

Presenter Biographies

Please recognize and thank our speakers who are voluntarily participating in the Conference because of their love of Family History and Genealogy. They serve as volunteers and patrons of the Family History Center, and they are members of the LDS Church, The Albemarle-Charlottesville Historical Society and The Central Virginia Genealogy Association founded right here in this building almost 40 years ago. Some are members of our local and extended community who are seeking their Ancestors. You have are thanks and gratitude for sharing your talents and spirit of Family.

SHEILA BLIGHT is a grandmother who has been writing or keeping a journal of some kind or another since she was 13 years old. She enjoys tracing her own family tree and has worked as a Family History Library volunteer.

BARBARA BRANHAM is the Assistant Director of the Family History Center in the Charlottesville LDS Church. She has been working on genealogy for the past thirty years.

NORM CARLSON is a staff consultant at the Charlottesville Family History Center. He has been doing Family History research off and on for years, primarily in Kentucky and New England. Norm and his family have been in the Charlottesville area for the past 20 years.

KATIE DERBY holds a bachelor's degree in Genealogy/ Family History from Brigham Young University. She interned at the Library of Congress in the Local History and Genealogy Department. She and her husband are also entrepreneurs in the field of online Genealogy and are currently developing their business, GenQuery.com.

SUSAN DUBAR is an officer in the Central Virginia Genealogical Association and have been engaged in Genealogical research for ten years or more, and has been presenting programs on various aspects of genealogy.

SUSAN EMERT began her first Heritage Scrapbook in 1999, and in now working on a sixth one. She has taught classes in scrapbook construction. She is President of the Central Virginia Genealogical Association.

JENNY GREENWOOD has lived in Charlottesville since 1969 and has been a member of the Central Virginia Genealogy Association since 1990 serving as Recording Secretary and Vice President for several years. She has been a presenter at several CVGA genealogy seminars in the area.

DAVID HUNGATE is a professional commercial photographer located in Roanoke. His clients include many Fortune 500 companies. He is a former Emmy-nominated television news photographer for NBC News assigned to Capitol Hill and the White House. In college, he majored in Photojournalism and is a member of the National Association of Photoshop Professionals

Dr. ROICE LUKE is a professor in and past Chairman of the Department of Health Administration at Richmond's Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU). Aside from his professional life, Dr. Luke has a deep interest in post-civil war genealogy and history. He has been actively involved in the historically significant Virginia Freedmen Indexing and Extraction Project, currently being conducted by the Black History Museum and Cultural Center of Virginia and the Genealogical Society of Utah.

BARBARA KONAT is Vice Regent and **SHARON STEO**, Registrar, and members of the Montpelier Chapter, NSDAR. Both Barbara and Sharon area avid researchers with many years of genealogy experience.

MELISSA SMITH KENNEDY has been an avid genealogist for about 15 years. Her Virginia roots reach back to 1621 and she has yet to visit any place in the state where she was not eventually discovered a relative. She is a Family History Consultant in the Charlottesville First Ward.

JACKIE LAYTON has worked as a librarian and assistant director in the Family History Library of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints off and on for almost 20 years. She would spend all of her time doing genealogy if she could, but unfortunately has to sleep, eat and work. She has discovered many of her ancestors along the way and is thrilled each time another one is found.

MARGARET M. O'BRYANT, Librarian/Head of Reference Resources, Albemarle Charlottesville Historical Society since 1988 is a native Virginian growing up in Franklin County. She holds an AB degree in classical languages from the College of William & Mary and a graduate library degree from University of North Carolina. She has 12 years previous experience in academic & public libraries and 10 years at UVa's Alderman Library.

MATTHEW ORTON is a third year medical student at the University of Virginia School of Medicine. He is married to his wife Melissa and they have a one year old son Kyle. While attending BYU he majored in microbiology and worked in a molecular genealogy laboratory for three years.

LEONTYNE CLAY PECK is an author, speaker and entrepreneur with more than 20 years in a diversity of business endeavors. She received her education from Potomac State College, American University, American University of Rome, and West Virginia University. She is also the founder of Afritique, an educational consulting company.

LORRAINE QUILLON - After four decades of following her ancestors' trail, Lorraine knows some of the best tools to use to trap that elusive progenitor. The one she really wants (a fourth great-grandfather) continues to evade her, but you should see some of the other interesting characters she has collected along the way.

BOB ROBERTS spent 25 years in Information Technology as a software designer and corporate executive running the company he founded in 1975. He teaches Family History classes and volunteers in the Charlottesville Family History Center.

LARRY SIDWELL has published his own personal history, has published a book of stories about his wife, and will show other styles and options for the family history keeper available today.

MICHAEL L. STRAUSS, AG. Our *Keynote Speaker* is a Professional Genealogist, author & lecturer. He is an Accredited Genealogist for the Eastern States Region. A native of Pennsylvania and a resident of Virginia Beach and has been an avid genealogist for nearly 30 years. He holds a BA in History with a Civil War concentration and is a US Coast Guard veteran. Strauss is a scholarly research grant recipient from the Foundation for Coast Guard History and the General George C. Marshall Foundation in Lexington, VA. He works as a research archivist with the Coast Guard Station Museum in Virginia Beach, VA and has spoken at several national and regional genealogical conferences over the last decade.

DOTTIE SULLIVAN who has been using Legacy Family Tree for approximately ten years. It is a very versatile program and has all the features needed in a genealogy program.