



## TRAVEL YOUR TREE

Where Ancestry Meets Adventure

### Lisa Vogele 2027 Speaking Topic List

#### **\*TRAVEL SERIES – Finding your ancestral village, then going there!**

*\* All topics bookable individually or in a series*

- **Point of Origin: How to Find Your Ancestral Village**

Don't know where overseas your family originated from? This presentation covers a variety of sources to explore to locate your ancestor's point of origin before arriving in the United States. Examples and strategies will be provided including: resources for locating town of origin, strategies for name changes, tips for boundary changes, and overcoming handwriting & language challenges.

- **Travel Your Tree: Walking in Your Ancestors' Footsteps**

Explore the world of family history travel beyond the confines of television shows like Finding Your Roots. Discover how you can personally trace your ancestors' paths, whether it's visiting battlefields where your forebears fought, exploring ancestral villages, or connecting with distant relatives. Join us to uncover expert tips for planning your journey and forging meaningful connections along the way.

#### **ENTERTAINING CASE STUDIES HIGHLIGHTING METHODOLOGY**

- **Moonshine & Coal Mines: Unraveling Stories & Secrets to Reconstruct a Family Through Oral History, Documents, and DNA**

This case study pieces together the elusive origins and events of a 19th-century Polish immigrant family. Through DNA analysis, historical records, and myth-busting research, we'll uncover a tale of poor Pennsylvania coal miners, lost homes, hidden siblings, and even an illicit still in the woods. Learn how to navigate surname variations, reconstruct migration timelines, and use modern genealogy methods to bring the past to life and turn "stories" into history.

***More topics to come!***

#### **SKILL BUILDING**

- **Genealogy 102: Going Deeper with Skills, Sources & Strategies**

Ready to move beyond the basics? You're mastering the fundamentals, and building a solid foundation for your family history research—but what's next? Supercharge your genealogy journey and breathe new life into your family history projects. Discover creative ways to maximize tools, dive into overlooked & unknown resources, and refine your approach to uncover new insights. Learn the skills, sources, and strategies you need to take your genealogy journey to the next level!



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- **Taming the Same-Name Problem with FamilySearch & Excel**

FamilySearch's Preferences feature can transform indexed records into a powerful research tool when paired with Excel. Learn how to create personalized surname databases, distinguish between same-named people, generate family group sheets, and analyze large record collections more efficiently. Using Excel's Sort and Text to Columns features, this workshop demonstrates practical techniques for organizing, comparing, and evaluating indexed records. Basic Excel skills are recommended. *Lecture or Workshop Format*

- **Jumping the Pond: Preparing to Research in Overseas Archives**

Planning a research trip overseas can be both exciting and overwhelming. Learn how to prepare before you leave home by identifying repositories, understanding archival systems, navigating foreign-language websites, requesting records in advance, and creating an effective research plan. Discover practical strategies for working with archives, libraries, and local repositories while maximizing limited research time. Whether traveling to Europe or elsewhere, this session will help you research more efficiently, avoid common pitfalls, and return home with better results.

- **Prior to Departure: Uncovering Overseas Emigration Information**

Most genealogists focus on arrival records, but valuable clues often exist before an immigrant boarded a ship. Explore passports, emigration permissions, military clearances, police registrations, health certificates, parish records, censuses, departure lists, and other pre-departure sources that document the decision to leave. Through examples from Germany, Italy, Scandinavia, Ireland, and beyond, learn effective strategies for locating and interpreting these records to uncover ancestral origins, migration stories, and clues that may help solve genealogical brick walls.

- **Navigating Ancestral Arrivals: A Genealogist's Treasure Map to Immigration Records**

Your ancestors' arrival in the U.S. is a key chapter in your family's story—are you searching in the right places? This session will guide you through the intricacies of immigration records, helping you decode passenger manifests, interpret cryptic notations, and uncover the stories of those “Held for Inquiry.” With research tools, proven strategies, and real-life case studies, you'll gain skills to track down elusive ancestors and bring their immigration journey to life.



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- **Counting the Past: Unlocking Family Stories in U.S. Census Records**

From 1790 through today, the United States census has captured snapshots of the nation's people, households, and communities. For genealogists and historians, census records are invaluable tools that reveal not only names, ages, and places—but also migration patterns, occupations, and cultural changes across generations. This lecture explores the evolution of U.S. census records, how to locate and interpret them, and strategies to overcome common pitfalls such as name variations, missing entries, and transcription errors.

### ITALIAN GENEALOGY TOPICS

- **Your Italian Roots: Finding & Analyzing Civil Records with Confidence**

Dive into the essentials of Italian genealogy with this beginner-friendly session. Learn how to trace your ancestors through birth, marriage, and death records, plus uncover the secrets hidden in marriage publications and allegati. Whether you're just starting out or looking to sharpen your skills, this lecture will guide you through the rich world of Italian civil records and help you build your family tree with clarity and confidence.

- **Unlocking Passport Collections in Italian Archives**

Italian passport records are a hidden gem for family historians researching Italian ancestors. Issued by local or national authorities, these records often include detailed personal information such as birthplaces, occupations, physical descriptions, and destinations. Whether your ancestors left Italy in the 1800s or early 1900s, passport applications and registers can help confirm identities, track migration patterns, and fill in gaps between civil and church records. This presentation explores the Italian passport process, where these records are housed, and how to locate and use them in your own research. We'll look at examples from various time periods and Italian archives, including Naples, Genoa, Treviso, Rovigo, and more. Learn how to access these collections both in person and remotely, what is online and what is not, tips for navigating Italian archive websites, using search tools, and drafting request letters in Italian.

- **From Italy to the Wild West: Italian Pioneer Communities in Colorado**

Italian communities in Colorado have a rich and diverse history shaped by waves of immigration starting in the late 19th century, when Colorado was still the "Wild West." Many drawn initially by economic opportunities in mining, Italians from various regions settled in places such as Denver,



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Pueblo, and the mountain towns of the Rockies. Standing on the shoulders of their determined ancestors, many of their descendants are still thriving here today.

#### TOPICS IN DEVELOPMENT – 2028

- **DNA, Deaths, and Double Lives: A Scandinavian Immigrant's Hidden Past**

Journey through a fascinating genealogical mystery where DNA matches reveal an unexpected tale of dual identities. Follow the evidence and unravel whether Andrew Anderson of Illinois and Anders Andersson of Finland are the same man who left behind two separate lives in two different countries. This real-life case study showcases how DNA matches, vital records, and naturalization documents can piece together a compelling story of immigration, assumed identities, and family secrets from Finland and America.

- **Pathways to Citizenship: Uncovering Identity, Belonging, and the Documents Our Ancestors Left Behind**

Explore essential records for tracing your ancestors' journey to U.S. citizenship. Learn about naturalization petitions, declarations of intention, immigration records, and alien registration documents. This lecture will guide you through the key resources that illuminate your family's migration story and the process of becoming, or attempting to become, American citizens.

- **Putting Your Family on the Map – Sources, Strategies & Suggestions**

Discover how maps can bring your family history to life! This session explores historical map types, where to find them, and how to use them to trace ancestors, uncover migration routes, and understand their communities. Learn practical strategies for overlaying records, identifying boundary changes, and applying technology like Google Earth. Gain tips, resources, and inspiration to put your ancestors on the map and enrich your genealogy research.

- **From Tenements to Townlands: Two Case Studies of Finding Hidden Family & Origins in NYC, Italy, and Ireland**

Unlock the secrets of researching Irish & Italian immigrants in New York City through two case studies that demonstrate how the FAN Principle (Friends, Associates, and Neighbors) and other creative strategies can turn research problems into solvable puzzles. We'll navigate common names, surname distribution, maximize directories, census records, newspapers, ship manifests, government documents, online tools, and data triangulation to reveal ancestors' stories.

- **Colorado Probate Records – The What, Where, and How**