

Presenters

Dr. Sandra Stratford is a retired Columbus State University librarian and experienced genealogist who has been teaching genealogy since the 1980s. She has given one-hour presentations as well as 6-week extended courses through CSU's Continuing Education Program and the Columbus Academy for Life-Long Learning. For the last five years, she has been specializing in DNA for genealogy – focusing on analyzing DNA test results to make family connections.

Christopher Schmink is the new Director of the Family History Center in Columbus, a resource housed in the building where this event is being held, and which is open to anyone for free access to a wide variety of family history research sources. This is the seventh genealogy and family history workshop series he has assisted in planning and presenting over the past 30 years in Columbus, and he has been an active family history researcher for several decades.

Linda McCardle, retired teacher from the Muscogee County School District, with over thirty years experience, has been tracing her family roots since the 1970s. She recently published a book, *A Just and Holy Cause?: The Civil War Letters of Marcus Bethune and Martha Frances Ely, 1862-1865* (Macon, GA: Mercer University Press, 2016). She is the current President of the Muscogee Genealogical Society, a co-sponsor of this event, and is a member of the planning committee for this event.

Raymond Smith has served as the Family History Consultant for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for the entire State of Georgia for the last 7 years. He writes a monthly newsletter for Family History Consultants within the Church in this area, and has been teaching research techniques and skills at all levels of research for many years. He is a past presenter and assisted in organizing similar events as this in past years. He has 40 years of experience as a family history researcher and writer.

Jane Brady has served as Executive Director of Historic Linwood [Cemetery] Foundation since 2012. Her knowledge of cemetery research is significant, and she has made numerous presentations to various local organizations. Jane has been pursuing genealogy for 22 years. She has served as an officer in a number of patriotic/genealogical organizations; she recently completed her term as State President of the United Daughters of the Confederacy and she has also served as secretary of the Muscogee Genealogical Society.

Callie McGinnis retired in 2010 as Dean of Libraries at Columbus State University with 35 years of service. An avid genealogist, she has been tracing her family roots since 1976. She has taught for-credit family history courses, as well as extended Continuing Ed courses at CSU. A member of the Muscogee Genealogical Society since the 1980s, she now serves as its Executive Director. She is currently Assistant Director of the Historic Linwood Foundation, where she answers genealogy questions about people buried in Linwood Cemetery.

Kathy Turton is the Genealogy Librarian for the Adult Services Department at the Columbus Public Library's Genealogy and Local History section. She has been working in that area for the past 11 years and has been with the Chattahoochee Valley Libraries for 21 years. She received her BA in History from Muskingum University, New Concord, OH; an MA in History from Indiana

University of Pennsylvania and her MLS from Clarion University of Pennsylvania. In addition to working with patrons in the Genealogy section, she teaches classes on genealogical research. .

David Owings is Head of Archives for Columbus State University and is also on the executive board of the Georgia Association of Historians as well as the editorial board for *Muscogiana: Journal of the Muscogee Genealogical Society*. He is the author of Arcadia press's pictorial history of *Columbus*, as well as several articles including "The Orphans of G. Gunby Jordan" in *Muscogiana*. He is currently coauthoring new guidelines for Archival and Special Collections Facilities to be published by the Society of American Archivists.

Dr. Brian Schwartz, is Professor of Biology and Assistant Chair of the Department of Biology at Columbus State University, where he began teaching 22 years ago. His focus is genetics and developmental biology. Dr. Schwartz has been pursuing genealogy as a hobby for over 10 years and began making presentations to genealogical groups about DNA and genealogy in 2008. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Muscogee Genealogical Society.

Amie Torok is an Adult Services Librarian at the North Columbus Public Library. She has worked for Chattahoochee Valley Libraries for over 12 years, serving in multiple service areas including both Reference and Genealogy Departments. She regularly teaches genealogy classes. Ms Torok has a History degree from Columbus State University and just recently received a Master's in Library Science from Valdosta State University. Genealogy is both a personal and professional passion of hers that she has been working on for over ten years.

Dr. Hugh Rodgers, retired Chair of the Columbus State University History Department, has been an avid genealogist for many years. He is a long-standing member and officer of the Muscogee Genealogical Society, having served as President and, now, Member of the Executive Board; he has also served as the editor of the Society's journal, *Muscogiana*. Dr. Rodgers is active in the Coweta Falls Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. He has held a number of positions in that organization (including president); he now serves as the chapter's genealogist.

Melissa Carroll and Mitzi Abalos will co-present the Latter-day Saint Youth session. Melissa is a highly experienced researcher of her own genealogy and family history, and has solved a number of puzzles within her "tree" as well as having had some extraordinary successes in finding ancestors and their lines. Mitzi Abalos is a very active personal family history researcher, and actively participates in this activity individually and with other youth. Her enthusiasm (and smile) are contagious. For those invited to this session, this is a don't-miss event!

Diane Evans has been the Family History Center Director in Atlanta, GA, for many years, and has over 50 years of experience in family history research, with over 20 years of research using computer resources. She has helped many people find their own elusive ancestors, particularly including African-American ancestry.