



Lecture List

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Technology

Can You Hear Me Now? Voice Recognition Software for Genealogists (All)

Learn how you can take advantage of voice recognition software like Dragon Naturally Speaking to speed up your genealogical writing and convert those old personal interviews to words on a page. Tools reviewed will include word processing software and specialized transcription software. This class will teach you how to “talk” your way through writing that tough family history and aid your transcription process.

A Powerful Analysis Tool – Using Excel to Expand Your Research Options (I, A)

Organization and analysis of genealogical research can sometimes be difficult and overwhelming. We will discuss how to harness the power of a simple spreadsheet to streamline citations, research logs, census and family analysis. Learn how to download results from Ancestry and FamilySearch into a spreadsheet that you can organize and sort.

Online Records and Collections

Beyond Ancestry – Overlooked and Underused Subscription Sites (B, I)

Ancestry.com may be genealogy's biggest subscription web site, but it's not the only one in town. Quite a few smaller and newer sites offer some of the same collections as Ancestry.com, as well as their own unique and valuable resources for research. From Fold3.com to Accessible Archives, we'll explore several lesser-known subscription sites in detail

Read All About It – A Guide to Online Newspapers (All)

Old newspapers reveal much more about our ancestors than just vital statistics. They provide a picture of their daily lives and add dimension to their stories. As more newspaper collections become digitally available online, we need to be able to know how to locate and use them. Learn more about the U.S. Newspaper Program and many other exciting places to find these treasures.

LDS Resources on the Internet – Where Can I Find Them and How Can I Use Them? (All)

Digital collections are becoming more common on the Internet, but resources for LDS research are not as easily found. We will explore the early LDS church, across the oceans and plains, to

settlement in Utah. We will explore unique sites to add historical context and biographical information to the LDS pioneer.

The Librarian Knows Where It's At – Using State Archives and Local Libraries Resources Online (All)

With many state archives and local libraries posting one-of-a-kind information that many times has never been seen outside of that institution, the wealth of information available to genealogists is incredible. From actual records to photographs these digital collections will enrich your genealogical experience and may offer that breakthrough you are looking for!

ArchiveGrid: The Best Kept Secret Archivists Won't Tell You About (All)

Discover the "card catalog" to U.S. archives and special collection libraries. Learn how to search, find, and ultimately retrieve those elusive manuscripts, photos, and archival materials. This tool may just reunite you with that family Bible or stack of letters

From the Heartland – Utilizing Online Resources in Midwest Research (All)

From Wisconsin to Missouri, many free online resources are available if you know where to look. This class will explore where to find and how to use these resources. Creative techniques for finding future sites will also be discussed.

Hiding in Cyberspace (All)

Has your European research come to a standstill? Not finding anything on the regular genealogy websites? Learn how to find and use sites in France, Germany, Italy, Sweden and more to extend your family lines.

Records

State Census Records – A Hidden Resource (All)

Census records are an important part of U.S. 19th and 20th century genealogical research. State censuses can enhance what is found in federal records and often provide greater insights to an individual. Find out where to locate them for free and how they can help in your research.

The Tax Man Cometh – Using Tax Records to Solve Missing Ancestor Dilemmas (I, A)

Tax records are one of the best kept secrets when it comes to solving tough genealogical problems. Often, they may be one of very few records of your ancestor, especially in the South. Find out where to find these jewels and how to use them to break through your genealogical brick walls.

Grandpa Was a Mason – Locating and Using Fraternal Society Records (All)

Was your ancestor a member of the Masonic lodge? How about the Woodcutters? Learn what to look for and where to find genealogically significant information from various fraternal societies. Many of these records hold key information on individuals and their family.

I Found Him in the City Directory – Extracting Amazing and Important Information from an Underused Source (All)

City directories can be a powerful tool when locating your ancestor. Discover the history behind these directories, what they contain, what types of directories exist and the unique characteristics of directories. Learn tips and techniques for finding the elusive city dweller. Special emphasis will be placed on finding immigrants in these records.

Turning Over in Their Graves – Dead Ancestors Can Help You Break through Brick Walls (All)

Learn how cemetery records of your ancestors can lead you to important information and vital family connections using published and online resources. Do the symbols and initials on the grave marker mean something? Did the cemetery keep additional records? Find out how to extract information that will lead to breaking down those tough brick walls.

Follow the Money: Taxes, Wills, and Probate (All)

Estate records and tax records are two types of records that should be utilized in ancestral research. Learn what these records hold, where to find them, and how they can help you understand familial structures and use them to open new research. Online record collections and finding aids will be discussed as well as resources for laws and statutes that govern these records.

Professional Development/Business

Professional Development Brings Financial Rewards (I, A)

As professionals, we all want to research well and be compensated for our skills and experience. Professional development gives you the tools needed to hone these skills by taking advantage of changes in the field of genealogy, learning how to adapt to the needs of our ever-expanding range of clientele and by taking advantage of new opportunities in a more technologically savvy world. These new skills and experiences will command greater pay. As the genealogical profession grows and changes, one needs to learn new techniques and approaches to better serve those for whom we work.

How the iPad Changed the Way I Work as A Professional (All)

Tablets have revolutionized the way we work with information. As researchers and genealogists, we can use these technologies to streamline the way we work and interact with documents, information, and clients. These amazing devices can be used as a “virtual assistants” and significantly increase productivity. Discover apps and techniques that will revolutionize the way you work.

Methodology

The Research Calendar – A Resource You Cannot Live Without (All)

How many times have you run across documents only to realize that you had previously done the same research years before? Research logs or calendars are at the core of good research

and are essential in documenting evidence. Come learn easy shortcuts and tips on how to make that job quicker and easier.

Madison Cheadle Is Found (I, A)

Case study in Midwest research techniques and records. Madison disappears forever from typical records. Learn how he was found and how these techniques can be used to locate your ancestors that have vanished from typical records.

It's the Details That Count: Using Religion, Ethnic Groups and Locations (All)

Sometimes it's the little things that are missed in records – an ancestor's religion, ethnic group or specific location. Learn how to use online tech tools and websites that are available for foreign language translation, handwriting, symbols, gazetteers, and much more.

Surveying the Community – Finding Clues Hidden Among the Neighbors (I, A)

Your ancestor's community holds many clues and patterns that help you fill in missing pieces in your family puzzle. Often the person next door or another family in the community may hold the answers you seek. By using a combination of readily available records such as census, tax, land, maps, and cemetery records we can discover additional clues and avenues of research.

Finding Hidden Gems: Strategic Searches on the Internet (All)

Have you ever wondered out how librarians can sometimes find things faster and more efficiently when searching on the Internet? Learn "how" to search Google, FamilySearch, and Ancestry like a pro to get what you need, as well as other key genealogy websites. Archives, manuscripts, libraries, and their associated finding aids will be discussed and may provide answers you cannot find elsewhere.

Migration

My Ancestors Knew Daniel Boone – Did Yours? Researching Along the Wilderness Trail (I, A)

Daniel Boone's migration along the Wilderness Trail can help us plot our ancestor's westward migration. Learn what records can be found along the trail. Online and onsite resources will be covered. Learn how to turn that brick wall into an amazing success story.

From Ulster to North Carolina – The Scots-Irish Settlers (I, A)

Many Americans can trace their ancestry back to the North Carolina Scots-Irish. We will focus on who these people were, where they came from in the British Isles and where they settled in the New World. Where to find repositories and records of this unique population will also be covered.

DNA

DNA: Breaking Down Brick Walls (All)

DNA has come to its own in the world of genealogy research. Learn the basics of DNA, what it can do, and how it can help you in breaking down some of your brick walls. All major DNA testing companies will be covered, along with pros and cons for each one.

DNA Project Groups - Helping You Get Closer to Finding the Needle in a Haystack (I, A)

DNA surname, geographic, and special interest groups can be a goldmine when trying to locate an elusive ancestor or place of origin. Learn which tests to take, groups to join, and how to effectively use these groups. Four case studies.

Oral History

Remember What Grandma Said? How to Successfully Take an Oral History (All)

So often, we look back on our past and regret not having our older family member's stories. By learning how to take a proper oral history, we can glean those hidden and oft forgotten gems and stories from those around us. The use of various methods and means, including voice recorders, smart phones and apps will be covered as well as tips and techniques of taking the recordings from audio to paper.

Repositories

Treasures of the Family History Library (All)

The Family History Library holds so many records and resources that sometimes it is hard to find what you really want – that key to unlocking your family mystery. Use the same techniques that reference librarians employ to connect the dots in your family history and identify those missing or “unknown” records in the collection.

Using the FamilySearch Wiki as a Research Partner (All)

Learn to use the FamilySearch Wiki like a professional to aid in your family history research. Discover how you can link to outside resources, collections on FamilySearch, and use the knowledge of the professional contributors to give you an advantage in your searching.

Archives and Their Collections – Adding Community History to Your Family (All)

We all want to add that personal touch to our family stories. So often, however, we are not lucky enough to find a personal journal or photos. Don't despair. By using accounts of our ancestor's neighbors and community we can still accomplish this task. And how do we do that? By using local, state or special archives.

Treasures and Hidden Secrets of the Illinois Regional Archives – IRAD (All)

If you research in Illinois, you don't want to miss the resources held in the seven regional archive repositories of IRAD. From vital records to city directories, probate to local histories, each site has its own unique set of records. Learn tips and tricks for getting the most out of your visit, whether long-distance or on site. Come see some of the gems already gleaned from the vast resources of this amazing Illinois asset.

States/Countries

Missouri

The “Show Me” State – Research in Missouri (All)

Missouri was a frontier state, a leaping off point for many traveling west. Its resources are unique, and its scope is far reaching. Explore the history of the state along with valuable genealogical gems that Missouri has and ways to access and unlock these in your research.

Utah

Adding Character: Using the Utah State Archives to Enrich Your Ancestor’s Life (All)

So often the real gems of research are not found in the typical location, but rather in the varied resources found in an archive. Learn how to search the collections of the Utah State Archives and Research Center and how to use what you find in your research. Focus will be on finding and using manuscripts, city directories, diaries, letters, and photographs to flesh out our ancestors’ stories. Learn to find the “good stuff” – the meat on the bones of our ancestors, or sometimes the means to breaking down brick walls.

Virginia

My Old Virginia Home – Records and Resources That Open Closed Doors (All)

Many of Virginia’s records have been lost to fire, war and time, the greatest loss during the Civil War, making it difficult to connect families. Discover how to use alternative records and methods to fill in the gaps created by this loss. Learn why specific records were created and how you can use them in your research to break down your toughest brick walls. Unique tips to find these sources and tricks to understand and use them effectively in your research will also be covered.

Digging into the Past – Finding Hidden Treasures in the Library of Virginia

The Library of Virginia holds so many records and resources that sometimes it is hard to find what you really want – that key to unlocking your family mystery. Use smart search techniques that reference librarians employ to connect the dots in your family history and identify those missing or “unknown” records in the collection. Learn tips and tricks for getting the most out of your visit or online search.

France

Finding French Ancestors (I)

From Alsace-Lorraine to Paris and Huguenots to nobility, discover key resources for French research and techniques to meet challenges on both sides of the ocean. Civil registration and notarial records in France and amazing resources in French speaking Canada, provide a plethora of information.

Canada

Timelines and Historical Happenings in Quebec (All)

From the founding of New France to the dawning of the 20th century, history plays an important role in the understanding of outside influences and actions that affected French Canadians and their records. A clear timeline of these events will be discussed and will include key events in this unique province including those pertaining to the First Nations community, Les Filles du Roi, Acadians and the Patriot's Rebellion.

Counting Quebecois: Using Census Records in Quebec Research (All)

Census returns are some of the most important records available to help genealogists confirm residence, family structure, and information that will lead to additional record sources. This session will establish the scope of census records that exist for Quebec, the unique information they contain, and how to use them. Census substitutes and French -dit (also known as) surnames will also be covered.

Quebec Repositories, Archives, and Sources (All)

So often the real gems of Canadian research are not found in the typical locations, but rather in the varied repositories and archives of the province. You will learn how to locate these archives, how to search their collections (finding aids), and how to use what you find in your research. Learn to find the "good stuff" – that which puts meat on the bones of our ancestors and can sometimes the means to breaking down brick walls.

Immigration and Naturalization in Quebec and Ontario: Finding Your Lost Ancestors (All)

Most Canadians are descendants of immigrants who arrived in the last 400 years to Quebec and Ontario. From the early French immigrants to the American Loyalists and the later waves of German and Irish immigrants of the 1800s, Canada has welcomed a variety of individuals. Learn how to locate finding aids, guides, and existing records that will assist your research. Students will learn tips and techniques that will help you analyze the records you already have and create a strategy to locate that elusive place of origin for your ancestor.

Drouin, Loiselle, and More: Gaining Access to Quebec Church Records (I, A)

From 1679 to 1993, most vital events in Québec were recorded in the various churches of the province. We will cover the major religions in Quebec from the founding of New France to the 20th century. Emphasis will be on the various finding aids and indexes that will help you access these vital records and tips and techniques to help you better understand the records in French and Latin. Availability and location of these records will also be discussed.

Deeds, Wills, and Marriage Contracts: A Foray into Quebec's Notarial Records (I, A)

Discover the role of notaries and notarial records in Quebec history. These important records can often be hard to find or follow, but once found, can be a rich source of genealogical information. Learn the difference between apostolic and seigneurial notaries and the records they created. Finding aids to these collections and repositories where they can be found will also be discussed.

Seigneurial, Grants, and Other Land Records in Quebec (I, A)

Quebec has a long history of land records, reaching back to the earliest seigneurial grants in 1623. This lecture will discuss the unique land ownership of Quebec and the records associated with it. Discover settlement patterns, where the records are, and how you can find them and use them in your own ancestral research.

Boots on the Ground: Accessing Records in Ontario and Quebec (All)

Successful research in Canada, requires advanced preparation and knowledge of how Canadian archives and repositories operate, especially those in Ontario and Quebec, and what they contain. You will learn how to access that information before you go, what to expect once you arrive, and how to get the most out of your trip.

And They Came by Way of Ontario (All)

Many German immigrants chose Ontario, Canada as a stop on their journey to the U.S. Learn why they came, where they settled, and how to find them. Make those connections that will help you find their place of origin in the “old” country.

German Research

An Essential Pennsylvania German Starter Kit: Overview of Literature & Databases (All)

Learn what books, websites, and periodicals should be an essential part of the Pennsylvania research library. These resources will give you the foundation you need to document your immigrant and family and begin the process of finding that elusive ancestral home. Build your own Pennsylvania German master research calendar.

Adding Character: Using Repositories and Archives to Enrich Your Pennsylvania German Ancestor’s Life (All)

So often the real gems of Pennsylvania German research are not found in the typical location, but rather in the varied repositories and archives of Pennsylvania. You will learn how to locate these archives, how to search their collections (finding aids), and how to use what you find in your research. We will focus on finding and using manuscripts, city directories, diaries, letters and photographs to flesh out our ancestors’ stories. Learn to find the “good stuff” – the meat on the bones of our ancestors, or sometimes the means to breaking down brick walls.

The Palatine Immigrants – Tracing and Locating 18th Century German Immigrants Online (All)

Discover how to track those who travelled from the German states to the colonies in the 1700s. Learn techniques that will assist you in discovering their place of origin in Germany through the internet and other sources. Use migration patterns to help you locate their family and friends.

Finding Your Ancestors in German Directories (All)

In Germany, more and more directories are online. These records can provide you with an occupation and place, where other records fail. Discover where to find them, how to work with them and how to interpret the information typical for German directories.

Is this the End? Taking Your German Brick Walls Down Piece by Piece (I, A)

What do you need to look for once you have reached your brick wall? What is available and how do you find it? Learn how to think like a German and understand how to assess the needs of your German research to get the most out of it, from both sides of the ocean. You will understand how a typical German lived and made decisions. A case study will show you step by step how to overcome a typical brick wall.

Boots on the Ground - Learning How to Access Records in Germany (All)

Successful research in Germany, requires advanced preparation and knowledge of how German archives operate and what they contain. We will learn how to access vital information before you go, what to expect once you arrive, and how to get the most out of your trip. Key German repositories will be noted, both online and in country.

B = Beginner

I = Intermediate

A = Advanced

All = All audiences