

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 2023-2024 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 the Zoom platform 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 meeting platform 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.

“Evolution of my Own One-Name Study and How it Links to my One-Place Study”

Wednesday, September 13, 2023, 7:00-8:30 pm ET

In this presentation we will explore the concepts of both a one-name and one-place study, and how and why you might undertake such projects. We move onto how my own projects began and how they have evolved over time, and during technological advances. We explore the core material usually included in studies and included are some key tips and principles to getting started with your own studies.

Julie Goucher is of mixed heritage, Sicilian on her paternal side, with her family coming from Sutera on the Mediterranean Island of Sicily, with migration to both the United Kingdom and the United States. Julie’s maternal heritage is from England, primarily from what is defined as the “Home Counties” – Surry, Sussex, and Hampshire – in the southeast of England where her ancestors did not really move more than 40 miles for 300 years.

Julie began researching her ancestors in the late 1980s and is undertaking two one-name studies, for surnames representing her parents – BUTCHER and ORLANDO. Julie is a trustee (currently chairman) for the Guild of One-Name Studies (<https://one-name.org>), and a Tudor for Pharos Tudors (<https://pharostutors.com>), where she tutors three surname courses and a further course on Researching Ancestors from Continental Europe.

“Medical Genealogy & Your Health”

Wednesday, October 11, 2023, 7:00-8:30 pm ET

Are there patterns of illness in your family? Did your family experience diseases like smallpox, typhoid, flu, or other illnesses that ravaged communities?

Discover the rich information available through medical genealogy research. Learn more about your family’s stories surrounding specific illnesses or medical conditions through medical genealogy resources. Presented by Dr. Alfred Brothers from the African American Genealogical Society of Fort Wayne.

Dr. Alfred Brothers, Jr. is the Vice Chairperson of the African American Genealogy Society of Fort Wayne (AACSFV). He is a charter member of the AAGSFV and specializes in military genealogy. He is from Massachusetts and his research interests include New England, Maryland, Virginia, District of Columbia, and Canada. Dr. Brothers is a Mid-West African American Genealogy Institute (MAAGI) instructor and leads the society with Research Tools & Tips. He is also a member of the Allen County Genealogical Society of Indiana.

“Grandpa’s Military File, What and Where Is It?”

Wednesday, November 8, 2023, 7:00-8:30 pm ET

Searching for your grandpa’s Official Military Personnel File (OMPF) is confusing to many. Is it at the NARA facility in DC or St. Louis? Or does the Department of Veterans Affairs still have it? Will the OMPF answer all my questions about grandpa’s service? And what about that fire long ago that destroyed records? This session answers these questions and gives an overview of grandpa’s military file.

Patricia Stamm, a Delaware native, now lives in St. Louis, Missouri. In her genealogical career, she researches, lectures, and teaches on assorted topics at St. Louis Community College, IGHR, national, and state conferences. Besides her CG[®], CGLSM credentials, she has a tested concentration in Genealogical Instruction from the Board of Certification of Genealogists.

“Photo Preservation & Storage”

Wednesday, December 13, 2023, 7:00-8:30 pm ET

Are your photos in a box gathering dust? Come learn how to preserve and store your memories for future generations to enjoy. This lecture will discuss how to get organized and digitize your photos, cover some basics of photo editing, and discuss ways to preserve and share your photos.

Dana Palmer, CG[®], CGLSM specializes in lineage society applications, publishing family books, and Midwestern research – specifically Ohio. In addition to her client work, she reviews military repatriation cases, and is part of the Mayflower Silver Books team.

“Citing Sources Without Stressing Out”

Wednesday, January 10, 2024, 7:00-8:30 pm ET

Citing sources is one of those things in genealogy research that tends to make us kind of twitchy. We know we should be doing it and we want to do them right... So, we tend to stress out about it. But there is a key to thinking about citing sources – and it won't raise our blood pressure.

Amy Johnson Crow holds a master's degree in library and information Science from Kent State University. She has held a Certified Genealogist® credential since 1995. Amy has worked at Ancestry.com, served as the series editor for the National Genealogical Society Guides, published by Rutledge Hill Press, and was the co-author of Online Roots in that series.

Amy is the author of 31 Days to Better Genealogy, a resource guide filled with practical tips you can put into practice right away, as well as more than 40 articles in various genealogical publications. She has presented at genealogy's top events, including RootsTech and the Federation of Genealogical Societies' annual conference.

“How to Overcome Brick Walls in German American Research”

Wednesday, February 14, 2024, 7:00-8:30 pm ET

Several case studies will be presented showing lesser-utilized research tactics, repositories and resources used to find information about our German-speaking ancestors.

Dr. Michael D. Lacopo is a retired small-animal veterinarian born and raised in northern Indiana. He takes a scientific approach to his research as he does to his profession. Researching since 1980, he has lectured internationally and written for numerous periodicals and journals. A self-described “all-American mutt,” his research skills cover a broad range.

“The Explosion of the Steamer Eclipse: A Forgotten Civil War Disaster”

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

A descriptive history of the explosion of the Union transport ship the *Eclipse* that occurred during the early morning hours of January 25, 1865, on the Tennessee River near Johnsonville, Tennessee. Over 100 soldiers and deckhands were declared killed, wounded or missing and was the worst maritime accident to occur on the western rivers during the Civil War. The presentation will discuss the history of the vessel, its civil and military service, and the men (mostly from Indiana) that were on the ship prior to the blast. Dieter will explain how military event documentation aids in genealogical research.

Dieter Ullrich serves as the Director of Special Collections and Archives at Morehead State University in Kentucky. He has conducted extensive research on the Civil War in the Jackson Purchase region of southwest Kentucky and northeast Tennessee and has contributed numerous articles on the subject to scholarly journals. He is also the co-author of *General E. A. Paine in Western Kentucky: Assessing the Reign of Terror of the Summer of 1864* and *Unconditional Unionist: The Hazardous Life of Lucian Anderson*.

“Clerk of the Allen Circuit and Superior Courts”

Wednesday, April 10, 2024, 7:00-8:30 pm ET

Chris Nancarrow and Andera Griffin will go over what types of records the Clerk of the Allen Circuit and Superior Courts holds and how citizens can access this material.

Andera Griffin is the Records Manager for the Clerk of Allen Circuit & Superior Courts in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Andera has a Bachelor of Applied Science degree in Automated Manufacturing Technology. Andera has 28 years of experience working for the Clerk's Office and 8 years of experience specializing in retention of court records and genealogical research. Andera uses her experience to assist the public with locating hard to find documents that reconnect them to their heritage and family history. One interesting fact, Andera's first job was working with ACPL genealogy division under Mr. Curt Witcher where she helped genealogists search their family history.

Chris Nancarrow serves as the Clerk of the Allen Circuit and Superior Courts. He completed his B.A. in Economics and Political Science at Indiana University, Bloomington. After completing his undergraduate studies, he relocated to Europe and completed three separate Master's degrees in the field of law and economics from the University of Hamburg-Germany, the University of Bologna-Italy and the University of Vienna-Austria. He subsequently returned to the United States and obtained his Juris Doctorate at the IU McKinney School of Law while working full-time at the State of Indiana's Court of Appeals. As Clerk of the Courts, Chris serves as a member of the Allen County Election Board and the Allen County Commission on Public Records. He is also an appointed member of the Indiana Supreme Court's Protection Order, Records Access and Management, and Court Personnel committees.

“Allen County Recorder's Office”

Wednesday, May 8, 2024, 7:00-8:30 pm ET

This presentation will provide you with information on what documents and records the Allen County Recorder's Office has, and the best way to search through them. You will also learn about the numerous services that the Recorder's Office offers, such as the Neighborhood Resource Center, which is a free gateway to view all recorded plats in Allen County.

Nicole Keesling was elected as Allen County Recorder in 2022. Prior to being elected Recorder, Nicole worked in the Allen County Recorder's Office for a little over 3 years. Nicole is a graduate of the Richard R. Lugar Excellence in Public Service Series, Greater Fort Wayne's Leadership Fort Wayne, the Ambassador Institute for Civic Engagement, and the New Haven's Citizens Academy. Nicole received her Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Indiana University Bloomington. In her spare time, Nicole enjoys serving on and volunteering for community and nonprofit boards including being tour docent at the Allen County Courthouse.

Presented by
ALLEN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF INDIANA, INC.
and
THE GENEALOGY CENTER OF THE ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY