



Elizabeth Swanay O'Neal ***Lectures for 2023***

Unless otherwise stated, all lectures are 1-hour in length, including a Q & A session at the end, and can be presented in person or via webinar online. Each program includes a slide presentation and accompanying handout.

For more information, please contact Elizabeth via email at elizabeth@thefamilyheart.com.

Genetic Genealogy

What to Know Before You Take a DNA Test: A Beginner's Guide

Genetic genealogy is a hot topic, with more and more people purchasing DNA kits to learn about their ancestry each day. But how do you know where to begin? And will your privacy be protected? Avoid wasting your time and money: learn how DNA is inherited, which type of DNA test to take to answer your genealogical questions, what you can expect to get back as a result, and how your privacy is handled at the various DNA testing companies.

Lineage Societies

How to Successfully Apply a Lineage Society

You've finally decided that this is the year you will apply to the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Mayflower Society, or other lineage society of choice. But... how do you begin? Find out what steps you can take to prepare a successful application before you start filling it out.

What You Can Learn from Lineage Societies... Without Being a Member!

Lineage societies have been collecting and preserving family histories for more than 125 years. Did you know that some of these resources are available online for free? And you don't even need to be a member to take advantage of them! From the databases and documents of the DAR to simple lists of pioneers and soldiers: this presentation will show you the gems that are available online and how to find them.

Methodology

10 Places to Search for An Ancestor's Death Date... Without a Death Certificate – NEW! (45 minutes)

Not every ancestor left a death certificate, even after death registrations were required by the states. But don't give up hope! You may be able to find an ancestor's death date using these 10 great resources.

Find Your Family with Fire Insurance Maps (20 minutes)

Fire insurance maps – such as those made by the Sanborn Company – are an amazing tool for researching the cities and towns where our ancestors lived! Find out what fire insurance maps are, how to use them for family history research, and where to find them online.

Strategies for Brick Wall Busting

Have you been doing the same thing over and over again, expecting different results? Then it's time for you to think "outside the box!" This class will feature a variety of tips and strategies for thinking creatively about your genealogy research.

Military

Great-Grandpa Wore Gray: Researching Your Confederate Ancestor

Confederate ancestors may be more difficult – and controversial – to research than their Union counterparts, but that doesn't mean you should overlook the records they left behind. Bringing your Confederate ancestors' military service to life will give you a better understanding of why they served and what life was like for them. From their service records to the pensions they may have received, learn how and where to find Confederate records.

Resources for Researching Your War of 1812 Ancestor Online

The War of 1812 may be a "forgotten war" for some, but many valuable genealogical resources were created as a result of this conflict. Could your ancestor have been involved in America's second Revolutionary War? Find out which resources are available to bring your War of 1812 ancestor's service to life.

Organization

Finally Get Organized: Conquer the Clutter Using Your Natural Learning Style – NEW!

Have you tried organizing your family history documents, photos, and digital files, but you just can't find a system that you can stick to? Start organizing according to your natural learning style! This talk will help you identify your specific learning style and will share brain- and research-based organizing strategies for each style. *Learn how you learn* so you can finally get organized with the right system for YOU!

Technology & Social Media

An Introduction to Using WordPress to Build a Blog or Website – NEW!

WordPress is a free open-source software system used by millions of people around the world to create beautiful blogs and websites. But WordPress also has a reputation for having a bit of a learning curve, especially for new users who are just getting started with the platform. Whether you are an absolute beginner, or someone who needs a refresher, this webinar will help reduce the “overwhelm” by showing you how quick and easy it is to get started building your website with WordPress!

Get Started Blogging Your Family History

Have you thought about starting your own genealogy blog, but weren't quite sure how to do it? More than 3,400 genealogists are already blogging their family history, and it has never been easier for you to get started! Blogging not only lets you share your research with other family members, but it also helps potential cousins to find you — and who knows what information they may have to share!

Shoot Like a Pro: How to Record Quality Videos Using Your Mobile Device

You don't need a fancy camera or expensive software to record amazing videos. In fact, professional photographers are shooting cinema-quality videos with just a smartphone... and you can do it, too! This class will feature the newest and most popular resources for recording professional-quality videos. Learn how to gain control of your mobile device's camera in ways you never thought possible and record beautiful videos that your family will want to watch.

How to Use eBay, Etsy, and Other Shopping Sites for Family History

Your family treasures could be waiting to be found on popular online sales and auction sites like eBay, Etsy, Craigslist, and others. While many people use sites like these to find collectibles at a reasonable price, they can also be used to enhance your family history research. In this session, you will learn how to locate family heirlooms using effective

search strategies, how to work with sellers, and how to make a purchase or participate in an auction. Additionally, you will learn how to use these sites as a family history research tool... without spending a dime!

Research at the Library... Without Leaving Home!

Are you looking for books about your family history? You may be able to find them without leaving the comfort of your home! Millions of books have already been digitized and are free to use, as well as download to your personal library. Learn where to find the best digital book collections, how to strategically search them, and how to save your finds to your computer or cloud storage for later reference.