



The Palatines to America German Genealogy Society
2018 National Conference

*Willkommen to Buffalo -
Gateway to a New Heimat (home)*

June 13 – 16, 2018

Adams Mark Hotel

Buffalo, NY

It has been said that during the height of the Erie Canal era (1830 - 1865) more immigrants passed through Buffalo's Erie Canal district than ever passed through Ellis Island. How fitting that we will have our 2018 conference in that canal district.



Photo courtesy of: Frank E. Sadowski Jr, webmaster
The Erie Canal (<http://www.eriecanal.org>)

We have a great line up of expert speakers:



John Philip Colletta, Ph.D., has been a popular lecturer in the field of genealogy for thirty years. A resident of Washington, D.C., he worked at the Library of Congress and taught programs at the National Archives for twenty-one years. He is a long-time faculty member of the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research (University of Georgia) and the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy. He also teaches programs for the Smithsonian Institution and lectures at NGS and FGS conferences. Dr. Colletta's publications include numerous articles, both scholarly and popular, two manuals—*They Came in Ships: A Guide to Finding Your Immigrant Ancestor's Arrival Record* and *Finding Italian Roots: The Complete Guide for Americans*—and one murder mystery/family history, *Only a Few Bones*, which includes instructional essays on how to write narrative family history. In 2014 The Teaching Company released his 15-lesson Great Course, "Discovering Your Roots," on DVD, CD or streaming. Dr. Colletta has received many professional awards and honors and appears frequently on podcasts and local and national radio and television.



Baerbel K. Johnson, AG is a native of Germany, a professional genealogist, and works for FamilySearch as a European research specialist. She holds degrees in Family and Local History Studies and Sociology from BYU, and has over thirty years of extensive experience in European family history research with emphasis on Germany. She has published numerous journal articles, contributed material for several books, and lectured at various conferences. Her personal interest is in "putting flesh on the genealogical skeleton" by placing everyone within a proper social and historical context. Baerbel currently serves as Commissioner of Education and Mentoring at ICAPGen. She is a member of NGS, the German Professional Genealogists Association, and the German Society for Computer Genealogy.



Garry Finkell is a descendant of Johann Philipp and Anna Catharina Finckel, who were among the Palatine Germans who arrived in the Colony of New York in 1710. Their descendants were Loyalists during the Revolutionary War. Most of the family went to Upper Canada (Ontario) after the war. Garry is currently President of the New York Chapter of Palatines to America German Genealogy Society.



Carolyn Heald has been researching Irish Palatine history and genealogy for more than three decades. Carolyn is the author of a book called *The Irish Palatines in Ontario: Religion, Ethnicity, and Rural Migration* and co-editor of the *Irish Palatine Association Journal* which is issued from Rathkeale, Ireland. She is a Director of the Ontario Genealogical Society's Irish Palatine SIG and was a recipient of the Eula C. Lapp Award for significant contributions to Irish Palatine genealogy.



Joseph Lieby is a past National President of the Palatines to America German Genealogy Society. He retired as a school district administrator, and has over twenty-five years' experience in genealogical research in the New York-New Jersey area. He has spoken at national and regional societies and has published articles on his research interests in the New York Palatines newsletter of which he is the editor.



Bruce Romanchak is a retired educator whose maternal grandparents were both direct descendants of 1710 Palatine immigrants to Germantown, NY. Working with social media, spread sheets, interactive maps and chromosome matching he is part of a group that has built a rapidly growing, active, and successful online community sharing and using traditional and genetic genealogy tools and methods.



Donald Schwert is a retired geologist residing in Fargo, North Dakota. His German ancestral lineages, however, all pass through Buffalo, New York—a city that he regularly visits to do research. Most recently, he has been documenting a pulse of immigration into the city from northern West Prussia, along with the surname changes of these immigrants that occurred almost immediately after their arrival.



Christopher White is a genealogist, gravestone conservator, and independent historian with a special focus on local (Albany) German-American history. He holds a BA and MA in History from the University at Albany. His writings include a Master's thesis, *From Acceptance to Renunciation: Das Ende von Albanys Deutschtum*. His blog is *Finding Your Past: Genealogical Gleanings with the Albany Grave Digger*.

LOCATION:

Adams Mark Hotel and Events Center Buffalo

120 Church Street

Buffalo, NY 14202

<http://www.adamsmark.com>

The hotel conference rate is \$139.00/night + tax and fees for reservations made **PRIOR TO MAY 15, 2018**. You may make reservations by calling the hotel at 716-845-5100 and indicating YOU ARE WITH THE PALATINES TO AMERICA SOCIETY or online at <https://reservations.travelclick.com/15259?groupID=2004417&hotelID=15259#/guestsandrooms>

They will allow this conference rate for the duration of the conference and for 3 days prior to or after the conference, based on availability, for those who would like to extend their stay.

PARKING:

All guests **staying at the hotel** will receive a parking pass when you check into the hotel at the reception desk to use during your stay. The discounted parking rate is \$5.00/day.

REGISTRATION:

- You may register for the conference online at www.palam.org or by printing out the registration form at the end of this brochure and mailing it to the indicated address by **MONDAY, MAY 22, 2018**. After May 22, there is an additional fee of \$10.00.
- Palatines to America members and members of a partner society of the International Germanic Genealogy Partnership (IGGP) may register at a discounted rate. Identify on your Registration Form which society you are a member of and your membership number. To check if you are a member of an IGGP partnership society, look for your society listed at: <https://iggpartner.org/cpage.php?pt=15> All memberships will be verified.
- Registration to the June 15 and 16 conference days includes lectures, handouts, syllabus, lunches, banquet, and refreshments during breaks. Please indicate your food choices on the Registration Form.
- There will be a cash bar at the social prior to the banquet.
- Cancellations are accepted until May 13, 2018 for a full refund. Contact the PalAm office at 614-267-4700 to leave a message for a representative or send an e-mail to palamresourcecenter@gmail.com.
- On-site registration for walk-in attendees is on a space available basis with cash or charge only. No meals will be available.

PRE-CONFERENCE EVENTS:

Wednesday June 13:

RESEARCH TRIP: The Grosvenor Room, located at the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library

<https://www.buffalolib.org/content/grosvenor/genealogy-collection> They have an extensive collection of genealogy resources, including a German genealogy section. On Wednesday, June 13, 2018, the Adams Mark will provide a shuttle to the library at 9:45 AM. Meet at the front circle of the front lobby of the hotel. The last pick up time to return to the hotel will be 6:05 PM. Library staff will be available to assist you. Lunch is on your own; there is a café in the library as well as several restaurants within walking distance of the library. Cost for the hotel shuttle is \$10.00 round trip. Please indicate on your conference registration form that you would like to take the hotel shuttle to the library.

Thursday June 14:

FIELD TRIP: Board a coach bus for a guided **Western New York German–American Experience** trip. The Buffalo region has a heritage rich in German influence. Travel to points of interest with stops at two museums, to learn about Germans in the Buffalo area. This is a 6½ hour trip that includes a stop for a German lunch. Please indicate on your conference registration form that you will be taking this trip; the fee is \$45.00 which includes lunch, except beverages. Space is limited. Time: 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM.

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP: From 5:30 PM – 8:00 PM, a **Basics of German Genealogy Workshop** conducted by Baerbel Johnson. This workshop is designed for those who are novices or have some experience doing German genealogy. The instructor will discuss basics of where to start, knowledge required, and current resources available to help you trace your Germanic ancestors. This will be an informal workshop allowing interaction amongst attendees and the instructor. Please indicate on your conference registration form that you would like to participate in this workshop. The fee is \$25.00.

AREA INFORMATION:

The Adams Mark is conveniently located in downtown Buffalo and overlooks Lake Erie and the Niagara River. It is within walking distance of many venues and a short ride to many other exciting places such as Niagara Falls. Consider extending your visit. Check out the Visit Buffalo Niagara website to plan your stay:

<http://www.visitbuffaloniagara.com>

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE and printable REGISTRATION FORM are on the following pages

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE:

Friday 6/15/18		Saturday 6/16/18	
		8 -8:45 AM Palatines to America annual membership meeting Erie Room A & B	
9:00 - 10:00 AM To Become German in "German" Buffalo: Surname Changes Associated With the 1880s West Prussian Immigration SPEAKER: Donald Schwert Tracing immigrants with Slavic surnames from the eastern provinces, such as West Prussia, East Prussia, and Pomerania, can be particularly challenging. This presentation summarizes the challenges and successes of the 1880s immigration of West Prussians to Buffalo, New York, USA. Erie Room A	9 - 10:00 AM Westward in New York and Beyond SPEAKER: Joe Lieby The presentation describes and illustrates the factors that caused many to move into western NY, and sometimes beyond. Erie Room B	9 - 10:00 AM PLENARY SESSION Using Historical Newspapers to Learn More About Your German Ancestor SPEAKER: Baerbel Johnson Historic newspapers can be a boon for family historians. This lecture explores available newspaper resources in the U.S. and in Europe that are helpful to learn more about your German Ancestors. Erie Room A & B	
BEVERAGE BREAK		BEVERAGE BREAK	
10:30 - 11:30 AM PLENARY SESSION Name That Town! U.S. Sources for Discovering an Ancestor's Native Town in Europe SPEAKER: John Colletta This lecture addresses the challenge of discovering an immigrant ancestor's native town in Europe. It explores a broad range of sources that may contain the coveted information. Erie Room A & B	10:30 - 11:30 AM More Tools and Strategies for Finding Your German Ancestor SPEAKER: Baerbel Johnson This class is designed to broaden your ancestor detective skills and inspire new ways to tackle long-standing research problems by discussing a number of real research problems and the tools and strategies that were used to solve them. Erie Room A	10:30 - 11:30 AM Using DNA and Social Media to Promote and Support Group Success in Genealogy SPEAKER: Bruce Romanchak A presentation on the use of group comparisons of autosomal DNA testing and social media to support genealogical research. Erie Room B	
BREAK		BREAK	
12 - 1:15 PM LUNCH Fountain Room		12 - 1:15 PM LUNCH Fountain Room	
1:30 - 2:30 PM Sixteen Repositories, One Life: Uncommon Original Sources Portray a 19th Century Prussian Immigrant SPEAKER: John Colletta This case study discusses the importance of exploring small, specialized collections to find out about one's ancestors. Erie Room A	1:30 - 2:30 PM From Germany to New York to Upper Canada: The Palatine Loyalists of the Hudson Valley SPEAKER: Garry Finkell This lecture will examine the history of the Palatine settlers in the Hudson Valley who were Loyalists including their motivations and activities during the Revolutionary War and their subsequent lives in Ontario, Canada. Erie Room B	1:30 - 2:30 PM German Archives - Full of Hidden Treasures! SPEAKER: Baerbel Johnson German archives hold many different record types that may include information about your ancestral family. This lecture discusses the different German archives available and how to access them. Erie Room A	1:30 - 2:30 PM Who are the Irish Palatines? SPEAKER: Carolyn Heald This lecture focuses on the history of the Palatines who came from Ireland. Erie Room B
BEVERAGE BREAK		ADJOURN	
3:00 - 4:00 PM The Germanic French: Researching Alsatian and Lorrainian Families SPEAKER: John Colletta This lecture explores the peculiarities of researching ancestors of Alsace, Lorraine, and Elsass-Lothringen. Erie Room A	3:00 - 4:00 PM Comparing Albany's Deutschtum to Other Cities: Before and After the Great War SPEAKER: Christopher White An informative overview of the rise and decline of the German-American community in Albany, NY comparative to other German communities in the greater United States that faced ethnic discrimination during World War I. Erie Room B		
BREAK			
5 - 6:00 PM Social and cash bar Fountain Room			
6 -7:00 PM Banquet Fountain Room			
7:15 - 8:30 PM - Banquet speech and awards Keynote speech: An Italian-German-French-Swiss American Boy's Story: Genealogy in Buffalo in the 1960's Speaker: John Colletta Fountain Room			

2018 Palatines to America German Genealogy Society Conference Registration Form

All registrations must be completed online or postmarked by Monday, May 22, 2018 to avoid a late registration fee. Register online at www.palam.org or print out this form, complete it, and mail it with a check for the total amount due. Mail paper registrations to:

Palatines to America
P.O. Box 141260
Columbus, OH 43214

Please print your information:

Name: _____
 Organization / Society: _____ Member number: _____
 Family member name: _____
 Organization / Society: _____ Member number: _____
 Address: _____
 City/State/Postal code/Country: _____
 Phone: _____ Email: _____

Pre-conference:

Wednesday June 13 shuttle RT Buffalo & Erie County Library Genealogy Room \$ 10.00 x # _____ = \$ _____
 Thursday June 14 Bus Trip \$ 45.00 x # _____ = \$ _____
 Thursday June 14 Basics of German Genealogy Workshop \$ 25.00 x # _____ = \$ _____

Conference:

June 15 and 16 including lectures, syllabus, 2 lunches, Friday evening social with cash bar & banquet
 PalAm or IGGP partner society member (memberships will be verified) \$145.00 x # _____ = \$ _____
 Non-member \$175.00 x # _____ = \$ _____
 June 15 only—including lectures, 1 lunch & Friday evening social & banquet \$100.00 x # _____ = \$ _____
 June 16 only—including lectures & 1 lunch \$ 75.00 x # _____ = \$ _____
 Late registration (after May 22, 2018) fee \$ 10.00 x # _____ = \$ _____
 Yes, I/We want to become Palatines to America members Single \$ 35.00 x # _____ = \$ _____
 Select one Chapter (circle): CO, IN, OH, NC, NY, PA Family \$ 40.00 x # _____ = \$ _____
TOTAL = \$ _____ US \$

Indicate your Meal choices (choose one for each meal):

Friday lunch (both choices include a side of pasta salad, non-alcoholic beverages & dessert)
 Grilled Vegetable Sandwich: Cut Portobello Mushrooms, Red & Green Peppers, Zucchini, Squash, Mozzarella & Pesto Aioli on multi-grain bread # _____
 Virginia Smoked Ham Sandwich: sliced smoked ham, brie cheese, raspberry Aioli & Lettuce on a French Baguette # _____
Friday Banquet (all choices include Romaine salad, baby red potatoes, green beans, dessert, coffee / tea)
 Prime Rib 10 oz. cut with Rosemary Sprig # _____
 Chicken breast stuffed with spinach, artichokes & ricotta cheese with a Rosemary Citrus Confit Sauce # _____
 Pasta Primavera: pasta served with mixed vegetables and organic tomato sauce # _____
Saturday lunch (both choices include a side of pasta salad, non-alcoholic beverages & dessert)
 Grilled Reuben Sandwich: corned beef, sauerkraut & swiss cheese with Thousand Island dressing on Rye Bread # _____
 Turkey Breast Sandwich: sliced smoked turkey, cranberry mayonnaise, Roma tomato, aged cheddar cheese & lettuce on a Focaccia roll # _____

For those not registering for the conference (meals only) add:
 \$15.00 for each lunch
 \$36.00 for the Friday banquet
Extra Meals only TOTAL:
 \$ _____ US \$

Add TOTAL for Pre Conference & Conference registration and meals only registrants: TOTAL: \$ _____ US \$

Comments:

Please indicate here if you have any special needs e.g.: physical, dietary: