

# ***Central New York Family History Conference***

***Sponsored by  
Onondaga County Clerk  
M. Ann Ciarpelli  
&  
New York State Archives***

***Saturday, April 22, 2006  
Liverpool, New York  
8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.***

***The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints  
4889 Bear Road  
315-451-5804***

***<http://austrianfamilyhistory.org/CNYFHC.htm>***

***Free to the Public***

# Conference Schedule

**Registration – 8:30-9:00 a.m.**

**Introductory Remarks – 9:00-9:15 a.m.**

Note: Class numbers are to the left and classroom letter locations are to the right. You may attend any one of the four one-hour classes each session on a first come, first seated basis.

**Session 1 – 9:30-10:30 a.m.**

1. Internet Genealogical Resources: Freshest & Hottest (A)
2. Introduction to Family History: Beginning the Search for Your Ancestors (B)
3. Genealogical Research at Onondaga County Library: Why Go to the Library When I've Got Google? (C)
4. Deciphering Records in German (D)

**Session 2 – 10:45-11:45 a.m.**

5. Tracing Your Native American Ancestry (A)
6. Municipal Historians: Genealogical Treasure Troves (B)
7. Onondaga Historical Association Collections Revealed (C)
8. How to Develop Your Own Genealogical Web Site (D)

**Lunch – 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m.** (Lunch is not provided)

**Session 3 – 12:45-1:45 p.m.**

9. African-American Ancestors in Historical Context (A)
10. Introduction to Family History: Beginning the Search for Your Ancestors (B)
11. Discovering LDS Family History Centers (Family History Center)
12. How to Prepare for a European Research Trip (D)

**Session 4 – 2:00-3:00 p.m.**

13. African-American Family History Research (A)
14. Discerning Death Records (B)
15. French Huguenot Family History Research (C)
16. Preserving Family Records in Digital Format (D)

## Additional Information

Handouts for each class will be made available to download through the unofficial conference webpage during the following week at: <http://austrianfamilyhistory.org/CNYFHC.htm>.

The conference site is a "smoke free" building, and we would ask that you not smoke anywhere in the facility. A smoking area will be established outside the rear entrance where you are welcome to partake.

Please see the enclosed map for possible lunch locations. All of the establishments listed are within ten minutes of the conference site. A location with tables will also be made available for those who wish to bring their own lunch and eat at the conference.

The LDS Syracuse Family History Center is located in the same building that our conference is being held, and it will be open during the conference for tours or to ask questions of its staff members.

Tables will be accessible at the conference where family history literature will be displayed and various organizations represented. For example, the Central New York Genealogical Society will have representatives available to discuss the benefits of membership in their organization and present their literature.

## **Class Descriptions**

### **1. Internet Genealogical Resources: Freshest & Hottest**

Although not the source of all truth and knowledge, the Internet can provide researchers with many helpful contacts and sources of information. Surfing the web has never been easier and more productive for family historians. Year after year more primary source data is available online making the Internet an indispensable tool for genealogists. This class will provide many helpful hints to make your Internet research fruitful. It will also identify some of the pitfalls of materials published online. Helpful tools and remarkable websites will be revealed. This presentation takes you from Cyndi's List to the moon and back!

### **2. Introduction to Family History: Beginning the Search for Your Ancestors**

This class is intended for those who are in the beginning stages of gathering their family history. We will discuss how to successfully find and organize genealogical information; survey the types of records and information helpful to family historians; discover how libraries, historical societies, archives, and other facilities can assist you; and examine how proper research methods will make your labors fruitful. This is a must see if you want expansive exposure to the world of family history!

### **3. Genealogical Research at Onondaga County Library: Why Should I go to the Library When I've Got Google?**

Whether you're just starting or you've been researching for years you're going to be amazed at the resources and collections available in the Department of Local History and Genealogy at the Onondaga County Public Library. Materials are available to answer a wide range of information needs from family history and genealogy to in-depth research on people, places and events in the Syracuse area. OCPL has many unique and one-of-a-kind items that won't be found online or elsewhere. And one vital tool Google and the Internet can't give you is the in-person assistance of a librarian specialist. This presentation will give a good general overview of the materials and tools available at the library.

### **4. Deciphering Records in German**

Understanding the records of German-speaking countries presents a sizable challenge when first exposed. Alphabetic nuances, specialized vocabulary, translation, and "foreign" handwriting scripts can all contribute to a very frustrating experience. For example, Germanic church records often combined an interesting blend of Latin and German languages with many individualized adaptations made by local priests. This presentation provides a broad introduction to reading and comprehending records, particularly ecclesiastical records, in German. All the tips and tricks you need to begin this wonderful journey will be explored. Additional helpful resources will be identified to assist you with further instruction in this effort.

### **5. Tracing Your Native American Ancestry**

Tracing one's Native American ancestry can prove to be a very challenging yet rewarding journey of self-exploration! There are three areas of interest that this presentation will explore: First, the more standard approach of searching certain tribal rolls for ancestors. Second, a historic review of the so-called "Free Persons of Color" for Indians who may have been subsumed (e.g. lumped) into this category. Key sources will be removal treaties, land allotments, reservation terminations, court cases, etc. Third, perhaps surprising for some, will be the search for Indians among the enslaved populations. Even the most cursory review of slave schedules, wills, runaway notices, court cases, etc. reveals a wealth of overlooked information on Indian slaves.

## **6. Municipal Historians: Genealogical Treasure Troves**

Often overlooked by researchers, municipal historians can be a gold mine of local and family history! Although genealogy is not their primary focus, the world of local history is so closely related to family history that the two really are inseparable, and generally no one knows this better than the municipal historian. Just about every town, village, and city in New York State has a historian. Unfortunately these civil servants often work for nearly nothing and therefore have limited hours to perform their important functions, but what a work they do! Municipal historians can help you place your ancestor in local context. They know the ins-and-outs of your ancestor's community, how it fits into regional and state history, and the resources available to help you. Strip away the flavor and history of your ancestor's community and the resulting vital statistics become rather bland and often misleading. In cooperation with municipal clerks, these historians hold the key to local government archives, which can greatly augment other available record sources. This presentation will help you plumb the depths of this important resource.

## **7. Onondaga Historical Association Collections Revealed**

If you have ancestry from Onondaga County, Onondaga Historical Association's Richard and Carolyn Wright Public Research Center may be able to help you discover more about them. Since 1862, OHA has been collecting historical records relating to Syracuse and Onondaga County. OHA's collections can breathe life into your ancestor; they can provide depth of understanding and add color to an otherwise drab genealogical chart. This presentation will help you to understand what resources are available and the most productive ways to utilize their collections. Unearth one of the region's richest gems through this class presented by its Archivist and Research Associate.

## **8. How to Develop Your Own Genealogical Web Site**

Sounds easy, but there are so many questions to answer . . . . What is the purpose of my website? Do I want to offer services or generate income from my site? What kinds of information will I present or distribute? Will I use a preset "cookie cutter" website or have my own URL? How do I decide on a domain name and how much will it cost me? Where do I find a website host? How do I transfer files to my host? Can I design a website? *Dreamweaver* versus *FrontPage*? How do I get my site seen by Google? Do I want to track who is visiting my site? What software is available to mount genealogical data on the Internet? This is going to be a busy presentation that covers pretty much everything you need to know to publish your own family history website.

## **9. African-American Ancestors in Historical Context**

The emergence of the African-American identity was much more conceptual than color-based references would imply. This session will explore the Freedom Journey of African-Americans through the lenses of early scholars and activists who found themselves at the intersection of historical, religious, and educational change. In the process, they created publications and documents that identified numerous persons of African descent by name, locale, and even family affiliation. This information will be helpful to persons tracing their African-American family histories and placing it within an historical context.

## **10. Introduction to Family History: Beginning the Search for Your Ancestors**

This class is intended for those who are in the beginning stages of gathering their family history. We will discuss how to successfully find and organize genealogical information; survey the types of records and information helpful to family historians; discover how libraries, historical societies, archives, and other facilities can assist you; and examine how proper research methods will make your labors fruitful. This is a must see if you want expansive exposure to the world of family history!

## **11. Discovering LDS Family History Centers**

Family History Centers are in essence branch lending libraries of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' Family History Library in Salt Lake City – the largest repository of genealogical resources in the world. These local centers provide access to the main library and many of the materials it contains. This class will discuss the kinds of records, databases, and online assistance Family History Centers provide to assist you in your search for ancestors, and the procedures for obtaining these materials. It will also discuss the LDS Church's plan to digitize their film collection and other new developments. [The Syracuse Family History Center is located in the same building that our conference is being held, and it will be open during the conference for tours or to ask questions of its staff members.]

## **12. How to Prepare for a European Research Trip**

Life is all about genealogical road trips, and trips to Europe are among the best! In many ways true family history only begins after you have walked the lands of your ancestors. This is where the rubber meets the road as you head out in search of ancestral homes and get a feel for their communities and culture. Travel to Europe can get pretty pricy though, especially when each Euro now costs around \$1.20. So you want to make the most of every precious day you have in the Mother Land! Careful preparation is often the determining factor in whether you bring home reams of information and wonderful memories or experience a frustrating costly excursion. Don't leave it up to chance. This class will reveal the secrets and tips necessary to guarantee your success.

## **13. African-American Family History Research**

The process for reclaiming your African American family history may not be as difficult as you might have imagined. This session will connect the historical context of Africans in America with a step-by-step method for identifying relatives in health documents, court records, census schedules, military pension records, estate records, newspapers, and other sources. This session is based upon actual case studies conducted by the presenter.

## **14. Discerning Death Records**

Death records are known as the least reliable source for genealogy information. This is, of course, because the person who knows the answers is the person who is dead. However, each of the various sources that we will discuss will help us in our search for answers. Records that deal with death are many and varied: autopsy records, bible records, transit records, burial permits, city directories, death certificates are only a few that we will be examining.

## **15. French Huguenot Family History Research**

Is my ancestor a Huguenot? This class will provide an overview of recent scholarship of Huguenot history with an eye for what the new findings mean for genealogists. It will also discuss useful sources for researching your Huguenot ancestors and explore typical problems for the genre. If you have Huguenot ancestry, this presentation is a must!

## **16. Preserving Family Records in Digital Format**

One of the biggest challenges facing family historians today is the complexity of issues surrounding the preservation of electronic records. With ever-changing technology and the short life expectancy of the media on which they are stored, electronic records pose a special challenge to those who would preserve their digital legacy. This presentation will describe various preservation, storage, and security techniques that will increase long-term access to electronic records. The presentation will also introduce basic concepts of electronic records management, including a general discussion of media types and file formats. This is the place to be if you contemplate the creation of a digital family archives.

## Presenters

### **Charlene Cole (Class 6)**

Charlene currently serves as the municipal historian in the Town and Village of Sandy Creek and in the Village of Lacona, Oswego County. She began researching her own family history in 1990 and at the same time started volunteering throughout Oswego County for local historians and historical societies. During this time Charlene documented many of the cemeteries in Oswego County for local municipalities. Shortly thereafter she began to volunteer for the County Historian Barbara Dix and joined the Oswego County Genealogy Society; this is where Ms. Cole's professional writing career took form. Starting with the society's newsletter, Charlene has written several local histories including, *Veterans World War I & II*, *Sandy Pond Memories*, and *Lacona: 125 Years of History*. She currently writes a weekly newspaper column for the *Salmon River News* regarding local and family history. An excellent grant writer, Ms. Cole has developed and administers one of the largest historical collections in Oswego County.

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~nyoswego/towns/sandycreek/>

### **Barbara Dix (Classes 6 & 14)**

Barbara has a degree in Education from SUNY Oswego, where she majored in history. She recently retired from her job as Oswego County Historian, where she developed a deep knowledge of the county's people and places as well as where to find information. As Administrator of County Records, she also helped establish the Oswego County Records Center. Prior to these responsibilities, Barb was a municipal historian for twenty years and Clerk/Treasurer for five in the Village Phoenix. In 1997, she formed the Oswego County Genealogical Society. Barb served as President of the County Historians of New York State and helped found a combined organization for historians: The Association of Public Historians of New York State. Currently Dix serves as the historian for the Village of Phoenix and Town of Schroepfel. She also serves on the Commissioner of Education's Advisory Committee.

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~nyoswego/towns/schroepfel/index.html>

### **Heriberto "Airy" Dixon (Class 5)**

Professor Heriberto "Airy" Dixon is a member of the Saponi Tribal Nation of Ohio where he is a historian and elder. Much of Dixon's time is dedicated to preserving the rich history of his people and helping others discover their Native American ancestry. A graduate of Queens College, The Business School at Columbia and University at Pittsburgh, his vast knowledge of both Indian culture and the business world provide for a diverse spectrum of knowledge where he is Professor Emeritus at SUNY New Paltz. As an elder member, Dixon is responsible for writing the tribal history and reclaiming the language and ceremonies. Part of Dixon's free time is spent helping others search for their tribal ancestry through genealogy. By tracing a family's surnames as well as their original geographic location, he helps individuals discover their tribal backgrounds. Dr. Dixon's research has recently appeared in the *New York State Encyclopedia*, the Smithsonian Institution's *Handbook on North American Indians: South Eastern* volume, and the *American Indian Culture and Research Journal*. At present, he has an article under review for the *New York State Archives Magazine*.

<http://www.newpaltz.edu/>

### **Mike Flanagan (Class 7)**

Michael Flanagan has served as the Onondaga Historical Association (OHA) Archivist and Research Center Manager since 2005. He was previously Collections Manager at Madison County Historical Society in Oneida and Registrar at Everson Museum of Art in Syracuse. Michael entered the realm of history museums after previously working in an art museum and receiving a Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of Montana. In addition to painting, he spends his spare time playing traditional Irish music.

<http://www.cnyhistory.org/>

### **Richard Hillenbrand (Class 1)**

Dick loves genealogical research at which he is described by many as the consummate professional. His 40-year family history career has focused primarily on New York and New England, but has included much of the United States, through which he has traveled extensively in search of ancestors. He enjoys a broad knowledge and appreciation for local history and antiquities; his collection of used books on genealogy and history are said to rival the finest libraries. As a member of the Board of Directors of the Onondaga County Historical Association for 20 years and while serving in other institutions, Dick has contributed his time and talents to many causes related to local and family history. Mr. Hillenbrand is a gifted local genealogical authority, lecturer and researcher whose extensive knowledge of computers and the Internet uniquely position him to explore the bounteous harvest that can be reaped researching family ties online.  
<http://ny-genes.blogspot.com/>

### **Sarah Kozma (Class 7)**

As Research Associate, Sarah Kozma has been the Onondaga Historical Association (OHA) primary liaison with the researching public since 2003. She also gained experience in research and historical interpretation during a year-long internship at the Washburn-Norlands Living History Center in Livermore, Maine. Sarah received a Bachelor of Arts degree in History with a minor in International Studies from Gordon College in Wenham, MA.  
<http://www.cnyhistory.org/>

### **Harry Bradshaw Matthews (Classes 9 & 13)**

Mr. Matthews is the Associate Dean & Director of U.S. Pluralism Programs and Executive Director & Senior Fellow, United States Colored Troops Institute for Local History and Family Research at Hartwick College in Oneonta, New York. He also teaches the "Re-Visiting Roots" history course, as well as serves as mentor for an academic internship with the USCTI. He holds degrees from SUNY Oneonta and Northern Michigan University. Since the earliest days of Alex Haley's Roots, Matthews has been profiled for his genealogical studies, including tracing the first African American family of Jamestown, Virginia from 1619 to today; the African Americans of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania; the Killingsworth Family of South Carolina, and the United States Colored Troops of New York. His career has been guided by his appreciation for heritage research and its impact upon leadership styles. His studies have outreached to the Bahamas with the support of his Bahamian-born spouse Pamela.  
<http://info.hartwick.edu/usct/usct.htm>

### **Julie Pitcher (Classes 2 & 10)**

Julie's interest in genealogy was sparked by the deep affection she held for her great-grandmother who immigrated to America in 1907. Further ignited by a passion for history and a desire to know more about her roots, Julie took on the challenge of researching her family history in 1993 and soon became 'addicted'. In addition to her own continued research over twelve plus years, she has helped others just beginning their research and/or facing hurdles with a continuation of their own work. She has taught introductory-level classes in family history to small groups and has consulted privately with individuals needing assistance. In addition to conducting research with the 'typical' domestic resources, she has planned and experienced several successful overseas research projects. Ms. Pitcher works for SkillSoft, an industry leader in online adult education.

### **Eric Roth (Class 15)**

Eric J. Roth currently holds the position of Archivist/Librarian at the Huguenot Historical Society in New Paltz, NY, where he has been since 1997. Mr. Roth holds a Master's degree in Library Science from SUNY Albany and a Bachelor's of Science degree in Music Performance from SUNY New Paltz. While a student at SUNY Albany, Mr. Roth worked in the library as Assistant Archivist at the M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives. He has also taught an undergraduate class on Hudson Valley Culture for the SUNY New Paltz History Department since Spring 2005. In 1998, the Documentary Heritage Committee of Southeastern New York nominated him for the Excellence in a Historical Records Repository Award. Mr. Roth also currently serves as the Key Contact Representative for New York with the Society of American Archivists, and as a member of the Regional Digitization Advisory Task Force for Southeastern New York. Locally, Mr. Roth currently serves on the African American Research Committee of the Town of New Paltz. He has published several articles in professional journals relating to archival management and local history. <http://www.hhs-newpaltz.org>

### **Holly Sammons (Class 3)**

Holly J. Sammons, MLS, has been working as a reference librarian for almost ten years. She is responsible for bringing digital reference to Onondaga County and is a recent addition to the Onondaga County Library's local history/genealogy department. Undoubtedly, she has one of the best jobs around! A part-time family researcher in her off hours, Holly dates her family's move into the area back to 1802. <http://www.onlib.org/>

### **Ernestine Schneider (Class 11)**

Ernestine is currently serving as Director of the Syracuse Area Family History Center for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. She has been actively pursuing genealogical research for family and friends for over twenty years. Her research has taken her into several states as she visited many county and state libraries, courthouses, cemeteries, and the Southwest Regional Branch of the National Archives at Fort Worth, Texas. Ernestine is passionate about family history and loves to assist others in discovering their ancestral past.

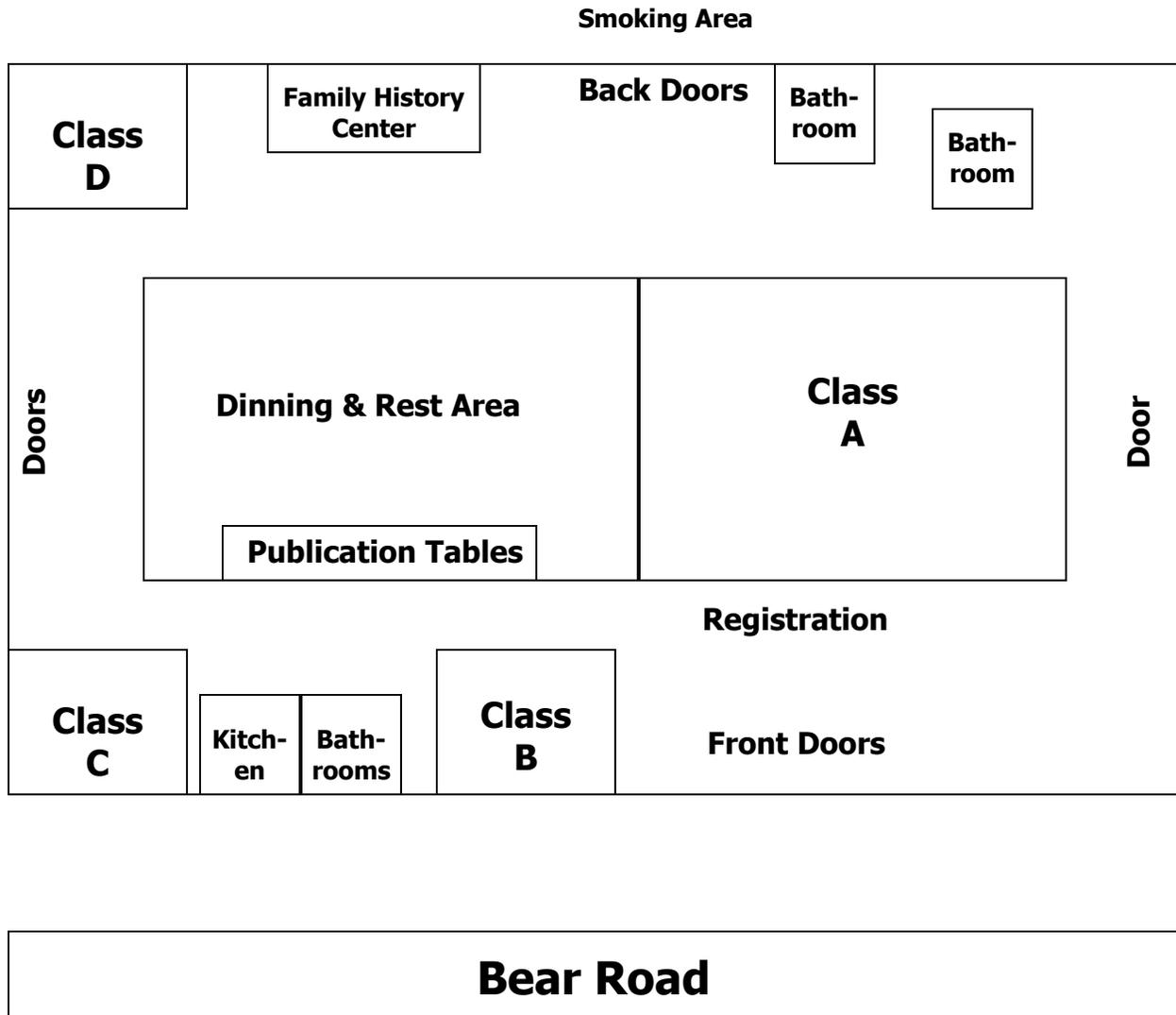
<http://www.familysearch.org>

### **Kent Stuetz (Classes 4, 8, 12 & 16)**

Kent's greatest passion for over thirty years, excepting his lovely wife and five children, has been family history. He holds degrees from Brigham Young University and Penn State University and has worked as a professional archivist for eighteen years at the Pennsylvania State and New York State archives. Kent is in his 15<sup>th</sup> year as the Regional Advisory Officer representing the State Archives in Central New York. In this position he advises 450 local governments regarding management of their records and historical collections. Over the past seven years Mr. Stuetz has immersed himself in Austrian family history, preferring to spend his springs on the hilly slopes of the Southern Waldviertel near Vienna, where he has become something of an expert in the consumption of Wiener Schnitzel. Prior to that he enjoyed a genealogical stint with his Swedish, German and Welsh ancestors following twenty years researching his American ancestry.

<http://austrianfamilyhistory.org>

# CNY Family History Conference Facility Map



**Conference Location:**

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints  
 4889 Bear Road (Between Buckley & Taft Rds.)  
 Liverpool, New York 13088  
 Phone 315-451-5804

(Please see enclosed map or visit <http://www.mapquest.com/directions/> for directions)

**For Additional Information Please Contact:**

Denise Russo                      drusso@mail.nysed.gov  
 Phone                                315-793-2780 (Utica State Office Bldg.)

# CNY Family History Conference Map

1. Hess Mini-Mart
2. Wegmans Grocery
3. Bruegger's Bagels
4. Hafner's Restaurant
5. Applebee's Restaurant
6. Fresno's Restaurant
7. Arby's Roast Beef
8. Italian Pizza Restaurant
9. McDonald's
10. Geddes Greek Bakery
11. Tully's Restaurant
12. Wendy's
13. Great China Buffet
14. Burger King
15. Denny's Restaurant
16. Taco Bell

