

Tamarack Genealogy 2023 Lecture List

Genealogy Lectures

A is for Archives

Planning a genealogy research trip? Tina will walk you through the types of Archives and what each collect as well as the planning process of visiting archives and repositories. She'll prepare you for the important questions; who to contact, what to bring, where to research, when to go, and why bother?

Advanced Genealogy Workshop

Time to start utilizing the information you have collected while tracing your family tree. This course will show you how to interpret records for more accurate results. Plus, learn about lesser-known family history resources like city directories, yearbooks and more.

****All Politics is Local**

These words, spoken by former Speaker of the House Tip O'Neil, still ring true. Whether your ancestor was elected to public office or just aspired to serve, lots of records and artefacts were created. Former four-time political candidate, Tina Beaird, will guide you through the political process and explain what records may exist and where to find them.

Back to School: making the most of school records in your family tree

Learn about the many ways you can access cool details about your ancestors by using school records like yearbooks, school schedules, teacher's registers, school newspapers, alumni directories and much more. This is one class you won't want to ditch.

Become a Census Sensei (Update to include 1950 census after April 15)

There are a variety of census options when researching your ancestors than just the Federal Population Schedules. Tina will explore additional census schedules such as Mortality and Agriculture, plus how state, military and school censuses can be used to enhance your family history.

Between a Rock & a Hard Place: overturning every stone to break through your brick wall

Whether due to a courthouse fire, natural disaster or late records collection date; each of us has that one ancestor, place or era where the records remain steadfastly elusive. Tina will share success stories and offer tips and strategies to break through that brick wall and find that evasive ancestor.

Billy Yank: Union Soldier Records from the Civil War

Union Soldiers fought more than just *Johnny Reb*, they fought bureaucracy as well. Tina will show you all the places to look for records pertaining to Union Soldiers from Federal records to state Adjutant General's records to local records.

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Boots on the Ground: Using Archives to Trace Your Veteran Ancestor

Tina will explain the significance behind using original records for tracing your ancestor's military service. Records from the American Revolution to WWII will be discussed as well as sources for modern records. Learn what types of documents are available within federal, state and local archives.

Brick by Brick: Tracing Your Home's History

If walls could talk... Was your home moved, damaged by fire or enlarged to accommodate a growing family? Tina will provide strategies for researching the history of your home by using government records, newspapers, phone directories, maps and other resources. Every home tells a story, what does yours say?

Courthouse Finds

Courthouses are great resources for personal family history. Probate files, chancery cases, land sales and law suits are just a handful of the types of records one can find in their local courthouse files. Join Tina for tips and tricks to identify and secure these records.

CSI: Cemetery Search & Investigation

Curious what those symbols mean on your great-grandfather's headstone? Did you have ancestors whose body was transported for burial? Tina will be explaining the details behind these as well as offering tips and suggestions for finding your ancestor's burial place and the types of information that may be found.

Cyber Sleuthing Your Family Tree

There is a colossal amount of information available on the Internet. Tina offers methods for evaluating web sites for reliable sources of information. Learn how to use subscription databases in tandem with free genealogy websites to trace your family tree. Plus, find out what's new in the online genealogy community.

Digging In & Opening Up

Are you interested in interviewing your family, but don't know where to start? Tina will show you how to set up an oral history interview, what equipment to use, and the types of questions to ask. She will also walk you through how to begin to identify those boxes of photos that you've inherited throughout the years using genealogical tools and observational techniques. (a combination of the Grandma Nellie's Scrapbook and Our Family Soundtrack lectures)

Erin Roots: Researching in Ireland

Planning a trip to Ireland to do research? Tina has visited locations in Dublin and Belfast relating to Irish Genealogy. She will give you the step by step instructions for planning an effective research trip including what to bring, what to leave home and where you must visit.

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Eire Online: Irish Resources for the Casual Researcher

Can't fly to Ireland just yet to dig into your family tree? Tina will showcase subscription sites like Roots Ireland and Find My Past, plus plenty of free resources like the National Library of Ireland, Ask About Ireland, and GenUKI, to help you get started in researching your Irish roots.

Family History Resources from the Library of Congress.

Whether you are researching in this glorious building or utilizing their amazing digital collections, The Library of Congress (LOC) offers something for every family historian. Tina will walk you through all of the different ways you can engage with the Library of Congress both through their digital resources and their dynamic social media presence, to advance your family history.

FamilySearch Strategies: Beyond the Basics

Genealogists across the globe have used the extraordinary record collections available through FamilySearch, but many feel overwhelmed trying to dig out the most useful information within each type of record collection. Tina offers search tips and strategies for getting the most out of your time by walking you through ways to retrieve better search results in the online databases, find the titles you need in their digital book collections, access useful information from the wiki pages and successfully view original digital images within their online catalog through your local affiliate library.

FLICKR for Genealogists

Flickr and other photo sharing websites can be a great resource for finding both modern and historic images of the people and places that impacted your ancestors. Many museums, libraries and archives use Flickr to promote their collections, plus there are numerous groups the family historian can join to aid in their discovery. Come here how Flickr can benefit your research!

FREE LAND: Homesteading on the Frontier

The Homestead Act of 1862 allowed any qualified individual to claim up to 160 acres of free land. Over 1.6 million people rose to the challenge and claimed 270 million acres of land of which an estimated 17 million Americans are descendants. Original homestead claims are a fantastic collection of documents, including applications, land descriptions, citizenship affidavits and more. Learn how to access these great records and how they can fill in the gaps to your research.

Ghosts in the Graveyard: Intuition or Divine Intervention?

Ever have those unexplained moments while searching for your ancestors? Tina has certainly had her fair share of 'unexplainable' phenomenon. This is a "share and tell" lecture where Tina will tell you some of hers, if you promise to share some of yours!

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Google for Genealogy

Google can be a useful tool for genealogical research. Utilizing services like google maps, google news and google books can make you feel like Indiana Jones. But be wary, google has some traps and pitfalls as well! Tina will discuss ways to get the most out of google so you can find your holy grail.

Grandma Nellie's Scrapbook: Identifying and Interpreting Historic Photographs

Many people become heirs to a box of unidentified family photos and have no clue what to do with them. Tina will offer solutions for identifying these 'lost' family members by teaching attendees how to use genealogy sources in conjunction with observational techniques.

Great Lakes Regional Archives: how to get the most out of your visit

The Great Lakes Regional Archives in Chicago has a wealth of genealogical information for family history researchers of all levels. Resources, both onsite and online, can provide new avenues to further your family tree. Onsite Record Collections include hundreds of 20th century city directories not found online, naturalizations, court papers, maritime records and Native American genealogical resources. The National Archives online offer millions of digitized records including photographs, maps, letters and much more. Come discover what the National Archives has to offer the family historian!

Illinois County Resources Primer

With 102 counties in Illinois, there are hundreds of locations scattered across the state where significant records collections live. Tina will help you sift through these repositories to find county resources pertinent to your Illinois ancestors including vital records, land patents, school censuses, justice of the peace records and more.

Illinois Digital Resources

There are several Illinois websites for finding your Land of Lincoln ancestors. From CARLI to IDA, Tina will show you how to find maps, newspapers, phonebooks, company magazines, yearbooks and more. Illinois has it all! Learn how to dig into these online resources and get to know your Illinois ancestors.

Internet Archive for the Family Historian

The Internet Archive website has become a must-visit site for genealogy and history, but how do you know you're getting the most out of your search? Tina will help you navigate Internet Archive by showing you how to effectively use their advanced search features, featured collections and the WayBack Machine and to get the most out of your user experience.

Irish in Chicago

Millions of Chicagoans claim Irish descent. From the Southside to the Northside, the Irish legacy is as ubiquitous as the Chicago city flag. Tina will walk you through some collections, both online and in person, that are available for tracing your Chicago Irish, plus showcase some useful 'off-the-beaten-path' collections in archives and repositories around the city.

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Military Genealogy Online: Digital Resources from the American Revolution to Now

Each year new military record collections become available online. Tina will show you where to look and what types of records are available for tracing your ancestor's military service. Records from the American Revolution to WWII will be discussed as well as sources for modern records.

Maps and Trails: Common Migration Paths from the 17th Through 19th Centuries

Our ancestors traveled as much, if not more, than we do today. Explore what types of transportation and trails your ancestor's might have used to help you trace their whereabouts across the United States.

Mapping Your Migrating Ancestors

Tina will discuss the usefulness of different types of maps including aerial and birdseye maps as well as cadastral, enumeration, and fire insurance maps. She will give suggestions on how to trace your ancestors using land records available through multiple government agencies such as local and county tax assessors, county clerks, circuit court offices, and land use departments. Tina will also provide suggestions on how to track resources using non-governmental sources like libraries, archives and historical societies.

Navigating the Illinois State Archives System

The Illinois State Archives and regional repositories contain hundreds of thousands of documents retelling the history of Illinois and its citizenry. Tina will describe how the regional archives system works; the types of documents housed in each facility; and how to obtain records for next to nothing!

Newspaper Necessities

Newspapers hold an astounding amount of genealogical and local history information other than obituaries. Learn how to find the hidden gems in newspapers like claim day notices, cards of thanks, society news, tax notices and more. Learn how to locate digital copies of original newspapers as well as what online indexes and abstracts exist.

Old MacDonald Had a Farm

Farm records can be an insightful tool for understanding your ancestor's place in the world. Were they wealthy, prosperous farmers or scratch farming to survive? Agricultural census, land records and mortgage books, court records, farm directories, newspapers, and personal ledgers and diaries can each provide an additional layer of insight into your family tree.

Our Family Soundtrack: Conducting Oral History Interviews

Have you ever wished you had recorded the sound of your grandfather's voice? Are you interested in interviewing your family, but don't know where to start? Tina will show you how to set up an oral history interview, what equipment to use, and the types of questions to ask. Hear about some useful tips and tricks to getting the most out of your experience.

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Pins & Needles: Adding Social Media to Your Genealogy Repertoire

Many of us have used Facebook to find distant cousins and former high school friends. When it comes to Genealogy, lots of social media sites are popping up to help make searching for ancestors' fun. Join us for a fun session on using sites like Pinterest, Flickr, Instagram and more to find, identify and share ancestors.

****Play Ball!**

Did your ancestor play sports either professionally or as a hobby? Whether they played professional hockey or simply beer league baseball, lots of records were created from newspaper accounts to team rosters. Tina will show you where to look to track down your sports playing ancestor.

Preserving Family Heirlooms

Learn how to preserve valuable family documents, photos, fabrics and glass for future generations through proper storage and simple preservation techniques. Attendees will also get to test-drive products and hear preservation dos and don'ts for historic and modern scrap-books.

Virtual Version:

Preserving Family Heirlooms

Learn how to preserve valuable family documents, photos, fabrics and glass for future generations through proper storage and simple preservation techniques. Attendees will hear about archival products and discover preservation dos and don'ts for historic and modern scrap-books.

Recreating the Great War: Finding Military Service Information for your WWI Veteran

Many federal WWI personnel records were destroyed in a National Archives fire in the 1970s. Tina offers ways to locate copies of peripheral federal military records and provides solutions for recreating some of the lost history in these "fire" records by using local government documents, newspapers & base records.

Researching at the National Archives of Scotland

Planning a research trip to Scotland? Tina has had the pleasure of researching at the National Records Office in Edinburgh. She will give you the step by step instructions for planning an effective research trip including how to begin, what to bring and what to leave home.

Researching Military Records at the U.S. National Archives

Whether you are researching records at the National Archives in Washington D.C., the National Records Personnel Center in St. Louis, or regional archives like Great Lakes in Chicago, Tina has *boots-on-the-ground* experience in each location and offers tips and tricks for getting the most out of your research visit.

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Scotland's Resources: There's more to Scottish research than Scotlandspeople!

There are dozens of sites available to help you in your Scottish research; Scotlandspeople is just the tip of the iceberg! Sites like GenUKI, ScotlandsPlaces, SCAN and the National Library of Scotland are all free websites available to you from 'across the pond.'

**** Seems Phishy: Protecting Yourself and Your Genealogy Online**

Too often scammers, hackers and other nefarious actors trick us into revealing personal and financial data online, which leads to frustrating mountain of paperwork. Tina will walk you through how to protect your privacy, use secure passwords and identify fake emails and websites so you can search for your ancestors with less stress and more savvy!

Sensational Deaths and How to Find Them

Whether your ancestor died from a pandemic, accident, natural disaster or personal tragedy; each of these types of events created their own set of records. Tina will help you dig deeper into your ancestor's untimely demise by using print resources, media accounts and government records to uncover their story.

Spirit of St. Louis: Military & Civilian Records at the National Personnel Records Center

The National Records Personnel Center in St. Louis has many records pertinent to your soldier's service. OMPFs, Official Military Personnel Files, monthly regimental rolls, hospital records, military court martials and graves registration service files all offer clues into your veteran's military experience. NPRC also houses civilian and government employment files as well. Was your grandfather in the Civilian Conservation Corps? Was your mother Postmaster? These records are available as well! Tina will describe the types of information to be found in these records and how you can access them in person.

Tracing Your Presbyterian Ancestors

The Presbyterian church has been the center of the Scottish community for centuries; From birth to death; the Church oversaw private and public life including moral character, sacramental records, alms, subscriptions and transfers between churches. This level of records retention carried down through the American centuries to benefit researchers today.

Try-It Illinois: The magical treasure-trove offered once each fall!

Try-It Illinois, sponsored by the Illinois State Library, is available for 6 weeks each fall from October 1st to November 15th. Hundreds of databases are available to try for free giving the family historian unprecedented access to databases spanning all fields from Genealogy and history to business and science. A typical year includes access to sites like NewspaperArchive.com, Fold3, Historic Mapworks and so much more! Tina will walk you through how you can use these genealogy, and non-genealogy sites to trace your family tree.

Unlocking the Secrets of Your Family Tree

Discover the foundation and methodology behind successful genealogical research and learn how to start tracing your family history using documents and keepsakes you have in your attic and around your house.

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Unlocking the Treasures Within Midwest Archives and Repositories

The Midwest is blessed with a series of top-notch repositories, museums and archives. Tina will highlight some of types of materials available and the best places to research your Midwest ancestors including Allen County Public Library, Ohio History Connection, Wisconsin State Historical Society, Newberry Library, Mid-Continent Public Library and the Indiana Historical Society.

Using State Adjutant General Records in Your Military Research

Adjutant General's Records offer compelling details of everyday military life for millions of American soldiers from the Civil War to World War I. These records were kept by each state by order of the Governor and offer meaningful insight into daily military operations at the company, unit and regimental level. Records include muster rolls, monthly regimental reports, promotions, discharges, reenlistments, casualty reports and more. Tina explains what records are available at several Midwest archives including Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Nebraska and Wisconsin.

Will County Illinois Resources

Will County is one of the hardest counties to research out of the 102 counties in Illinois. Government records are housed in multiple locations and many historically significant collections live in various universities, archives and historical societies scattered across the county. Tina will help you dig into these records, and help you find the information on your family from school records, to land surveyor maps, to justice of the peace records and much more.

Writing Your Story

Who would you trust to tell your story after you're gone? Genealogists tend to jump into researching our parents or grandparents. Few of us think to start with ourselves. No one knows you, better than YOU! You don't need to be Ernest Hemingway to write down your memories. Tina will give you tips and writing prompts to help you tell your story.

History Lectures

1990 Plainfield, Joliet, Crest Hill Tornado: Reflections on a Storm

A devastating EF-5 tornado ripped through Plainfield, Joliet and Crest Hill the afternoon of August 28, 1990 killing 29 people, seriously wounding over 300 and causing over 165 million dollars' worth of damage. Tina discusses the cause of the storm, how it impacted residents, and how these communities came together to rebuild and move on in the face of tragedy.

Celebrating 50 Years along the Lincoln Highway 1913-1963

Join Tina on a virtual trip along the historic Lincoln Highway from Aurora through Oswego to Plainfield, Illinois. Come hear stories of the roadway's construction, history, and notable sites along the way. Stories include the nationally-designated "Auto Row," and the Lincoln Highway Shelter at Philips Park, in Aurora,

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The Lincolnway Barbershop and Corke's Confectionary in Plainfield, plus the rise and fall of the mom & pop gas stations and motels along the way.

Compassion, Peace and Justice: Presbyterian Church Structure & History

Historically there have been several branches of the Presbyterian Church since its inception in Scotland during the Reformation in 1560. For centuries the church was prone to schism. Tina will explain how the church has evolved and break down how the Presbyterian Church works in the U.S. from the General Assembly, to elders, to worshipers.

Making History Relevant

Many historians and genealogists lament the 'death' of history in the cyber age. The opposite is true! Museums and societies of all sizes are using innovative and engaging ways to make history fun! Tina will suggest new strategies and techniques for capturing your communities' attention and engage with history lovers of all ages in profitable and exciting ways.

McAllister's Battery: a History of the 1st Illinois Light Artillery Co. D during the Civil War

Edward McAllister was one of the first Illinois Captains recruited at the outbreak of war in April 1861. Learn more about this exceptional unit and their heroic efforts to preserve the Union; from the battle of Shiloh (Pittsburg Landing) to the siege of Vicksburg to the hell on Kennesaw Mountain. McAllister's Battery weathered the storm and helped win the war.

Pandemic 1918! Fighting Influenza During the Great War

More than thirty percent of Americans were estimated to have contracted the Spanish Influenza in 1918 and millions of people lost their lives. Explore the timeline of the outbreak and hear tales of how the U.S. Army, Navy and civilian population centers tried desperately to combat the disease. Discover resources for tracing your influenza victims through newspapers, government records, medical journals, hospital registers and more.

Scottish Chain Migration to Illinois: three case studies

Scottish immigrants fled their ancestral lands for different reasons. Tina will talk about three distinct settlements; Tamarack, Argyle, and Lost Prairie, and discuss the reasons behind why they left Scotland and how they arrived in Illinois.

Scottish Covenanters to the U.S. 1680-1780

Hundreds of "Scots Worthies" were cast out of Scotland to the Colonies during the Killing Time (1680–1688) and many more left in the years that followed. Religious freedom was at the heart of battle between the Scottish Presbyterian Covenanters and the British Crown. Many of those men and their families arrived in the U.S. Learn clues to tracking down these families using UK and US sources.

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A Sense of Place: The History of Tamarack Settlement

Tamarack Scottish settlement was founded in 1844 half way between Aurora and Plainfield, Illinois. Enjoy tales of how, from nothing, they built a community that is still thriving 160 years after the first plow tamed the wild prairie. Experience what life was like at Tamarack through the years. Hear how a strong sense of community and bond with the church affected their lives and shaped their decisions.

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