



The Underhill Society of America
P.O. BOX 712, OYSTER BAY, NY 11771-0712

January 31, 2025

Re: Written Testimony for Joint Legislative Public Hearing Health/Medicaid Regarding Access to NYS Vital Records

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Susan Underhill McMahon and I am writing to you today as president of the Underhill Society of America, a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization based in Oyster Bay, New York, to provide testimony on how the proposed bill regarding "Part U – Digitize Genealogical Records" in the FY 2026 Executive Budget would impact our members' and the Society's ability to access genealogical, community and historical records.

The Society's mission and objectives include the collection, preservation and perpetuation of the records, the traditions and the antiquities of the Underhill Family, which include historical and genealogical information. We strive to continually bring up to date and publish additional genealogical information on all Underhill family lines that migrated to North America but, especially, that of Captain John Underhill, an outstanding historical colonial figure.

The easy and cost effective access to historical New York vital records is essential to our ability in documenting the history and genealogical information on the New York descendants of Captain John Underhill and descendants of other Underhill families who resided in New York. As a non-profit organization, any increase in fees to obtain vital records for our genealogical and historical purposes would have a huge negative impact on our budget. Captain John Underhill's descendants resided in all counties in New York but a majority were in Nassau, Suffolk and Westchester counties. Timely receipt of vital records requested is also paramount as we get inquiries from our members and non-members for genealogical information on their Underhill family lineage.

This issue is urgent, and your leadership is a necessary component to ensure continued access to New York State vital records that are imperative for our members and the wider community. Your consideration of these matters is very much appreciated and I appreciate this opportunity to provide written testimony on behalf of the Underhill Society of America.

Sincerely,

Susan Underhill McMahon
President and Asst. Treasurer
Underhill Society of America

Cc The Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of New York
The Honorable Jack M. Martins, State Senator, District 7
The Honorable Jake Blumencranz, NY Assembly, District 15