

About This Guide

The Guilderland Public Library Research Guides are intended to help you find resources available in the Library's collection, through electronic databases provided by the Library, and on the Internet that can be useful when researching a particular subject. If you don't have Internet access at home, you can use one of the computers in the Library that are connected to the Internet.

Where possible, we've also included contact information for local organizations that might provide additional information. For obvious space reasons, this is not an exhaustive list. If you need more help with your research, **JUST ASK A LIBRARIAN!**

About the Library

Getting a Library Card: Library cards are issued to individuals ages 5 and older (for children ages 5-16, a parent's or legal guardian's signature is required.) Come to the Library and fill out a registration form. You'll need identification showing your name, signature and current address, such as a valid New York State Driver's License. If your mailing address is a post office box, you'll need proof of your actual physical address, such as a utility or phone bill. Some registration restrictions may apply.

Using Your Library Card: You can use your Library card at any of the 29 libraries in Albany and Rensselaer counties that belong to the Upper Hudson Library System. The first time you use your card, you are limited to four items. After that, the maximum number of items allowable on a patron's account at any given time is 50, or a maximum dollar value of \$1500, whichever comes first. Certain materials can be renewed, and renewals can be done over the phone or at our website. Call the Circulation Department at 456-2400 x8 if you would like to renew items or have more questions.

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GUILDERLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY
2228 Western Avenue, Guilderland NY 12084
518.456.2400 ~ www.guilpl.org

*Guilderland Public
Library Research Guides*

Local History/ Genealogy



Local History/Genealogy Materials at the Guilderland Library

Reference Materials: Most of the Library's Local History Collection is housed in the Guilderland Room, which is located near the newspaper display rack in the large reading room. The Arthur B. Gregg Collection consists of more than 100 rare titles on local, regional, and state history that were donated to the Library by Guilderland's former town historian. The materials in the Guilderland Room are not available to check out, but you may use the room at any time for quiet study, or photocopy materials from the books.

The Guilderland Room also houses our collection of the *Altamont Enterprise*, with paper copies dating from 1990-present. The Library also has *The Knowersville Enterprise* from July 1884-July 1888 and the *Altamont Enterprise* from 1888-2008 available in microfilm. These newspapers have also been digitized and can be accessed here: <http://historicnewspapers.guilpl.org>

Although the Guilderland Room does contain a few primary genealogical sources and Census Indexes, most books on the subject are found in our circulating collection.

Circulating Materials: Books on local history are found in call number **974**. Books on genealogy — which consist primarily of resource guides and how-to manuals — are located at call number **929**.

For Kids: Circulating materials on local history are located at **J 974.742**. The Librarians in the Youth Services department also have local history information in their professional reference collection. Resources include information about Guilderland historic sites; landmarks and town history; natural areas of Albany County, including the Pine Bush; Native Americans in New York State; and general information about Albany.

Library Databases: Electronic databases available through the Library's website (www.guilpl.org) offer resources for researching genealogy:

Heritage Quest Online provides research materials for tracing family history and American culture. Includes original page images for all documents and journals, with many articles in full text. The database includes access to the U.S. Federal Census Records from 1790-1930.

Jewish Data is a professionally compiled Jewish genealogical resource, with more than 100,000 records including images of tombstones from Jewish cemeteries in the Capital District, school yearbook pages, and Citizen Declaration documents. **The Ancestry Library Edition** genealogical database contains thousands of sources including more than 1,000 historical maps; *American Genealogical Biographical Index* (more than 200 volumes); *The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England, 1620-1630*; *Social Security Death Index*, *Federal Slave Narratives*, and a strong Civil War collection. **Footnote** features documents relating to the Revolutionary War, Civil War, WWI, WWII, the Vietnam War, and provides access to historical newspapers, naturalization documents, and other original source material. **Historic Mapworks** includes 200,000 high-resolution, full-color digitized historic maps.

Local History/Genealogy

Some suggested websites for local history and genealogy:

www.rootsweb.com/~nyalbany/index.html

A NYGenWeb county site — contains an interactive discussion list, bibliographies, a searchable database of some primary sources and many links to local organizations and resources.

www.nysm.nysed.gov/albany/

The Colonial Albany Project is coordinated by the New York State Museum, and will eventually include 16,000 biographies of individuals who lived in the city of Albany prior to the Industrial Revolution. Includes information on jobs, buildings, maps.

www.nysl.nysed.gov/gengen.htm

A description of the genealogical resources at the New York State Library.

www.historic-albany.org

For those interested in restoration and rehabilitation of historic buildings, Historic Albany Foundation provides programs on architectural history and restoration techniques, and offers public lectures and house tours.

www.nnp.org The New Netherland Project's primary objective is the complete transcription, translation, and publication of Dutch documents in New York libraries, museums and archives that relate to the 17th-century colony of New Netherland.

www.uhls.org/ispny/ Includes photographs and historical information about Bethlehem, Brunswick, East Greenbush, Guilderland, Hoosick Falls, Rensselaerville, and Voorheesville. A related website, www.mvls.info/ispny/index.html, covers areas in Schenectady and Schoharie counties.

www.threerivershms.com Representing the valleys surrounding the Hudson, Mohawk, and Schoharie Rivers, this website offers an eclectic variety of links to historic articles, local restoration projects, and more.

www.ugrworkshop.com Capital District Underground Railroad Workshop seeks to raise awareness about the active underground railroad movement in the region, recognize local historic figures involved in the effort, and preserve its history.

www.archives.gov/northeast/pittsfield The US National Archives and Records Administration, Northeast Region, in Pittsfield, MA houses microfilm including Census records, passenger arrival lists, *American State Papers* 1789-1838, records relating to the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, Chinese Immigration, Post Office records, maritime records, and more.

Local Organizations

The following groups can provide help on local history and genealogy:

Alice Begley
Town of Guilderland Historian
Guilderland Town Hall, 2nd Floor
P.O. Box 339
Guilderland, NY 12084
518-356-1980 ext. 1050
www.townofguilderland.org/Pages/GuilderlandNY_Historian/index

Rensselaer County Historical Soc.
57 Second Street
Troy, NY 12180
518-272-7232
www.rchsonline.org

Guilderland Historical Society
152 Main Street P.O. Box 282
Guilderland Center, NY 12085

Capital District Genealogical Soc.
P.O. Box 2175
Empire State Plaza Station
Albany, NY 12220-0175
www.familyhistory.com/societyhall/viewmember.asp?societyid=25

Albany County Hall of Records (ACHOR)
95 Tivoli Street
Albany, NY 12207
518-436-3663
www.albanycounty.com/ACHOR/

Schenectady County Historical Society
32 Washington Avenue
Schenectady, NY 12305
518-374-0263
www.schist.org/

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
Family History Center
411 Loudon Road
Loudonville, NY 12211
518-463-2566
www.familysearch.org