



ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART

GENEALOGICAL & BIOGRAPHICAL RESOURCES AT THE ALBANY INSTITUTE LIBRARY

The Albany Institute Library is an excellent source for information about the people who have lived and worked in the Upper Hudson Valley. We collect information about movers and shakers as well as everyday members of our community. This guide is not an exhaustive list of our resources, but it will help you get started doing genealogical and other biographical research in the Albany Institute Library. Call numbers are given in square brackets []; use these numbers to request access to specific materials.

INDEXES, CATALOGS, FINDING AIDS, AND OTHER GUIDES

Begin your research by checking these catalogs and indexes for information. Search under broad terms such as genealogy, cemeteries, birth records, death records, marriage records, land records, and Bibles. Try searching by specific family names, geographic places, and subjects, as well.

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| Bibliographies | A growing collection of bibliographies describing subject-related materials at AIHA. Includes bibliographies on Scots and Italians. |
| Capital District Library Council Catalog | Some of AIHA's Library materials are listed in CaDiLaC, CDLC's electronic catalog. Look for materials listed as being in the Partial Union Catalog. www.cdlic.org/CaDiLaC/cadilac.shtml |
| City Directory Catalog | A card file indexing the city directories. Indexed topics are Societies, Banks, Physicians, and Cartmen; Occupation; Businesses, County Officials, and Organizations; Streets; Appointees. |
| Computer Catalog | Electronic database that catalogs portions of AIHA's Library Collections. Primarily a resource for identifying books. It also is a growing catalog of other materials such as manuscripts, photographs, and maps. |
| Deeds Index | A large number of deeds are available dating from 1652-1900. Included are several in Dutch and some Native American examples. |
| Finding Aids | Guides to some of the Library's archives, manuscript, and photograph collections. |
| Manuscript Catalog | Card file indexing some of the Library's archives and manuscripts. |
| Munsell's Catalog | A card catalog indexing both editions and all volumes of Munsell's <i>The Annals of Albany</i> |
| New York State Library Catalog | Some of AIHA's Library materials are listed in Excelsior, NYSL's electronic catalog. www.nysl.nysed.gov/ |

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| Professions Index | Card file indexing personal and business names. Organized by profession: Architects, Booksellers, Brassfounders, Cabinetmakers, Coopersmiths, Druggists, Engravers, Gunsmiths, Military Men, Painters, Pewterers, Photographers, Sculptors, Silversmiths, Stove Manufacturers, Watchmakers. Spans early 19 th to mid 20 th centuries. |
| Regional Artist Index | Card file indexing approximately 1500 names of artists associated with Albany and the Hudson River region. The artists either lived in the area or painted scenes of Albany, the Hudson River, Adirondacks, or Catskills. The time period extends from the mid 1700s to the early 1900s. Includes painters, engravers, photographers, and lithographers. |
| Theatre Index | Card file index alphabetically arranged listing actors, managers, and plays. Includes dates and places. |

BIBLES

Over 100 Bibles, many of which contain family information. Any family information inside the Bibles has been photocopied, and this information is organized in vertical files for ease of use and to protect the Bibles. Researchers may request to view the actual family Bible, as well. Permission may be granted with preservation and security restrictions.

BOOKS

Biographies, autobiographies, and collected biographies.

CEMETERY INFORMATION

Book and manuscript materials related to cemeteries including burial lists, archaeological reports, photographs, and maps. Search the computer catalog under specific cemetery names or under the word “cemetery” or “cemeteries”. Examples include:

Albany (N.Y.). Common Council. Proceedings of the Common Council, and the various religious corporations of the city of Albany, relative to the State street burial grounds. [SpC 974.743 COM COU 1867]

Albany Cemetery Association. Catalogue of proprietors of the Albany Rural Cemetery: with numbers and locations of their lots. [718 ALB CAT]

Albany Cemetery Association. Maps of the Albany Rural Cemetery. [718 ALB MAP 1919]

Barnard, Daniel D. "Address delivered on the consecration of the Cemetery of the Evergreens." [ms-659]

Catalogue of Lot-owners of St. Agnes Cemetery with Numbers and Locations of their Lots, to February 12, 1901. [718 CAT AGN 1901]

Common Council. Report on the Committee on Removal of Old Cemeteries in Albany, 1868. [718 ALB COM 1868]

Fuller, Alice M and Tompkins, Erastus. List of names of persons buried under Dutch Church on State St. [ms-339]

Hannay, William. Papers. [ms-GF77-23]

Hartgen Archeological Associations. Dutch Reformed Church Burial Ground c 1656 - 1882: Key Corp Parking Garage Beaver St. & Hudson Ave. [363.75 HAR DUT 1986]

Prentice and Prentice, Ezra Parmalee. Family collection of photographs. [PC 4]

Ritchie, Henry C. Town of Half Moon cemeteries. 1963. [974.748 TOW 1963]

Selected New York State laws relating to cemeteries. [614.6026 SEL 1967]

Shaver, Elizabeth D. The Watervliet Shaker cemetery, Albany, N.Y. 2nd ed. [363.75 SHA WAT 1992]

CENSUS RECORDS

Published and unpublished resources. Examples include:

Bureau of the Census. Sam. L. Rogers, Director. Fourteenth Census of the United States: 1920. [312.09747 BUR BUL 1920]

Council of Community Services of the Albany Area, Inc. A Poverty Profile of Albany and Albany County, New York: Selected Socio-Economic Characteristics of the City and County, based on 1970 Census data and other sources. [301.37 COU POV 1973]

Frost, John. An illuminated history of North America: from the earliest period to the present time. [SpC 973 FRO ILL 1862]

Hannay, William. Papers. [ms-GF77-23]

Jackson, Ronald Vern. New York Census Index 1800-1840. [312.09747 NEW]

Loudon, John Campbell, 4th Earl of. To His Excellency, John, Earl of Loudon...A list of the Inhabitants of the City of Albany...with the number of Troops they can quarter. November 1756. [ms-395]

New York (Province?). List of Inhabitants in the Province of New York by Counties. February 16, 1756. [ms-708]

Schoolcraft, Henry Rowe. Notes on the Iroquois: or, contributions to American history, antiquities, and general ethnology. [SpC 970.474 SCH NOT 1847]

Scott, Kenneth. New York: State census of Albany County towns in 1790. [312.09747 SCO NEW 1975]

Teeples, Gary Ronald. New York 1850 census index. [312.09747 NEW 1850]

United States Census and Given, John. Census of the inhabitants in the County of Albany. Census of 1800. [ms-365]

United States. Heads of families at the first census of the United States taken in the year 1790. [312.09747 UNI HEA 1966]

CHURCH INFORMATION

Some published church histories and information about religion in the United States. Some manuscript materials containing information such as baptism registries, member lists, and marriage records. Examples include:

Centennial celebration of the United Presbyterian (the old white) Church building 1797-1897: Salem, Washington County NY, Nov. 9, 1897. New York. [974.749 CEN 1897]

First Dutch Reformed Church (Albany, N.Y.) and Venema, Janny. Deacons' accounts, 1652-1674, First Dutch Reformed Church of Beverwyck/Albany, New York. [285.732 FIR 1998]

First Reformed Church (Coxsackie, N.Y.) and Vosburgh, Royden Woodward. Records of the First Reformed Church of Coxsackie in West Coxsackie, Greene County, N.Y. [974.737 .F57 1919]

First Reformed Dutch Church of Schenectady. Extracts from the doop-boek, or, Baptismal register of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of Schenectady, N.Y. [974.744 FIR EXT 1867]

Hannay, William. Papers. [ms-GF77-23]

Holland Society of New York. Records of the Reformed Dutch churches of Hackensack and Schraalenburgh, New Jersey : with registers of members, marriages, baptisms and the consistories, to the beginning of the nineteenth century. [921 HOL REC 1891]

Kinderhook Reformed Church (N.Y.) and Vosburgh, Royden Woodward. Records of the Reformed Dutch Church of Kinderhook in Kinderhook, Columbia County, N.Y. [974.739 .K56 1921 v.1]

New York Genealogical Society. Dutch Reformed Church Records Schaghticoke, New York: 1791-1797. [974.741 COO DUT 1932]

Ptak, Diane Snyder. Lost and found: Albany (NY) area church and synagogue vital records, 1654-1925. [974.7 PTA 1993]

Reformed Dutch Church (Schodack, N.Y.) and Vosburgh, Royden Woodward. Records of the Reformed Dutch Church of Schodack at Muitzeskill in the town of Schodack, Rensselaer County, N.Y. [974.739 .R43 1920 v.2]

Reformed Protestant Dutch Church (Albany, N.Y.). Manuscript account book. [ms-2000]

St. Luke's Albany Methodist Episcopal Church (Albany, N.Y.). St. Luke's Albany Methodist Episcopal Church records. [MG77]

DIRECTORIES

Albany City Directories from 1813 – present with some years missing. 1756-1763 Albany directory listing of names compiled from various sources such as the Loudon Survey of 1756. A few directories from mid to late 20th century from other Capital Region cities including Bethlehem, Guilderland, Colonie, Schenectady, Troy, and Rensselaer, East Greenbush. Often acting as criss-cross references, entries typically are arranged by address, personal name, business name, and/or telephone number. An in-house index lists entries from a portion of the directories by occupations, businesses, county officials, organizations, and streets.

The Argus Directory of the City of Albany. For the year 1895. Includes listings by personal, business, and house listings. [974.743 ARG 1895]

EPHEMERA COLLECTION

The Ephemera Collection contains more than 1,000 trade cards, menus, advertising pamphlets, guides, invitations, brochures, greeting cards, souvenir programs and other memorabilia from 1830 to the present. A few folders are arranged by family name.

FAMILY HISTORIES

Many published and unpublished family histories. Family names included Ouderkerk, Gallup, Pruyn, Lansing, Boyd, Bradt, Crannells, Crosby, Rohrbach, Staats, Yates, and others. Search the computer catalog to identify research materials.

MANUSCRIPTS

Manuscript materials represent business, religious, community, and family activities in the region. Materials range in age from the 17th to the 20th centuries. Often contain useful information such as church records, birth certificates, and cemetery information. Search the Manuscript Catalog and Computer Catalog for names and subjects.

MILITARY RECORDS

Published and unpublished resources. Examples include:

Manning, James Hilton. Albany Zouave cadets : fifty years young, July twenty-third, MDCCCLX-MDCCCCX / Historian, James H. Manning ... Anniversary celebrated June 7th, 1910, Albany, N.Y.-- Albany, N.Y.: Weed-Parsons Printing Co, 1910. [353.97476 MAN ALB 1910]

Revolutionary War Collection, 1775-1789. Official papers and correspondence concerning the activities of Albany regiments and individuals in the Revolutionary War period. Includes casualty lists, orders, reports, supply lists, and letters to Henry Glen, Assistant Deputy Quartermaster General, about examination of prisoners, an Indian raid, and the Battle of Monmouth Court House. [ms-DW611]

Ulster County. Early Military Papers and Orders, 1784-1866 1784-1820 (bulk). Orders, muster rolls, reports, and bills from militia units in Ulster County, New York, involving Capt. T. DeWitt, Capt. P. Elmendorf, and others. Three items concern the Civil War. [ms-DD562]

United States. A census of pensioners for revolutionary or military services: with their names, ages, and places of residence, as returned by the marshals of the several districts, under the Act for taking the sixth census [in 1840]. Washington: Printed by Blair and Rives, 1841. [SpC 929.3 UNI CEN 1841]

United States. Pay Dept. (War Dept.). Pierce's register : register of the certificates issued by John Pierce, Esquire, Paymaster General and Commissioner of Army Accounts for the United States, to officers and soldiers of the Continental Army under act of July 4, 1783.-- Baltimore : Genealogical Pub. Co, 1973. [973.34 UNI PIE 1973]

PERIODICALS

The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record. 1928-present. Some issues missing.

PHOTOGRAPHS

The photograph collection includes more than 85,000 photographic images in a variety of formats documenting the history, culture, and art of the Upper Hudson Valley region from the 1840's to the present day. Printed finding aids and indexes provide content information for the photographs. The Main, Morris Gerber, Albany Art Union photograph collections as well as family photograph albums are resources for candid and formal portraits.

REFERENCE BOOKS

Many useful published sources of information, including:

Cutter, William Richard. Genealogical and Family History of Central New York. [920.0747 CUT GEN 1912]

Hills, Frederick Simon. New York state men : biographic studies and character portraits. [920.0747 HIL NEW]

Munsell, Joel. The Annals of Albany. These chronicles detail life in Albany from early days to the mid 19th century. Each volume contains an index and the Albany Institute Library has a created an additional index so that entries on specific names, topics, events, places, etc. are easily located. [974.743 MUN ANN]

Reynolds, Cuyler. Hudson-Mohawk genealogical and family memoirs : a record of achievements of the people of the Hudson and Mohawk valleys in New York state, included within the present counties of Albany, Rensselaer, Washington, Saratoga, Montgomery, Fulton, Schenectady, Columbia and Greene. [920.07474 REY HUD 1911]

SCHOOL RECORDS

Information about local schools and students. Information in various formats including photographs, books, vertical files, music, and manuscripts. Examples include:

Albany City Schools, District No. 6. School Registers, 1855-1910. 4 v. [ms-GL77-40]

Celebration of the semi-centennial anniversary of the Albany Academy : Albany, June 23, 1863.-- Albany, N.Y : J. Munsell, 1863. [373.74743 ALB CEL 1863]

Lyon, Jean Murray, comp. Hail Saint Agnes! : ninety years of Saint Agnes school history / compiled by Jean Murray Lyon, Marion Lynch Quellmalz, Prudence Wagoner Robinson.-- Albany, N.Y : Cue Sales Ltd, 1960. [373.74743 LYO HAI]

SCRAPBOOKS

Encompasses more than 100 scrapbooks, consisting largely of personal collections of clippings, ephemera, and photographs dating from circa 1794-1971. Information contained in the Mary Louise Rawle scrapbooks (1895-1987) is easily accessed because they are partially indexed.

TAX RECORDS

Some published and unpublished research materials. For example:

Albany County. Commissioners of Taxes. Tax assessment rolls for towns in Albany County, 1799. [ms-366]

Bleecker, John N and Taylor, John. Letters. [ms-93-162]

Christoph, Florence A. Upstate New York in the 1760s: tax lists and selected militia rolls of Old Albany County, 1760-1768. Camden, Me: Picton Press, 1992. [974.7 CHR UPS 1992]

City of Albany. Voucher. [ms-5]

Dunn Family. Papers. [ms-EC625]

Frederick family and Crouse, Frances. Frederick family papers. [ms-2067]

Low, Will H. Papers. [ms-BR418]

New York (State). List of lands to be sold for arrears of taxes, for the years 1888, 1889, 1890, 1891 and 1892: also of certain lands to be sold for arrears of taxes for the years 1831 to 1887, both inclusive, at the Capitol, in the city of Albany, commencing December 16th, 1895. Albany: Weed-Parsons Printing Co, 1895. [336.22 NEW LIS 1895]

New York (State). List of lands to be sold in ... for arrears of taxes. Albany, N.Y: Printed by J.W. Clark, etc. [SpC 336.22 NEW LIS 1826]

State of New York Comptroller's Office. Papers. New York. [ms-2145]

Van Vechten, Teunis. Teunis Van Vechten, 1785-1859 papers. [ms-FN848]

VERTICAL FILES

The Vertical File Collection includes Subject, Biography, and Bible Collection folders containing newspaper and magazine clippings, research papers, and other types of materials documenting the history, culture, and art of the Upper Hudson Valley region.

VF Biographies Approximately 400 biographical folders are arranged in alphabetical order by last name.

VF Subjects Ten file cabinet drawers of folders on various topics arranged alphabetically by subject, for example "People" and "Obituaries".

VF Bibles Photocopies of family information copied from Bibles in AIHA's collection.

VITAL RECORDS

Some manuscript collections contain family birth, death, and marriage records. Search the computer catalog and the manuscript card catalog.

OTHER RESOURCES

Albany County Hall of Records
95 Tivoli Street
Albany, New York 12207
Phone: (518) 436-3663
Web: www.albanycounty.com/achor/

Albany Public Library
161 Washington Avenue
Albany, NY 12210
Phone: 518-427-4300
Web: www.albanypubliclibrary.org

LDS Family History Center
411 Loudon Road
Loudonville, NY 12211
Phone: (518) 463-2566

National Archives and Records Administration
Northeast Regional Office
10 Conte Drive
Pittsfield, Massachusetts 01201-8230
Phone: 413-236-3600
Fax: 413-236-3609
Email: pittsfield.archives@nara.gov
Web: www.archives.gov

National Genealogical Society
3108 Columbia Pike, Suite 300
Arlington, VA 22204-4304
Phone: (703) 525-0050
Email: ngs@ngsgenealogy.org
Web: www.ngsgenealogy.org

New York State Archives
New York State Education Department
Cultural Education Center
Albany, NY 12230
Phone: (518) 474-6926
Email: ARCHINFO@mail.nysed.gov
Web: www.archives.nysed.gov

New York State Department of Health
Vital Records Section
800 North Pearl Street
2nd Floor
Menands, NY 12204
Email: vr@health.state.ny.us
Web:
www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/consumer/vr.htm

New York State Library
New York State Education Department
Cultural Education Center
Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12230
Phone: (518) 474-5355
Web: www.nysl.nysed.gov/

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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