

New York County Clerk ledger collection

Includes Accession #s 1964-031 to 1964-049, 1964-093 and 1964-094

About the County Clerk

The County Clerk's Office is one of the few county offices functioning in the City of New York. At present, there are five individual counties in the city. The researcher should bear in mind that up to 1914, New York County included under its jurisdiction both the boroughs of Manhattan and the Bronx. The Bronx became a separate county in 1914.

Among some of the duties of the County Clerk are found the following: To act as clerk of the Supreme Court; to receive, index, record and file Supreme Court papers, notices of liens, corporation charters, business certificates and miscellaneous documents; to certify filed documents and to issue certificates in relation thereto; to qualify and register Notaries Public and Commissioners of Deeds, and to authenticate their signatures; to restore and preserve old court and County Clerk records; to prepare judgement rolls, tax costs and enter judgements in Supreme Court actions.

About Collection

In this collection will be found a reflection of only a very small portion of the aforementioned duties as, for instance, the County Clerk's duties in connection with the recording of liens. The collection consists of volumes of varying sizes but no documents or loose papers. They were received in the archives from the County Clerk's Office in 1964. A more detailed description of each series of records follows.

Collection

Certificates of Incorporation of Religious Corporations (Accession # 1964-032)

Contained in these volumes are the recorded copies of Certificates of Incorporation records. All persons wishing to form a church or religious organization were required to file various affidavits. These volumes, then, contain handwritten copies of these affidavits. Also included are copies of papers which had to be filed when such religious bodies wanted to change their legal name. However, there are not too many papers of this nature.

1. 1850 October 29-1863 August 20
2. 1863 August 28-1877 February 15
3. 1870 January 16-1889 September 17
4. 1889 November 7-1896 March 9
5. 1896 March 14-1898 December 29
6. 1899 January 5-1901 November 15
7. 1901 November 15-1904 December 19
8. 1905 January 6-1906 July 24

All entries in these volumes are arranged by date of filing and recording (a few entries may be slightly out of chronological order, however). Each volume contains an index by name of the religious

congregation. The following abstracts are listed herein simply to give some indication of the types of affidavits to be found.

Example 1: First Salosizer Congregation Ahawath Achim

We, the undersigned, seven of the members of the Congregation hereafter mentioned, hereby certify that on the 28th day of October, 1905, at a meeting of the Male members of full age, belonging to the Congregation, for the purpose of incorporating the same, which meeting was held in the City and County of New York in the house where they stately assemble for divine worship according to the rites of the Hebrew religion, and there and then did elect by a plurality of voices the undersigned Members as Office of the said congregation, and the said persons did then and there also determine by the like plurality of voices that the said congregation shall be called and known by the name or title of the "First Salasizer Congregation Ahawath Achim."

The names of seven individuals are then given. Also following is usual statement by a Notary Public.

Example 2: St. Nicholas Avenue Presbyterian Church

At a Special Term of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, held in and for the County of New York at Part I thereof in the County Court House, Borough of Manhattan, New York City, on the 26th day of February 1906 ... In the matter of the application of the Trustees of Lenox Presbyterian Church of the City of New York to change the corporate name of Lenox Presbyterian Church to that of St. Nicholas Avenue Presbyterian Church.

Upon reading and filing the petition of the Trustees of Lenox Presbyterian Church of the City of New York dated and verified the 10th day of January 1906, praying for leave to the corporation to be known as "The Lenox Presbyterian Church" to assume the name of "St. Nicholas Avenue Presbyterian Church" in the place of its present name ...

There then follows a statement by the attorney for the church; statements by the President and Secretary of the Trustees of the Church regarding such items as a description of the present location of the church, any judgements against the church, etc., and several other statements by various individuals.

Example 3: Church of St. Mark the Evangelist

Whereas, in pursuance of an Act of the Legislature of the State of New York known as the Religious Corporation Law, being Chapter 723 of the Laws of the State of New York passed May 23rd, 1895, and in pursuance of Article 3, Section 50, of said Act, we ... have appointed ... members of said church, Trustees of said church, or the congregation thereof, pursuant to said law.

Now, therefore, know all men by these presents that we do hereby certify that the name, or title which we and our successors shall be known as a body corporate by said law is the "Church of St. Mark the Evangelist," and that the principal place of worship of

said church is located in said City and County of New York and in the Diocese of New York and that we are Trustees thereof ...

The names of five individuals are then given. Also following is the usual statement by a Notary Public.

Change of Name of Religious Corporations and Individuals (Accession # 1964-033)

Contained in these volumes are recorded copies of Change of Name Certificates. Though the overwhelming majority of these name changes pertain to individuals, several pertain to business corporations, and two or three entries refer to religious institutions.

Each entry is arranged in chronological order. Each volume has an index arranged in alphabetical order by the name the individual or institution held at the time of application for change.

In addition, there is a general index or master index which covers most of the entries in these Change of Name volumes, as well as most of the entries found in the first four volumes listed in the Certificates of Religious Incorporations volumes. However, there are certain discrepancies in this general index which detracts from its usefulness.

1. 1851 May 24-1869 March 1
2. 1869 January 12-1875 April 20
3. 1875 May 1-1879 May 24
4. 1879 June 14-1888 February 2

Liens on Vessels (Accession # 1964-031)

Columns in these volumes read as follows: Name of Vessel; Name of Claimant; Amount of Lien; Time of Filing; and Remarks. Preceding the name of each vessel, there is a number (the same number is often assigned to many different vessels), the significance of which is not apparent. The type of vessel (tug, barge, etc.) will also be included next to the name.

All entries in these volumes are arranged alphabetically by name of vessel. Within each individual letter of the alphabet, entries are arranged in chronological order by Time of Filing. The Remarks column is used very infrequently, and when used, simply gives a discharge date, said date probably referring to date on which a lien was discharged or satisfied. There is also a number found next to the Time of Filing. Though the significance of this number is not apparent, it may have been used to refer one to a fee file.

1. 1855 May 4-1867 August 31
2. 1867 September 2-1884 March 28
3. 1884 April 8-1890 December 29
4. 1891 January 2-1894 December 31
5. 1895 January 3-1896 December 29
6. 1897 January 4-1899 December 27
7. 1900 January 2-1902 December 31
8. 1903 January 3-1905 December 29
9. 1906 January 2-1907 December 31
10. 1908 January 2-1909 December 31

[Inventories and Accounts \(Accession # 1964-034\)](#)

Columns in these volumes read: When Filed; Plaintiff; Defendant; and Remarks. The Remarks column is usually filled in with such words or phrases as "Account," "Inventory and Account," and "Receivers Account."

All entries are grouped by letter of the alphabet, and, within each letter, chronologically by date entered in the "When Filed" column.

1. 1830 November-1891 December
2. 1892 January-1901 December
3. 1902 January-1910 September

[Index to Building Associations \(Accession # 1964-036\)](#)

All building associations were required by law to file various legal documents. The volume in question is simply an index volume listing the names of these associations. Besides the name, this index volume will also list the date on which each association filed its pertinent papers. An unlabeled column lists such words as "First," "Second," etc., perhaps referring to the number of times said association made application. There are not many entries in this volume.

1. 1851-1852 (with a few entries from 1853 and 1858)

[Liens on Unsafe Buildings \(Accession # 1964-037\)](#)

Entries in this volume are arranged alphabetically by the name of the street on which the unsafe building is located, as well as by the name of what probably is the owner, occupant, or, perhaps, builder. Next to each entry is found a date signifying, no doubt, the time when the lien was made. There are very few entries in this volume.

1. 1862 (with one 1863 entry)

[Homestead Exemptions \(Accession # 1964-040\)](#)

In this register are found copies of notices or other documents filed in connection with an act entitled "An Act to exempt from sale or execution the Homestead of a house holder having a family." The Act was passed in 1850. The following few lines are simply quoted to illustrate the type of document to be found in the volume: "Take notice that the following described property ... is designed to be held as a Homestead. All that certain lot, place or parcel of land in the Nineteenth Ward (late Twelfth Ward) in the City of New York known and described as follows ..."

A full description of the property is given including boundary lines. Also following, is the copy of statement of a Commissioner of Deeds, usually appended to such legal documents. There are very few entries in this volume. An index to its fragmentary contents is also included as part of the book.

1. 1851-1904 (excludes the years 1853, 1859-1866, 1868-1871, 1873-1878, 1880, 1882-1899, 1903)

Civil Commissions: Oaths and Appointments (Accession # 1964-035)

In these volumes will be found recorded the names of all persons whose office required that an oath be filed with the County Clerk. The name of the person; the title of office (judge, stenographer, assistant clerk, marshal, trustees of a state hospital, deputy sheriff, etc.); and date when qualified are listed. Occasionally, a date of resignation or some similar information is also included.

All entries are arranged in alphabetical order by name of person appointed. Within each letter of the alphabet, entries are chronologically arranged by date when oath was filed or when the person was appointed.

1. 1865-1888
2. 1889-1910

Appointments and Designations Index (Accession # 1964-041)

Found in this volume are listings of the various appointments, designations and assignments which the County Clerk's office had to maintain. Statements are extremely brief, simply listing name and date (presumably, that date on which said item went into effect). Each entry is also accompanied by a number, no doubt referring to some other file where other pertinent information could be found.

All entries are arranged in chronological order. There is no index to the names involved.

1. 1920-1927

Coroners Invoices (Accession # 1964-049)

This volume is very large, measuring approximately 13 x 8 inches and 5 inches thick. In it are found hundreds of documents (eventually used as invoices) pasted into the various pages. For the most part, these documents consist of letters or notices addressed to the Coroner's Office by undertakers and others. The majority deal with the granting of permission to the next of kin of deceased persons to claim effects left behind by the deceased.

All documents are arranged in a rough chronological order.

1. 1908-1910 (with some 1907 and 1911)

Professional Registration Fee Book (Accession # 1964-038)

The purpose of these volumes was simply to record the fees paid by various professional persons who were required to register with the County Clerk's Office. These particular books are restricted only to professional persons in the medical or building fields (physicians, podiatrists, dentists, architects, land surveyors, etc.) – no other professional fields are mentioned.

All entries are filed in chronological order. From about March 1948 to March 1951, the names of the individuals are omitted, and a number substituted. The number, evidently, referring to some other file concerning the individual. No other information is found in these volumes.

1. 1944 October-1947 June
2. 1947 July-1951 March

Architects Register (Accession # 1964-042)

By law, architects (among other professional persons) practicing in the State of New York had to be certified by the State. This register consists of the names of these individuals and, more specifically, the following information: Date (on which certification was granted); Name of the Individual; Signature of Individual; Date and Place of Birth (this column, however, is seldom utilized); Residence; Post Office Address; No. of Certificate to Practice; and Remarks (this column simply containing a number, probably referring to another file).

Entries are arranged in alphabetical order by name of individual, and then, within each letter, in chronological order.

1. 1919-1947

Chiropodists Register (Accession # 1964-044)

Very similar to the Architects Register. Columns are labeled as follows: Date of Registration; Name; Signature; Date and Place of Birth; How Qualified (in this column is simply found a certificate number); and Remarks (in this column is found an address, presumably the home or business address of the individual). In the 1912-1947 volume, there is a slight variation in column labels as follows: Date; Name; Signature; Date and Place of Birth; Residence; Date; Source and Character of Diploma; Endorsed by What Faculty; and Number.

All entries arranged in alphabetical order by name of individual, and then, within each letter of the alphabet, chronologically by date of registration.

1. 1895-1919 (with one 1926 entry; very few entries for 1913-1919)
2. 1912-1947

Chiropodists Affidavits (Accession # 1964-045)

Found in this volume are the actual affidavits which all registered chiropodists had to sign. Each affidavit reads as follows (blanks indicate areas to be filled in when completing form):

____ being duly sworn, says: that ____ was born in ____ on the ____ day of ____ in the year ____; that ____ now resides at No. ____ Street in the City of ____ and intends to practice Chiropody in the County of New York; and that h__ authority so to practice is a license conferred upon h__ on the ____ day of ____ in the year ____ by the University, State of New York, ...

The rest of the affidavit has no blanks to be filled in and reads as a typical affidavit of this nature would. Each one has been signed and then notarized by a Commissioner of Deeds.

All affidavits arranged in chronological order by date on which they were notarized (a few may be slightly misarranged). Volume does not contain a name index.

1. 1912-1941

Dentists Register (Accession # 1964-046, 1964-093)

Together with architects, chiroprodists and others, dentists had to be certified by the state in which they intended to practice. Essentially, the volumes listed here are listings of these dentists.

1. 1879-1881
2. 1881-1895 (with a few 1898 entries)
3. 1896-1910
4. 1911-1921
5. 1922-1938

Since the volumes differ somewhat in format, they are described separately as follows:

1879-1881 volume

This register contains a listing of all dentists who signed this statement: "I do solemnly swear that I am a practicing Dentist doing business in the City and County of New York and was so practicing previous to the 20th day of June 1879." The only other information afforded by this register besides the signature of the individual, is the office address of each. All entries are arranged in chronological order by date of registration. Volume contains a name index.

1881-1895, 1898 volume

To this volume has been appended a column listing the college which conferred the dental diploma or certificate upon each dentist, as well as the year when this was done. Some entries also give the age of the individual at time of registration. Entries arranged in alphabetical order and within each letter in chronological order.

1896-1910, 1911-1921 and 1922-1938 volumes

In these volumes the age of every dentist has been added, as well as a column reading: "Date of License to Practice Dentistry"; "No. of License to Practice Dentistry"; and "Remarks." The last column is seldom used. All entries are arranged alphabetically and within each letter in chronological order.

Dentists Affidavits (Accession # 1964-047, 1964-093)

Found in this law are the actual affidavits required by law of all dentists practicing in the State of New York. Each affidavit reads as follows (approximately):

____ being duly sworn, says that h__ name is ____ that h__ age is __ years; that ____ birthplace is ____; that the number of h__ license is ____; that the date of the issue of said license is ____; that he is the identical persons named in said license; that before receiving the same he complied with all the preliminary requirements of Chapter 626 of the laws of 1895, ...

The rest of the affidavit has no blanks and reads as a typical affidavit of this nature would. Each is signed and notarized. From about 1921 on, addresses were also listed.

All affidavits are arranged by date of notarization. Volumes do not contain a name index.

1. 1890-1895
2. 1895

3. 1896-1904
4. 1904-1910
5. 1910-1916
6. 1916-1919
7. 1919-1921
8. 1922-1928
9. 1928-1941
10. 1942-1947

[Dental Hygienists Register \(Accession # 1964-094\)](#)

Columns in this register are labeled: Date of Registration; Name; Signature; Age; Office Address; Post Office Address; Date and License to Practice Dentistry; No. of License to Practice Dentistry; and Remarks. Last column is seldom used. Entries arranged in alphabetical order by name of the Dental Hygienist.

1. 1917-1923

[Dental Hygienists Affidavits \(Accession # 1964-094\)](#)

This volume contains the actual affidavits signed by each hygienist. Wording is similar to that found on other affidavits in this series. This volume does not contain many entries. The few affidavits found are arranged in chronological order by date on which the affidavit was sworn to.

1. 1917-1923

[Horseshoers, Masters and Journeymens Register \(Accession # 1964-039\)](#)

The following information is found in this register: Date of Registration; Name of Individual; Signature of Individual; Residence; Place of Business; and Date of Certificate.

1. 1896 (with some 1897 and 1989)

[Optometrists Register \(Accession # 1964-043\)](#)

This register contains copies of the Record of Optometrists Certificates. Each certificate states that the individual has met all requirements prescribed by law for a certificate to practice optometry and that in witness thereof, the Regents of the State University grants the certificate. Various officials sign the certificate, and each is numbered. No other information regarding the individual optometrists is given.

All certificates are arranged by date recorded in the County Clerk's Office. The volume includes a name index.

1. 1920-1938

[Veterinary Surgeons Register \(Accession # 1964-048\)](#)

Veterinarians were another group who had to register and be certified by the state. These registers, then, contain a listing of these men. Specific information to be found is the following: Name; Signature; Residence; and a brief statement concerning how the individual was qualified (the name of the college granting the diploma is usually found in this column).

All entries are arranged in alphabetical order, and then, within each letter, by chronology.

1. 1886-1895
2. 1895-1946 (only scattered entries for later years; this particular volume also gives information concerning place and date of birth, and source, number and date of license to practice)