Vital Records of New York State before 1880

- State VRs begin 1880
- Substitutes: church records, newspaper extracts, etc.
- Scattered, incomplete, unpublished
Three Useful Collections

• Royden Vosburg
• Gertrude Barber
• Fred Bowman
Royden Vosburgh (1875-1931)

- Born Buffalo, NY
- Archivist for NYG&BS
- 101 volumes of church records of NYS
The Vosburgh Collection

• Counties concentrated along Hudson and Mohawk River valleys.
• Many begin mid- to late-18th century
• Some extend into 20th century
• Microfilmed by NYG&BS on 13 reels
• Microfilmed by FHL on 61 reels
Dutch Reformed Church of Stone Arabia, Palatine, Montgomery Co.

- In addition to the vital records usually abstracted, Vosburgh includes the following:
  - Register of members, Jan. 13, 1739-1795
  - Elders and deacons, 1788-1796.
  - Copy of the charter, 1791.
  - Seat owners, 1790
  - Seat regulations and transfer
  - Abstracts from the minutes of the consistory, 1789-1850.
  - List of the church officers
  - Register of members, 1826-1912.
  - The history of the Reformed Dutch Church of Stone Arabia
Abstracts from the minutes of the consistory, 1789-1850.

- Taken as a whole, this abstract with the notes, gives every fact worthy of note, concerning the history of this church for three score years. It contains all the documentary data relating to the building of, and the repairs made, to the present church edifice; the consecration of the church, its admission to the Classis of Albany; and presents authoritatively for the first time, the facts concerning the suspension and deposition of the Rev. John J. Wack.
Gertrude Audrey Barber

• Began work ca. 1927
• Continued ca. 40 years
• Transcribed church, court, newspaper information
• Microfilm copies widely available
Will Indexes and Abstracts

- Cayuga, Chemung, Chenango, Columbia, Delaware, Dutchess, Greene, Monroe, Oneida, Otsego, Rockland, Schenectady, Schoharie, Sullivan, Tioga, Tompkins, Warren, Washington counties
Will Indexes & Abstracts

- Abstract of wills of Columbia County, New York, 1796-1851, 8 vol.
Church Records

- Oswego, Otsego, Sullivan (very extensive), Wyoming counties.
Church Records

• Records of the Congregational Church at New Haven, Oswego County, N.Y. Includes baptisms, 1821-1850, deaths, 1817-1850, and members, 1817-1850.

• Records of the Free Methodist Church, Ferndale, Sullivan County, N. Y.
Cemetery Records

Cemetery Records

• Gravestone inscriptions in Cattaraugus County, New York: including cemeteries in the towns of Freedom, Franklinville and Yorkshire.

• Gravestone inscriptions in Columbia County, New York, published 1935-41, 12 volumes.

• Tombstone inscriptions in the Catholic Cemetery at Richfield Springs, N.Y. and also in the Exeter Cemetery at Exeter, N.Y.: both located in Otsego County, N.Y. Published 1931.
Newspaper Extracts

- Delaware, Otsego
Newspaper Extracts

- Marriage and deaths taken from the Delaware Gazette at Delhi, Delaware County, N.Y., listed chronologically, with an index. Index does not include ministers’ names.
- Deaths taken from the Otsego Herald and Western Advertiser and Freeman's Journal, Otsego County, N.Y., newspapers, 1795-1840.
Accessing the Barber Collection

- Original typescripts deposited at NYG&B have been microfilmed.
- NYG&B library
- New York State archives
- NEHGS
- FHL (local Family History Centers)
- DAR library
- Public libraries including Rundel library
Fred Q. Bowman

- Early land records (publ. 1983)
- Newspaper extracts (publ. 1985-97)
- Directory (publ. 1995)
Early Land Records

• Landholders of Northeastern New York, 1739-1802
• Original grantees (600 entries)
• Land transactions 1764-1802 (9000 entries)
• Franklin, Clinton, Essex, Warren, Washington counties
Example: land transaction

- 1337 6/20/01 gor Chadwick, Eunice. See 1339
- 1339. 6/20/01 gor Chadwick, John (w. Eunice); Kingsbury, WAS. See 4843.
- 4843 6/20/01 gor Mann, Solomon (w. Abigail); Cambridge, WAS; ---, WAS: co-gors 1337, 1339, 2475, 2479; gee 1323 (F:242)
- 2475 6/20/01 gor Fisher, Elizabeth. See 2479.
- 2479 6/20/01 gor Fisher, John W. (w. Elizabeth); Cambridge, WAS. See 4843.
- 1323 6/20/01 gee Center, John S.; Cambridge, WAS. See 4843.
Example: mortgage

- 5244 12/1/97 --- Murray, John, dec’d. See 4721.
- 4721 12/1/97 mor McNeal, Sarah; Argyle, WAS; Queensbury, WAS; co-mees 2265, and 5164. Co-mortgagees are “executor and executrix of the … will … of John Murray, deceased.” (B:258)
- 2265 12/1/97 mee Eddy, John; ---, ---; See 4721.
- 5164 12/1/97 mee Morgan, Anstis; ---,---; See 4721.
Newspaper Extracts

- Western, 1809-1850, from Geneva westward
- Central, 1813-1850, between Geneva and Utica
- Eastern, 1777-1834
- More Eastern, 1804-1850
- Hudson-Mohawk Valley, 1808-1850
Newspaper table

- Table I: Newspaper Sources for *10,000 Vital Records of Western New York, 1809-1850*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Town</th>
<th>Newspaper</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Batavia</td>
<td>Republican Advocate</td>
<td>1822-1850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Bath</td>
<td>Steuben Farmers Advocate</td>
<td>1831-1850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Geneva</td>
<td>Geneva Gazette</td>
<td>1809-1827</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Jamestown</td>
<td>Jamestown Journal</td>
<td>1802-1850</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Death notice example

• 4754. Johnson, Robert (or “the person calling himself that”) d 1/5/07 in the Albany gaol – committed for an attempt to rob the house of Mr. Pye on the Albany road (R. J. died from a wound inflicted by Mr. Pye, “after being himself shot thro’ the body. Mr. Pie is said to be out of danger.”) (9-1/13).
Marriage notice example

• FELTER, Sarah, - see CLARK, Richard M.
• Clark, Richard M. of NYC m 4/7/42 Sarah E. Felter, dau.of Theron, Esq. Of Newburgh, in N.; Rev. Charles A. Bleek (9-4/9)
“Birth” notice example

• HART, Azalia Ernesteen, 1, dau. of William and Rachael Eliza, d 3/25/50 in Rochester (Mrs. Hart was formerly of Fort Plain) (4-3/28).
Directory to Collections of New York Vital Records, 1726-1989, with Rare Gazetteer

- Co-author Thomas Lynch.
- Lists of collections of newspaper extracts available in NYG&BS, FHL, DAR libraries
- Gazetteer of 6710 cities, towns, hamlets, with present-day location
- Formation of present 62 counties in NYS