

2016 Abrams Foundation Family History Seminar
Friday, July 8 - Saturday, July 9
Archives of Michigan

Featuring Amy Johnson Crow, CG

Welcome to the Abrams Foundation Family History Seminar, featuring Amy Johnson Crow and hosted by the Archives of Michigan and the Michigan Genealogical Council.

Seminar attendees will have the opportunity to pick from a variety of outstanding speakers and family history topics over the two-day event. Here is the program schedule:

Friday, July 8

1:00 – 1:45p

A. **Digitization Tour**

Go behind-the-scenes at the Archives of Michigan to learn how staff scan, index, and make digital collections available through Seeking Michigan.

B. **Archives of Michigan Tour**

Join the Archives of Michigan staff for a behind-the-scenes tour of the collections, including original manuscript records and the Abrams Foundation Historical Collection.

2:00 – 3:00p

C. **Becoming American: Research with Naturalization Records**

– Kris Rzepczynski, Archives of Michigan

This program will explore naturalization records, the many tools available to assist you in your research, and successful strategies to locate citizenship records, utilizing both online and print resources.

D. **Becoming a Genealogy NINJA: A New Look at Research Methodology & Brick Walls**

– Daniel Earl, MS

This lecture will introduce learners to the NINJA approach to doing genealogical research (Needs, Investigation, Notation, Justification, and Assessment) and will utilize real-world examples to demonstrate how the NINJA method can overcome the brick walls in your genealogy research.

E. **Law Resources in Genealogy**

– Janice Selberg, Library of Michigan

A look at finding and understanding court records, including an explanation of equity courts, records and briefs, private laws, and the arrangement of federal and state statutes. This program will also discuss the language of wills, trusts and other legal documents through an early example.

3:15 – 4:15p

F. **Our Town: Researching Your Ancestors with County and History Books**

– Jessica Harden, Archives of Michigan

County histories can be an invaluable tool for researching ancestors who were early residents of an area. Researchers can find biographical sketches and learn about what day-to-day life may have been like. This program will give an overview of where to find county histories in print and online and how to best utilize them in your research.

G. **Ethics and Etiquette in Genealogy Research**

– Gail Hershenzon, Woodmere Cemetery (Detroit, MI)

What happens when you post your family research on a public website? What can you expect from public places when doing research? What information are you entitled to and what is off limits? These and other questions are dealt with in this PowerPoint presentation.

H. **Locating Living Relatives: The Challenges of 20th and 21st Century Research**

– Bethany Waterbury, Professional researcher

Living relatives can be a treasure trove of information, including photos, diaries, bibles and even DNA. Yet identifying and locating living relatives can be a challenge, as the techniques used and records available for 20th and 21st century research are often quite different. Learn how to utilize both online and paper record sources to find those long lost cousins.

Saturday, July 9:

9:30 – 10:45a

I. **What Do You Mean There's No Record?! Using Vital Record Substitutes**

– Amy Johnson Crow, CG, MLS

How do we research ancestors if there are no vital records for the area? Learn about sources that may be at least as good as traditional vital records.

11:00a – 12:00p

J. **Exploring Detroit at the Archives of Michigan**

– Jill Arnold, Archives of Michigan

The Archives of Michigan has received numerous collections from Detroit in the last five years, including case files from the Detroit Recorders' Court, news clippings from the *Detroit News* and *Detroit Free Press*, and assessor cards from the City of Detroit. This program will explore those collections and how best to maximize your research in them.

K. **Little-Known & Rarely-Used Google Resources & Search Tips**

– Katherine Willson, Researcher & lecturer

Many genealogists barely scratch the surface of what Google has to offer. This presentation offers tips & techniques for doing more efficient research utilizing Google's full capabilities, and discusses Google Alerts, Google Books, Google Translation and additional Google resources that are crucial to genealogical research.

L. **Cluster Research (Or Discovering You're Related to the Whole Block)**

– Jessica Trotter, Researcher & blogger

As Aristotle noted, “Man is by nature a social animal” – he has family, society, and throughout history, he has moved with them. This session offers tips, tricks, and examples of how researching the neighbors and neighborhood can further your research.

1:00 – 2:00p

M. Researching Your Civil War Ancestors Online

– Amy Johnson Crow, CG, MLS

The Internet provides some very exciting and useful opportunities to learn more about Civil War ancestors. Learn what’s available, where to find it, and how to use it.

2:30 – 3:30p

N. Continuing Your Ancestral Search Offline

– Kris Rzepczynski, Archives of Michigan

Despite the ever-increasing amount of information available online, researchers still need to utilize libraries, archives, courthouses, cemeteries, and other locations. This program will explore resources not typically found online as well as onsite research strategies for identifying and locating them.

O. Research That Made Me LOL

– Jim Jackson, Professional researcher

Attorneys, clerks, enumerators and sextons really do have a sense of humor. And when you take millions of people from all walks of life, mix them up with bureaucracy and throw in foreign accents, the results are unpredictable.

P. Skeletons in the Closet: Discovering a Difficult Past

– Matthew LaFlash, Researcher

Every family has skeletons in the closet. This case study addresses the challenges of uncovering a difficult past and examines the process used to identify the father of a girl born out of wedlock, with only a profession and nationality as a starting point.

Registration:

- Registration is \$60. This includes full attendance for the seminar, a boxed lunch on Saturday, and a seminar syllabus loaded on a flash drive. Registration opens one hour before each day’s first event.

2016 Abrams Foundation Family History Seminar Registration Form

To register, please fill out this form and mail to:

Michigan History Foundation
P.O. Box 12331
Lansing, MI 48901

Please make check payable to: Michigan History Foundation.

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Name on Badge: _____

Seminar: \$60 _____

Amount enclosed: _____

Registration includes a boxed lunch on Saturday. Each lunch comes with a sandwich, chips, cookie, and drink. Please circle one:

Grand Traverse Club Ham & Swiss Roast Beef & Swiss Mediterranean Veggie

Programs (please circle one for each time slot):

Fri., 7/8: **1:00** A B **2:00** C D E **3:15** F G H

Sat., 7/9: **9:30** I **11:00** J K L **1:00** M **2:30** N O P

For more information, please contact the Archives of Michigan at (517) 373-3559 or by email at archives@michigan.gov.