



Family History Month

October 2024

The **Genealogy Center** at  **Allen County Public Library**



WELCOME TO FAMILY HISTORY MONTH 2024!

The Genealogy Center is delighted to offer daily activities to inspire you to pursue, preserve, and present your family stories. Don't miss our virtual programs — registration links can be found on the bottom left of the Genealogy Center's website at **genealogycenter.org**, under the "Genealogy Events" section. Join us on this exciting journey of discovery and celebration!

To learn more, call The Genealogy Center at (260) 421-1225, or email us at genealogy@acpl.info.

Please note that all event times listed in this program are ET.

NOTABLE SPECIAL EVENTS

A DAY OF VIRTUAL LEARNING PROVIDED BY THE GENEALOGY NETWORK OF TEXAS

More information on pages 09–10

These programs are provided by the Genealogy Network of Texas (GNT), an initiative to connect libraries/genealogical societies and provide educational and research opportunities that is spearheaded by the Genealogy Center of the Waco-McLennan County Library. Co-sponsors include the Central Texas Genealogical Society and the Texas State Genealogical Society. The Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center is a participating organization. Enjoy all day or pick the ones that interest you the most.

AFTER HOURS IN THE GENEALOGY CENTER

More information on page 15

Spend the evening of the last October Friday doing a little extra research in the Genealogy Center. Take a closer look at a resource that has been on your to-do list, explore a different database, or seek a bit of extra advice from a Genealogy Center staff member on a brick-wall problem. It's a great way to spend an autumn evening!

WALK THROUGH HISTORY WITH A TOUR OF THE KENSINGTON HISTORIC DISTRICT

More information on page 06

Are you fascinated by the history of your home or neighborhood? Join Senior Librarian Elizabeth Hodges and Mike Vorndran from the Allen County Genealogical Society of Indiana for a walking tour of the Kensington Boulevard Historic District. We'll journey through time to discover the rich history of the district's homes and their residents using stories from current neighborhood residents, historic maps, deeds, photographs, census records, and more! Whether you're a local history enthusiast, an architecture lover, or simply curious about the past, this tour has a little something for everyone.

VIRTUAL TOUR OF LINDENWOOD CEMETERY

More information on pages 04, 07, 12, & 16

Join us every Sunday during Family History Month on Facebook and Instagram for our Virtual Cemetery Tour of Lindenwood. Explore the trials, tribulations, and triumphs of those resting in Lindenwood Cemetery.

WELCOME TO FAMILY HISTORY MONTH WITH ACPL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SUSAN BAIER

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1 • FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM

Tuesday, October 1

DISCOVERING ANCESTRAL ROOTS: USING THE GENEALOGY CENTER TO EXPLORE PLACES IN YOUR FAMILY HISTORY

Presented by **Allison DePrey Singleton**

7:00–8:00 pm • Virtual

Join us on October 1 for the US Edition of the Society of Genealogists' 2024 challenge program, "All About That Place," part of the programming being done in the UK. The US version is proudly sponsored by Project Kin. Discover how to use The Genealogy Center's resources to delve into the locations that shaped your ancestors' lives. Gain insights into historical contexts, explore local records, and uncover the places that form our family stories.

Wednesdays With Witcher

Presented by
Curt Witcher

Wednesday, October 2
2:00–2:30 pm • Virtual

The Power of Story Revisited – It Is a Big Deal

Discover again why finding, preserving, and telling our families' stories is so important for both today and tomorrow.

Thursday, October 3

DNA INTEREST GROUP

Presented by **Sara Allen**

6:30–7:30 pm • In-Person

900 Library Plaza, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46802

We will be gathering in the Discovery Center for our In-Person DNA & Genealogy Interest Group. Bring your questions, comments and DNA results to discuss. All are welcome!

OCTOBER 4 • FOOTNOTE FRIDAY ON FACEBOOK

We've all heard it before, but properly citing your genealogy records can be challenging. To help you out, we've compiled some tips and tricks for accurate citation in your genealogical research.

Saturday, October 5

BEGINNER GENEALOGY RESEARCH

Presented by **Logan Knight**

10:00–11:00 am • In-Person

The Genealogy Center

Have you decided you want to learn more about your family's story, but you aren't sure where to begin? Join us to learn some tips and tricks for beginning your family history journey.

VIRTUAL CEMETERY TOUR

LINDENWOOD

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6 • SOCIAL MEDIA

Join us every Sunday during Family History Month on Facebook and Instagram for our Virtual Cemetery Tour of Lindenwood. Explore the trials, tribulations, and triumphs of those resting in Lindenwood Cemetery, available for you to view beginning at 7:00 AM.

Monday, October 7

DISCOVERING YOUR STORY: USING THE GENEALOGY CENTER FOR FAMILY HISTORY

6:30–7:30 pm • In-Person
Dupont Branch

536 East Dupont Road, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46825

This program provides an in-depth exploration of genealogy research resources, including free databases and digitized books at the Genealogy Center, guiding attendees to uncover their family's history and gain a deeper understanding of their ancestors' lives and times.

Tuesday, October 8

EXPLORING MY CHINA ROOTS: A NEW DATABASE FOR RESEARCHING CHINESE ANCESTORS

Presented by **Clotilde Yap**

2:30–3:30 pm • Virtual

Explore one of the Genealogy Center's newest databases and learn how to research one's Chinese Ancestors. There are more resources than one might think for individuals who can trace their ancestors to this ancient land.

Wednesdays With Witcher

Presented by
Curt Witcher

Wednesday, October 9
2:00–2:30 pm • Virtual

Are We (Really!) Fully Using Compilations? A Quick Look at What We Might Be Missing

Explore how there may be much more to the online resources at the Internet Archive, HathiTrust, Google Books, and similar sites than we initially might think. With context being so important for family historians, learn how exploring not just the text block, index, or specific name references but also the notes, bibliographies, forwards, appendices, and prefatory matter may pay significant dividends.

Thursday, October 10

INTRODUCTION TO BANYAN DNA

Presented by **Leah Larkin**

6:30–7:30 pm • Virtual

Is your family tree biologically correct? BanyanDNA is a new tool for genetic genealogy that is customized to your family tree, including cases of pedigree collapse and double cousins. It has three main uses: visualizing complex trees, validating biological relationships, and hypothesis testing for unknown parentage.

OCTOBER 11 • FARMING FRIDAY ON FACEBOOK

Discovering the stories of our farming ancestors can provide a unique insight into our family history and heritage. Farmers were the backbone of many communities, and their lives were filled with hard work, resilience, and dedication. Share your discoveries and any research tips you have in the comments below. Let's celebrate the farmers in our family tree together!

Saturday, October 12

WALKING THROUGH HISTORY: A WALKING TOUR OF THE KENSINGTON BOULEVARD HISTORIC DISTRICT

10:30 am–12:00 pm
In-Person

Meeting Place: 2222 Kensington Boulevard, Fort Wayne, Indiana. Please dress comfortably for walking outside.

Are you fascinated by the history of your home or neighborhood? Join Senior Librarian Elizabeth Hodges and Mike Vorndran from the Allen County Genealogical Society of Indiana for a walking tour of the Kensington Boulevard Historic District. We'll journey through time to discover the rich history of the district's homes and their residents using stories from current neighborhood residents, historic maps, deeds, photographs, census records, and more! Whether you're a local history enthusiast, an architecture lover, or simply curious about the past, this tour has a little something for everyone.

Note on Parking: Most of the Kensington Historic District residents park their vehicles in driveways and garages, so there will be plenty of available parking on the street!



VIRTUAL CEMETERY TOUR
LINDENWOOD

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13 • SOCIAL MEDIA

Join us every Sunday during Family History Month on Facebook and Instagram for our Virtual Cemetery Tour of Lindenwood. Explore the trials, tribulations, and triumphs of those resting in Lindenwood Cemetery, available for you to view beginning at 7:00 AM.

Monday, October 14

**USING THE GENEALOGY
CENTER FOR FAMILY
HISTORY**

10:30–11:30 am • In-Person
Grabill Branch

13521 Grabill Road, Grabill, Indiana 46741

This program provides an in-depth exploration of genealogy research resources, including free databases and digitized books at the Genealogy Center, guiding attendees to uncover their family's history and gain a deeper understanding of their ancestors' lives and times.

Tuesday, October 15

**LISTENING TO THE
VOICES OF YOUR
ANCESTORS**

Presented by **Megan Koepsell**

2:30–3:30 pm • Virtual

Discover the secrets of your ancestral past and find out what your ancestors may be trying to tell you. This presentation will help you become aware of the subtle ways your own family members might be working alongside you in your genealogical searches.

Wednesdays With Witcher

Presented by
Curt Witcher

Wednesday, October 16
2:00–2:30 pm • Virtual

Tips for Doing Reasonably Exhaustive Research

We hear a lot about the Genealogical Proof Standard, and have for years. However, do we really embrace it? The first of the five elements is to conduct reasonably exhaustive research. Do we really know what that means? Do we really embrace that? Learn how to get closer to conducting reasonably exhaustive research with some straightforward steps.

Thursday, October 17

THE POWER OF VOICE AND THE JOY OF INTERVIEWING

Presented by **Rhonda Lauritzen**

6:30–7:30 pm • Virtual

Voice is intimate and oral history is one of the easiest, most rewarding ways to approach a life story. Interviewing is also the best place to start with any project, whether it's a family story, a genealogy project, or a building history. Begin by interviewing those with knowledge and memories. You will be so glad you did! This session is one part practical and one part inspirational. Learn about affordable current equipment such as digital recorders, voice recording apps, and microphones to capture clear audio. Transcription tools have come a long way in recent years, and there are now easy, affordable ways to convert audio files into written words. It used to be very time-consuming, but you will be amazed at what is possible today. Learn practical advice and mistakes made through years of oral history work.

OCTOBER 18 • FOREMOTHERS FRIDAY ON FACEBOOK

Researching female ancestors can be challenging, but uncovering their stories helps bring our family history to life. Women have played vital roles in shaping our heritage, and it's time to celebrate their contributions! Share your research tips and favorite discoveries in the comments. Let's celebrate the women in our family tree!

A Day of Virtual Genealogy Learning *provided by* The Genealogy Network of Texas

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18 VIRTUAL PROGRAMMING ALL DAY LONG!

These programs are provided by the Genealogy Network of Texas (GNT), an initiative to connect libraries/genealogical societies and provide educational and research opportunities that is spearheaded by the Genealogy Center of the Waco-McLennan County Library. Co-sponsors include the Central Texas Genealogical Society and the Texas State Genealogical Society. The Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center is a participating organization. Enjoy all day or pick the ones that interest you the most. Please contact the Genealogy Center for login information at genealogy@acpl.info.

9:00 am

U.S. NATURALIZATION: THE RECORDS, THE LAWS, AND THE IMPACT

Presented by **Irene B. Walters**
*Librarian Houston Public Library's Family
History Research Center*

Discover the history of naturalization laws and requirements in the United States and how this affected your ancestors and their naturalizations. Learn how to utilize naturalization records for genealogical research.

10:00 am

GENEALOGY RESOURCES AT THE TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE

Presented by **Kevin Klaus**
*Texas General Land Office Research Room
Team Leader and Information Specialist*

The Texas General Land Office contains a wealth of genealogical resources for anyone researching ancestors that received an original Texas land grant. The collection includes more than 35.5 million documents and over 45,000 maps and sketches, dating back to 1561. Explore the Spanish collection, and grants given under the Republic of Texas with an emphasis on Bounty and Donation grants, the Court of Claims files, and Confederate Scrip Voucher files. Learn how to search the free online database.

11:00 am

SO YOU DISCOVERED YOU HAVE A COLONIAL ANCESTOR. NOW WHAT?

Presented by **Craig R. Scott**
MA, CG, FUGA, President and CEO of Heritage Books, Inc.

Create a research plan for your colonial ancestor using available records in free and subscription databases. Examine existing law in the time-period, the land process and the probate process. Look for muster and payrolls. Learn how to use the state archives to enhance your search. Of course, it all varies by place and time, so you need to know when and where you are at all times.

12:50 pm

GETTING STARTED WITH YOUR GENEALOGY

Presented by **Laura Douglas**
Head of Special Collections, Denton Public Library

Are you curious about your family history, just not sure how to start? It may be easier than you think. In this session we will discuss the basic concepts and processes of genealogical research, the first steps in gathering information, how to locate and evaluate records, and how to find free or low-cost training to grow your genealogical skills.

2:25 pm

INTRODUCING THE RETRO TECH LAB: DIGITALLY PRESERVING FAMILY HISTORY

Presented by **Mark Dellenbaugh**
MA, MLIS, Genealogy and Local History Librarian at the Arlington Public Library

Learn about APL's experience of pitching, creating, and operating our new Retro Technology Lab and about personal digital archiving in general. Includes a demonstration of some of the equipment and software used (for converting audio and video tapes, 8mm & Super8 film, photos, negatives, slides, etc. to digital files) interspersed with lessons we've learned so far. The presentation concludes with stories of our most memorable patron encounters & heart-warming moments of family memories preserved.

3:30 pm

I'VE FOUND MY IRISH IMMIGRANT ANCESTOR. NOW WHAT?

Presented by **Claire Bradley**
MA, Director of Irish Studies of the International Institute of Genealogical Studies

Lucky enough to have identified a place of origin for the Irish ancestor? Depending on when the person emigrated, there are several ways to approach your next research avenue. Learn how to begin finding resources available online. We will discuss offline resources in Ireland, what research can be arranged remotely and what must be done in person. Explore planning a research trip to Ireland and how to use DNA test results to enhance your work.



4:35 pm

WRITING YOUR FAMILY STORY: LEARNING TO ASSESS AND COMPILE YOUR RESEARCH

Presented by **Emily Coffman Richardson**
*Genealogist with KinSearchers,
Director-at-Large, TxSGS*

Writing our story and that of our ancestors is truly a key result of a genealogist in the 21st century. The stories need to be written with either our voice or our hands. As genealogists we must get out of the habit of “hunters n’ gatherers” and learn to assess and then compile to write the stories that we are finding. This program will teach you the keys behind these components so that you can move to becoming a researcher and a storyteller.

5:40 pm

PROVEN METHODS FOR BREAKING DOWN GENEALOGICAL BRICK WALLS

Presented by **Leslie Tomlinson**
MFA, CG

Learn the skills to advance your research and develop strategies to help you break down those roadblocks in your family research using familiar resources such as Federal census, courthouse records, tax records and passenger lists.

GENEALOGY CHALLENGES

Saturday, October 19
Facebook & Instagram

Take our poll!

What has been your biggest challenge in tracing your family history?

- **Locating records**
- **Overcoming language barriers**
- **Tracking down elusive ancestors**
- **Dealing with conflicting information**

Share in the comments!



VIRTUAL CEMETERY TOUR LINDENWOOD

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20 • SOCIAL MEDIA

Join us every Sunday during Family History Month on Facebook and Instagram for our Virtual Cemetery Tour of Lindenwood. Explore the trials, tribulations, and triumphs of those resting in Lindenwood Cemetery, available for you to view beginning at 7:00 AM.

TIME INVESTMENT

Monday, October 21
Facebook & Instagram

Take our poll!

How much time do you spend on genealogy research each week?

- **Less than an hour**
- **1-3 hours**
- **4-7 hours**
- **More than 7 hours**

Share in the comments!

Tuesday, October 22

THE SALEM WITCHCRAFT TRIALS OF 1692: HISTORY AND SOURCES

Presented by **John D. Beatty, CG**

2:30–3:30 pm • Virtual

This talk will examine the story of the Salem Witchcraft Trials of 1692 and explore the lives of those victims who were accused of witchcraft. It will discuss historical and genealogical sources that can help in determining whether one is descended from one of the accused.



UNCOVERING YOUR HOME'S HISTORY

A GUIDE TO HOUSE HISTORY RESEARCH

Tuesday, October 22
7:00–8:00 pm • In-Person
Little Turtle Branch
2201 Sherman Blvd, Fort Wayne, IN 46808

This program explores researching a house's history, focusing on its former inhabitants, teaching valuable research techniques, and utilizing historical documents to construct a vivid narrative of the home's past, empowering participants to uncover its fascinating stories.

Wednesdays With Witcher

Presented by
Curt Witcher

Wednesday, October 23
2:00–2:30 pm • Virtual

Organizing Your Research to Pass it On

Most have spent years collecting information from all kinds of sources. For some, the methods of collecting and saving our findings have changed with technology. For most, how we have organized our research does not lend itself to successfully passing it on to family members or libraries and archives. Learn some things that can be done to change that.

Thursday, October 24

U.S. WORLD WAR DRAFT REGISTRATIONS

Presented by **Peggy Ash, AG®**

6:30–7:30 pm • Virtual

Learn the history behind the World War I and II drafts and how they were conducted. Discover how to interpret the codes and numbers provided on early registration cards and what they mean to their likelihood of having served in the military or having created more records. Find out new access to registration cards you may not know about and why access to color images can be important.

OCTOBER 25 • FRATERNAL FRIDAY ON FACEBOOK

Many of our ancestors were involved in fraternal and community organizations, playing pivotal roles in their communities. Uncovering these connections can provide rich insights into their lives. Share your discoveries and any additional tips in the comments!



AFTER HOURS IN THE GENEALOGY CENTER

Friday, October 25
6:00 – 9:00 pm
In-Person

Spend the evening of the last October Friday doing a little extra research in the Genealogy Center. Take a closer look at a resource that has been on your to-do list, explore a different database, or seek a bit of extra advice from a Genealogy Center staff member on a brick-wall problem. It's a great way to spend an autumn evening!

GENEALOGY TRAVEL

Saturday, October 26
Facebook & Instagram

Take our poll!

Have you ever traveled to a location significant to your family history?

- **Yes, multiple times**
- **Yes, once**
- **Not yet, but I plan to**
- **No, and I don't plan to**

Share in the comments!



VIRTUAL CEMETERY TOUR **LINDENWOOD**

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27 • SOCIAL MEDIA

Join us every Sunday during Family History Month on Facebook and Instagram for our Virtual Cemetery Tour of Lindenwood. Explore the trials, tribulations, and triumphs of those resting in Lindenwood Cemetery, available for you to view beginning at 7:00 AM.

GENEALOGY RESOURCES

Monday, October 28
Facebook & Instagram

Take our poll!

Where do you primarily conduct your genealogy research?

- **Online databases**
- **Local libraries or archives**
- **Genealogy societies**
- **Family interviews**

Share in the comments!

Tuesday, October 29

THE LINCOLN FAMILY ALBUM

Presented by **Abbie Meek**

2:30–3:30 pm • Virtual

The Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection is the only collection in the world to have the contents of the Lincoln family photo album. The family album collection has more than six hundred photographs, started by Mary Lincoln and continued by the following three generations of Lincolns. Come discover a brief history of the Lincoln family and view a part of this vast collection.

Wednesdays With Witcher

Presented by
Curt Witcher

Wednesday, October 30
2:00–2:30 pm • Virtual

Telling the Stories of Our Lives

Most of us have done a lot of exploring and investigating, collected massive amounts of documents and copies, and keyed data into all kinds of programs and websites. Most of us have not done much about writing-up our research and collecting the stories of our own lives. Learn some strategies for doing that easily and successfully.

Thursday, October 31

WHO WALKED THESE STREETS? HOW TO BUILD AN ONLINE PLATFORM FOR HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD RESEARCH

Presented by **Elizabeth Hodges**

6:30–7:30 pm • Virtual

Join Senior Genealogy Librarian Elizabeth Hodges to discover how to build a free, interactive, online platform using Google Drive, interactive maps, and Google Sites that highlights the story of a historic neighborhood through records, photographs, maps, and oral history.



Fort Wayne Public Library
Children's Dept. 5676

Are you looking for a way to enhance your genealogy research experience?

Look no further than the new **Genealogy Card**, a fantastic new offering from your **ACPL**!

This card allows you to save catalog lists, it can be used to sign on to computers in the Genealogy Center and throughout the library, and so much more!

During your next visit to the Genealogy Center, be sure to get registered for your card and take your research to the next level!

If you already have an ACPL card, you have access to these benefits and more!

CHECK OUT THE NEW ACPL STORE!

ACPL and Genealogy Center merch is available now.

Scan the code or visit acpl.info to get yours today!

All sales benefit the Friends of the Library.



The Genealogy Center at the Allen County Public Library

Allen County Public Library

900 Library Plaza
Fort Wayne, Indiana, 46802

(260) 421-1225
genealogy@acpl.info
www.genealogycenter.org



@genealogycenter



@acplgenealogy



@genealogycenter



@allencountypubliclibrary

Visit us during regular library hours for full access to our physical and digital collection. Our staff is available to assist with your family history research.

Monday–Thursday

9:00 AM – 9:00 PM

Friday–Saturday

9:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Sunday

12:00 – 5:00 PM



**Allen County
Public Library**