

MONDAY June 29 Local Speakers:

9:00 a.m. Willard's Holdings
Learn what Willard Public Library has to offer as you pursue your family's history. This week will offer plenty of free time to investigate Willard's holdings, and this workshop will help streamline your search by showcasing the collections available.

11:00 a.m. Land Records: Account for Every Acre (Stan Schmitt) This program looks at the various means of recording land records in America and where you might find records in courthouses. Not all property was transferred by deeds, and land transfers sometimes gave additional information that could be of interest to genealogists. We will also look at how to read legal descriptions of property, especially those conveyed by metes and bounds descriptions. In addition, we will look at how to search land records.

2:00 p.m. Civil War Pension and Military Files (Brian S. Lankford) Discover the wealth of information available from the National Archives found in Civil War Pension and Military records. This presentation will take you step-by-step through the process to obtain your civil war ancestor's records.

4:00 p.m. Sanborn Insurance Maps: Info for Genealogy and Local History (Stan Schmitt) This program will look at Sanborn fire insurance maps as a source of information for genealogists and historians. These maps, printed between 1867 and 1977, can be used to help tell where people lived and what was in the local neighborhood. They can also be used to show neighborhood changes and to help determine why people lived where they did. We will take a look at the various ways to search and use the maps, and look at what they tell us.

TUESDAY June 20 Peggy Clemens Lauritzen, AG, FOGS

9:00 a.m. Ticked Off! Those Pesky Pre-1850 Census Tic Marks Those pesky tic marks seem to get in our way as we work to extend our pedigrees. Just what do they mean, and how can they help me?
It's exciting when we are able to find our ancestors on every census they appeared on, until we reach 1840 and beyond. Are they throwing us into a dead end, or can they tell us more? This lecture provides a case study following an eastern Kentucky family back into the area of Germantown, Pennsylvania.

11:00 a.m. Making Sense of the Census
One of the first records we seek out is that of the U.S. Federal Census. How are they read, and how can they benefit me in my research?
The census was taken every ten years, beginning in 1790. This presentation will show how these records can paint a picture of your ancestors, their neighborhood, their industry, and their lives.

2:00 p.m. Analysis and Correlation: A Case Study on a Family Missing in the Census
The US Federal Census is one of the first places researchers go to research their families. It's a beginning genealogist's dream to see their family lines build. But do we return and check our research as often as we should?
This case study visits a family that we would often assume as just being missed by the enumerator. But, there was so much more going on.

4:00 p.m. Misbegotten Children; Tracing the Family Lines of the Illegitimate
Nearly all families have children with seemingly missing fathers. Yet, there may be clues and resources to help us determine their ancestry. Illegitimacy can be both a surprise and an embarrassment as we discover more and more about our family's history. Treated with care and sensitivity, we can use many available resources to help us in our research.

WEDNESDAY June 21 Richard Hill

9:00 a.m. Genetic Genealogy Overview
Review the basics of genetic genealogy, the three major test types, and the offerings of five leading companies. Learn the key factors that impact your results and compare the strengths, limitations, and favorite features of each company. See some third-party tools you can use to extract even more information from DNA test results.

11:00 a.m. Finding Family with DNA Testing
Learn how adoptees and others find biological parents and siblings through DNA testing. Review the case that started it all and see today's recommended strategies. View examples of surprise discoveries and see the tools used to identify relationships.

2:00 p.m. Understanding the Ethnic Ancestry in Your DNA Test
Learn the reasons why DNA ethnicity tests often yield unexpected results. See why siblings can have surprisingly different ethnicities and why Native American ancestry is rarely found. Compare one person's ethnicity reports from all the major DNA tests and learn why one test or another might be your best choice for ethnicity purposes.

4:00 p.m. Y-Chromosome Insights & Strategies
Learn how Y-DNA testing of suitable males can trace and confirm paternal lines in your family tree. How to choose the right test and how to work with your genetic matches. Examples cover STRs, SNPs, genetic distance, match thresholds, Tip reports, the Y-DNA tree, haplogroups, group projects, account settings, and more.

THURSDAY June 22 Shannon Combs-Bennett

9:00 a.m. Top Ten Databases You Should Know About
Researchers depend on the internet but often look at only a few sites they know about. Some of the best places to look are not part of the typical genealogy search pattern. In this presentation, learn about ten databases that are not frequently visited by many researchers but should be.

11:00 a.m. Vetting Published Genealogies for Research
Just because it was published in a book does not make it correct. At the same time, you can use many different types of published family sources as clues to further your research. In this presentation, learn how to vet information in published family history books to improve your research. Learn what is good, what is bad, and what is downright ugly.

2:00 p.m. Hunting Ancestors in Newspapers
Most people look for the coveted ancestor obituary in an old newspaper. However, your ancestors may have appeared in the newspapers other than when they died. Newspapers can also give you a glimpse into the community your ancestors lived in. Through this presentation, learn how to search for newspaper articles, both online and in person, and then how to weave those stories into your family history.

4:00 p.m. Lies of a Solider: The True Identity of Harry Coad Finding the truth in family myths can be a trial of patience. Particularly when records, even official ones, can be wrong. When evidence raises more questions than answers, an exhaustive search must be conducted. But how? This presentation will cover how to pull out the threads of truth from a family story and document what happened through the case of Civil War Soldier Harry Coad and his documentation identity crisis.

FRIDAY June 23 Shannon Combs-Bennett

9:00 a.m. Tips and Tricks to Decipher Colonial Handwriting. Reading old handwriting can often be like learning another language. Scripts can vary based on the time period and the place it was written. Both can leave researchers scratching their heads in frustration. However, all you need is a good strategy to help decipher the words. In this presentation, you will learn how to research colonial-era scripts, create transcriptions of handwritten work, and locate resources when you really get stuck.

11:00 p.m. Early American Research Strategies
Colonial to Pre-Civil War American research can be difficult and highly specialized. Research for each colony or state is unique, and their records can tell you quite different things. Plus, the records often reflect the activities of the time, meaning you need to understand the history of the place you are researching. In this presentation, you will learn tips and tricks for this type of research, resources you should bookmark, and how record loss may affect your outcome.

2:00 p.m. DAR and Other Societies.
Representatives from Captain Henry Vanderburgh Chapter DAR, Hugh McGary Sr. 1812 Society and the Brig. Gen. Eli Huston Murray Chapter National Society Daughters of the Union 1861-1865 will give you information on the who, what, where and why to join these society's to honor your Patriot Ancestors.

Register for free classes online at:
<https://willard.lib.in.us/event/almost-mid-night-madness/>
or call 812-425-4309
or email: genealogy@willard.lib.in.us
Don't forget to have your Passport stamped at each session.

Local Speaker: