

Genealogy in the LHR

Family Histories (mainly LI REF 929's)

- Much of the Local History Room collection supports family history (genealogy)
- Most L.I. family histories are arranged **alphabetically, by family surname** (first on cover)
- Nearly all have **indexes**, listing **collateral [related] families**, as well as those on cover
- The Brookhaven Town cemetery register (in the large blue folder, bottom shelf) is often helpful.
- Cemetery registers tend to be scattered throughout the collection and some are online. Others are not available (e.g., St. Francis de Sales R.C. Cemetery),
- Thematic burial listings (politicians, Revolutionary War veteran burials)
- Censes: e.g., Suffolk, 1776; Brookhaven Town, 1850 (North and South vols.).
- Online/Digital Newspapers (Suffolk Historic Newspapers, Brooklyn Newstand [Daily Eagle], Newsday, New York Times) can sometimes provide missing or unexpected connections, leads, details
- Wills & court proceedings sometimes provide surprises
- Military records and unit histories or ship's logs may provide useful information, as to a relation's possible activities or route through a war, rank, if an officer, skirmishes and battles or naval or aerial engagements
- Sometimes relatives are mentioned in histories at various geographic levels (from state to local); in contents, indexes, appendices, when provided. Some such works appear online and are searchable.
- When chasing records of an individual or family business, sometimes it is helpful to try the NYS Library/Museum/Archives combined catalog, known as Excelsior, which also includes the never-published NYS Historical Documents Inventory for Nassau and Suffolk, not available in print. The latter may lead your patron to a depository or repository holding something related to an ancestor, if you are lucky. Even genealogists tend to overlook this resource.
- Vertical files are hit or miss, under biography, or names of local businesses (associated with an individual), relations may appear in a history of a religious institution or under a book on artists, scientists, historians, murderers, or receive mention in a biography. But, following other leads provided by the patron, may lead to other relevant files.
- Old atlases and maps sometimes help locate, or relocate a family or individual, at a given time

State, County, Town, and Village Records & Histories (mainly LI REF & NY REF 970's)

- Sometimes shed light on ancestors, or help associate them with a locale or locale

Colonial, New York State, and Federal Military Records (Mainly in NY REF)

Religious Institution Records (LI REF 200's)

Business / Residential Directories

- Only the oldest ones are available in the Local History Room
- Anything from recent decades will be in **LI REF Storage**, if we own it
- There are major gaps in the collection, & esp. for the early years, publishing was quite erratic and infrequent
- **SCLS** has microfilm for

Atlases & Maps

- Sanborn Maps (we subscribe to the NYS set – b&w online, enlargeable, printable)
- Map Drawers top 2 are Patchogue area, bottom drawer contains Atlases