

Further Detail About Available Sessions

NOTE: Be sure to use session numbers to indicate the order of preference for the sessions you wish to attend at the Family History Discovery day. Put them in order of preference on your registration sheet, and mail that to the address shown on the form. For additional information on the presenters, see the "Presenters" attachment.

1. **Getting Started in Genealogy** – Dr. Sandra Stratford

Genealogy and family history research can be addictive! In this session participants will be provided an overview of the basic tools and strategies for genealogy and family history research, along with a description of the major record types and ways to access the records.

2. **Basic FamilySearch** – Christopher Schmink

This session will provide those attending with a basic overview of FamilySearch, the very popular and free Family Tree program available to everyone for free. It will cover how to establish an account, privacy of data submitted (particularly living persons), how to navigate your tree in multiple and helpful ways, and even how to easily upload documents and photos to the specific pages of your family members. More advanced use of FamilySearch will be presented in class #6 below.

3. **Using Census Records** – Linda McCardle

Did your ancestor own a radio in 1930? Where were your ancestor's parents born? The U.S. Federal Census can help answer many questions and give valuable clues about your ancestors. In this session you will learn valuable tips on using the census to further your family research.

4. **Exploring the Courthouse** – Linda McCardle

Does a visit to the county courthouse where your ancestors lived overwhelm you? In this session you will learn how to explore records that can be found in the courthouse along with a few legal terms that might aid in your family search.

5. **Cemetery Research** – Jane Brady

Cemeteries can provide lots of information for genealogists. The class will explore a variety of cemetery-related topics, including types of graves, what's on the tombstone, cemetery etiquette, and burial records (including a brief look at Findagrave.com). There will also be a brief section on nineteenth century burial customs.

6. **Advanced FamilySearch** – Raymond Smith

This class will provide information on multiple aspects of using FamilySearch beyond simply building a basic tree. Major topics covered will include "Memories" (photos, audio and video items you can include in your family history and how to attach them to our ancestors' pages), personal histories, "Sources" and how to attach them (two ways), types of searches to include searching without full data; searching by location, searching with "wild cards." and accessing the main Family History Library (Salt Lake) on line. If there is time, other items may also be covered or sources for further information will be provided (don't forget the "Wiki"!).

7. **Web Resources for Genealogy** – Callie McGinnis

In addition to FamilySearch and Ancestry.com, there are many other online resources that can provide genealogical information about your ancestor. Discussion in this session will include a few of these sources – some free and some by subscription. Sources will include Google, Genealogybank, Chronicling America, FindaGrave, the Georgia Archives Virtual Vault, USGenWeb, Genuki and others.

8. **Local Resources** – Kathy Turton and David Owings

In this session participants learn about the collections available at both the Columbus Public Library as well as the Columbus State University Archives, highlighting some of the significant sources for genealogists and family historians. You'll hear about Sanborn maps, city directories, death indexes, manuscript collections and other interesting local resources available at these repositories.

9. **Ancestry.com** – Callie McGinnis

The ads on TV make searching Ancestry.com look so easy – but once you start searching, you realize there's a lot more to it than just typing in your ancestors' names. This session will give an overview of Ancestry.com, highlighting its major collections and giving important tips on how to search this resource. NOTE: Ancestry.com is **available for free** to anyone when used at the Family History Center or the Columbus Public Library – a subscription fee is not required there.

10. **Using Family Trees at Ancestry.com** – Dr. Sandra Stratford

In this session you will learn how to create and manage your own tree and how to navigate public trees at Ancestry.com. Family Trees can be created through free registered guest accounts or paid Ancestry memberships.

11. **Your Family Story** – Linda McCardle

Every family has a story. Here you will explore ways to uncover your family history through primary resources and various ways to share your story with others.

12. **DNA and Genealogy** - Dr. Brian Schwartz

The presentation will provide an introduction to DNA and its use in solving genealogical puzzles. DNA is a connection between you and your ancestors, and DNA tests can provide hints about your family history. But do these tests work? We will explore the nature of DNA and its role in inheritance, along with how changes in DNA provide variation that can be used in genealogy. What are SNPs and STRs? What's the difference between a Y-DNA test and an Autosomal Test? These are all good questions that can be asked and answered in this session.

13. **FamilyTreeDNA Test Results** – Dr. Sandra Stratford

FamilyTreeDNA (one of the companies offering DNA testing) offers Y-DNA, mtDNA, and Autosomal DNA testing, all of which can assist in determining family relationships. Experienced DNA genealogist Dr. Sandra Stratford will explain the purpose of each test and look briefly at sample test results. Focus will be primarily on the Family Finder Autosomal Test.

14. **Interpreting Your Ancestry DNA Results** – Dr. Brian Schwartz

What can you learn and how can you use Ancestry's DNA test results? This session will present interesting examples to explore how various reports from Ancestry DNA can be used to generate and answer questions about your family tree. You'll see how Ancestry DNA test results linked to an Ancestry.com family tree will connect you to ancestors, along with living relatives who might know things you don't know.

15. **Your Revolutionary War Ancestor** – Amie Torok and Dr. Hugh Rodgers

Do you have a Revolutionary War Patriot in your family tree? Find out how to do the research to trace your lineage to the time of American Independence through available on- and off-line resources. You may wish to honor your ancestor through membership in one of the patriotic lineage societies. Information will be provided on the application process for membership in SAR and DAR.

16. **Latter-day Saint Family History Youth Session** – Melissa Carroll and Mitzi Abalos

This session is designed specifically for youth members (12-17) of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and their leaders. It will explore specific topics related to how youth can significantly add to their own family trees and also learn more about who their ancestors were beyond just the basics of names, dates, and places. Youth leaders are strongly encouraged to attend with their youth.

17. **African-American Research** – Diane Evans

Many African-Americans are reluctant to do family history research because of the belief that records don't exist before the American Civil War. Come and see what is available; you might find more information than you would expect! This session will focus on beginning African-American genealogy and family history research.

18. **Finding and Using Unindexed Records** – Callie McGinnis

There are many sources on Ancestry.com and FamilySearch which aren't indexed – or not completely indexed. Participants will learn how to access these sources and search them. The primary focus will be on probate records, which frequently contain important information on familial relationships. The session will also explore digitized family and county histories.