Genealogy Resources at the Onondaga County Public Library

Or, Why Go to the Library When I’ve Got Google?

Presented by Holly J. Sammons, 21 June 2011
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 30,000 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?

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

- **Federal Census** – 1790-1930
  - 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

- Inter Library Loan – access to NYS Library

Newspaper Project
Cemetery Records

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

- Genealogy Card File
- From the famous to the infamous to the everyday
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…. 
And best of all….

- Expertise – librarians
- Email reference and 24/7 Digital Reference
- [http://onlib.org/website/LH/lh.htm](http://onlib.org/website/LH/lh.htm)

Presentation by Holly J. Sammons, 21 June 2011
sammons@onlib.org
The Library in 1840

This book case, loaned to the Syracuse Public library by Mrs. E.H. Merrill, contained a lending library established in the vestry room of St. Paul's Church in 1840. Mrs. Hiram Tutman and Mrs. Lewis H. Redfield were the founders of this little free library. The book case is now owned by Mr. Lawrence Merrill.
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SUGGESTIONS IN REGARD TO PREPARING THE RECORD.

STATE OF NEW YORK
BUREAU OF MILITARY RECORD.

Albany, August 28th, 186(6).

TO THE TOWN CLERK:
It is desirable that the following suggestions be particularly observed in preparing the record.

I. The middle name, if any, as well as the given name of each Officer, Soldier or Seaman, should be written in full.

II. The service rank refers to rank now held in the service, or, if out of service, to rank at the date of muster-out, or at the time of death, if deceased.

III. The regiment and company refer to the regiment and company which the party served at the time he or she was credited to the quota of your town.

IV. In giving amount of relief granted to family, the weekly or monthly rate, if so paid, or if paid by Town Board, the gross sum may be given.

V. The given name of father and the given name of mother are desired.

VI. The prominence of only so far as they may be known to you, are requested; but the more important facts, relating to service, to death and burial, (if deceased), to being wounded, (if any time wounded) or, if taken prisoner, to that event, are required.

VII. The book should be paid by you after the fourth, which is already paid.

VIII. An index is furnished at the end of the book, in which you are desired to write all the names alphabetically, (two columns of names to a page, to save space,) of Officers, Soldiers and Seamen, enrolled in the record. The names and pages only are desired in the index, thus: "Brown, James, 2."

On the last sheet of the book, before the index, are blanks for the record of Officers and Seamen from your town.

With a view to being clearly understood these examples of record are given on the second and third pages below.

That no individual shall be credited from the list of volunteers from your town, it is desired that a separate page be devoted to those who, though living in your town, have enlisted and been credited elsewhere.

Respectfully yours,

Chief of Bureau.

(Manner of filling out the Record)

<table>
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<th>NAME</th>
<th>BIRTH</th>
<th>RESIDENCE</th>
<th>TIME AND PLACE OF BIRTH</th>
<th>PLACE OF MARRIAGE</th>
<th>PLACE OF ENLISTMENT</th>
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<td>Morgan Green</td>
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</table>
HUNDREDS DIE, THOUSANDS HOMELESS THROUGH EARTHQUAKE AND FLAMES

HUNDRED THOUSAND ARE WITHOUT HOMES; DAMAGE $200,000,000

Fire Spread in San Francisco in Spite of Use of Dynamite to Check Advance.

BUSINESS PART OF CITY IS EITHER DESTROYED OR DOOMED

Residence Districts Attacked by Blaze White Firemen Are Helpless Through Lack of Water.

MARTIAL LAW IS DECLARED; LOOTERS ARE SHOT DOWN

Additional Earthquakes Add to Terror of People—Finest Buildings Are Destroyed—Outgoing Trains Coved With Refugees.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 18, 90 p.m.—It looks now as if the entire city was burned out. The Associated Press men are trying to get the news matter to Oakland by boat, but the latter are very uncertain.

The government is furnishing tents, but the confusion is so great that they cannot be relied upon.

It will be impossible to send full details for several days.

Thousands of persons are fleeing to the hills and clamoring for places on the ferry boats to cross the bay.

The damage is now believed to have reached $200,000,000.

WASHINGTON, April 18.—The first message received from General Freeman, at 11:20 o’clock to-night, follows:

Secretary of War, Washington:

“Immediate aid of all kinds is needed to the extent of $500,000. The business portion of the city destroyed and about 100,000 people homeless.”

“Fire still raging. Troops all on duty assisting the police. Loss of life probably 1,000. Most part of residence district not yet burned.”

Orders will go forth from the War Department to-morrow to the adjacent posts to carry out General Freeman’s recommendations.

FIRE FOLLOWS FIRST SHOCK; DAY’S RECORD AWFUL HISTORY OF WORK OF DESTRUCTION

SAN FRANCISCO, April 18.—Earthquake and fire today have renewed the record of death and destruction in this city.

At least 1,000 persons are killed, a damaged home and the property of homes and businesses, and all day long streams of persons have been streaming to the fire or the shock.

A strong fire has swept the entire west side of the city. Many houses are burned out. The shock is reported to have been of great force. The city has been thrown into a state of confusion and panic. The fire is said to have been started by the earthquake.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 18.—San Francisco is now in a state of utter destruction. The earthquake was so violent that it was said to have killed many persons. The city is reported to have been thrown into great confusion. The fire has destroyed many houses and business concerns.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 18.—The fire and earthquake today have caused great destruction in this city.

Many houses are destroyed and business houses are burned out. The city is reported to have been thrown into a state of confusion.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 18.—The fire and earthquake today have caused great destruction in this city.

The city is reported to have been thrown into a state of confusion.
7/14/1859  Thomas Sammons  8.00

Burials:  18 x 18

1. Francis B. Sammons 12/19/1931 age 42
2. Mrs. C. Sammons 5/24/1893 no age
   Mary C. Sammons 9/24/1927 age 70
3. Frank Sammons 2/16/1921 age 62
4. Benjamin Sammons 10/5/1890 age 83
5. Martha Sammons 4/19/1876 age 82 {1812-1894}
6. Nancy Root Sammons 8/29/1837 age 43
   WIFE OF THOMAS

7. Clarissa Sammons 1st 1st
8. Cordelia Sammons 1st 1st
9. Cordelia Sammons 2nd 1st
10. Jacob Sammons 11/4/1815 age 64 [REV. J. E.]
11. Eva Weeder Sammons 6/10/1834 age 73
   WIFE OF JACOB
12. Sophronia Sammons 4/7/1891 age 61

[additional notes and diagrams]
Map of the County of O. Yo. Wa. 

Published by the Governor General.

EXPLANATIONS

From being distinguished by colours:
- Towns.
- Roads.
- Villages.
- Fishing Mills.
- Manufactories.
- Lake Wharf.
- Quay.

Scale 1/2 Miles.

Remarks:

The route connecting the travel.'
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<th>No.</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Color</th>
<th>Relation to Head of Family</th>
<th>In what County of this State or Foreign Country born</th>
<th>Married</th>
<th>Widowed</th>
<th>Years Resident in Township</th>
<th>Profession, Trade, or Occupation</th>
<th>Native</th>
<th>Naturalized</th>
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<td>76</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>Mother</td>
<td>Vermont</td>
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<td>Minerva Wilson</td>
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<td>F</td>
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<td>Sister</td>
<td>Jefferson</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Farm 100</td>
<td>Nelson B. Balchot</td>
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<td>Wife</td>
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<td>15 Farmer</td>
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<td>53 Farmer</td>
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Note: The table contains information about the population of a specific election district, listing names, ages, relationships, and occupations of individuals. The census was taken by David Walker on the fourth day of June, 1855.
Learned Charles A, retired, b 66 Peru
  " Charles II, emp Starks Hardware Co, b 24 Clinton
  " Erna (Mrs Charles H) emp Clinton Press b 24 Clinton
  " Ernest A, sales, h 28 Elm
  " Fred, city letter carrier No 7, h 66 Peru
  " Hollis O, emp Bluff Point, h 15 Johnson av
  " Mayme, student, b 66 Peru
  " Ruth, teacher, h 28 Elm
Leavey Larenia, student, b 6 U S av
  " Joseph, prop Northern N Y Barber Supply Co and barber shop 12 U S av, h 6 U S av
LE BEAU EDMOND prop The Blue Bell Tailoring, h 40 Montcalf av
LeBlanc Margaret, sten Feinberg & Jerry, b 32 Broad
Lecatsas Neopoleon, prop Candyland, r 38 Oak
  " Peter, emp Candyland, r 38 Oak
LeClair Agnes, emp 86 Court, b do
  " Charles A, emp D & H Co, h 121 Miller
  " Clement, taxi cab driver, b 121 Miller
  " Delia, wid Charles, h 121 Miller
  " Leander, carp, h 26 Riverside av
  " Veronica, emp 39 Margaret, b 121 Miller
  " see also LeClair, also L'Ecuyer
L'Ecuyer Arthur grocer 68 S Catherine, h 38 Waterhouse
  " Lillian, b 8 Margaret
  " Lorraine, b 8 Margaret
  " Louis, emp D & H Co, h 8 Margaret
  " Viola R, b 8 Margaret
Leduc Helen A, dom b 41 S Catherine
Ledwith Elsie G, dom b 22 Wells, b do
Lee John, emp 32½ Clinton, r 24 S Charles
Lefebvre Agnes J, sten Finch Priyn & Co b 44 Champlain
  " Arthur, emp D & H Co, h 17 Standish
  " Beatrice E, student b 44 Champlain
  " Evelyn, clk Colonial Shop, b 17 Standish
  " Fred, emp D & H Co, h 17 Standish
  " George W, mgr Plattsburgh Ice Co, h 44 Champlain
  " Victor P, clk, h 61 Montcalt av
  " see Lefebvre
LEFEE CHARLES A pres Plattsburgh Insurance Agency
  b 18 Champlain
Lefebvre Edward, carp, b 243 Cornelia
  " Lawrence E, student, b 243 Cornelia
  " Lucile, student, b 243 Cornelia
  " Sophie, wid Fred N, h 61 Montcalt av
  " see Lefebvre
Lefert Augusta M, b 13 Beekman
  " John F, cigar mkr h 13 Beekman
Legier Bros (John & George Legier), wood dealers and auto trucking 109 Montcalt av
  " George (Legier Bros) b 109 Montcalt av
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<th>Name</th>
<th>Residence</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Date of Birth</th>
<th>Time and Place of Birth</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
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<td>Pvt</td>
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<td>Cole Jones</td>
<td>Lafayette W.</td>
<td>Inf</td>
<td>24 Dec 1863</td>
<td>Dec 9, 1863</td>
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<tr>
<td>Horace John</td>
<td>Orleans W.</td>
<td>Capt</td>
<td>20 Oct 1862</td>
<td>Oct 26, 1862</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Aucott</td>
<td>Lafayette W.</td>
<td>Inf</td>
<td>24 Dec 1861</td>
<td>Dec 9, 1861</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gilbert W.</td>
<td>Clayston T.</td>
<td>Inf</td>
<td>22 Dec 1861</td>
<td>Dec 9, 1861</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quanzer Martin</td>
<td>Alexandria T.</td>
<td>Inf</td>
<td>20 Dec 1861</td>
<td>Dec 9, 1861</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quanzer Michael</td>
<td>Lafayette W.</td>
<td>Inf</td>
<td>24 Dec 1861</td>
<td>Dec 9, 1861</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Straight John</td>
<td>Orleans W.</td>
<td>Pvt</td>
<td>20 Sept 1863</td>
<td>Sept 8, 1863</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Remarks:**
- Captured at White Oak Swamp, 13 April 1864
- Reported dead at Alexandria Post, 11 April 1864
- Died at City Point on 13 April 1865 at Expiration of Term of Service
- Enlisted as aged Master in 5th Va. Infantry