



GUIDE TO THE RESOURCE CENTER AND ARCHIVES

The collections are housed at the Society's Sewing and Trade School Building located at 209 Main Street, Huntington, New York.

Access to the Resource Center is free to Society members.

There is a \$10.00 use fee per person per day for non-members.

Appointments are required for all researchers.

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Researching in Huntington New York: The Resource Center and Archives of the Huntington Historical Society

The focus of the Huntington Historical Society is the collecting & preserving of artifacts, original documents, photographs, account books, and records relating to non-governmental history involving individuals, families, organizations, churches, cemeteries, and local businesses of the Town of Huntington. The collections are a source of study for local history, genealogy, information on historic houses and neighborhoods, ethnic studies, antiques, etc.

The following is by no means a complete listing of the collections. This guide provides an overview of some significant collections and the types of materials in the archives. The collection is constantly growing through donations and other sources. Contact the archives directly with specific questions about available resources on your topic of interest or about donating material to the collection.

The Nellie Ritch Scudder Collection of Long Island Genealogical Records-(1890-1920)

Nellie Ritch Scudder (1862-1920) collected genealogical records from churches, cemeteries, town records, local newspapers and publications, and libers at the County Center for about 9000 individuals. The family gave her material to the Society after her death and the information was compiled, typed and put in book form. A full name index to the volumes is available.

The Edwin L. Soper Family History Records Collection

Edwin L. Soper (1917-1990) collected information about local families and their allied lines. He donated copies of his material and updated them on a regular basis. Upon his death the remainder of his material was donated to the Resource Center. He used records similar to Nellie Ritch Scudder plus correspondence & occasionally assumptions, which are so noted. Families include:

Bunce Family	Lewis Family
Carll Family	Oakley Family
Creiger Family	Platt Family
Gardiner Family	Rogers Family
Gildersleeve Family	Scudder Family
Jarvis Family	Soper Family
Ketcham Family	Richard "Bull" Smith Family
LaFort Family	Valentine Family (Nathan branch)
Elizabeth Scudder Lathrop Family	

Church Records

These records, collected from a selection of local religious institutions, may include minute books, membership lists, baptisms, marriages, deaths, burials, minister's notes, clippings, & church histories. The time periods vary from the 1840s to 1913. Among the records available are those from St. John's Episcopal Church, St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church, Quarterly Conference of the Methodist-Episcopal Church Circuit Records, Woodbury Methodist Church, the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Commack Methodist Church, the Cold Spring Harbor Baptist Church, and records of the Rev. Joshua Hartt.

Records of the Presbyterian Church (Old First) in Huntington, NY

For easier research, printouts were made from the existing microfilmed records dating from 1766-1940 and an index was created. The records vary over time and include early Church Session records, brethren and sisters, burials, admissions and dismissals, lists of church members and communicants, baptisms, marriages, deaths, funerals, etc. Information on members of the local African American community are contained in the records.

Cemetery Records

Over the years, various individuals & organizations visited local cemeteries & copied the information from the tombstones in family plots, churchyards, rural cemeteries & association plots. The library has transcriptions & notes from 90+ burial grounds & sites, many were long ago abandoned. The records span burials from 1723 to 1990. The William A. Eardley records also include transcriptions from the bibles of William Covert (1753-1911) & Seth Purdy (1752-1800). The records primarily cover the present area of Huntington, but also include entries from Cold Spring Harbor, Syosset, Woodbury, Amityville, Farmingdale, Babylon, Brentwood, Wyandanch, Brookhaven & Flanders. There is a consolidated index of 13,000 names.

Records and Index to the Huntington Rural Cemetery, 1853-1990

An index to the interment records of the Huntington Rural Cemetery was created by members of the Society's Genealogy Workshop in 1990. The index includes over 9,000 names of people from Maine to California who are buried in the cemetery. The index shows five fields (surname, given name, last residence, burial date, volume and page in the burial book.) Volume and page numbers refer to detailed records usually giving age at death, date of death, cause of death, and plot number. Plot cards can provide names of others buried in the plot, plot owner, etc. The index and copies of the cemetery's interment records & plot cards are available in the archives. These records can supplement information found on websites such as *Find a Grave & Names in Stone*.

World War I and II Military Service Information

In 1920 and 1921 Society members created a card file for individuals from Suffolk County who served in the military during World War I, both men & women. Cards are filed by post office name and then in surname alphabetical order. The cards vary in information from name of individual and post office, date of birth, parents or spouse, enlisted or drafted, branch of service, rate or rank, military action, death or wounded, military action, date of discharge and on a rare occasion activity after discharge. The Honor Roll of Huntington's 3,860 men and women who served in World War II was compiled by the Official Honor Roll Committee American Legion Huntington Post 360, Huntington, NY the project started April 1942 and was completed November 1946. It includes all those who served with separate listings for categories such as those missing in action, killed in action, women, etc.

Special Collections

The Special Collections are comprised primarily of original materials dating from 1653 to the present. The collections cover individuals, families, businesses, estates, homes, farms, clubs and organizations. The collections vary in content and can contain genealogy, ledgers, account books, diaries, correspondence, post cards, newspaper clippings, bills and receipts, probate information, deeds & bonds, legal documents, bible records, scrapbooks, minute books, architectural drawings, ephemera, etc.

Atlases, Travel, and Land Ownership Maps

Highlights of this collection includes: *J. Chace Jr. Map of Suffolk Co.* 1858; *F. W. Beers, Comstock, and Cline Atlas of Long Island* 1873; *E. Belcher Hyde Atlases for Nassau County* 1906 & 1914 and *Suffolk County* 1909 & 1917 and *Real Estate Map of Suffolk County Westerly part* 1931; *Dolph & Stewart Road & Land Ownership Map of Nassau County* 1939; Hagstrom Co. *Road and Land Ownership Atlas of Suffolk County, L.I., N.Y (Western Half)* 1941 & 1944, *Street and Road Atlas of Suffolk County, N.Y.*, 1952 and *Atlas of Suffolk County, N.Y.*, 1961. There are also national, state, & local maps from 1639-1997 and U. S. Geological Survey Maps.

James R. Reilly (1921-2000) Collection

This collection consists of 344 books primarily dealing with Irish history and genealogical research, Irish Journals, articles from Irish journals and books, 159 “Townland Index Maps” showing the boundary of townlands including a useful selection of roads, railways, major rivers and public buildings. Also includes fiche collections of *Index of Surnames of Householders in Griffith’s Valuation and Tithe Applotment Books* and Griffith’s Valuations Record Books.

Photograph Collection

The collection contains over 250,000 images documenting the history of the Town of Huntington its people, places, industry, and events. The images are in various formats such as prints, negatives, glass plates, slides, tintypes, daguerreotypes and postcards. The material also includes collections from several local professional photographers, collectors and local individuals.

Books and Magazines

The non-circulating collection of over 5,000 books cover Huntington, New England, New York City & include genealogies, town records, local & county histories, churches, the Colonial Period, the American Revolution, the Civil War, church & religious history, genealogy topics, biographies, and books pertaining to antiques, historic costume, social customs. Magazines include *Long Island Forum*, *LI Historical Journal*, & *NY Genealogical & Biographical Record*.

Newspaper Collection

The collection contains a variety of titles relating to the local area, New York City, New York State, etc. Titles are available in print and/or microfilm and vary from a large run of issues to single copies. Among the local newspapers of interest are *The Long Islander*-1839 to present, *The Portico*-1826 to 1827, *The Suffolk Democrat*-1846 to 1864, *Suffolk Bulletin* 1929-1944, and *Huntington Times* 1930-1966. A more detailed listing can be found at <https://www.nysl.nysed.gov/nysnp/index.html>

Oral History Collections

These collections are comprised of interviews conducted with local citizens, historians, groups & Society members from 1966 to 1979. In 1987, the Society, in collaboration with the Town of Huntington conducted interviews with members of the African-American, Italian-American & Latino Communities These interviews provided the basis for the Society’s exhibit & publication, *Reaching for A Dream: Huntington’s Ethnic Heritage*. Records of the interviews include abstracts listings topics ranging from personal experiences to memories of events and activities.

Town of Huntington-Historic Site Survey

A survey requested by the State of New York to list all structures that have historic connections and or represent a unique period of American architecture was conducted in the late 1970s. It was then used by the Town of Huntington as a basis to create local historic districts or individual landmarks. The survey covered four types of data: 1) all extant structures appearing in *Beers, Comstock, and Cline's Atlas of Long Island* (1873) would be listed individually; 2) more recent vernacular structures 1880-1920 would usually be listed where their numbers and integrity were sufficient to create a sense of neighborhood; 3) structures of considerable architectural merit and integrity would be listed regardless of age; 4) archeological sites would be listed if subsequent development had not obliterated all traces. Nearly 1500 structures or sites are described.

Index and Abstracts of Land Titles-Primarily in the Town of Huntington and a few in Southold [1763-1949]

The collection consists of 3 cubic feet of material. These primarily 20th century title searches go back to the 17th and 18th century and contain records of earlier sales of the land in question and copies of wills which transferred title to other individuals.

Family History and Biography File

A vertical file collection of numerous individuals or families containing an assortment of materials. The materials may include: newspaper clippings, obituaries, bible information, personal correspondence, military service information, church records, vital records, estate information, ancestor charts, genealogies, tributes, photo images, etc.

Town of Huntington Vertical File

A collection of clippings, brochures, pamphlets, reports, and articles about organizations, businesses, government, local communities, historical topics, schools, activities, events, and more relating to the Town of Huntington and its individual hamlets and villages.

Manuscript Vertical File

The material is primarily individual original items and ephemera related to individuals, businesses, various organizations, and topics. The files include such items as small account books, magazines and pamphlets, mementos, almanacs, exhibit brochures, correspondence, atlases, broadsides, tickets and event programs, receipts, 1790 census of Huntington, cemetery records, commemorative church histories, deeds and other legal documents, directories, minute books, school materials and alumni records, social activities, holidays and events primarily relating to the Town of Huntington.

Genealogy Vertical File

Articles and newsletters relating to genealogy organizations, localities, topics & techniques.