dames of New York, 1846)
- TR           **Abstract of Wills, Rensselaer County, NY, 1787-1850**  
974.741      (3 vols.) (Nassau, NY: 1938) (Drawer #1--microfiche)  
A

For more information, check the library catalog under the following subject heading: **Wills**

## BIOGRAPHIES

Troy has been home to many famous people. Uncle Sam (Samuel Wilson), Emma Willard and Henry Highland Garnett are known nationwide. Others, such as Henry Burden, Russell Sage and Clinton Meneely were prominent in business and education in Troy. Searching a person's name as a subject in the library catalog will reveal any books about that individual.

Other biographies can be found in local histories such as Anderson's **Landmarks of Rensselaer County** (TR 974.741 A), Hayner's **Troy and Rensselaer County, New York** (TR 974.741 H) and Sylvester's **History of Rensselaer County, New York** (TR 974.741 S).

- TR    **Henry Burden: His Life, and a History of His Inventions, Compiled from the Public**  
92    **Press**  
B    by Mrs. Margaret E. (Burden) Proudfit (Troy: Pafreats Press, 1904)
- TR    **Emma Willard, Daughter of Democracy**  
92    by Alma Lutz (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1929)  
W
- TR    **Uncle Sam**  
92    by Thomas I. Gerson and Flora M. Hood (New York: Bobbs-Merrill, 1963)  
W
- TR    **Citizens Historical Association**  
920    (Indianapolis, 1940-1945)  
C    Brief biographies of prominent Troy citizens. Separate index.
- TR    **People**  
920.    by John Scanlon (Troy: 1989)  
.009    Biographies of Troy-area people from Scanlon's **Troy Record** column.  
S

## ETHNIC AND RELIGIOUS GROUPS AND HERITAGE SOCIETIES

Some ethnic and religious groups have particular books and associations. Lineage books and yearbooks from several heritage societies are also available.

TR **In Search of Your German Roots**

929.1 by Angus Baxter (Baltimore: Genealogical Pub. Co., 1987)

B

TR **Black Genealogy**

929.1 by Charles L. Blockson (Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1977)

B

TR **Finding Our Fathers: A Guidebook to Jewish Genealogy**

929.1 by Dan Rottonberg (New York: Random House, 1977)

R

TR **Tracing Your Irish Ancestors: the Complete Guide**

929 by John Grenham (Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Pub. Co., 2006)

.107

GRE

TR **DAR Patriot Index** (4 volumes)

929.3 Daughters of the American Revolution (Washington, DC: DAR, 1966, 1967-74, 1986)

D

TR **Mayflower Families through Five Generations** (3 volumes)

929.1 edited by Lucy Mary Kellogg et al. (Plymouth, MA: General Society of Mayflower

M Descendants, 1975)

For more information, check the library catalog under the following subject headings:

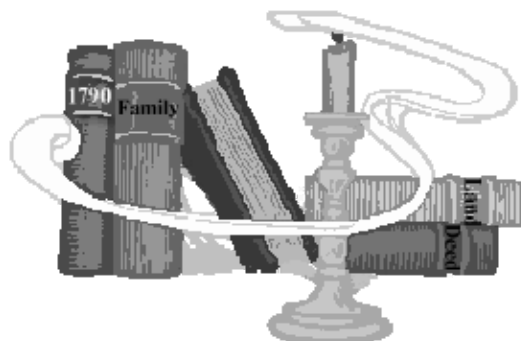
**Afro-Americans--Genealogy**

**German-Americans--Genealogy**

**Jews—Genealogy**

**Irish Americans--Genealogy**

**[Ethnic group]--Genealogy**



## HELPFUL PERIODICALS, NEWSLETTERS, DATABASES AND WEBSITES

The following periodicals are available in the Troy Room:

**Everton's Family History** (formerly: **The Genealogical Helper** ) Useful articles, "Bureau of Missing Ancestors" and "Missing Folk Finder" (queries), book reviews, "Digital Age" section, directories, advertising. Each issue is indexed.

**New England Ancestors** (formerly: **Nexus**) Articles on genealogy, listings of recently published genealogies, "Query Connection," columns: "New England Online" and "The Computer Genealogist."

**New England Historical and Genealogical Record** Published since 1847. Volumes 1-50 have been indexed. (TR 929 N)

**New York Archives** From the NYS Archives, includes a genealogy section in each issue.

Newsletters: (Located in Vertical File) **Brunswick Historical Society, Capital District Genealogical Society** and other genealogy newsletters can be found in the vertical file.

### Subscription Databases

Troy Public Library subscribes to several online databases that offer genealogical content:

**Ancestry Library Edition** From Ancestry.com, this database, available in the library only, includes a large collection of census, vital, church, court, and immigration records from the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom.

**HeritageQuest Online** This database is accessible in the library or from home with a valid library card. It offers census data, family histories, local history and other primary source data.

**Jewish Data** This database is accessible from the library only. It contains Jewish genealogical data including images of tombstones, school yearbook pages and Citizen Declaration documents, with an emphasis on New York State and surrounding areas.

### Websites

#### **[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)**

This is the official genealogy site of the Church of the Latter-day Saints (the Mormons). This free site offers research tips, searching of databases including the Social Security Death Index, and links to share your research with other genealogists.

#### **[www.nysl.nysed.gov/gengen.htm](http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/gengen.htm)**

The genealogy page of the New York State Library focuses on the library's holdings, but also offers general advice on research and provides links to other genealogy websites.

#### **[www.cyndislist.com](http://www.cyndislist.com)**

Cyndi's List of Genealogy Sites on the Internet is organized by topic and cross-referenced.

#### **[www.ellisland.org](http://www.ellisland.org)**

Search for records of immigrants who came to the U.S. through Ellis Island.

**[www.apgen.org/](http://www.apgen.org/)**

Association of Professional Genealogists website contains information about locating and hiring a professional genealogist.

**[www.archives.gov/](http://www.archives.gov/)**

The National Archives website contains information about historical and legal records maintained by the United States and offers guidance to genealogists through the Genealogists/Family Historians webpage at [www.archives.gov/genealogy/](http://www.archives.gov/genealogy/) .

**[www.archives.gov/northeast/pittsfield/](http://www.archives.gov/northeast/pittsfield/)**

National Archives at Pittsfield, Massachusetts website contains information about historical New England records as well as genealogical resources that genealogists and family historians will find helpful.

**<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/w2w.htm>**

Where to Write for Vital Records, a website maintained by the National Center for Health Statistics, contains information about obtaining birth, death, marriage, and divorce records from individual states and U.S. territories.

**[cwar.nps.gov/civilwar/soldiers-sailors.htm](http://cwar.nps.gov/civilwar/soldiers-sailors.htm)**

Soldiers & Sailors System, a searchable index that is part of a website maintained by the National Park Service, contains information about Union and Confederate Civil War soldiers and regiments.

## REFERRALS

If you don't find all that you are looking for at the Troy Public Library, or would like to engage the services of a local professional genealogist, the following local organizations may be consulted:

**Rensselaer County Historical Society**

57 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Troy, NY 12180  
(518) 272-7232

**[www.rchsonline.org](http://www.rchsonline.org)**

**Capital District Genealogical Society**

Box 2175  
Empire State Plaza Station  
Albany, NY 12220-0175

Many of the members of CDGS are professional genealogists.

**Latter Day Saints Family History Center**

411 Loudonville Road (Rt. 9)  
Loudonville, NY 12211  
(518) 463-2566