

2023 Seminar Presentation Titles and Descriptions

Gena Philibert-Ortega

Tracing Roots: The Evolution and Historical Significance of Birth Certificates

Family historians use birth certificates to prove vital record events, but how much do we really know about the history and purpose of birth certificates? In this presentation we will explore the history of U.S. birth certificates and their profound impact on genealogical research. We will delve into the evolution of birth certificates, from their earliest forms to the modern-day standardized records. The significance of birth certificates as legal documents, the impact they have on establishing personal identities, inheritance rights, and citizenship claims will be discussed. Discover how these invaluable documents and their history have shaped the way we understand and connect with our ancestral past.

Beyond the Grave: Unveiling the Material Culture of Death

Genealogists seek out death information for their ancestors. Death certificates, obituaries, and burial places are part of the search but what more could be discovered? In this presentation, we will explore the material culture of death. We will delve into the significance of objects and symbols surrounding historical death and mourning including gravestones, clothing, and ephemera. We will explore some examples in-depth to better understand what gravestones can tell us beyond just the words etched into stone.

Uncovering Herstory: Exploring Unconventional Sources for Tracing Female Ancestors

While historical records have often focused on male lineage, this presentation aims to shed light on the incredible stories of women who have been overlooked throughout history. Discover the fascinating array of alternative resources available to uncover the hidden narratives of our female ancestors.

We will discuss a variety of unique sources, including manuscript collections, oral histories, diaries, letters, textiles, and cookbooks. Through real-life examples, this presentation will inspire and empower you to discover the women in your family tree.

Visual Ancestral Stories: Harnessing the Power of Images in Genealogy

In this presentation, we will dive into the fascinating world of utilizing images to unlock the hidden narratives of our ancestors. We will explore the profound impact of various types of images such as postcards, photographs, stereographs, and posters from the past that can enhance our understanding of family history. This presentation will inspire and equip you with strategies to leverage the power of images in telling your family history story. This hands-on session will breathe new life into your family history research and help you create a richer ancestral legacy.