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
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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