

GENEALOGY ESSENTIALS

Our Free Educational Programs are presented at 7:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month, September through May. To expand our audience and bring the amazing resources of the Society to a wider audience, our 2024-2025 season of programs will be hybrid programs, both in person in the Discovery Center Room at The Allen County Public Library and live streamed on Zoom for those who cannot attend in person. Registration for the virtual programs will be on the ACGSI website. For more information and current program offerings, please see www.acgsi.org, our blog at acgsi.wordpress.com, or visit us on Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest or X, formerly known as Twitter. ACGSI members will be emailed an invitation to each Free Educational Program. Membership in the Society is open to all. Any changes to the educational programs will be announced on our social media sites. All times listed below are Eastern Time. Programs are recorded and placed on our website under the “members only” tab.

“Vintage Eats – Recipes from Our Ancestors”

Wednesday, September 11, 2024, 7:00-8:30 pm ET

In this presentation we will explore the concepts of researching vintage recipes – those that have been passed down decades ago in the 20th century -- for the purpose of seeing how culinary practices and methods have evolved over time.

Have our diets improved and time in the kitchen increased efficiently from the mid-20th century? Or have we lapsed into utilizing readily available conveniences, such as ready-made food with delivery to our doors?

Kayleen Reusser, author of numerous books of interviews with 200+ World War II vets, explores culinary history with her concentration in discovering delicious, healthy vintage recipes. She will discuss the advantages of such a focus -- added health benefits, as well as the advantages of saving money, and even finding enjoyment in poring over retro cookbooks! Samples of a vintage recipe will be available.

She posts weekly vintage recipes at her ‘Vintage Eats’ blog at www.KayleenReusser.com.

“Fort Wayne Through Time”

Wednesday, October 9, 2024, 7:00-8:30 pm ET

A pictorial adventure through Fort Wayne then...and now, utilizing over 60 paired vintage and recently replicated images along with the interesting history behind each. Donors of the wonderful vintage images are the ACPL Genealogy Department, The History Center, ARCH, News Sentinel, Journal Gazette and private collectors.

Randy Harter is a Fort Wayne historian, author of three books on local history and the founder of the Fort Wayne History Roundtable. The replication images are by co-author, Daniel Baker, who is an award-winning photographer and has been documenting Northeast Indiana for the past twenty years.

“Chromosome Mapping and Clustering Tools: DNA Painter and GEDmatch Tier 1”

Wednesday, November 13, 2024, 7:00-8:30 pm ET

DNA Painter chromosome mapping provides a visual representation of DNA segments that you share with a match. When several matches share that exact same segment with you, it indicates a common ancestor. Clustering tools group together shared matches into family groups. The clusters can also be added to DNA Painter to further help in identifying common ancestors.

Patricia Coleman has a PhD in Chemistry and analytical skills in solving genealogical problems. Her specialties are DNA analysis and Irish research. Patricia is moderator for DNA Painter and Genetic Affairs Facebook groups. In addition to her client work, she has published articles in *The Sept*, the journal of the Irish Genealogical Society International and writes a blog at <https://patriciacolemangenealogy.com/>

“A Restless Nation: How and Why Did Our Ancestors Travel West?”

Wednesday, December 11, 2024, 7:00-8:30 pm ET

This lecture covers the major migration routes our Ancestors took from the time they first crossed the Allegheny Mountains to the settling of the West Coast. Also discussed are the reasons why our ancestors moved west.

Diane VanSkiver Gagel, M. A., is a retired college instructor, and a freelance writer, she has a M. A. in American Studies, is the author of numerous articles, and lectures widely on a variety of topics. She has been a speaker at FGS, NGS, OGS Conferences as well as the Family History Conference at BYU. Diane is Past President, Past Board Chair, former Trustee, and a Fellow of the Ohio Genealogical Society. She has also chaired several OGS Annual Conferences. Diane is the author of five books: *Ohio Photographers, 1839-1900*, 2nd edition, *Windows on the Past: Identifying, Dating, and Preserving Photographs*, and *Directory of Photographers in the United States 1888 1889 and Canada 1889*; co-author of *The Laubers: A Journey of Faith*; and the NGS *Guide to the States: Ohio*. Diane recently self-published a *Beginner's Guide to Ohio Genealogical Research*.

“Railroad Pension Records: Their Value for Genealogical Answers”

Wednesday, January 8, 2025, 7:00-8:30 pm ET

Railroad Pension Files are a wealth of primary and secondary records. These files will tell the story of your railroad worker. Railroad workers benefited from the New Deal era (1935) with the creation of the Railroad Pension Board. The Railroad Pension files should not be overlooked as a key source if your ancestor had worked for the railroad industry for over 10 years. This talk will showcase the wealth of information that hides in this collection.

Kim S. Harrison has been doing genealogy since 1974, and in 1998 was fortunate to turn her passion into her vocation. She has had the privilege of working in the library community by representing some of the big online providers of information; Gale, Otherdays.com, ProQuest, NewsBank and Ancestry.

She is the past President of the Michigan Genealogical Council, founding member of the Grand River Trails Chapter of the DAR (MI), and past President of Arizona Genealogical Advisory Board. During the 1980s she lobbied the National Archives to stop the destruction of the Railroad Pension Application files. Later she wrote a grant for the preservation of the investigation into the *Sultana* Disaster, which is now available (free) on Fold3. Her most interesting ancestor was Lot Little, and she was able to join the DAR under his service. Lot was a freed slave from New Hampshire.

“Who Needed it Anyway? Getting Around the Missing 1890 Census”

Wednesday, February 12, 2025, 7:00-8:30 pm ET

The loss of the 1890 Federal census is a source of great frustration for American genealogists, but all hope is not lost! Learn strategies and gather tips for success in locating your family in other records between the 1880 and 1900 Federal censuses.

Sara Cochran is a full-time professional genealogist with thirty years of research experience. Her research has taken her to nearly every state in the USA and Ireland. She especially enjoys breaking down brick walls and discovering the stories of black sheep ancestors. She holds a Boston University Genealogical Research Certificate, a Bachelor's Degree in Library Science, and is an alum of the ProGen Study Group. You can find her online at TheSkeletonWhisperer.com.

“Researching Catholic Sacramental Records to Find Your Family History”

Wednesday, March 12, 2025, 7:00-8:30 pm ET

This presentation begins with a brief history of the Fort Wayne-South Bend Diocese and then transitions into how to and what records would be helpful in researching your family history through sacramental records.

Janice Cantrell has a Bachelor's degree in history from Ball State University and Master's Degree in public history from the University of Toledo. She has been employed at the Diocese of Fort Wayne – South Bend Archives as the Archivist since 2002. Over the years she has become experienced with helping patrons to search the sacramental records to find their own records and help many people to find family records.

“The Great Migration of African Americans from Alabama to Fort Wayne”

Wednesday, April 9, 2025, 7:00-8:30 pm ET

Explore the migration from Alabama that brought so many African American families to Fort Wayne and documents their contributions to the city.

Karen Richards, longtime ARCH (Architecture and Community Heritage of Fort Wayne) volunteer historian, lecturer, and interim director graduated from Northwestern University with a degree in History and African Studies. She graduated from IU-Bloomington Law School and practiced law in Fort Wayne before becoming part-time deputy prosecutor and then elected Prosecuting Attorney from 2003 to 2023. She is the past president of the History Center, ARCH, Child Advocacy Center and Artlink Board of Directors.

“Strands to the Past in Our Heritage Tapestry”

Wednesday, May 14, 2025, 7:00-8:30 pm ET

Local history offers a kaleidoscope of experience that connects those who shaped our community to residents of today. This presentation will sample a variety of Allen County historical snippets and describe how earlier generations fostered our shared story.

Todd Maxwell Pelfrey has served the History Center (Allen County-Fort Wayne Historical Society) for over two decades, including 17 years as its Executive Director. Todd earned his B.A. in History and International Business from Muskingum College, his M.A. in American and Public History from the University of North Dakota and is a graduate of the American Association for State and Local History's History Leadership Institute. He is presently on the Board of Directors of the Allen County Courthouse Preservation Trust, Friends of the Lincoln Collection of Indiana, SCAN, and the Allen County Bicentennial Executive Board.

Presented by
ALLEN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF INDIANA, INC.
and
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