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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**NEW GUIDE AVAILABLE TO HELP WITH FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH**  
**Pamphlet by County Archives pulls together listings of public, private records**

Searching for your family roots just got a whole lot easier.

Visitors to the Westchester County Archives can now turn to a new annotated pamphlet that spells out all the resources available to help them with their personal genealogical research. For the first time, the brochure organizes on one sheet all the governmental records at the County Archives and the private records stored in the Westchester County Historical Society's library, housed in the same Elmsford building.

The pamphlet will guide and inform researchers who do "one-stop shopping" as they explore both collections for information about relatives who lived, studied, worked and died in Westchester County.

"Not only will research time be trimmed, but the patrons will also receive clues from this brochure about collections they might not have envisioned when doing family research," said Patty Dohrenwend, director of the Archives and Records Center.

She added that when seeking one's family roots, the obvious sources are vital records – birth, death and marriage. Interestingly, in most cases these documents are found in the local communities where the event occurred (births and deaths) or where the license was issued (marriages).

A visitor to the County Archives would normally ask to see wills, deeds, and census and naturalization records. But, how many would know to peruse "city directories," telephone books from a bygone era that often indicated the person's occupation as well as address and phone number? How many would know that the Westchester County Historical Society has a large collection of local newspapers that contain marriage and

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death notices? Even fewer would probably know that there are reports dating back to 1828 at the Archives from local school districts that include student names and faculty lists.

Looking for your family member's connection to an American military engagement prior to World War II? During the 1930's, the Works Progress Administration created index cards for individual veterans of wars, 1775-1918, who are buried in Westchester. Over 8,000 soldiers and nurses have had their military and burial information noted on these cards, which were then matched to cemetery maps also drawn by WPA workers. Veterans discharges have also been filed with the County Clerk for generations.

For the student of social history, there are special resources detailing names, ages and living conditions in Westchester's orphanages and the county Almshouse. Church records, incorporation papers, court records, voter enrollments and maps can be reviewed to complete the family tree.

Cindy Sauer, assistant archivist and director of volunteers, compiled the guide to improve the research process. For years, the Westchester County Archives has placed certain indexes -- such as its marriage records, veterans' cemetery records, incorporation and naturalization records -- on its website at [www.westchesterarchives.com](http://www.westchesterarchives.com). According to Sauer, when the website's new version is launched this summer, elements from this brochure will serve as an important online finding tool for those conducting their research by mail.

"Many of our visitors spend beneficial time here researching their family's unique history. In the past our staff and volunteers have focused much of their work on describing the various records collections to the researchers. We are pleased that more of that time can now be spent locating the documents and, for the patrons, reviewing these rich primary source materials," Sauer said.

"The Guide to Doing Genealogical Research at the Westchester County Archives and Records Center" has been distributed to local municipal clerks, public libraries, historical societies, the Westchester Genealogical Society and various county and state offices. To obtain a copy, call (914) 231-1500 or visit the Westchester County Archives during public hours, on Tues. or Wed., 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., at 2199 Saw Mill River Rd., Elmsford, NY 10523.