

LES  
at  
NYPL

# Local History Collections

## A range of materials...

- Contemporary and Historical monographs, journals, magazines, oral histories, local histories, newspapers, directories, reports, and clipping files
  - Federal, state, and local government documents
  - Maps, Photographs, film, and visual collections
  - Archives and manuscripts

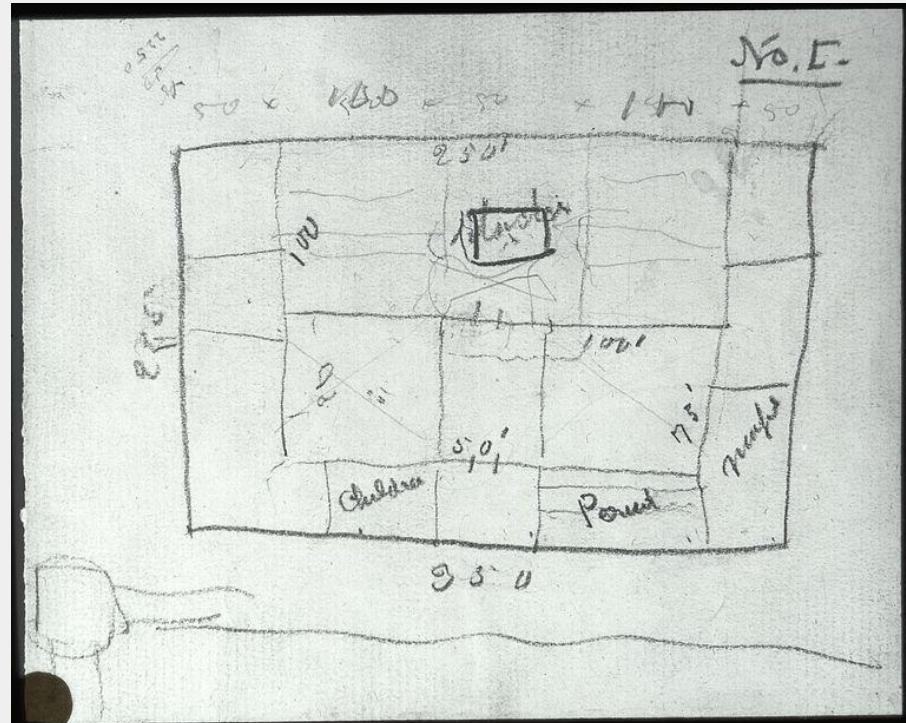


Plan for New York City 1969: A Proposal - Community Resources

# Locating Local History Collections

## Discovery and Access:

- Online and print catalogs and indexes, databases
- Archives Portal
- Prints and Photographs Catalog
- NYPL Digital Collections
- Map Warper
- Photographers' Identities Catalog
- Community Oral History Project
- NYC Space/Time Directory



Central Building, floor plans: Billings sketch

# The LES Mapped

## Topographical Maps

Egbert Viele - 1865

Sanitary and topographical map of the  
City and Island of New York

Prepared for Council of Hygiene and  
Public Health of the Citizens  
Association



# The LES Mapped

## Early city maps

Bernard Ratzer - 1776

Plan of the city of New York in North America: surveyed in the years 1766 & 1767

A military survey displaying topographic features, identifying farmland and property, and the city's early infrastructure.



# The LES Mapped

City plans and Street maps

William Hooker - 1838

Hooker's new pocket plan of the city of New York

Complete with listings of street name, wards, churches, markets, banks, newspapers, colleges, theaters, gardens, and public buildings.



# The LES Mapped

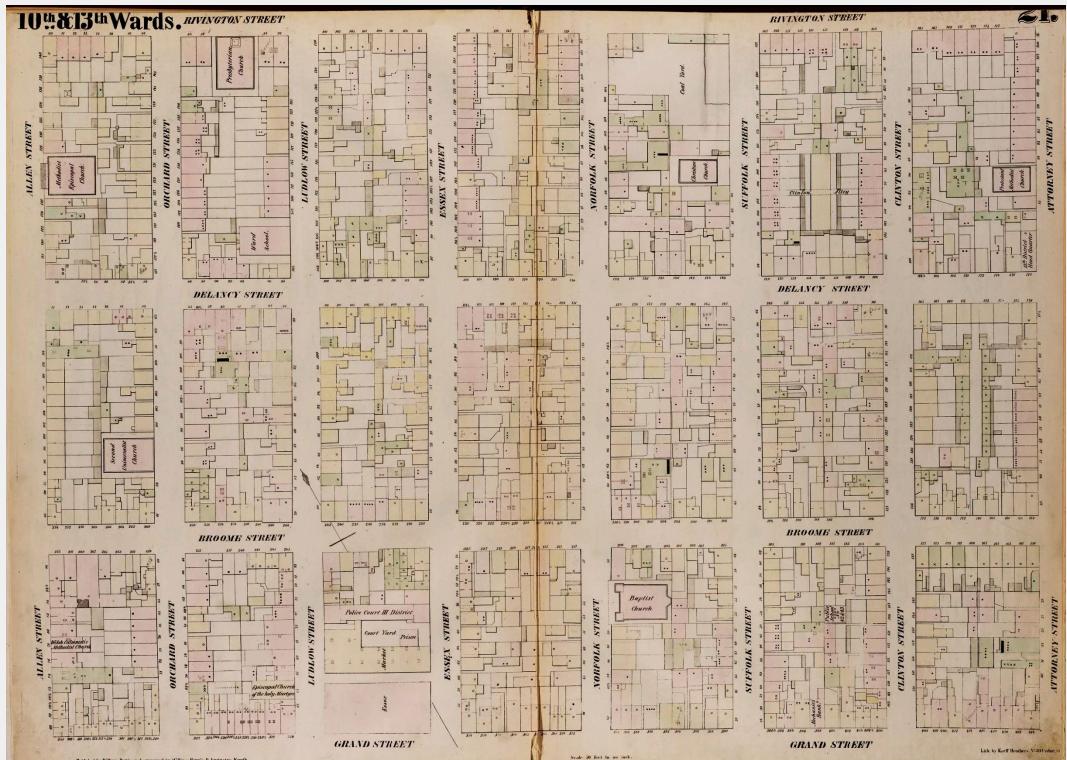
## Fire Insurance & Property Maps

Began production in 1850s

William Perris - 1854

Maps of the city of New York

Large scale maps of individual blocks, lots, buildings, and myriad details on the city's built environment.



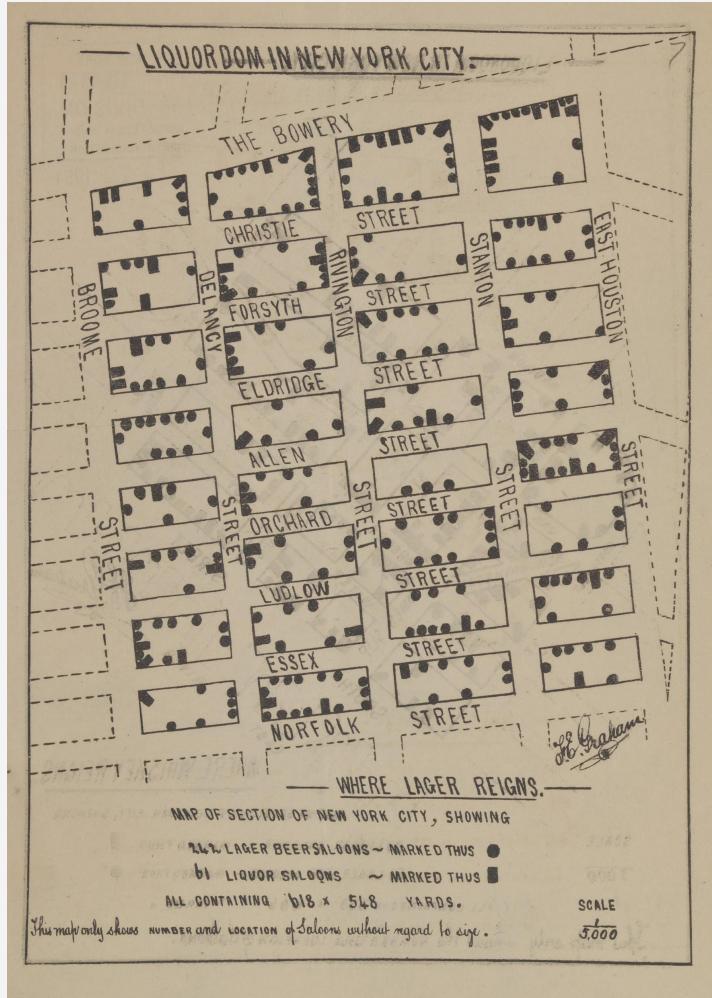
# The LES Mapped

## Thematic Maps

# Robert Graham - 1883

# Liquordom in New York City

From the publication of the same name, promoted by the Church Temperance Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church, which was established in 1881 to “promote temperance, ‘rescue’ the intemperate, and eliminate the perceived causes of intemperance.”



# The LES Mapped

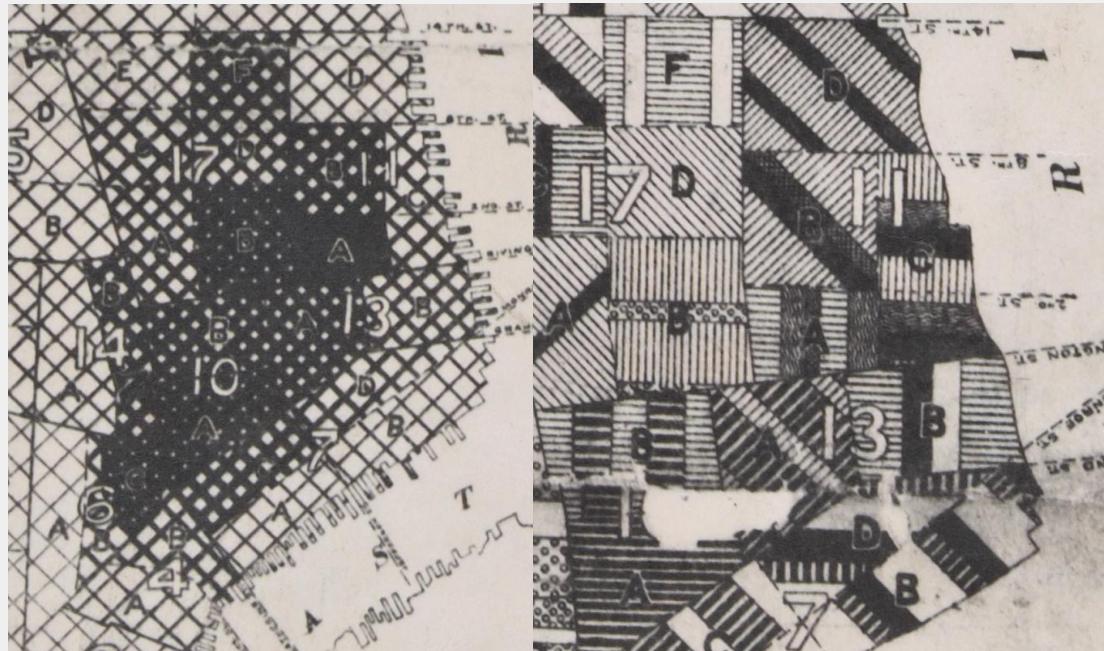
## Thematic Maps

The Tenement-House Committee maps - 1895

No. 1 - Scale of Densities -  
Inhabitants per Acre

No. 2 - Showing Proportion of  
each Nationality according to the  
1890 Census

Published in Harper's Weekly,  
January 19, 1895



No. 1

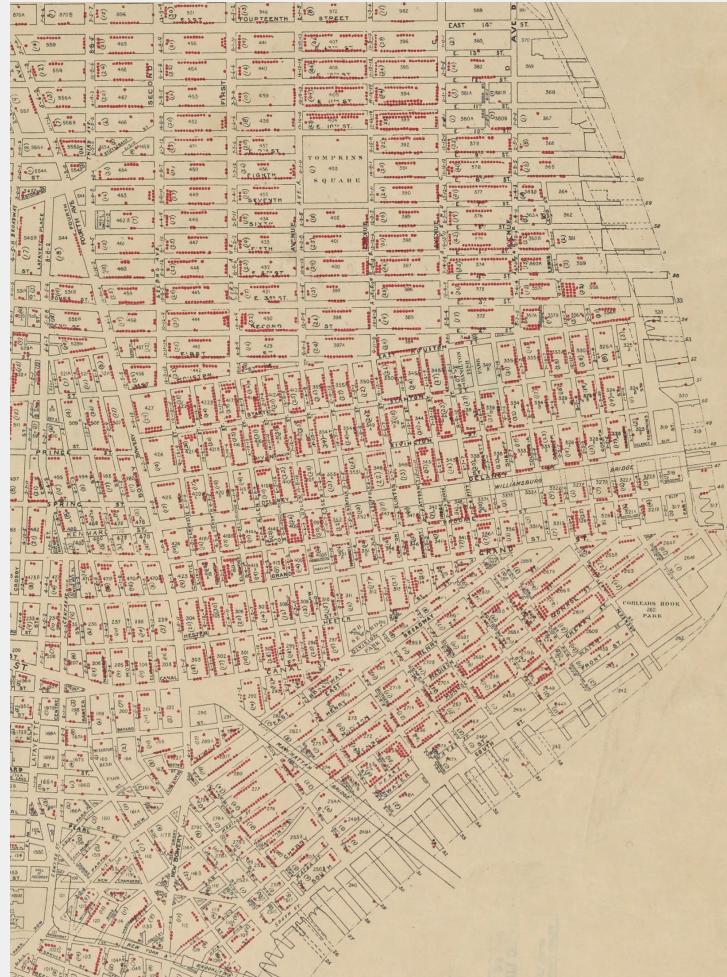
No. 2

# The LES Mapped

## Thematic Maps

Fire Chart of the Borough of Manhattan, N.Y.  
- A useful reference map for members of the  
Fire Department, Fire Insurance Agents,  
Real Estate Men, etc. - 1915

The number of red dots in each block  
indicate the total number of fires on the  
respective sides of the blocks which  
occurred in the years...1910,1911, and 1912

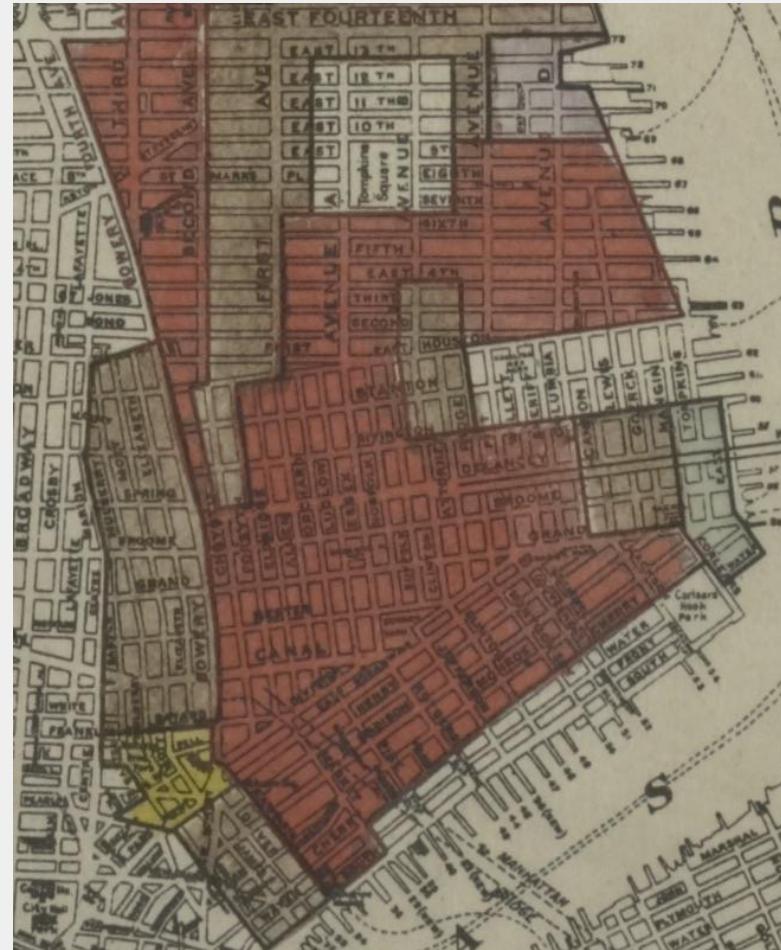


# The LES Mapped

## Thematic Maps

Map of the borough of Manhattan and part  
of the Bronx showing location and extent of  
racial colonies. - 1920

This is the commercial version of a map produced for the NY State “Lusk Committee” which in 1919 was initially charged with investigating sedition.



# The LES Pictured

## Prints and Views

### Eno Collection of New York City Views

The Collection includes more than 800 prints, drawings, and maps produced over a period of four centuries, often with location information

The old brewery at the Five Points, N.Y.  
- 1854



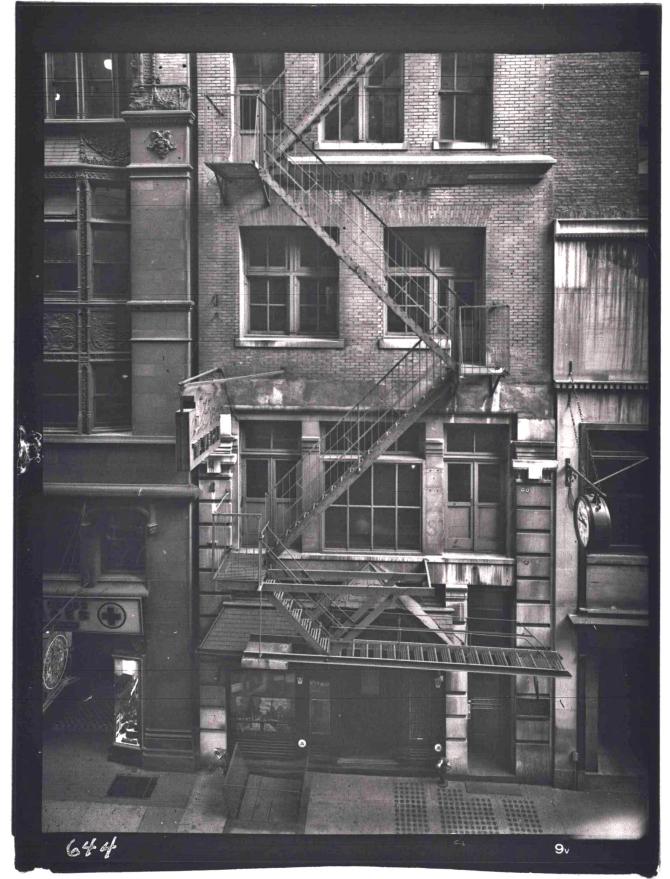
# The LES Pictured

Real Estate Photography & Street Views

Lloyd Acker collection--views of New York City buildings [1935-75]

Approximately 45,000 photographs,  
many representing buildings long since demolished

Currently only available on microfilm



# The LES Pictured

## Real Estate Photography & Street Views

Photographic Views of New York City [1870s-1970s]

35,000 photos of the city arranged by borough and address, generally accompanied by explanatory captions



Orchard Street - 1936 - "Occupations - Peddlers - Miscellaneous - Clothing - Food - Hardware"

# The LES Pictured

## Documentary Photography

Tenement House Department, various collections [1902-1938]

Collections commissioned by the Department document interiors and exteriors of a variety of structures. Locations are not always identified.



Vacant tenements: 55 Canal St. Orchard St., Manhattan [1935-38]

# The LES Pictured

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Orchard Street Scene [1902-1914]

# The LES Pictured

## Contemporary Photography

Drugstore Photographs, Or, A Trip Along the Yangtze River, 1999, by Dylan Stone

Conceived as an artistic endeavour, the collection of over 25,000 images mirrors the function of the real estate photos, and Photographic Views of New York City



Block 288: Delancey Street between Orchard Street and Ludlow Street (north side)

# The LES Documented

## Archives and Manuscripts

Over 10K archival collections of Institutional, Business, Family and Personal Papers, Oral Histories, Correspondence, Diaries, etc.

While rich in materials & information pertaining to the history of the LES, archives and manuscripts are seldom classified or described as place-based collections.

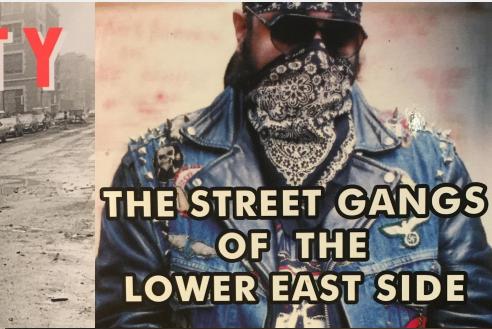
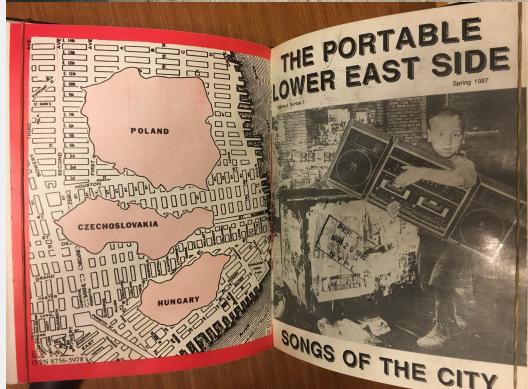
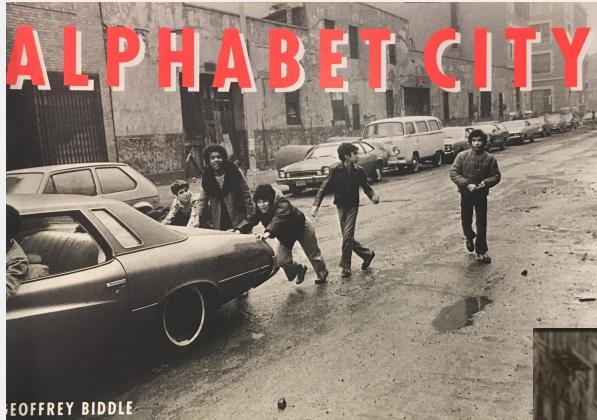


- **Committee of Fifteen records, 1900-01**
  - A citizens' group that advocated for the elimination of 'vice'
- **Emigrant Savings Bank, 1841-1945**
  - Bank records contain information about deposit accounts, real estate, buildings, and investments
- **Lillian D. Wald papers, 1889-1957**
  - Pioneering social worker who founded the Henry Street Settlement
- **Jeff Kisseloff oral history interviews, 1986-2000**
  - Over 150 interviews Kisseloff conducted for *You Must Remember This: An oral history of Manhattan from the 1890s to World War II*.

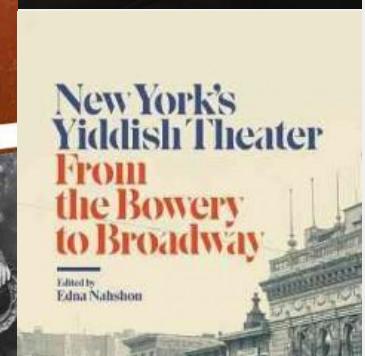
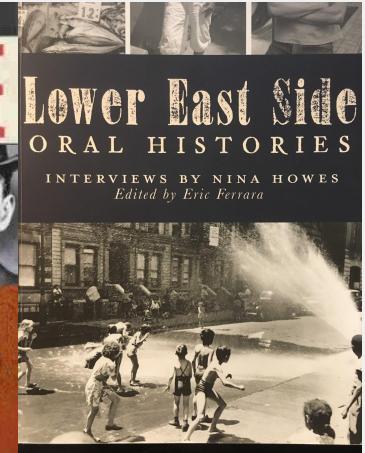
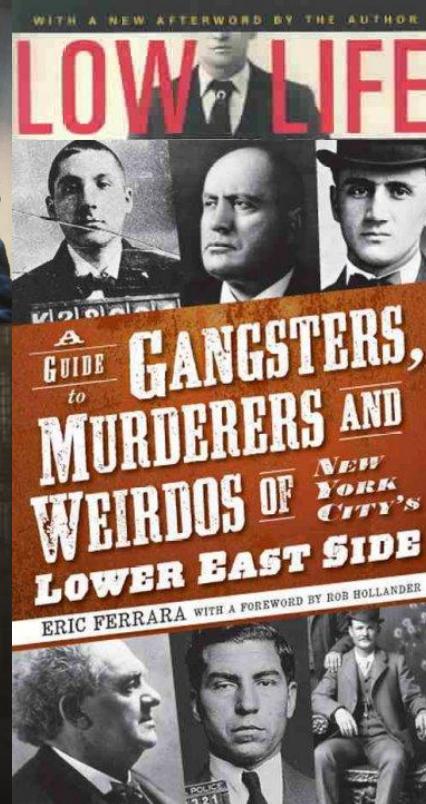
# The LES Recorded, Reported & Published

- NY City directories
  - Digitizing 1786 through 1922/3
- Building histories
  - Published histories, vertical files, designation reports, arranged by address
- Church Records
  - Inventory of the church archives in New York City. Roman Catholic Church
  - German Churches of Metropolitan New York: A Research Guide
- Cemetery directories
  - *The graveyard shift : a family historian's guide to New York City cemeteries*
- Voter registries
  - A directory of the registered voters of the city of New York, arranged by streets and house numbers. (1877)
- Government records
  - Federal, state and city census records
  - Planning documents, reports, &tc

# The LES Recorded, Reported & Published



Lower East Side  
Oral History  
Project



# Searching...

- Research Catalog - catalog.nypl.org
- Archives Portal - archives.nypl.org
- Prints and Photographs Catalog - wallachprintsandphotos.nypl.org
- NYPL Digital Collections - digitalcollections.nypl.org
- Map Warper - maps.nypl.org
- Photographers' Identities Catalog - pic.nypl.org
- Community Oral History Project - oralhistory.nypl.org
- NYC Space/Time Directory - spacetime.nypl.org

&tc.

Kate Cordes - Asst. Director of Maps, Local History and Genealogy - NYPL - [katherinecordes@nypl.org](mailto:katherinecordes@nypl.org)

Map Division - [maps@nypl.org](mailto:maps@nypl.org) | Local History Division - [history@nypl.org](mailto:history@nypl.org)