



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**New Western New York Digitization Center Officially Opens at Buffalo's Central Library**  
*Buffalo & Erie County Public Library selected by the New York Genealogical & Biographical Society to host the new Center as part of a statewide effort to preserve historical documents, and make them publicly accessible.*

**BUFFALO, N.Y., July 24, 2025** – The Buffalo & Erie County Public Library and the New York Genealogical & Biographical Society (NYG&B) are pleased to announce the opening of the Western New York Digitization Center, located inside the Central Library's Grosvenor Room—home to one of the region's most distinguished local history and genealogy collections.

To mark the opening, the organizations are hosting a celebration and tours of the new center with regional and local historical and genealogical societies on Tuesday, July 29, from 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at the Downtown Central Library's Ring of Knowledge. Speakers include the distinguished genealogist **D. Joshua Taylor**, MA, MLS, FUGA, NYG&B President and CEO; **Susan Buttaccio**, Buffalo & Erie County Public Library Special Collections Manager; and **Rhonda Hoffman**, the Public Library's Genealogy Specialist.

"Our Library could not be more honored to take part in this critically-important and mission-aligned effort" said **Interim Library Director Dorinda Darden**.

"As stewards of one of the most significant genealogical collections in New York State, the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library is proud to partner with many organizations in an effort to safeguard and share our region's history and distinguish Buffalo and Western New York as hubs for accessible preservation and discovery."

The Western New York Digitization Center is one of only three such sites to date—and the only one hosted by a public library—operated through the NYG&B's Digitize New York initiative. Digitize New York is a statewide effort launched in 2023 to preserve New York's at-risk historical records and make them publicly accessible for researchers, genealogists, educators, and community members.

"The opening of the Western New York Digitization Center at the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library is a proud moment for our community. This initiative not only preserves our region's remarkable history, it makes it accessible to all. I commend the Library and the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society for their partnership and vision in ensuring that the stories of Western New York's past are protected and shared for generations to come" said **Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz**.

Located in Buffalo, the Western New York Digitization Center features a CopiBook OS A2, a top-of-the-line high precision scanner, generously funded by the William G. Pomeroy Foundation. The other Digitization Centers are located in Syracuse, NY, and NYG&B's office in New York City.

"With the opening of the Western New York Digitization Center, as our third site in the State, we have galvanized Digitize New York's efforts to preserve and protect historical documents and make them freely available for communities and researchers—now and for future generations," said **D. Joshua Taylor, President and CEO of the NYG&B**.

"By partnering with the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library to broaden this work, together we will ensure a lasting legacy of record preservation and access throughout the region and statewide."

### **Call for Volunteers**

NYG&B has also [opened a call for volunteers](#) to take part in the effort by scanning physical records in the Central Library's Grosvenor Room. Interested volunteers will be provided with an orientation session to determine availability, discuss skills, and review guidelines.

### **More on the Preservation Effort**

Any Western New York-based organization with materials relevant to New York family history may apply for the Center's services, which are provided at no cost to participating organizations that are selected. Digitized records will be processed and made publicly and freely accessible for everyone on the NYG&B's [Online Records and Collections platform](#), helping link local stories to the broader arc of state and national history. In addition to preserving deteriorating materials, the project removes geographic barriers by enabling public access to rare and often otherwise inaccessible records.

The partnership reflects the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library's long-standing commitment to civic memory, and profoundly public access to knowledge.

For more information or to inquire about digitization services, visit:  
[www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/western-new-york-digitization-center](http://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/western-new-york-digitization-center)

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### **About The Buffalo & Erie County Public Library**

Established in 1836, the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library is Buffalo's oldest cultural institution. Profoundly Public in all we do, the Library serves more than 2.35 million visitors annually through 37 branches and mobile services. The Library also houses over 3.2 million resources, extensive digital collections, and innovative programming. With a collection of international and national note, the Library continues to significantly impact community education, equity, and cultural enrichment. In 2024, every dollar invested returned \$4.32 in community benefits, totaling over \$128 million in annual value. To explore resources and services, visit [www.BuffaloLib.org](http://www.BuffaloLib.org).

### **About New York Genealogical & Biographical Society**

Founded in 1869, the New York Genealogical & Biographical Society (NYG&B) is a nonprofit organization that preserves, documents, and shares family history and stories from across New York State. As one of the oldest genealogical organizations in the United States, the NYG&B serves members both nationally and internationally through its extensive records and resources; educational programming; and landmark publications, including its scholarly journal the *NYG&B Record*, quarterly issues of the *New York Researcher*, and the award-winning *New York Family History Research Guide and Gazetteer*. Its comprehensive records and collections encompass genealogical and historical materials from all 62 counties in New York State. Learn more at [www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org](http://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org)

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