

New York State Archives Records: A Focus on 19th and 20th Century Immigrants

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The New York State Archives (NYSA) holds the records of the state government. With a focus on those records that contain 19th and early 20th century immigrants and their children, this talk will discuss new as well as familiar state-level resources to assist in your family history research.

New York State Archives

A unit of the Office of Cultural Education within the NY State Department of Education

Located on the 11th floor of the Cultural Education Center, Madison Ave., Albany

archref@nysed.gov or (518) 474-8955

www.archives.nysed.gov

The NYSA preserves and makes accessible records from the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of New York state government that document New York State's history, governments, events, and peoples from the 17th century to the present.¹ It holds more than 6,000 record series, most of which are available to family history researchers.

Key Events Impacting NYSA Holdings

- 1818 State Library established.
- 1911 New York State Capitol fire, including the state library housed in the Capitol.
 - Destroyed: state copies of the state censuses 1825-1905
- 1971 State Archives established for state governmental records.
- 1978 Cultural Education Center completed.

The NYSA and the New York State Library are now separate units in the Office of Cultural Education.

¹ "New York State Archives," *Wikipedia*, www.wikipedia.com, accessed 20 Jun 2018.

The Records

This talk is based on research for *New York State Archives--A Guide: For Family Historians, Biographers, and Historical Research*, published by the New York Genealogical & Biographical Society in cooperation with the NYSA. The book will be designed specifically for genealogists, local historians, and other researchers. It will feature more than 20 chapters on different types of records and will include specific examples which are noted by record series numbers and titles as designated by the NYSA. To order a copy of the book: <https://newyorkfamilyhistory.org/new-york-state-archives-guide>

Some of the record types and examples of record series are highlighted in this talk. They are listed in order of presentation, with NYSA titles, series numbers, and date range of the records listed here.

Some NYSA Records with Immigrants and Their Children

Census: New York State 1925

Series A0276 State Population Census Schedules, 1925,
"New York, U.S., State Census, 1925," *Ancestry.com*,
<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/2704/>

Citizenship: Declaration of Intention

Series J1061 Court of Chancery (5th, 6th, and 8th Circuits) Naturalization Papers, 1830--1847
[*Ancestry.com*]

Naturalization also in the Supreme Court of Judicature minutes at NYSA prior to 1847.

Citizenship: Alien Depositions

Series A1869 Alien Depositions of Intent to Become U.S. Citizens, 1825--1913
"New York, U.S., Alien Depositions of Intent to Become U.S. Citizens, 1825--1871," *Ancestry.com*,
<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/5355/>

Institutional: Examinations of Dependents

Series A1987 Examinations of Dependents in County and City Institutions, 1874--1875

Institutional: Census of Inmates

Series A1978 Census of Inmates in Almshouses and Poorhouses, 1826--1921;
"New York, U.S., Census of Inmates in Almshouses and Poorhouses, 1830--1920," *Ancestry.com*,
<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/1083/>

Institutional: Admission Application

Series A3222 Special Schools Bureau Correspondence and Subject Files Concerning Schools for Indians, the Deaf, the Blind, and Other Special Populations, 1906--1925

Military: Muster Roll Abstracts

Series 13775 Civil War Muster Roll Abstracts of New York State Volunteers, United States Sharpshooters, and United States Colored Troops, 1861--1900;
"New York, U.S. Civil War Muster Rolls Abstracts, 1861--1900," *Ancestry.com*,
<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/1965/>

Military: National Guard Service Abstracts

Series 13721 Abstracts of National Guard Service in World War I, 1917--1919,

“New York, U.S., Abstracts of National Guard Service in WWI, 1917--1919,” *Ancestry.com*,
<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/9281/>

Military: National Guard Muster Rolls

Series 13726 National Guard Muster Rolls, 1878--1941

Military: Civil War State Military Agency

Series A4136 Register of Soldiers Who Visited the Washington Office, 1863--1865

Military: State Veterans' Home

Series A0710 NY Veterans' Home Resident Case Files, 1897--1963,
“New York, U.S., Veterans' Home Resident Case Files, 1897--1963,” *Ancestry.com*,
<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/8915/>

Occupational: State Employment Cards:

Series 15029 State and Local Government Civil Service Employee History Cards, 1894--1954
“New York, U.S., State Employment Cards and Peddlers' Licenses, 1840--1966,” *Ancestry.com*,
<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/61644/>

Occupational: WWII “Nurse Census”

Series A4277 Recruitment and Classification Files, Subseries 2, 1942--1945

Occupational: Licenses

Series B1074 Register of Licensed Midwives, 1914--1962

Occupational: Licenses

Series A0352 Peddlers' Licenses, 1840-1896, 1949-1956
“New York, U.S., State Employment Cards and Peddlers' Licenses, 1840--1966,” *Ancestry.com*,
<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/61644/>
Also in A0005 Journals, ledgers, and registers of receipts and payments by the state, Treasurer's receipts

Penal: Prison Admission Register

Series B0143 Sing Sing Prison Inmate Admission Registers, 1842--1852, 1865--1965, 1970--1971,
“New York, U.S., Sing Sing Prison Admission Registers, 1865--1939,” *Ancestry.com*,
<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/8922/>

Penal: Pardons

A0597 Executive Clemency and Pardon Case Files, 1859--1965

Penal: Inmate Record Card

Series B1273 New York State Prison for Women Inmate Record Cards, 1921--1933

Penal: Monies Received by Inmates

Series B0073 Auburn Prison Daily Report of Moneys Received by Prisoners, 1907--1909

Penal: House of Refuge Inmate Admissions

Series A2088 New York House of Refuge Inmate Admission Registers, 1882--1932

Penal: House of Refuge Indenture Agreements

Series A2066 New York House of Refuge Indenture Agreements, 1825--1904

Restrictions on Record Accessibility:

Prisons, Juvenile Detention, Asylums/Hospitals, among others.

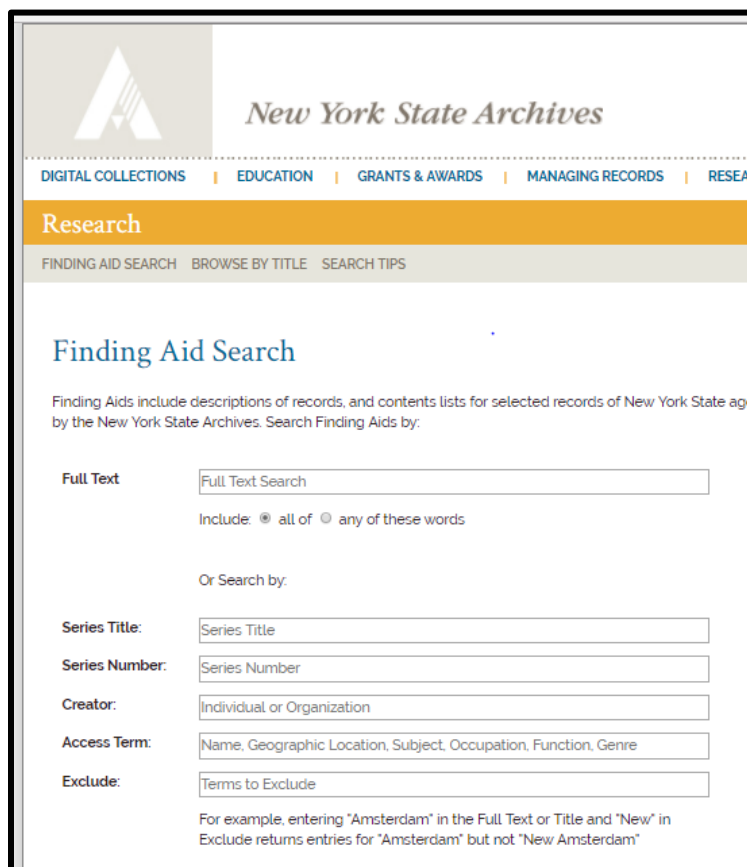
- Look for newspaper notices and county Board of Supervisors proceedings on HathiTrust and Familysearch.

Finding Aids

Finding Aids: <http://iarchives.nysed.gov/xtf/search?>

Ancestry.com New York

<http://www.archives.nysed.gov/research/how-to-video-ancestry>



The screenshot shows the 'New York State Archives' website. At the top, there is a logo and the text 'New York State Archives'. Below this is a navigation bar with links for 'DIGITAL COLLECTIONS', 'EDUCATION', 'GRANTS & AWARDS', 'MANAGING RECORDS', and 'RESEARCH'. A prominent orange banner reads 'Research'. Underneath, there are links for 'FINDING AID SEARCH', 'BROWSE BY TITLE', and 'SEARCH TIPS'. The main heading is 'Finding Aid Search'. A brief description states: 'Finding Aids include descriptions of records, and contents lists for selected records of New York State agencies and records held by the New York State Archives. Search Finding Aids by:'. The search interface includes a 'Full Text' search box with the placeholder 'Full Text Search' and a radio button option 'all of' selected. Below this is the text 'Or Search by:' followed by several input fields: 'Series Title', 'Series Number', 'Creator' (with the placeholder 'Individual or Organization'), 'Access Term' (with the placeholder 'Name, Geographic Location, Subject, Occupation, Function, Genre'), and 'Exclude' (with the placeholder 'Terms to Exclude'). A note at the bottom explains: 'For example, entering "Amsterdam" in the Full Text or Title and "New" in Exclude returns entries for "Amsterdam" but not "New Amsterdam".'

This page is the portal into the NYSA finding aids. Use series title or number, or keywords such as naturalization, citizenship, aliens, almshouses, civil service, personnel records, licensing, occupational, also institution or prison name.

All websites checked on 1 October 2022