

Genealogy Presentations from Sacramento Public Library

Free presentations **online via Zoom** one Saturday each month at 1 pm.

Sign up through the Events Program Calendar at www.saclibrary.org.

If you have any questions, please email contact@saclibrary.org.

January 28, 2023

***Indentured Servants and Apprentices*, by Kathryn Marshall, PhD**

The vast majority of immigrants, especially to the southern states, came under indenture contracts. This talk covers how to search for records, legal requirements in treatment, international use for criminals and political problems, and tracking master and land transfers.

February 25, 2023

***Millions of Members: Finding Your Ancestor in Fraternal Organization Records*, by Melinda Kashuba, PhD**

Was your ancestor a member of a fraternal or social organization? Thousands of associations emerged during the 19th and early 20th centuries to address the social, financial, and occupational needs of Americans and immigrants. Ethnic and religious fraternal organizations helped ease the transition in unfamiliar surroundings, providing benefits such as tools, small loans, and burial funds. In Northern California, fraternal organizations were particularly popular among miners, farmers, and railroad employees. We often learn about an ancestor's membership from heirlooms, insurance policies, obituaries, or tombstone iconography. Not every fraternal organization kept their records, but some did, and they survived. This lecture will help you identify your ancestor's membership and provide a strategy to locate records if they exist.

March 25, 2023

***What City Directories Can Tell Us*, by Mary J. Sayles**

City Directories can provide details on what life was like for ancestors in different eras. Created for salesmen, merchants, and others interested in contacting residents of an area, these directories often list the adult residents of a city, county, or specific area. Generally published annually, this resource may provide clues on ancestors if they were not registered to vote, did not own property, and/or the census enumerator missed the ancestor/family.

April 22, 2023

***Ancestral Road Trips, Part I: East of the Mississippi*, by Madeline Yanov**

This is the 1st of a 2-part talk that will focus on U.S. migration. As the American colonies grew, people migrated to the frontier in search for more space, land, or job opportunities. Why did your ancestors settle in one place rather than another? How did they get there? Did they stop along the way and are there records in those places? This presentation will deal with the reasons people moved, records, including land, which reveal when they arrived, and the more common routes between the colonies to the interior of this country. Also discussed will be the part that canals, waterways, and early railroads played in aiding migration. The routes discussed will cover the Eastern seaboard, south and westward to the Midwest. Since routes to the West and Southwest originated in the Midwest, it is important to understand why and how people got to the Midwest in the first place.

May 20, 2023

***Ancestral Road Trips, Part 2: Go West Young Man*, by Madeline Yanov**

This is the sequel to Ancestral Road Trips, Part I. The routes and trails discussed here had their beginning in the Midwest and pushed west to the Pacific Coast and southwest to Texas and New Mexico. Focus will be on the Santa Fe Trail, The Oregon-California Trail, The Mormon Pioneer Trail, and the Trail of Tears. Other minor trails will also be mentioned. Also discussed will be the part the transcontinental railroad played in the settling of America. Road trip, anyone?

June 24, 2023

***Introduction to Mexican Genealogy*, by Lisa Medina**

This introductory presentation covers foundational concepts in family history research, as well as specific resources and tips for tracing ancestors in México, including the abundant church and civil records available online.