

CNYGS FULL DAY CONFERENCE – APRIL 16, 2011

8:30 AM – 2:30 PM



Meldon J. Wolfgang III, author, lecturer, and founder of Jonathan Sheppard Books, has been an active and avid genealogist and family historian since 1961 (yup, nearly half a century). Currently he writes the genealogy column for the quarterly publication “Archives”, issued by the New York State Archives Partnership Trust. A former local government administrator, Mel served as Albany’s Commissioner of Human Resources until 1990. He was also an officer and member of the Executive Committee of the city’s Tricentennial Commission in 1986, a member of Albany’s Historic Sites Commission, and a Trustee of the Albany Historical Society. He served as Albany Public library trustee for nearly two decades, was board president of the Upper Hudson Library System, and served as one of the original trustees of the joint Albany City-County Archives. Mr. Wolfgang received his undergraduate degree from McGill University in Montreal and completed further study at Columbia University. He is a member of numerous historical and genealogical societies.

8:30 AM

Registration

9:00-9:15 AM

Welcome and Introduction

9:15-10:15 AM

“If You Think You Have Looked Everywhere, It’s Time to Think Again; Uncommon Research Tools That Can Lead to Uncommonly Good Results”

This presentation is designed to get the audience motivated beyond traditional genealogical resources and repositories. This picks up where “*Sleuthing in the Stacks*” left off (which Mr. Wolfgang lectured on in 2009). Some genealogical problems can require some serious “outside the box” thinking. When you encounter a thorny research question and those “tried and true” familiar sources don’t seem to be yielding an answer, it’s time to get out of the research rut, and start exploring some unfamiliar territory.

10:30-11:45 AM

“To the Honorable Board of Supervisors...Identifying and Using the Obscure and Uncommon Records of Local (City, Town, and County) Government”

Drawing on the presenter’s many years of experience both as a local government administrator and as a genealogist, this lecture will identify and focus on a variety of uncommon records that can be found at the local government level which are frequently ignored and overlooked by genealogists. The lecture concentrates on, and draws examples from, 19th and early 20th century New York State local government sources.

11:45 to 1:00 PM

Lunch – You may wish to stay in for lunch so that you can browse the Jonathan Sheppard Books vendor area. The hospitality committee will have stew available for a donation, or bring your own lunch or eat out at one of the local restaurants.

1:00-2:30 PM

“So, You Think You Know All About City Directories? A Guide to Deconstructing a City Directory and Extracting Every Bit of Information from its Pages”

Familiarity breeds contempt, they say. That’s especially true with a lot of our “old favorite” genealogical research tools, like city directories. Because they look “familiar”, most researchers use city directories to look up names, occupations and addresses. Fortunately, city directories can often do much more for the genealogical researcher who knows how to use them. Learn how to use city directories to calculate age, determine an approximate or actual date of death, and even uncover the out-of-town place to which a traveling family member moved. Finally, discover what city directories can reveal about neighborhood patterns, political subdivisions, “hidden” record sources and the city’s culture and institutions at the time of publication.

Meetings are held at the Pebble Hill Presbyterian Church, 5299 Jamesville Rd, Dewitt, NY.

Directions: From the south - take I-481 North to Exit 2 - Jamesville; turn left on Jamesville Rd; drive 1.1 mile; the church is on the left. From the north - take I-481 South from either the Thruway or I-690, or from the northern suburbs to Exit 3W Dewitt. Merge onto E Genesee St (Route 5) heading west. First light is Erie Blvd, next light is Jamesville Road. Turn left on Jamesville Road and go about ½ mile. The church is on the right across from the Manlius Pebble Hill School.

Guests are welcome for a \$5.00 donation per half-day session. Annual membership dues: \$30.00.

April Full Day Conference guests: \$10.00.

CNYGS website: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nycnygs> E-MAIL: cnygs@yahoo.com

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