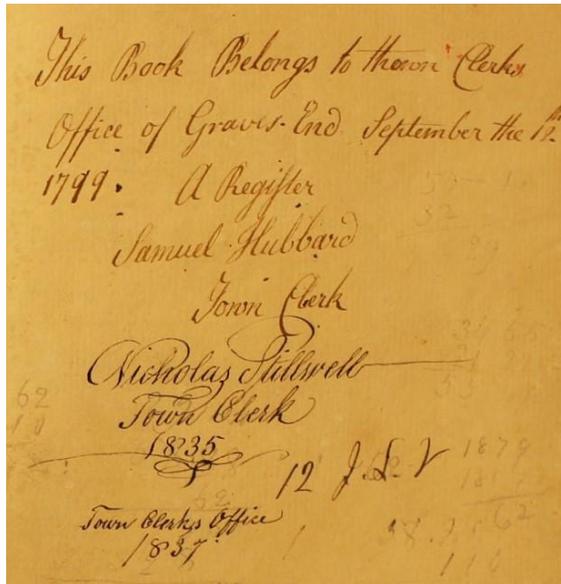


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -

***The New York City Department of Records and Information Services announces
the availability of historic Kings County town records***



NEW YORK, December 27, 2019 — The New York City Department of Records & Information Services announced today that the Municipal Archives had added the Kings County “Old Town” records to the agency’s online gallery: [online](#)

A boon for historians and genealogists alike, the records date from 1645 to 1898. Prior to consolidation of the Greater City in 1898, Kings County consisted of several towns: Brooklyn, Bushwick, Flatbush, Flatlands, New Utrecht, New Lots and Gravesend.

The administrative records from these towns make up the “Old Town” collection. Far from dull financial notes, the collection provides details on the daily life of residents over more than two centuries.

Of particular note are the records of the Town of Gravesend. Granted to Lady Deborah Moody in 1645, it became the only English town in the Dutch-dominated western area of Long Island. Based on the frequency in which her name appears in the Gravesend Town records, it is clear that Lady Moody, a religious dissenter who fled England and later Massachusetts, took an active and intense interest in all aspects of her community.

“We are intent on expanding access to the City government’s historical records and making them available to researchers around the world. The Kings County Old Town records, like the Almshouse records posted in 2017 are important resources that depict

the lives, deaths, debts and laws during the colonial years through the industrialization of Brooklyn. We hope that making them available online will provide details to deepen the understanding of the City's past." *Sylvia Kollar, Director, Municipal Archives*

Over the last generation, historians have shifted their focus from the powerful individuals and institutions of a particular society to an examination of interactions and experiences of groups within a society. As the nature of historical research has evolved, the collections of the Municipal Archives have emerged as an important, nearly inexhaustible resource. The Kings County town records have a potential for wide ranging research topics pertaining to gender and ethnicity, race, labor, immigration, slavery, domestic violence, finance history, and patterns of residence and occupation. The genealogical information in these records alone will serve the continuing interest in family history research.

Accessioned by the Municipal Archives in 1988, the Kings County town records previously were available to patrons on 163 rolls of microfilm at the agency's offices. The digital images were copied from the microfilm. Since 2014, the Municipal Archives has expanded the online gallery by adding historical photographs, maps, building plans, the Almshouse records and more.



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