

Speakers and Programs for Organizations

Members of the Pinellas Genealogy Society have developed classes to assist researchers in various areas of family history research. We are glad to present these live, either in-person or via Zoom, to genealogy or historical societies and other interested groups.

Each presentation is approximately 60 minutes. Some are available in a 20-minute format. The speaker fee for each class varies depending on the speaker and location of the presentation.

Please email info@pinellsgenealogysociety.com for how to contact the speaker and the topic of your choice.

The following is a current list of presentation titles grouped by topic category with a description of the class and the speaker's name to request.



GENEALOGY

Evidence Analysis: The Source, the Information, the Evidence - Effective evidence analysis requires analyzing not only the source, but also the information it contains and the evidence it provides. This presentation offers an in-depth look into the evidence analysis process. *Debbie Wilson Smyth*

Indirectly Evident: Finding William's Parents - When no known records exist to identify the parents of an individual, a researcher may utilize indirect evidence to build a proof argument. This presentation offers a case study into the use of indirect evidence and sibling research to identify the parents of William Graham of Meigs County, Ohio. *Debbie Wilson Smyth*

Key Records in Family Research — (Beginner) This is a class aimed primarily at beginning genealogists. It identifies six records that are a must for early concentration in research. It identifies what those records are, why they are so important, and where they can be found. *Sue Styx*

Lineage Societies: The Hows and Whys of Joining -- Learn tips for documenting your early arrival ancestors for lineage society use. We will discuss what is a hereditary or lineage society, why you might want to join, and how to find the right ones for you. Then we explain the paper trail requirements and what documentation you need to verify your tree is ready for submission. Even if you're *not* interested in joining a group, you will learn useful tips to organize your data. *Lori Coffey*

Lineage Societies: Tips for Successful Applications - There are hundreds of different types of lineage societies, each with specific rules and requirements for the application process. This presentation

provides an overview of the various societies and offers general tips for completing successful applications. *Debbie Wilson Smyth*

Starting in Genealogy – (Beginner) This presentation will discuss the basics of how to get started in researching your family history--what to do first and how to do it, where to look for information and mistakes to avoid. *Multiple speakers available* Please email info@pinellsgenealogysociety.com

Using Processes in Genealogy: To Work Smarter Not Harder – You know processes can save you time. But which specific processes can you use in genealogy to help you work smarter not harder? You will of course learn genealogy processes such as the Kinship and Social Organization Process, but also business processes such as the ABCs of Prioritizing, and even relationship processes such as Ben Franklin's Five Secrets to Success. Throughout, you will also learn tips from IT development processes and even Japanese Management to make your time more valuable. *Lori Coffey*

GENEALOGY TOOLS AND WEBSITES

AmericanAncestors.Org: Searching the Online Databases – American Ancestors, the website for the New England Historic Genealogical Society, provides more than 1 billion records in over 450 databases online. Although much of the collection focuses on New England, records from around the U.S. and even some from other countries are available. This presentation will provide a brief overview of the website and will go through the basics of searching these extensive databases. *Karen Fortin*

Ancestry.com: Searching the Database – (Internet access is required) This site is the largest, most comprehensive collection of genealogy data on the internet. This class will focus on search techniques for getting the most from this huge collection of databases. *Karen Fortin*

Ancestry: Foundations, Features, and Fixes – Whether you are new to Ancestry.com or a power user, in this session you will learn ideas to make your journey through this powerful tool even better. First, we explain the foundational tools you may have missed. Then we show you features that make this the number one ancestral search tool. And then, because it happens to all of us, we review fixes to common errors we can make. *Lori Coffey*

Bringing Your Ancestors to Life: Going Beyond the Facts - Using a case study approach, this presentation will explore how you can use traditional resources such as vital records, census records, land records, newspapers, and more to uncover the lives, experiences, and even personalities of our ancestors. *Karen Fortin*

Courthouse Records – We discuss the various types of courthouse records available, where and how to find them and their use in genealogy. *Damon Hostetler*

Dead Men Do Tell Tales: Death Certificates –Recreating life in a community using death certificates. *Karen Fortin*

Digging in Dirt: Researching Land Records - Researching land records is an important aspect in genealogical research. While land records can provide valuable clues to relationships, residence, and

migrations, they can sometimes be difficult or confusing to research. This presentation will give an overview of the various types of land records and where they might be located. Examples of the different types of indices used by county clerks will also be explored. *Debbie Wilson Smyth*

Documenting Your Sources – Every genealogist knows that they need to keep track of their evidence sources but few of us consistently do so because we are not sure what to include or how to cite properly. This class will look at the basic elements of source citations and what details should be included as presented in Thomas W. Jones' *Mastering Genealogical Documentation* which you can find in the Largo Library Genealogy Reference collection. *Karen Fortin*

DNA Doesn't Lie, But Needs Help to Find the Truth! - DNA testing is a valuable tool for use in genealogical research. DNA provides confirmation of a genetic relationship; however, it requires the help of documentary research to confirm the genealogical relationship. This presentation reviews the differences between a genetic relationship and a genealogical relationship and how pairing the two will strengthen your genealogical conclusions. *Debbie Wilson Smyth*

Excel for Genealogy – You may know and use Excel to crunch your budget numbers, but have you thought about using it specifically for genealogy? Even if you're new to Excel, we will teach you the basics of building a database right, then we'll cover how to think through your options to make the exact database that meets your specific needs. Then, as we show you ways to use Excel in genealogy, we'll add tips to take your skills to the next level whether you're using your own computer or the library's. *Lori Coffey*

Facebook for Genealogy – You may use Facebook every day sharing family photos and stories, but have you ever thought to use it for genealogy research? We will discuss how to find relatives and search tips, plus the hundreds of Facebook groups dedicated to family history! But before we explain all that, we give an overview and tour to learn how this ubiquitous program actually works, so you can control what you see and what others see about you. *Lori Coffey*

Google Earth Tours – Google Earth tours can be a fun way to share your genealogical research with relatives. This class will show you the basics of how to create, save, and share a tour that can visually illustrate the life and travels of your ancestors using the Google Earth free program. *Karen Fortin*

Google for Genealogy — Google (yes, Google!) is a powerful tool to help research your family data. We will start with the basics of how to create a simple request that will find exactly what you seek. Then we progress into tips and tricks on advanced Google tools to uncover credible, accurate information that will further enhance your family tree research. *Lori Coffey*

Local & County History Books – These often-overlooked resources can contain a wealth of resources on your ancestors and the places that they lived. This presentation explores the background of local and county history books; what information can be found in them; and, where to find them, both in print and online. *Karen Fortin*

Looking for Ancestors in All the Right Places - Focus your research to find more ancestors and to tell their stories more completely. Review the geography around your ancestral locales to identify repositories and the genealogy records they hold, both physically and online. *Denise Manning*

MS Word for Genealogy – If you have long documents or even plan to write your entire family history as a book, you need the power of Microsoft Word to manage it. But trying to figure out all of Word's complex tools could be a real time waster. Instead, learn in one hour the five main tools you need to tame your text-heavy manuscripts! We cover formatting, headline and subheads which are also the key to navigating within your document. Then table of contents plus footnotes and indexing. *Lori Coffey*

Making Sense of the Census - The U.S. census schedules are valuable records for the genealogist. This presentation focuses on the content and information provided by the various census years and the instructions to the enumerators. It also covers tips for analysis of the information across the census years, including the tick marks of the pre-1850 census schedules. *Debbie Wilson Smyth*

Newspaper Archives for Genealogists and History Buffs - Mine the rich historical information found in old newspapers, "reading between the lines" to find the most clues about your ancestors. Learn about free newspaper sites and how to access subscription sites economically. *Denise Manning*

Newspapers in Genealogy Research – Newspapers are often overlooked as a secondary source of genealogy research material. Yet they can provide valuable information to help you document, create, and find locations, family group members, occupations, timelines, and facts to “put meat on the bones” of your ancestors! In this session, we’ll learn to access pertinent newspaper articles to unlock the secrets they might hold. *Damon Hostetler*

Online Book Websites for Genealogy - A wealth of genealogical information has been published in books over the years. Luckily, many of these resources, especially those that have entered the public domain, have been made available in digital format on a variety of websites. This presentation will introduce you to some of the most popular online resources for digital books to broaden your genealogical research. *Karen Fortin*

Orphan Trains – The story of the Orphan Trains, which relocated children from the eastern cities to rural farmlands, has become a part of American popular culture. This presentation explores the facts behind the legends, follows a group of children “placed-out” in 1880, and provides resources available to learn more about the orphan trains and their riders. *Karen Fortin*

Photos in Genealogy – What is a family tree without photos to enhance the story? But many old photos are degrading with age in storage. When we travel to see family and get to snap a picture, the quality is often less than what we expect for historical purposes. And how do we get it off our phones and into our books and online trees?! This fully packed training will cover these issues and more as we learn tips of the trade for your pictures. *Lori Coffey*

PowerPoint for Genealogy – If you have used PowerPoint for presentations, you know how easy it is to use! But did you know it's also a valuable companion for genealogists? You will want to keep it open all the time after we show you the three biggest genealogy uses for this powerful app: clipping and storing research, manipulating photos, and turning family tree reports into beautiful books or videos! We'll give you tips to take your PowerPoint skills to the next level whether you're using your own computer or the library's. *Lori Coffey*

Probate Records: Looking Beyond the Will - A Last Will and Testament offers a rich resource of information for genealogical purposes. But the will is only the beginning of the records that may be available and of value to the genealogist. Even if the decedent left no will, there may be other estate records to assist in your research. This presentation provides an overview of the probate process and the records that may be created after a person's death. *Debbie Wilson Smyth*

Putting Meat on the Bones – By doing additional research with non-traditional sources the genealogist can bring an ancestor to life. Finding the cause and effect for the facts discovered is a major step. This class will provide some guidance as to how to track down the cause from the effect. *Damon Hostetler*

Searching Library Catalogs for Genealogists – Libraries are a great place for finding genealogy resources. This class will show you how to find libraries and archives that can help you in your search, how to get the most from catalog searches, and discover other helpful resources available through online catalogs. *Karen Fortin*

Sharing Ancestor Stories – Do you want to share your family history research and enthusiasm with your relatives, but find that their eyes tend to glaze over when you pull out your pedigree charts and family group sheets? Try writing brief narrative sketches and presenting the information to them in bite-size chunks, one interesting ancestor at a time. We show you how to create one- to three-page narratives with visual impact. *Karen Fortin*

Using Historical Literature – To explore your ancestors' lives, historical literature, both fiction and non-fiction, can help us to better understand the world in which our ancestors lived and the events that shaped their lives. This presentation looks at how to use historical literature to flesh out the stories of our ancestors and provides examples to show what can be learned. *Karen Fortin*

Using U.S. Land Records in Genealogy – Land records are an important part of your genealogical toolkit. This presentation will provide an overview of common terms and concepts, explore how land records can help your research, and assist you in locating these valuable resources. The presentations will also share examples showing how to go from finding a deed to finding the land described in it on the modern landscape. *Karen Fortin*

Walking in Their Footsteps – One of the fun things about genealogy is getting to know our ancestors as people, not just as names and dates on a chart. This presentation will help you to identify sources that can assist you in locating the precise locations where your ancestors lived and worked. *Karen Fortin*

WorldCat and ArchiveGrid – Finding Books, Manuscripts and More. A treasure trove of genealogical material is available in books, manuscripts, and other print resources. However, much of this material is scattered in libraries and archives throughout the country. WorldCat and ArchiveGrid are online resources that allow you to search many of these repositories to identify and locate materials on the families and topics you are researching. *Karen Fortin*

Word for Genealogy – If you have long documents or even plan to write your entire family history as a book, you need the power of Microsoft Word to manage it. But trying to figure out all of Word's complex tools could be a real time waster. Instead, learn in one hour the five main tools you need to

tame your text-heavy manuscripts! We cover formatting, headline and subheads which are also the key to navigating within your document. Then table of contents plus footnotes and indexing. *Lori Coffey*

HISTORY

Buried Treasure: Exploring Your Family History Collection – Every family has a unique story to tell. Discover items to look for in your own family's collection of photographs, documents, and more that will help bring that story to life. *Karen Fortin*

The CCCs History and Research – They were the young men of the Civilian Conservation Corps far from home in the nation's publicly owned forests and parks. Earning money to send back to their needy families in the 1930s, they contributed to the renewal and beautification of the country. First, we explain the history that led to the need for this mammoth government project and what was accomplished. And then we'll show you the records and how you can find your own CCCer. *Lori Coffey*

Col. Hans Christian Heg (A Norwegian Immigrant's Story) – Learn the story of abolitionist and Norwegian immigrant Hans Christian Heg as he grew up in his adopted country. Pioneering during uncertain times was a life and death story, sharing both joy and sorrow. He became a Civil War Colonel who died while leading a charge at the Battle of Chickamauga in Georgia. Once you learn the rest of the story, you can determine if his statue (torn down by rioters) should remain at the Wisconsin capital. *Lori Coffey*

The First Germans: The Fascinating Story of the Concord – In the 1600s, a ship full of families escaping religious persecution headed to the shores of the New World which began a great migration. If you think you know this story, think again! These were Germans who fled to Pennsylvania on the *Concord*. A watershed moment in history that has been long forgotten, until now. We learn about the political unrest and religious persecution which drove these cousins of William Penn to help found his new colony. And watch as they grow their Germantown to be a beacon of light for the 7 million Germans who follow. *Lori Coffey*

Isaac Allerton, Fallen Saint of Plymouth Colony – Meet Isaac Allerton, one of the most complex figures in Plymouth Colony. While there is no monument to this ambitious Pilgrim, we can thank him for the thriving fishing industry and the booming economy of New England in the 1600s. So why was he banished from Massachusetts? Learn his uplifting and intriguing story! *Lori Coffey*

King Philip's War, 1675-1676: Causes & Consequences – Although largely forgotten, King Philip's War was a widespread conflict that had a significant and long-lasting impact on New England colonists and Native Americans. The class will look at causes leading up to this brutal war, analyze the course of the war, outline the consequences that helped shape the future of the United States, and direct you to resources for researching ancestors who fought in this conflict. *Karen Fortin*

Life Aboard the Mayflower 1620 – We all know the Mayflower Pilgrims' story of thanksgiving after a grueling winter of failures and death. But how much do we know about this tiny ship with the huge reputation? The Mayflower was their lifeline and their home, where babies were born, and heroes were

created, as tempest and destruction crashed over them. See what life was like for Saints, Strangers, and Sailors. Learn what it took for the Pilgrims to survive on the Mayflower for 243 days. *Lori Coffey*

Meet the Mayflower Pilgrims – You know them as monuments and myths, but now you can get to know the Pilgrims as people! Understand their family ties, their jobs, their hopes, and even their failures. Follow our Pilgrim ancestors from England to Holland and finally to the New World where only half survive that first winter to help found a new nation! We will meet the original Pilgrims and learn what caused them to flee England as they start a new religion. Follow them to the Netherlands and see how they lived and what caused their non-negotiable rules. Travel with them as they make the monumental decision to move where "no friends welcome them." *Lori Coffey*

The Pilgrims They Left Behind – The 102 who got on the Mayflower are famous. But what about those who didn't make it on to the ship for that fateful voyage? This is the little-known backstory of the heroes who allowed the Pilgrims the freedom to travel. Those who were imprisoned, leaders who were needed by the flock and even those who were afraid of taking the trip. These unsung heroes allowed the famous pilgrims to have their spotlight in history. Now we turn the spotlight on them. *Lori Coffey*

They Died of What? – Understanding historical causes of death. Death certificates are important resources when researching the lives of our ancestors. However, due to factors such as outdated terminology and the limits of medical knowledge in the past, it can be hard to interpret the causes of death given. This presentation examines some of those factors, and points to resources that can help you find out what your ancestors really died of. *Karen Fortin*

Scottish Ancestry and Immigration – Does your DNA reveal Scottish or Irish ancestry, but you don't have any in your tree? That can happen! Join me as I take you through my Gaelic journey searching for royalty for my mother! This intriguing journey took me through the history of Scotland, a land of two peoples, and how it's intertwined with that of Ireland. Then follow the Scottish diaspora around the world as they fled the king's wrath. I share tips to help you with your search along the way! *Lori Coffey*

The Women of 1620 – Eighteen women (along with 34 children) boarded the Mayflower in 1620. This is the heart-wrenching tale of the only women who survived to the first Thanksgiving. Overshadowed by the men you all know, this true-life drama shines light on the *four* strong women who endured hardships and tragedy to give birth to a new nation! We also delve into feeding the family, women's rights, and daily work of the times. *Lori Coffey*

The Women of 1776 – While a lot of things were different 7 generations ago, it's surprising how much we have in common with the women of 1776. We will meet specific women – including rich, poor, patriot and enslaved – who bring different perspectives to the abilities, successes, and generosity that defined the female contribution to our new nation. We also delve into enterprise at war, daily life of the times, and surviving as a single woman. *Lori Coffey*

The Women of 1862 – We can learn a lot from the Women of 1862 who could triumph even when they had lost everything in the Civil War. Life had changed for many women during that time. We will meet pioneers who fashioned the first steps of modern life as we know it. Nurses like Annie Etheridge, abolitionists like Lucretia Coffin Mott, enslaved like Elizabeth Keckley, first ladies like Julia Dent Grant and more bring different perspectives to the abilities and successes that defined the female contribution to our emerging empire. We also delve into 1862 activism, medicine, and family relationships. *Lori Coffey*

The Witches of 1692 -- The women of the new colonies didn't just have to survive the normal hardships of every pioneer, they had to face being accused of witchcraft. Often their accusers were young girls and sometimes family members, but they were always judged by male religious leaders. In this eye-opening presentation, we not only understand the Salem Witch trials, but the history of how these persecutions evolved and are still happening today. *Lori Coffey*

Who Were the Mayflower Passengers – We've all heard the story of the Mayflower and the founding of Plymouth Colony in 1620 but who were these intrepid souls, what did they believe, why did they come to New England, and who left descendants? This presentation explores these topics and provides information on resources available for learning more about the Pilgrims. *Karen Fortin*

DNA

Basics of DNA: AncestryDNA – By looking at DNA test results through the lens of one of the most popular testing companies, class participants will be able to understand their own test results at Ancestry.com. This class reviews the tools and resources available through Ancestry DNA. *Denise Manning*

The Bucket List: Sorting DNA Matches - Shared matching is a great tool to help sort your DNA matches. This presentation describes the “bucket” approach for sorting DNA matches and how it can help with the management and organization of those matches. *Debbie Wilson Smyth*

But Wait There's More: X DNA, Y DNA, and Mitochondrial DNA - Define the family branches that could benefit from these tests, where to test, and what to expect with your test results. Learn how to put these types of DNA tests to work to grow your family tree. *Denise Manning*

Cool Tools in AncestryDNA -- So how can you organize your nearly 50,000 AncestryDNA matches to find or verify ancestors? AncestryDNA tools – many new and some still in the Beta testing stage – can help sort and find useful matches. Confidently using the tools allows you to answer questions you have about your family ethnicity and to organize those matches into groups to help locate cousins and ancestors. Whether you are trying to break down a brick wall or verify a lineage, using these cool tools in your AncestryDNA matches offers a gold mine of family tree information. *Lori Coffey*

Disconnected Connections: A Case Study of Family Lore and an MPE - In genealogical circles, the acronym MPE stands for a misattributed parentage event. A misattributed parentage event encompasses those situations where parentage has been attributed to the wrong person. For example, learning that daddy wasn't really the biological father. Finding an MPE can be an unexpected or upsetting matter. Truth is, those times when family lore, DNA and documents diverge happens more frequently than we think. This presentation will begin with a discussion on DNA testing, identifying a misattributed parentage event, exploring some research strategies, and considering the ethics involved. It concludes with a case study to explore my own personal MPE finding, my research process, and the ethics involved. *Debbie Wilson Smyth*

DNA and Ethnicity – Learn about the different types of DNA used for genealogy and the most popular testing companies. Examples of ethnicity estimates are provided with discussion of variations between the regions in which our ancestors lived. *Denise Manning*

DNA and Your Family Tree - Use 'shared matches' and 'centimorgans' to assess your DNA matches, and group them according to shared ancestors. These tools are essential for analyzing autosomal DNA results. *Denise Manning*

DNA for Adoptees – Strategies to find birth families This class is for those that have taken the DNA Basic class and are ready to explore ways to use DNA to help find birth families. You need to have a good understanding of general genealogical research strategies and databases such as Familysearch.org and Ancestry.com search engines and be familiar with your DNA testing company's products and tools. *Denise Manning*

DNA Doesn't Lie, But Needs Help to Find the Truth! - DNA testing is a valuable tool for use in genealogical research. DNA provides confirmation of a genetic relationship; however, it requires the help of documentary research to confirm the genealogical relationship. This presentation reviews the differences between a genetic relationship and a genealogical relationship and how pairing the two will strengthen your genealogical conclusions. *Debbie Wilson Smyth*

DNA FUNDamentals Illustrated

Learn DNA fundamentals in a fun yet scholarly way without having to read 5 books! Using easy-to-understand terms with helpful images, we first explain the definitions (like chromosome, SNP, and haplogroup). Then we show you how you can use DNA in genealogy and describe the four kinds of DNA that you can test. If you are a visual learner, this is the place to start your DNA journey! *Lori Coffey*

Exploring Ancestry® Tools for DNA Analysis - This presentation explores the various tools provided by Ancestry® to assist in analyzing and evaluating DNA matches. It will cover the more common tools, as well as a few that are lesser known and under-utilized. Strategies that combine these tools to achieve research goals will also be examined. *Debbie Wilson Smyth*