

Onondaga County

“This is a place for genealogical research and investigation. In fact, Onondaga County is where two major canals met. Our records show that 90% of the people that traveled west came through this county and left their mark in various areas of our historical records.” (Onondaga County website)

Onondaga Public Library (OCPL)

The Galleries of Syracuse
447 South Salina Street
Syracuse, NY 13202
Phone: 315-435-1900

The premier repository for genealogical research in Onondaga County is the Local History & Genealogy Department of the Onondaga County Public Central Library located in downtown Syracuse. For directions and parking information and details about the resources there visit the website at:

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

This is a research department specializing in the history of Syracuse, Onondaga County, New York State, the New England states, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. It has broad collections on pioneers, businesses, maps, early NY tax lists, out-of-print books, indexed newspapers, clippings about local personages, cemetery records, index to NYS Vital Records, Syracuse City Directories beginning in 1852 and extensive census records, published genealogies, and much more. Librarians and materials are available to help 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 is also affiliated with the LDS library in Salt Lake City with access to their extensive genealogical collection.

Hours are 11 a.m. to 4:50 p.m. Monday through Saturday; and until 7:20 p.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday. If you are coming for the CNYGS 50th anniversary conference contact the LHG department **in advance** at 315-435-1900 or by email at lhg@onlib.org to check for the possibility of a private appointment earlier on the days you plan to conduct your research.

Onondaga County Clerk

M. Ann Ciarpelli

Onondaga County Court House

401 Montgomery Street, 2nd Floor

Syracuse, NY 13202

Phone: (315) 435-2226

Hours: Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Web site: www.ongov.net

See *Departments* list, including:

Archives & Microfilm Department

Basement Level, County Court House

315-435-2237

This department contains records from 1794 to the present.

Directories on the Syracuse area start from 1861 to the present.

Census records are dated from 1850 to 1925. This department also supports the restoration and preservation of all maps detailing the Onondaga County area.

The Clerk's office has deed and mortgage records as well as records of Civil War enlistees and specific regiments, as well as the Revolutionary War ballet book showing listing of veterans and which parcels of land they received . The Clerk's office has marriage records from 1908 to 1938 for the city of Syracuse, and Naturalization records from 1808 to the present.

Surrogate's Court

Onondaga County Court House

401 Montgomery Street, Room 209

Syracuse, NY 13202

315-671-2100

Office of Vital records (Birth & Death records)

Onondaga County Civic Center
421 Montgomery Street, Room 20 (Basement)
Syracuse, NY 13202
315-435-3241
Website: <http://www.ongov.net/vital/>

Supreme Court Library, 315-671-1150
reference 315-671-1151

Website: <http://www.nycourts.gov/library/onondaga/index.shtml>

Onondaga Historical Association

321 Montgomery Street
Syracuse, NY 13202
315-428-1864 www.cnyhistory.org

On the first floor you will find the Museum with displays from their permanent collection, changing exhibits, and a unique gift shop for patrons.

The Association's **Research Center** on the 2nd floor offers access to thousands of files containing information about Onondaga County events, people and places for historians and genealogist research. Check their website for details of how to access their on line data base of archival holdings.

Call the Association or check their website for current hours as they were changing due to construction of new exhibits as this information was being compiled. Admission fees as of April, 2011 were: OHA Members: Free; Non-members: \$7.00. Research services for remote patrons were available at \$30 per hour.

Larger Cemeteries in Syracuse

Assumption Cemetery
2401 Court Street
Syracuse, NY 315-454-3841
Oakwood Cemetery
940 Comstock Avenue
Syracuse, NY 13210 315-475-2194
(Includes records for White Chapel Memorial Gardens Cemetery on Kinne
Rd, DeWitt, NY)

Onondaga Valley Cemetery
2100 Valley Drive
Nedrow, NY 13120 315-469-5055

Sacred Heart Cemetery
Contact:
Basilica of the Sacred Heart
927 Park Street
Syracuse, NY 13204 315-422-2343

St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Cemetery
Contact:
St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church
207 Tompkins Street
Syracuse, NY 13204 315- 478-0916

Woodlawn Cemetery
800 Grant Blvd.
Syracuse, NY 13203 <http://www.nytimes.com/> 315-479-
5826

For GPS locations of all cemeteries in Onondaga County link to:
[http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nycnygs/onondaga_county_cemetery_1
ocations.htm](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nycnygs/onondaga_county_cemetery_locations.htm)

For links to the 19 townships in Onondaga County listed below go to:
<http://www.ongov.net/links/>

Camillus	Cicero	Clay
Dewitt	Elbridge	Fabius

Geddes
Manlius
Otisco
Skaneateles
Van Buren

Lafayette
Marcellus
Pompey
Spafford

Lysander
Onondaga
Salina
Tully

To contact Town Historians in Onondaga County go to:

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nycnygs/RevisedHistorians-1%20Feb.%20202011%20by%20Carol%20Heimburg.pdf>

Family History Center (LDS Library)

4889 Bear Rd
Liverpool, New York
Phone: 315-457-5172

Call the Center for hours. Volunteers are usually available to assist researchers with access to the extensive files available and online.

For more genealogical information regarding Onondaga County, be sure to check: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nyononda>

Erie Canal Sites

Because the westward migration passed directly through Central New York via the Erie Canal, you may want to take time to experience life on and along the canal yourself. Here are some good places to consider:

Erie Canal Museum

318 Erie Blvd. East
Syracuse, NY 13202

315-471-0593

<http://eriecanalmuseum.org/>

The museum is located in downtown Syracuse within easy walking distance of the Onondaga County Courthouse and the Onondaga Historical Association. Just walk north on Montgomery Street a few blocks, passing the historic Syracuse City Hall, to the corner of Montgomery St. and Erie Blvd. East. It is not a research venue but they have wonderful displays of life on the canal including an old canal boat in what was originally called

the Weighlock Building where canal boats were actually weighed to determine the amount of toll to be paid.

Hours: Monday to Saturday: 10:00am — 5:00pm
Sunday: 10:00am — 3:00pm. Admission: Free; Donations welcome.

There are several places where you can walk along the canal towpath itself, which are part of the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Upstate New York. <http://www.eriecanalway.org/>

Especially noteworthy is:

Camillus Erie Canal Park
5750 Devoe Rd. PO Box 217
Camillus, NY 13031 315-672-5110 or 488-1234
www.eriecanalcamillus.com

With its replica of a canal store (Sims Museum), miles of paths to hike, and a two mile canal boat ride (\$3), it's a great place to visit on a Sunday afternoon. Check the website for more information.

Walking on the canal tow path is a nice experience. There are access points in the eastern suburbs at the DeWitt Town Hall at 5400 Butternut Drive, East Syracuse
<http://www.townofdewitt.com/RyderRecreationandNatureArea.aspx>,
also at Cedar Bay Park on Cedar Bay Road, further east along the canal and at the intersection of Cedar Bay Road and Burdick Street in the Town of Manlius, which takes one several miles eastward.

Further eastward in Madison County you can also visit:

Chittenango Landing Canal Boat Museum
7010 Lakeport Road
Chittenango, NY 315-687-3801
<http://www.chittenangolandingscanalboatmuseum.com/>

This excavated and rebuilt landing was a place for the building and repairing of canal boats. There are many artifacts including the only excavated dry docks in the canal system.