

# Fall 2011 Seminar

## Who Do You Think Your Ancestors Were?

**Date:** Saturday, October 29, 2011

**Time:** 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM  
(Registration: 9:30 AM to 10:00 AM)  
(Lunch: 12:15 to 1:15 PM)

**Place:** Hyde Park United Methodist Church  
Route 9  
Hyde Park, New York

**Registration:** Advance Registration: \$25.00  
Walk-ins at the door on day of seminar:  
\$25.00 DCGS Members, \$30.00 Non-members

**Lunch:** \$7.50 for optional buffet lunch (deli meats, cheese, breads and salads) Available only with advance registration

Devotees of the popular TV show "Who Do You Think You Are?" will recognize the use of a similar question with a different twist presented by this year's seminar.

### Program Schedule:

#### Same Name, Must Be Same Person

**Christine Crawford Oppenheimer**

**10:00 a.m.**

An unprepared family historian can waste valuable research time tracking a supposed ancestor who isn't actually in that person's family. Name problems can hinder your research. Learn techniques for evaluating and verifying research results so you will research your own ancestors, and not someone else's.

#### Evaluating Genealogical Evidence

**Christine Crawford-Oppenheimer**

**11:15 a.m.**

While some genealogical sources are straightforward, others may not be. In some cases, different sources may give different information for the same event. This talk discusses how we can evaluate them and be sure we are putting the correct information (and ancestors!) in our records, and how to deal with information when you cannot make a determination as to which source is correct.

#### Techniques That Might Break Through Brick Walls

**Christine Crawford-Oppenheimer**

**1:15 p.m.**

Some of the techniques we discussed today may help you break through brick walls. If they don't work, this talk will give you more ideas to follow up on.

#### Surprises, Skeletons in the Closet and Black Sheep

**Valerie LaRobardier**

**2:30 p.m.**

What do you do when you find surprises in your ancestors' stories? How and how much should we reveal about black sheep ancestors? Did you know there is a genealogical society for folks with black sheep ancestors? Acceptance and denial--how do we handle learning one of "our ancestors" doesn't really belong in our tree?

## **Fall Seminar, Continued:**

### **Registration (Advance registration must be postmarked by October 21, 2011):**

To register, mail your name, address, telephone number, and a check with the advance registration fee of \$25 and the lunch cost of \$7.50 (if you wish to take advantage of the buffet. You may bring your own lunch; drinks will be supplied free of charge). Make your check payable to the Dutchess County Genealogical Society.

Mail registration and check to:  
Dutchess County Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 708  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12602

### **Directions to the Church:**

The United Methodist Church in the village of Hyde Park is located on the east side (on the right going north) of Route 9, at the corner of Albany Post Road/Route 9 and Church Street. The entrance to the parking lot is on Church Street.

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## **Seminar Speakers:**

**Christine Crawford-Oppenheimer**, MLS, has been doing genealogical research since 1979, and has been Vice President for Programs and Vice President for Publicity for the Dutchess County Genealogical Society since 1988. she is a member of several genealogical and professional societies, including the Association of Professional Genealogists, the Genealogical Speakers Guild, the National Genealogical Society and state and local societies. Her training as a librarian is useful in her second profession as genealogist.

Ms. Crawford-Oppenheimer's book, *Long Distance Genealogy: Researching Your Family History From Home*, was published by Betterway Books in 2000. Articles she has written have appeared in journals such as the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*.

Ms. Crawford-Oppenheimer has spoken on topics as varied as basic genealogy, long-distance genealogy, family health history, and the published Pennsylvania Archives at many national conferences and at meetings of the Dutchess County Genealogical Society, the Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society, the Capital District [NY] Genealogical Society and other societies. She lives in Dutchess County with her husband and five cats.

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**Valerie LaRobardier** is a third generation genealogist and historian, building on and continuing her family's Colonial New England and Swedish research. In addition to current President of the Dutchess County Genealogical Society she serves as researcher, newsletter editor and web-master of the National Association of Leavitt Families, and on several local civic advisory boards. She is a member of the Maine Genealogical Society, Kent Historical Society, Little Nine Partners Historical Society, Provincial Archives of New Brunswick [Canada], Dutchess County Historical Society and the New England Genealogical and Historical Society.

Ms. LaRobardier, now a professional genealogist, has been a project manager for construction, architecture and market research. She also designed and taught a cultural arts curriculum for Pre-K through eighth grade and served for nine years as a Cub Master. Though at first glance these professions may not appear similar, the common tasks of research, writing, speaking, logic and critical analysis, and presentation serve them all well.

In addition to her client projects and personal family research, Ms. LaRobardier is working on compiling genealogies for the early settlers of the Town of Dover, updating the genealogies of several branches of the immigrant John Leavitt who settled in Hingham, MA in the early 1600's and regularly contributes to surname studies for the Wing, Sprague and Agard families.