



Genealogy Resources at the Onondaga County Public Library

Or, Why Do I Need the Library When
I've Got Google and Ancestry.com?

Presented by Holly J. Sammons, 13 September 2014



Common Questions - misperceptions

- ◆ Why do I need to come to the library? Can't I find what I need on the Internet?
- ◆ I have a relative who's done all their genealogy online, can't I do that too?
- ◆ I found my family tree online, can't I just use that?



LH/G – Then and Now

- ◆ Started in the 1880's
- ◆ 120 years later over 40,000 volumes
- ◆ 6,000 microfilm
- ◆ 15,000 microfiche
- ◆ Continues to grow today
- ◆ Original vision was a national collection
- ◆ Focus is New England, New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey – from Maine to New Jersey
- ◆ Greatest depth is Onondaga County and State of New York

Library or Google?

- ◆ Census – Federal and New York State
- ◆ Military Records
- ◆ Vital Records
- ◆ Newspapers
- ◆ Interlibrary Loan
- ◆ Cemetery Records
- ◆ LDS Affiliate Library
- ◆ Genealogies
- ◆ County and Town Histories
- ◆ Maps
- ◆ Directories and Telephone Books
- ◆ Probate and Land Records
- ◆ Other resources





Preparing to use the library

- ◆ Check the hours, parking, rules of use.
- ◆ Check the website
 - Use the online catalog
 - Use any other online resources at library website
 - Should I email/telephone in advance?
- ◆ Answer some basic questions:
 - What am I looking for – focused, specific goals.
 - What resources might I use to answer those questions?



Accessing the Library

- ◆ In Person
- ◆ Email
- ◆ Online
- ◆ Telephone
- ◆ Letters – U.S. Post



Census

- ◆ Federal Census – 1790-1940
 - Online, microfilm, and print indexes
- ◆ New York State –
 - 1825-1875, 1892, 1905-1925
 - Soundex for NYS - 1880, 1900 and 1920
 - 1890 Veteran's Census



Military Records

- ◆ Revolutionary War Pension files and records of service
- ◆ Civil War
 - Adjutant General's Reports
 - Town Clerk's Register of Men Who Served
 - Rosters
 - Unit Histories



Vital Records

- ◆ Index to NYS Vital Records
- ◆ Local collections
 - 1847-1849 town records (bdm)
 - WPA Files
 - Obits 1860-1996
 - Church records
- ◆ New England Vital Records
 - Conn, Mass, R.I. and Vermont



Newspapers

◆ Syracuse Newspapers

- 1828

- 1850's to within 6 months of present

- Clippings files

- Electronic indexes (databases)

◆ Inter Library Loan – access to NYS Library Newspaper Project



Cemetery Records

- ◆ Onondaga County Cemetery Index
- ◆ Oakwood Cemetery
- ◆ Woodlawn
- ◆ Beauchamp Cemetery Collection
- ◆ And more...



County and Town Histories

- ◆ NY and Pennsylvania
 - Book and microfilm
- ◆ Town Histories
 - Tully, Lysander, Pompey and so on...



Maps

- ◆ Land Ownership Maps
 - Onondaga County - 1852, 1859, 1860 and 1889
 - Sweet's Atlas 1874
- ◆ City of Syracuse
- ◆ NY State Counties - 1820



Directories and Telephone Books

- ◆ Earliest Syracuse Directory 1844
- ◆ Up to current year
- ◆ Suburban Directories began 1957
- ◆ Telephone Books
- ◆ Other cities in NYS (Utica, Albany, Watertown and more)



Wills and Land Records

- ◆ Onondaga County Surrogate Records 1802-1923 Index
- ◆ Earliest Wills on microfilm
- ◆ Onondaga County Deeds 1794 – 1870 – Index with some actual deeds



Other Resources

- ◆ Onondaga County Pioneer Family Catalog
- ◆ Yearbooks
- ◆ Voorhees Manuscript Collection
- ◆ And more.....



Scanning and digitizing

- ◆ Collaborative Project with Family Search
- ◆ Fourth public library in the U.S. to participate.
- ◆ Approx. 40,000 volumes will be scanned.
- ◆ Genealogies, histories, colonial records, public documents, serials, maps, etc.
- ◆ Full text search



And best of all....

- ◆ Expertise – librarians
- ◆ Email reference lhg@onlib.org
- ◆ 24/7 Digital Reference
- ◆ <http://onlib.org/website/LH/lh.htm>

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