

Pursuing Your Past

2025-26 Genealogy Presentation List

Are YOU the Family Archivist? (what to do with ALL that Family Stuff?!?)

Have you become the collector of all things family history? Do you feel like you might need to add on to the house to accommodate all of these precious items? Do you have a plan for these special treasures and your genealogy research so they don't end up in a dumpster one day? Learn some techniques for saving your work and preserving these family treasures for future generations of your family to enjoy.

DNA – There's No EASY Button ... YET!

Wouldn't it be great if there was an EASY button you could push and all of your DNA matches would fall right into place on your family tree? We're not there yet! Come and learn the basics of DNA for genealogy. We'll explore some of the practical approaches and new tools for putting all of this great information to work for your family research.

Every Family has a Story. . . What's Yours?

Would you like to learn how to get started researching your family's story? You'll learn the basic research process, great on-line research sites, local resources, and ideas for sharing your story with family.

Finding Your German Roots in Church Records

Church records are the foundation of German family history research. Once you know your village of origin, it's time to dig in! Learn about the best places to look for your records. And we'll provide you several tools to help you navigate the language barrier. Get ready to explore your German roots in German church records!

NEW

Get Organized!

Laying a Solid Foundation for Your Research & Preservation Work

Genealogy generates so much information. It can become overwhelming if you don't have a plan in place to deal with it. We'll talk about strategies to manage both digital and physical genealogy files as well as looking at some tools to keep you on track and moving forward with your research and preservation projects.

Inspiring the Next Generation of Genealogists

Who's going to take over the family history quest when you're no longer able? Getting young people interested in their family history is important work. Learn creative ways to get youth involved in their own family history journey.

NEW

"Mapping" Your German Roots

You've found the name of the place in the German speaking world that your family originates. But where exactly is it located? You might find several villages with the same name in different parts of the country. How do you know which one to focus on? Maps and gazeteers are great tools to add to your family history toolkit. They can narrow the focus and help keep you on the right track in your research. We'll explore these tools and look at how to put them to work in your research.



Old Family Photos – Trash or Treasure?

Have you inherited a collection of old family photos? Will they end up in the dumpster or antique shop? Or will they become the treasured collection that your family will enjoy and learn from for years to come? We'll talk about how to organize, identify and gather new research clues from the photos in your collection. Those old photos can tell some great stories about your family. Don't have a photo collection? No worries, we'll also talk a bit about how to find photos of your ancestors.

Sharing Your Research with the Non-genealogists in Your Family

Learn how to creatively pass down your genealogical research and heirlooms to your family, including the reluctant ones!

NEW

Solving an Old Family Murder Mystery - Genealogy Style

Your family has passed down the story of a murder. As you begin to dig into the story, you learn that not everything is accurately passed down. What tools and techniques can you use to get to the truth of the matter? Join us in putting your detective cap on and learning how to solve an old family cold case using your genealogy detective skills!

Steps to Researching Your German Roots

Learning exactly where your family came from in the "Old Country" is the first and sometimes most challenging step to researching back in your family tree. Learn some of the powerful on-line tools that can help you overcome these challenges. Get ready to explore your German roots step by step!

Swedish Genealogy Basics

Got Swedish roots? Learn how to get started finding out about them. Swedish records can be tricky with the surnames changing at every generation. Come learn how to begin the research and overcome those surname changes. It's amazing what you might find in these records!

Try FamilySearch. . . You'll be glad you did!

FamilySearch is a great website for exploring your family history. You can build your family tree, collect historical records and photos, network with cousins around the world and get a better understanding of the places your family came from. Come learn about the "hidden gems" within this powerful FREE resource.

NEW

What Can You Learn from a Tombstone?

A tombstone can tell you a great deal about your family members. We'll look at the types of information you can expect to find in a cemetery. What clues do the icons found on the tombstones provide? We'll take a look at records supporting tombstone research. And we'll dig in to restoration, care and replacement of these treasured stones.

Presentations are one hour in length, including time for Q&A.

An informative handout for further exploration accompanies each presentation.

Don't see a topic that fits your group's needs? Let's talk about your topic idea!

