



# Family History Month

OCTOBER 2023

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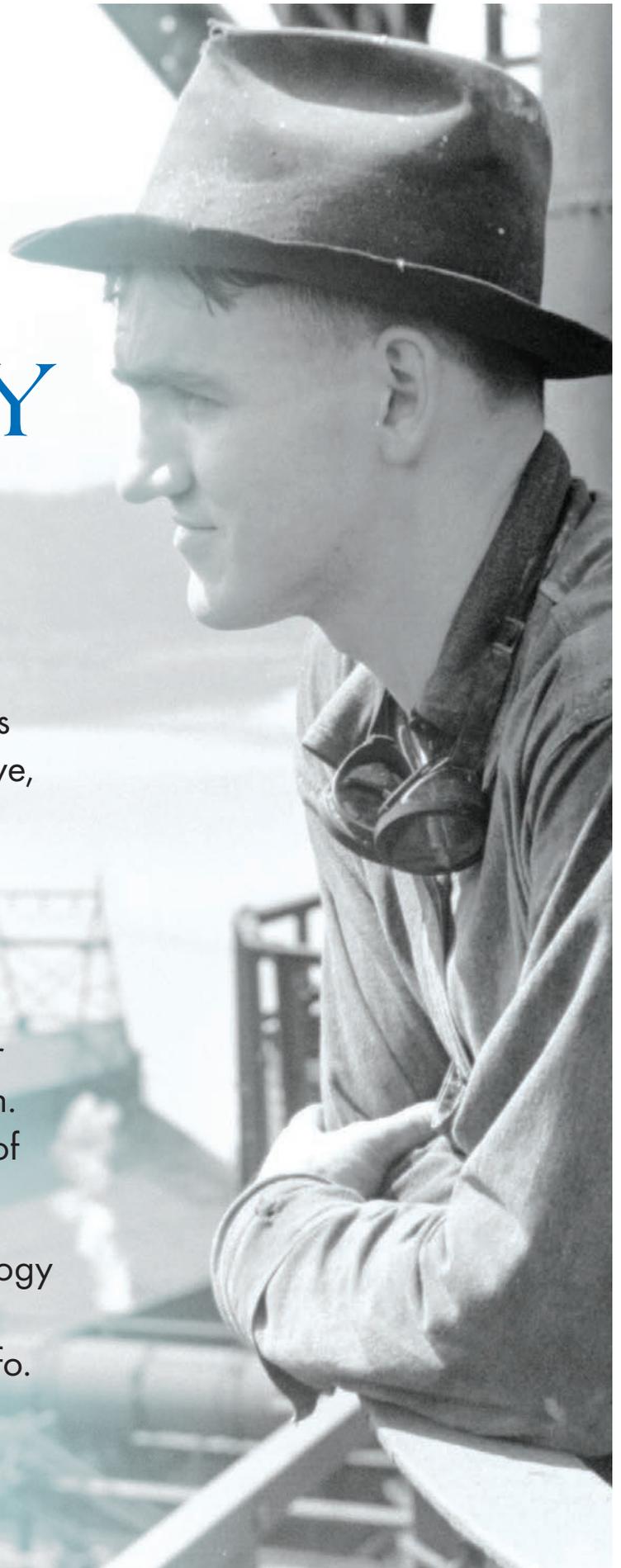
THE  
GENEALOGY  
CENTER  
AT THE  
ALLEN COUNTY  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

WELCOME TO

# FAMILY HISTORY MONTH 2023!

The Genealogy Center is delighted to offer daily activities to inspire you to pursue, preserve, and present your family stories. Don't miss our virtual programs — registration links can be found on the bottom left of the Genealogy Center's website at [genealogycenter.org](https://www.genealogycenter.org), under the "Genealogy Events" section. Join us on this exciting journey of discovery and celebration!

To learn more, call The Genealogy Center at (260) 421-1225, or email us at [genealogy@acpl.info](mailto:genealogy@acpl.info).



# Notable special events for this year's Family History Month:

## THE LEGAL GENEALOGIST

Experience the captivating world of family history with Judy G. Russell, JD, CG, CGL, renowned as the "Legal Genealogist." Join her in a three-program virtual event to unveil your family's secrets. Explore legal intricacies in court, land, and DNA research, master advanced U.S. Census investigation, and uncover invaluable insights from records to reveal your family's narrative. Don't miss out on this incredible chance to learn from the Legal Genealogist on October 14, from 10 AM to 2 PM, and embark on a captivating historical journey!

## GENEALOGY AFTER HOURS

Participate in-person or virtually for an after-hours event! The Genealogy Center will be open an extra three hours on October 27, from 6 to 9 PM. In addition, our genealogy librarians will be accessible on Zoom during this extended period, prepared to handle questions and engage in discussions with patrons hailing from various corners of the world. You're invited to be part of this unique occasion, whether you choose to visit us physically or connect with us virtually!

## IN-PERSON WALKING TOURS

Join us for two captivating in-person walking tours! On October 7, our Genealogy Services Manager, Allison DePrey Singleton, will lead "Cemeteries Are Not Just for Ghosts: Lindenwood Cemetery." Then, on October 21, Senior Librarian Elizabeth Hodges will guide "From Deed to Discovery: Tracing Williams Woodland Park Neighborhood Home Histories." Don't miss these intriguing history and genealogy explorations!

## SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVITIES

Participate in our unique social media engagements on Facebook every Sunday, Monday, and Friday during October. You will enjoy Storytelling Sundays, Alliteration Mondays, and Flashback Fridays.

Sunday, October 1

## **STORYTELLING SUNDAYS QUESTION**

on Facebook

Which ancestor would you most like to meet and why?  
Share a picture of them if you have one!

Monday, October 2

## **MATRILINEAL MONDAY**

on Facebook

Discovering the maiden names of our female ancestors can often prove to be a challenging task. To assist with your research, we've put together a few tips and tricks that may prove helpful. We encourage you to share any of your own favorite discoveries and research tips in the comments on our Facebook. Let's celebrate the women in our family tree together!

Tuesday, October 3

## **THE ROOTS BENEATH YOUR FEET: THE HOMESTEAD ACT OF 1862**

Presented by **Jonathan Fairchild**

2:30-3:30 pm • Virtual

This program gives a focused look on doing genealogical research with the land records of those who settled in the United States under the Homestead Act. The Homestead Act of 1862 allowed individuals to claim 160 acres of American public domain land for free, as long as they lived and farmed on it for five years. Because of the requirements to file claims, extensive records including vital records, immigration records, military service records, and legal records were kept for every single one of these homestead claims. This session will teach attendees about the role the Homestead Act played in immigration, provide information about ethnic and religious homesteading settlement communities, and how to find and utilize Homestead Land Entry Case files and the General Land Office Records. From 1863 through 1986, millions of individuals from across the world staked their claim to "the American Dream" under this law.

Wednesday, October 4

## **WEDNESDAYS WITH WITCHER**

Presented by **Curt Witcher**

2:00-2:30 pm • Virtual

### **Collecting the Stories of Our Lives: Tips for Recording Oral Histories and Life Stories**

Hear some best practices for interviewing family members, military buddies, high school classmates, and more. Prepare to interview in an enjoyable and meaningful way.

Wednesday, October 4

## **THE PURSUIT OF FREEDOM IN A 'FREE' STATE: THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION'S SIGNIFICANCE TO AFRICAN AMERICANS IN INDIANA**

Presented by **Dr. Edna Greene Medford**

7:00–8:00 pm  
Virtual & In-Person

This presentation will focus on the significance of this very important document, The Emancipation Proclamation, for African Americans in Indiana. The Friends of the Lincoln Collection of Indiana are sponsoring this presentation by Dr. Edna Greene Medford, professor emeritus of history at Howard University who specializes in 19th-century African-American history. She is a member of the board of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Foundation and is on the Executive Committee of The Lincoln Forum.

Thursday, October 5

## **USING DNA TESTING TO LOCATE ANCESTORS BACK IN THE OLD COUNTRY**

Presented by **Sara Allen**

6:30–7:30 pm • Virtual

Learn steps to take to utilize your DNA matches (autosomal, Y-DNA) to move your genealogical research back to the old country where the family immigrated from.

Friday, October 6

## **FLASHBACK FRIDAY**

on Facebook

### **The Genealogy Center then and now.**

Share your favorite memory of researching in The Genealogy Center!

Saturday, October 7

## **CEMETERIES ARE NOT JUST FOR GHOSTS: LINDENWOOD CEMETERY**

Presented by **Allison DePrey Singleton**

10:00 am – 12:00 pm  
In-Person Tour  
at Lindenwood Cemetery

Join us for a program at Lindenwood Cemetery that's suitable for all ages! Discover the basics of cemetery etiquette and participate in a fun scavenger hunt to uncover unique gravestone carvings and symbolism. Learn how cemeteries can be an invaluable resource for family history research, and take part in a brief guided tour of a section of the cemetery. We'll meet at the Lindenwood Parking Lot located at 2324 W. Main St., Fort Wayne. Please dress comfortably for walking outdoors. We look forward to seeing you there!

Sunday, October 8

## **STORYTELLING SUNDAYS QUESTION**

on Facebook

Newspapers were like the social media of the day, a place to share and read about society news. What is the most interesting thing that you have discovered about an ancestor within historic newspapers?

Monday, October 9

## **MICROFILM MONDAY**

on Facebook

Are you looking for hard-to-find genealogy records? The Genealogy Center's has an extensive collection of microfilm records, covering everything from city directories to newspapers to local histories. Our knowledgeable staff is also here to assist you with any questions you may have. Let's dive into the past together!

Tuesday, October 10

## **EXPLORING AMERICAN HISTORY IN BRITISH NEWSPAPERS**

Presented by **Jen Baldwin**

2:30–3:30 pm • Virtual

Newspapers provide a window from which to view our ancestor's world, but have you considered how the rest of the world saw our ancestors? Explore the British Newspaper Archive for American and Canadian gems.

Wednesday, October 11

## **WEDNESDAYS WITH WITCHER**

Presented by **Curt Witcher**

2:00–2:30 pm • Virtual

### **Collecting the Stories of Our Lives: Tips for Writing Our Families' Stories**

Hear some methods and strategies for making writing enjoyable and rewarding. Learn how writing in small bits can result in an amazing story to share with family.

Thursday, October 12

## **SCALING THE 1870 BRICK WALL IN AFRICAN AMERICAN RESEARCH**

Presented by **Ari Wilkins**

6:30–7:30 pm • Virtual

For many, researching before 1870 is a hurdle in African American family history. Learn about sources and strategies to trace ancestors back into the Antebellum Era.

# The Legal Genealogist

## A THREE PROGRAM VIRTUAL SHOWCASE

PRESENTED BY **JUDY G. RUSSELL, JD, CG, CGL**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14 • 10:00 AM TO 2:00 PM**

### **PUTTING THOSE RECORDS TO WORK**

10:00–11:00 am

Every document we locate in genealogical research has its clear use: a census record will help us identify family members and trace them over time; a court record will tell us what was happening with that person at that time; a will or probate record will help recreate a family at a specific point in time. But every document we locate can be mined—directly or in combination with other records—for more. Find a deeper richer context for our family members and their place and time.

### **MORE THAN JUST NAMES: ADVANCED U.S. CENSUS RESEARCH**

11:30 am – 12:30 pm

Those every-10-years U.S. censuses are goldmines of names, ages and birthplaces for members of our families. But there's so much more in the census records if we know where to look—everything from socioeconomic status to crops grown or products made, from school attendance to marriage dates, from physical disabilities to causes of death, from military service to clues that lead us to other sources. Learn how an advanced search of the U.S. census records can add to your family history.

### **LANDING THE FOURTHS: PROVING A CASE WITH COURT, LAND, AND DNA EVIDENCE**

1:00–2:00 pm

The father of Gustavus Boone Robertson (1827 MS-1903 TX) was William M. Robertson (c1795 NC-1864 MS). But who was Gustavus's mother? No record directly identifies her, but court, land, and DNA evidence combine to prove the case as to the identity of this third great-grandmother and, in doing so, landing the fourths-fourth great-grandparents, that is.

Friday, October 13  
**FLASHBACK FRIDAY**  
on Facebook

Sunday, October 15  
**STORYTELLING  
SUNDAYS QUESTION**  
on Facebook

Monday, October 16  
**MIGRATION MONDAY**  
on Facebook

Tuesday, October 17  
**TIPS FOR DECIPHERING  
RECORDS IN FOREIGN  
LANGUAGES**  
Presented by **Cynthia Theusch**  
2:30–3:30 pm • Virtual

Wednesday, October 18  
**WEDNESDAYS WITH  
WITCHER**  
Presented by **Curt Witcher**  
2:00–2:30 pm • Virtual

### **The Genealogy Center then and now.**

What is the best genealogical discovery that you've made while researching at the Genealogy Center?

Share about an ancestor who overcame significant adversity. What were the challenges they faced, and how did they persevere?

Looking to trace your ancestors' migration patterns? Check out the wealth of migration genealogy records available at The Genealogy Center! From passenger lists to naturalization records, we have a wide range of resources to help you uncover your family's migration history. Be sure to explore our catalog and utilize our Periodical Source Index (PERSI) to discover hidden gems related to your family's story. Let's discover the journeys of our ancestors together!

Breaking the language barrier is a crucial step in genealogy research, but it can be intimidating. In this presentation, we will explore different techniques and tools that can help you overcome language barriers and make the most of genealogy records in other languages. By learning about the challenges and applying the techniques discussed in this presentation, you can unlock valuable information about your ancestors and build a deeper understanding of your family history.

### **Answering the "Where Do I Go From Here?" Question: Tips for Continuing Your Discoveries**

Among the most frequently asked questions in the Genealogy Center is some form of "where do I go from here?" Simple strategies for continuing our discovery will be shared.

Thursday, October 19

## **NAVIGATING FOLD3: YOUR GATEWAY TO RESEARCHING MILITARY ANCESTORS AND BEYOND**

Presented by **Elizabeth Hodges**

6:30–7:30 pm • Virtual

With a collection of over 500 million indexed and digitized documents, Fold3 stands as an invaluable tool for family historians embarking on a journey to trace their military ancestors. Join senior librarian, Elizabeth Hodges, on Thursday, October 19, as she unveils essential tips and techniques to navigate Fold3.

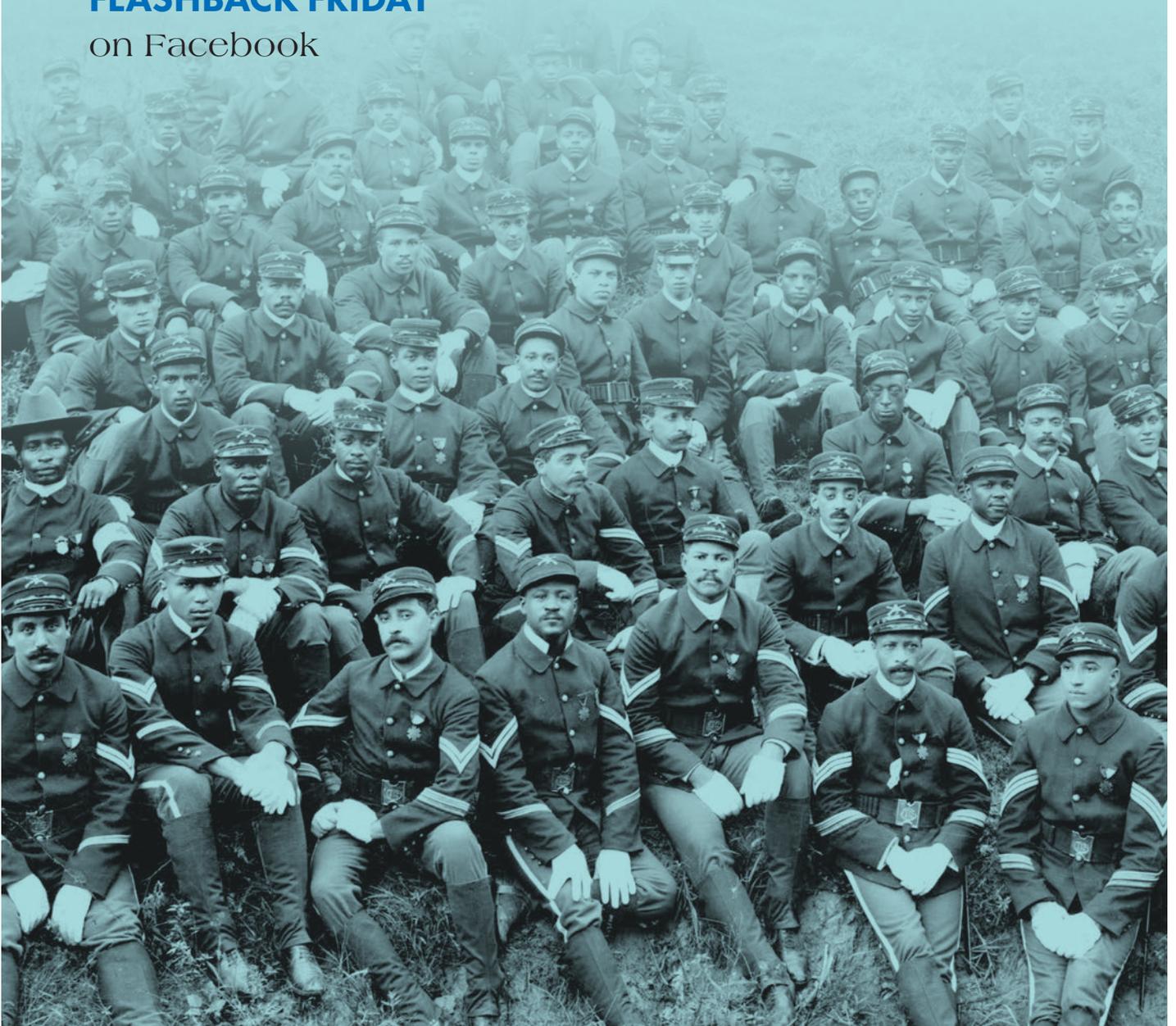
Friday, October 20

## **FLASHBACK FRIDAY**

on Facebook

**The Genealogy Center then and now.**

Share your favorite memories of the Genealogy Center!



# The Genealogy Network of Texas

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20 • DAY-LONG VIRTUAL PROGRAM

10:00 am EST

## SECRETS TO SUCCESSFUL WRITING & PUBLISHING

Presented by **Angela Breidenbach**  
*Executive Director of the International  
Institute of Genealogical Studies*

Gain a solid overview of the real writing world. Learn the “big picture” and key tools to take your writing to the next level. The presentation will explore a variety of important topics including style, editing, building a portfolio, marketing your work, and more!

11:25 am EST

## LINKING THE GENERATIONS WITH COURT & LAND RECORDS

Presented by **Judy Russell**  
*JD, CG, CGL, The Legal Genealogist*

*Sponsored by the Texas Research Ramblers  
Genealogical Society*

It's the single biggest issue genealogists face: how do we connect one generation to the next with reliable evidence? Vital records are excellent documentation, but they often don't exist for the time and place we're researching. We must make sure we're not simply putting people into family lines because they share the same names. Using court and land records, we can often find the evidence needed to link the generations accurately

12:25 pm EST

## VISITING THE HILL COLLEGE TEXAS HERITAGE MUSEUM

Presented by **John Versluis**  
*Dean of the Texas Heritage  
Museum at Hill College*

This presentation will showcase the Hill College, Texas Heritage Museum with an overview of the Museum's Galleries and Collection Division and highlight the holdings in the Museum's Historical Research Center Division. This center is nationally recognized as a Civil War Repository with an extensive collection of maps, photos, and microfilm. Also available is an archive that contains files of soldiers' letters, diaries, and unpublished manuscripts from all Texas wars.

1:25 pm EST

## GENEALOGY BASICS: START SEARCHING FOR YOUR ANCESTORS TODAY

Presented by **Irene B. Walters**  
*Librarian, Family History Research Center  
at the Clayton Library Campus*

Need info on the names, dates, and places your family lived? Interested in finding out how to track down your family stories? Come learn the basics you need to get started! Discover the tools available, starting with home sources and continuing with the types of created records that are useful for genealogical research and where they can be found. Also covered will be ways to stay organized by utilizing paper charts and forms as well as computer software.

# The Genealogy Network of Texas

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20 • DAY-LONG VIRTUAL PROGRAM

2:50 pm EST

## TAME THE CHAOS TIGER: ORGANIZE YOUR RECORDS AND RESEARCH

Presented by **Susan Ball**, *President, TxSGS*

How many times are the solutions to our brick walls found in records we already have? This presentation starts with taming the physical chaos caused by lack of organization and continues with taming the research chaos caused by poorly defined and overlooked research. Explore templates for organizational tools to help organize information and form a research plan.

3:50 pm EST

## UNCOVER YOUR FAMILY'S STORY USING THE PERIODICAL SOURCE INDEX (PERSI)

Presented by **Elizabeth Hodges**  
*MA, MSLIS, Senior Librarian in the Allen  
County Public Library Genealogy Center*

Free to the public, the Periodical Source Index (PERSI) is the premier subject index for genealogy and local history periodicals, and is produced by the staff of The Genealogy Center. Learn how to make PERSI your new favorite tool in your family history tool box!

4:50 pm EST

## PLACING YOUR DNA MATCHES ON YOUR TREE

Presented by **Ryan Russell**  
*Genetic Genealogist, Open Door Genetics*

When you take a DNA test, you'll receive a match list of mostly strangers. Who are these people, and how are you connected? This session discusses strategies for identifying your DNA matches and determining your common ancestors. Whether your goal is to collect more information about your ancestors or break through brick walls on your tree, gaining a better understanding of your DNA matches can lead to new discoveries.

5:50 pm CST

## CHECKING ON CZECH IMMIGRANTS TO THE UNITED STATES

Presented by **Heather Mecham**  
*Research Specialist for FamilySearch*

Identifying the town name of an immigrant ancestor is key to discovering Czech roots. Many United States records can reveal an immigrant's place of origin. This class highlights United States record types key to Czech research. Learn about FamilySearch resources such as Czechia Guided Research which can help locate the correct Czech Archive once a town name is known.



Saturday, October 21

## **FROM DEED TO DISCOVERY: A WALKING TOUR OF TRACING THE HISTORY OF WILLIAMS- WOODLAND PARK NEIGHBORHOOD HOMES**

Presented by **Elizabeth Hodges**

10:30 am – 12:30 pm  
In-Person Walking Tour

Are you interested in researching your home or your neighborhood? Join senior librarian Elizabeth Hodges for a walking tour of Williams Woodland Park neighborhood homes as we take you on a journey through time to uncover the history of these homes and their residents. From deeds and maps to old photographs and stories, we'll share the techniques and tools used to trace the history of homes in this area, and reveal the secrets that lie hidden within the walls. Whether you're a history buff, an architecture enthusiast, or simply curious about the past, this tour is sure to captivate and inspire.

*Please dress comfortably for walking outside. Meet at Templo Aposento Alto Church located at 307 West Woodland Avenue, Fort Wayne, Indiana.*

Sunday, October 22

## **STORYTELLING SUNDAYS QUESTION**

on Facebook

Write about an ancestor who made a significant contribution to their community. What did they do, and how did it impact others?

Monday, October 23

## **MONUMENT MONDAY**

on Facebook

Cemetery records are an essential source of information for genealogists and family historians looking to honor and remember their loved ones. To assist you in finding these records, we've compiled a list of helpful tips. We'd love to hear about your best tips and discoveries related to cemetery records on our Facebook. Let's ensure that our ancestors' memories live on!

Tuesday, October 24

## **BLACK AND WHITE AND READ ALL OVER: DELVING INTO AFRICAN AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS**

Presented by **Allison DePrey Singleton**

2:30–3:30 pm • Virtual

When researching African American family history, an often-overlooked resource are the African American newspapers. Accessible Archives African American Newspapers and ProQuest African American Historical Newspapers are two online databases that provide access to a wide range of historical newspapers that focus on African American history and culture. These databases are valuable resources for scholars, researchers, and anyone interested in exploring the history of African Americans in the United States.

Wednesday, October 25

## **WEDNESDAYS WITH WITCHER**

Presented by **Curt Witcher**

2:00–2:30 pm • Virtual

### **What Do I Do With All My Stuff?: Organizing to Preserve & Pass Down**

Glean some tips for organizing what you have spent a lifetime gathering so it is appreciated and preserved for your descendants and interested others. We may be in more trouble than we think!

Thursday, October 26

## **HISTORY AND EVOLUTION OF AMERICAN FUNERAL PRACTICES**

Presented by **Todd Harra**

6:30–7:30 pm • Virtual

Are you curious to learn more about the funeral and mourning practices of your ancestors? Why do we embalm the deceased? Why are funerals so expensive? Is there a reason coffins are shaped the way they are? Where does the tradition of viewing the body come from? Ceremonies for honoring the deceased are crucial parts of our lives, but few people know where our traditional practices come from—and what they reveal about our history, culture, and beliefs about death. Author of the book “Last Rites,” Todd Harra will explore the history of American funeral customs— where they came from, what they mean, and how they are still evolving.

Friday, October 27

## **FLASHBACK FRIDAY**

on Facebook

### **The Genealogy Center then and now.**

Share your favorite memories of the Genealogy Center!

Friday, October 27

## **SCANAPALOOZA SPONSORED BY VIVID-PIX**

Presented by **Curt Witcher** and  
**Rick Voight** of Vivid-Pix

2:00–5:00 pm • In-Person

Join Curt Witcher of Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center and Rick Voight of Vivid-Pix as they guide you through the process of starting your genealogy journey, initiating photo organization, scanning and revitalizing your cherished photographs, and mastering the art of sharing significant family narratives.

# AFTER HOURS EXTRAVAGANZA IN THE GENEALOGY CENTER

Friday, October 27  
6:00 — 9:00 pm  
Virtual OR In-Person

Join us in-person OR virtually for an after-hours event! The Genealogy Center will extend its physical hours for an additional three hours, welcoming visitors. Additionally, our genealogy librarians will be available on Zoom during these extended hours, ready to address inquiries and engage in conversations with patrons joining us from around the globe. We welcome you to participate in this special event, either by visiting us in person or connecting with us online!



Sunday, October 29

## **STORYTELLING SUNDAYS QUESTION**

on Facebook

What is your favorite place to do genealogy research and why?

Monday, October 30

## **MEDICAL MONDAY**

on Facebook

Medical records can offer a unique perspective on your family's health over generations, shedding light on the various medical conditions, treatments, and challenges that your ancestors faced. While obtaining such records can be challenging due to privacy regulations and the passage of time, they can be valuable additions to your genealogical research. Here's a deeper look at genealogy medical records.

Tuesday, October 31

## **SÉANCES AND SPIRITS: A SPOOKY LOOK AT THE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY SPIRITUALIST MOVEMENT**

Presented by **Genealogy Staff**

2:30-3:30 pm • Virtual

Are you curious about the otherworldly beliefs and practices of your ancestors? Join our senior librarians for an informal conversation and Q&A session as we delve into the history of the spiritualist movement of the 19th and early 20th century. We'll explore the history and mysterious practices of spiritualism, including the famous séances where participants attempted to communicate with the dead. Join us on this journey of discovery and exploration into the world of historic spiritualism and the occult, as we discuss the mysteries that continue to fascinate and captivate us to this day.



# The Genealogy Center at the Allen County Public Library

## **Allen County Public Library**

900 Library Plaza  
Fort Wayne, Indiana, 46802

(260) 421-1225  
genealogy@acpl.info  
www.genealogycenter.org



@genealogycenter



@acplgenealogy



@genealogycenter



@allencountypubliclibrary

Visit us during regular library hours for full access to our physical and digital collection. Our staff is available to assist with your family history research.

### **Monday–Thursday**

9:00 AM – 9:00 PM

### **Friday–Saturday**

9:00 AM – 6:00 PM

### **Sunday**

12:00 – 5:00 PM



**Allen County  
Public Library**