

Family History Month

October 2025

WELCOME TO Family History Month 2025!

The Genealogy Center is delighted to offer daily activities to inspire you to pursue, preserve, and present your family stories. Don't miss our virtual programs—registration links can be found toward the bottom of the Genealogy Center's website at [genealogycenter.org](https://www.genealogycenter.org), under the "Genealogy Events" section. Join us on this exciting journey of discovery and celebration!

To learn more, call The Genealogy Center at (260) 421-1225, or email us at genealogy@acpl.info.

Please note that all event times listed in this program are ET.



Notable Special Events

CHASING GHOSTS: THE STORY OF THE GHOST ARMY RECEIVING THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL

More information on page 3

This is a truly fascinating story of how talented young men showed stealth and cunning in WWII. The Ghost Army was a top-secret unit of more than one thousand men that were charged with simulating two military divisions by using visual, sonic, and radio deception to fool German forces during critical times in the last year of the Second World War. This presentation dovetails nicely with an amazing exhibit of Ghost Army artifacts at the Fort Wayne Museum of Art through October 26, 2025.

TRANSFORM YOUR ACTIVITY CALENDAR & REALLY STAND OUT: INNOVATIVE TOOLS TO BOOST JOY, ENGAGEMENT, AND REMINISCENCE IN ELDERCARE

More information on page 4

Discover what's new in the eldercare space, explore how innovative technology can spark connection, and join meaningful conversations about shifting the focus from "care" to "thriving." You'll also learn about Photo Reminiscence Therapy and the life-enriching programs from Vivid-Pix that are transforming engagement for older adults. Plus, connect with the Library-at-Home team and Genealogy Center staff to uncover additional resources that could be truly game-changing for your residents or loved ones.

DIFFER WE MUST: HOW LINCOLN SUCCEEDED IN A DIVIDED AMERICA" WITH STEVE INSKEEP, AUTHOR, JOURNALIST, AND HOST OF NPR'S MORNING EDITION.

More information on page 7

From journalist and historian Steve Inskeep, a compelling and nuanced exploration of the political acumen of Abraham Lincoln via sixteen encounters before and during his presidency. This is the Friends of the Lincoln Collection's 2025 noted McMurtry Lecture. All tickets have been claimed, but you can still be part of the event! A Standby line, Overflow Room, and online livestream will be available. One County One Book also features a variety of additional opportunities.

MAKING THE RECORDS TALK WITH TIMOTHY PINNICK AND JANIS FORTE

More information on page 13

Making the Records Talk will feature African American research experts, Timothy Pinnick and Janis Forte. Tim will present *Toolbox Building I: Eight Essential African American Resources* and *Toolbox Building II: Fifty Noteworthy Books for the African American Researcher* in the morning while Janis will present *Seven Proven Strategies for Identifying Slave Ownership & Reconstructing Slave Era Families* and *They're Not on the Census: Using Non-Traditional Sources to Identify Slave Holders*. This information-packed day will offer much to beginning and more experienced researchers alike.



WELCOME TO FAMILY HISTORY MONTH

WITH ACPL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SUSAN P. BAIER

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1 • FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM

Wednesday, October 1

CHASING GHOSTS: THE STORY OF THE GHOST ARMY RECEIVING THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL

Presented by **Rick Beyer**

6-7 PM

Main Library Theater

*This program is presented with support
from Bill Blass Legacy, Inc.*



Join in person. Registration
is required for this free
event. Scan the code or
visit [acpl.libnet.info/
event/14574282](https://acpl.libnet.info/event/14574282).

This is a truly fascinating story of how talented young men showed stealth and cunning in WWII. The Ghost Army was a top-secret unit of more than one thousand men that was charged with simulating two military divisions by using visual, sonic, and radio deception to fool German forces during critical times in the last year of the Second World War. This presentation dovetails nicely with an amazing exhibit of Ghost Army artifacts at the Fort Wayne Museum of Art through October 26, 2025.

Fort Wayne's own world-renowned designer, Bill Blass, was a member of the Ghost Army. Bill joined the army in 1942, and became a member of the 603rd Engineer Camouflage Battalion, which eventually became known as the Ghost Army. The battalion's sole mission was to deceive the Germans about the location and strength of American troops on battlefields across Europe. Bill and his fellow soldiers designed and produced elaborate ploys, including inflatable tanks, trucks, jeeps, and airplanes, as well as sound trucks, phony radio transmissions, and temporary campsites. These deceptions provided critical support as the Allied front lines moved eastward after D-Day luring German forces away from the fighting units' true locations.

The presenter, Rick Beyer, is an award-winning documentary filmmaker, best-selling author, and long-time history enthusiast. He produced and directed the award-winning PBS documentary *The Ghost Army*, and is the co-author of *The Ghost Army of World War II*. He has spent decades researching and telling the story of the unit, and worked hard to have the Ghost Army awarded a Congressional Gold Medal. Hear the story at this presentation.

Photo from The Ghost Army Legacy Project



Thursday, October 2

DNA & GENEALOGY INTEREST GROUP

Presented by **Sara Allen**

6:30–7:30 PM
Genealogy Center

Join us on Thursday, October 2, at 6:30 p.m. at the Main Library's Genealogy Center for our in-person DNA & Genealogy Interest Group.

We'll meet in the Discovery Center. Bring your questions and join the discussion—everyone is welcome!



Friday, October 3

TRANSFORM YOUR ACTIVITY CALENDAR & REALLY STAND OUT: INNOVATIVE TOOLS TO BOOST JOY, ENGAGEMENT, AND REMINISCENCE IN ELDERCARE

9–4 PM

Main Library Theater

An in-person program in partnership with Vivid-Pix and the ACPL Genealogy Center.

This full-day experience is designed for activity directors in senior living communities, professionals working in the aging services field, and family caregivers supporting loved ones at home.

Discover what's new in the eldercare space, explore how innovative technology can spark connection, and join meaningful conversations about shifting the focus from "care" to "thriving." You'll also learn about Photo Reminiscence Therapy and the life-enriching programs from Vivid-Pix that are transforming engagement for older adults. Plus, connect with the Library-at-Home team and Genealogy Center staff to uncover additional resources that could be truly game-changing for your residents or loved ones.

The morning will open with a focus on brain health featuring Dr. Joshua Freitas, Ph.D., who is the Chief Research Officer for CERTUS Senior Living. He is a passionate Lifestyle Medicine enthusiast specializing in cognitive sciences and aging. With expertise in transformative gerontology and aging neuroscience, he leads special initiatives in dementia care through innovative research, education, and non-pharmacological approaches.

The afternoon will feature discussions on aging well with Dr. Charlotte Yeh, M.D. Charlotte has been recognized for her commitment to patient care with such honors as the 2024 Academy of Geriatric Medicine Gerson Sanders Award and a place among Modern Healthcare's 50 Most Influential Clinical Executives in 2021. Her career spans the healthcare ecosystem, as an emergency physician, working for a payer, the government, and AARP in the private sector. She is a former member of the Dementia Discovery Fund Scientific Advisory Board, The Schwartz Center for Compassionate Care, and the HLTH Foundation Techquity for Health Coalition.

Participants will also learn from 2024 American Business Award *Maverick of the Year*, Rick Voight, CEO and Co-Founder of Vivid-Pix and Publisher of *Reunions* magazine, about the engaging offerings of Vivid-Pix in the eldercare space. Rick is a lifelong photography and imaging visionary with leading photography companies such as Hewlett-Packard and Kodak. Vivid-Pix invents and harnesses technology to bring back precious memories thought to be long gone due to the passage of time or cognitive decline. By focusing on stories and listening, their solutions make it simple and affordable for consumers, families and organizations to relive memories.



Join in person or virtually. Registration is required for this free event. Scan the code or visit acpl.libnet.info/event/14479897.

RESEARCHING SIDES OF YOUR FAMILY

Friday, October 3
Facebook & Instagram

Take our poll!

Which side of your family have you researched more?

- Maternal
- Paternal
- Both equally
- Neither yet—just getting started!

Share in the comments!

Saturday, October 4

BUILDING A NATION, ONE BLOCK AT A TIME: A WALKING TOUR OF WILLIAMS- WOODLAND PARK

Presented by **Elizabeth Hodges**

10:30 AM–NOON

*This program is given in partnership
with the Allen County Committee for
America250.*

Celebrate America250 by discovering how the story of a single home can reveal the lives of its residents, the spirit of a neighborhood, and the changing history of a nation. Join Elizabeth Hodges, Assistant Manager of Genealogy Services and member of the Allen County America250 Committee, for a walking tour of the Williams-Woodland Park Historic District. Along the way, you'll see real historical records—census entries, deeds, maps, photos, newspapers, and more—that bring to life the families who lived in these homes and the world they inhabited. Learn how genealogical and historical research can transform bricks and mortar into vibrant, personal stories that connect us to the past—and to each other.

Meeting Place: Templo Aposento Alto Church, 307 W Woodland Ave., Fort Wayne, IN. Please dress comfortably for walking outside.



Join in person or virtually. Registration is required for this free event. Scan the code or visit acpl.libnet.info/event/14480997.

STORYTELLING SUNDAY

Sunday, October 5
Facebook & Instagram

Start Small, Start Real

Not sure how to tell your family's story? Just start with ONE detail. Write one paragraph about a family photo, record, or memory. That's all it takes to begin.

Tip: Set a timer for 10 minutes and write whatever comes to mind. No pressure. Just story.

Prompt: What's one photo, memory, or moment you wish more people in your family remembered?



VIRTUAL CEMETERY TOUR

THE CATHOLIC CEMETERY

MONDAY, OCTOBER 6 • SOCIAL MEDIA

Join us each Monday on Facebook and Instagram as we explore the trials, tribulations, and triumphs of those resting in Fort Wayne's Catholic Cemetery.

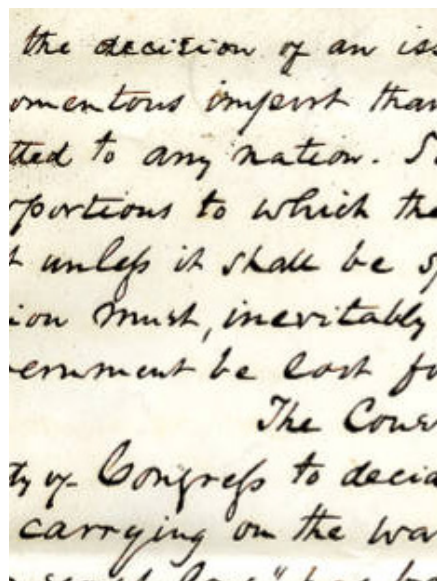
Tuesday, October 7

UNLOCKING THE PAST WITH TRANSKRIBUS: AI TOOLS FOR GENEALOGY AND HISTORICAL RESEARCH

Presented by **Helene Prokop**

2:30–3:30 PM

Virtual Program



Transkribus is the leading platform for the automatic recognition of text and the extraction of information from historical documents.

However, it is not just a technology—it is also a tool that bridges the gap between manuscripts and the digital world, between history and algorithms. Transkribus opens up new possibilities for working with handwritten materials, whether you are exploring family history, researching local heritage or preserving archival collections.

The platform's advanced AI models can recognize a wide range of languages and historical scripts, helping users to convert handwritten sources into accessible digital texts while saving time and improving accuracy.

In this session, Helene Prokop from the Transkribus team will guide you through the platform's key features, including how to upload documents, apply AI models for automatic transcription, and train custom models tailored to your specific needs. You'll learn practical tips to streamline your research process and make your historical documents more accessible and searchable.

Helene Prokop is the Communications Team Lead at Transkribus. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Media Management and a Master's degree in Contemporary History and Media, and has attended courses in Ancient History, Linguistics, and Korean Studies. Since joining Transkribus in 2023, Helene has been able to combine her academic background and passion for history with a mission to make historical texts more accessible.



Join virtually. Registration is required for this free event. Scan the code or visit acpl.libnet.info/event/14502623.

STORIES BEHIND THE SHELVES

Wednesday, October 8
Facebook & Instagram

Genealogy Center librarians share the unforgettable stories of their own ancestors—from war heroes to black sheep, pioneers to pranksters.

Discover the real-life characters who shaped their family trees and inspired their love of history.

The 2025 Annual R. Gerald McMurtry Lecture

DIFFER WE MUST HOW LINCOLN SUCCEEDED IN A DIVIDED AMERICA

Presented by author **Steve Inskeep**

Thursday, October 9 • 7 PM • Main Library Theater

From journalist and historian Steve Inskeep, a compelling and nuanced exploration of the political acumen of Abraham Lincoln via sixteen encounters before and during his presidency, bringing to light not only the strategy of a great politician who inherited a country divided, but lessons for our own disorderly present. This is the Friends of the Lincoln Collection's 2025 noted McMurtry Lecture, and is free and open to the public.

All tickets have been claimed. But you can still be a part of the event! A Standby line will form beginning at 6:30 p.m. on the night of the event. Any ticketed guests who have not checked in by 6:50 p.m. will have their tickets released to those in Standby. Standby will be released to the Theater in the order in which they are lined up. There is no guarantee that a seat will become available in the Theater. An Overflow Room will also be available the night of the event where guests can watch a live feed of the program. Overflow doors open at 6:30 p.m. This seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Livestreaming will also be available at the time of the event.



For more information about *One County One Book* and this event, scan the code or visit acpl.info/onecountyyonebook.

In-person tickets
SOLD OUT
Livestream
available

THIS EVENT IS SPONSORED BY



FRIENDS OF THE
LINCOLN
COLLECTION



FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

LIBRARY FOUNDATION

RECORDS FOR RESEARCH

Friday, October 10
Facebook & Instagram

Take our poll!

What's your favorite type of record to dig into?

- **Census records**
- **Military records**
- **Newspapers**
- **Vital Records**
(birth/marriage/death)

Share in the comments!

Saturday, October 11

CARING FOR YOUR FAMILY ARCHIVES

Presented by **Christina Clary**

2:30–4 PM
Genealogy Center

Do you have boxes of old photos, family letters, or cherished documents tucked away? Learn how to preserve your family history with this interactive, beginner-friendly workshop. You'll get practical tips on safe handling, storage, and organization of personal archives, and have the chance to try out preservation techniques yourself.



Join in person. Registration is required for this free event. Scan the code or visit acpl.libnet.info/event/14550516.



STORYTELLING SUNDAY

Sunday, October 12
Facebook & Instagram

A Time The Story Changed

Ever thought you knew a story—until a record said otherwise?

Prompt: When did a discovery change the way you understood your family?

VIRTUAL CEMETERY TOUR

THE CATHOLIC CEMETERY

MONDAY, OCTOBER 13 • SOCIAL MEDIA

Join us each Monday on Facebook and Instagram as we explore the trials, tribulations, and triumphs of those resting in Fort Wayne's Catholic Cemetery.

Tuesday, October 14

THE CURIOUS CALL OF PLACE: TELLING THE STORIES OF PEOPLE AND PLACES

Presented by **Rhonda Lauritzen**

2:30–3:30 PM
Virtual Program



Have you ever been drawn to the places of your ancestors or felt a curious ping of recognition when visiting? You are not alone. Ancestral homes and other buildings are important parts of the story, and researching them is a fun treasure hunt for context and details. This webinar will share practical resources to discover the history of your family's places. Follow a case study and learn a step-by-step process of where to look. Learn pro tips for in-person research at special collections and crowdsourcing. This presentation will inspire attendees with the power that ancestral places have a unique—and often uncanny—ability to strengthen our sense of connection.

Rhonda Lauritzen is a professional biographer who has written more than a dozen books and many building histories. These include nominations to the National Register of Historic Places. She is also an in-demand speaker at international conferences. Rhonda has an MBA, served as CEO of her family business, and was a state college VP for a decade. She has been hired to help tell the stories of families, nonprofits, and cities.



Join virtually. Registration is required for this free event. Scan the code or visit acpl.libnet.info/event/14502920.

STORIES BEHIND THE SHELVES

Wednesday, October 15
Facebook & Instagram

Genealogy Center librarians share the unforgettable stories of their own ancestors—from war heroes to black sheep, pioneers to pranksters.

Discover the real-life characters who shaped their family trees and inspired their love of history.

Thursday, October 16

DOCUMENTING YOUR SOURCES: THE KEY TO CREDIBLE GENEALOGY

Presented by
Megan Clark Young

6:30–7:30 PM
Virtual Program



Does the thought of documenting your sources seem daunting and tedious? Have you reviewed your own work, or someone else's, and not been able to determine the origin of the information? Learn why documentation is necessary for all genealogists, and strategies and tools to simplify source citations that meet current genealogy standards.

Megan Ann Clark Young (MACY) has spent the last 25 years researching her Scots-Irish, Swedish and German lines. She knocked down brick walls, digitized and shared boxes of family records, and learned a lot along the way.

She is employed full-time as a forensic genealogist and is currently "on the clock," working on her BCG portfolio.

Megan also spent more time than she cares to admit undoing mistakes she made early on. She hopes to help others avoid similar mistakes and has presented on various genealogy topics at the local, state, and national levels.



Join virtually. Registration is required for this free event. Scan the code or visit acpl.libnet.info/event/14503230.

FASCINATING ANCESTOR

Friday, October 17
Facebook & Instagram

Take our poll!

Who is the most fascinating ancestor you've discovered?

- **Revolutionary War Soldier**
- **Pioneer/Settler**
- **Immigrant Story**
- **Local Legend or Mystery Figure**

Share in the comments!

A DAY IN ALLEN COUNTY 2015

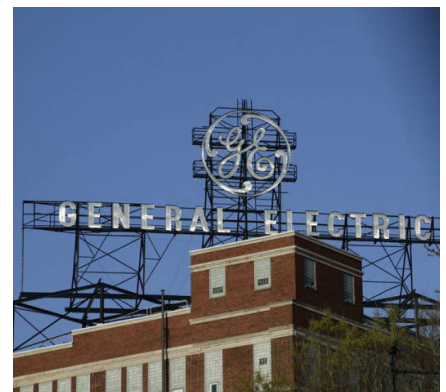
The Allen County Public Library received the community's help to document specific days in Allen County, Indiana. Here are some highlights from a decade ago!



Maypole on the courthouse lawn



25th Annual Putnam Co. Spelling Bee at Arts United Center



General Electric Sign

Friday, October 17

A Day of Virtual Learning in the Genealogy Space

provided by The Genealogy Network of Texas

These programs are provided by the Genealogy Network of Texas (GNT), an initiative to connect libraries/genealogical societies and provide educational and research opportunities that is spearheaded by the Genealogy Center of the Waco-McLennan County Library. Co-sponsors include the Central Texas Genealogical Society and the Texas State Genealogical Society. The Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center is a participating organization. Enjoy the entire day or pick the events that interest you the most. Contact the Genealogy Center for login information at genealogy@acpl.info.

9-9:50 AM

FROM NAMES TO NARRATIVES: A SIMPLE GUIDE TO WRITING

Presented by **Hannah Kubacak**
*Librarian from Waco-McLennan County Library's
Genealogy Center*

Learn the art of biographical writing by weaving historical context, personal anecdotes, and family lore into your ancestors' stories. Review tips on maintaining accuracy while crafting a compelling narrative to preserve and share your family history. Join us and be inspired to transform your genealogy research into captivating biographical sketches cherished by future generations.

10-10:50 AM

FOLLOWING A CIVIL CASE THROUGH DOCUMENTS FILED IN COURT

Presented by **J. Mark Lowe**
FUGA, KY-TN Research Associates Researcher

Learn the basics of the legal system. Understand the process of following a case through court including dockets, orders, depositions, etc. Find the key to solving a problem using these records.

11-11:50 AM

JAKTEN - RESEARCHING YOUR SCANDINAVIAN ANCESTORS

Presented by **Carl Smith**
*Manager of the Family History Research Center at the
Clayton Library Campus*

Do you have ancestors who emigrated from Denmark, Norway, or Sweden? These countries each did an amazing job of recording and preserving their church and government records from early-modern history until the present - many of which are accessible online. Review record sources and strategies for researchers ready to uncover their Scandinavian family roots.

11:50 AM-12:50 PM

LUNCH ON YOUR OWN



12:50–2:10 PM

THE STORIES OF OUR LIVES: BEGINNING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY

Presented by **Curt Witcher**

*Director of Special Collections at the Allen County
Public Library*

Discover (or review) straightforward steps to take when starting your family history. Easy steps for comfortably gathering as much information as possible will be shared along with how to organize that information to lead one to next steps and new discoveries.

2:25–3:15 PM

RESEARCH ROAD TRIPS: PRODUCTIVE FOR YOU, FUN FOR FAMILY

Presented by **Jessica Horne Collins**

President of the Clayton Library Friends

Uncover your family's past with a balance of research and family fun. Learn how to prepare yourself for research trips to libraries, courthouses, archives, and other repositories. Explore ways to take completed and in-progress research and craft a road trip that showcases your family history to loved ones of all ages.

3:30–4:20 PM

RESOURCES FOR NEW ORLEANS AREA GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

Presented by **Stephen Stuart**

*President of the Genealogical Research Society of
New Orleans*

Family historians can access a wealth of libraries, archives, and other resources to learn more about their roots in Southeast Louisiana. This presentation provides an overview of those resources – both prominent and not so well known – and key features of their collections. Participants will also receive contact information to get started.



4:35–5:25 PM

FAMILY TREES GET SMART: AI AS YOUR GENEALOGY ASSISTANT

Presented by **Sherri Taggart Ahmadzadeh**

Chief Genealogist at Family Tree Tracer, LLC

Artificial Intelligence is transforming how we discover, analyze, and connect family history records. Join us to explore the emerging ways AI tools are revolutionizing genealogical research - from document analysis to pattern recognition to breakthrough research techniques. Whether you're a tech enthusiast or just getting started with digital research, this presentation will help you harness AI's potential in uncovering your family's story.

5:40–6:30 PM

ALL IN THE FAMILY: USING COLLATERAL RESEARCH TO BUILD YOUR FAMILY TREE

Presented by **Sandra Crowley**

*Director of Development for the Texas State
Genealogical Society*

Collateral research is a powerful genealogical method that extends beyond direct ancestors to investigate the broader family network. Explore strategies to find additional records, reconstruct family dynamics, and navigate challenges posed by missing direct ancestor documentation. This approach is useful when primary records are scarce, offering contextual clues, migration patterns, and unexpected biographical details. Learn to transform fragmented family history into a rich and comprehensive narrative.

Saturday, October 18

MAKING THE RECORDS TALK

Presented by **Timothy Pinnick and Janis Forte**

9 AM-5 PM
Genealogy Center

An in-person program partnership with the African American Genealogical Society of Fort Wayne and the ACPL Genealogy Center.



Join in person. Registration is required for this free event. Scan the code or visit acpl.libnet.info/event/14574461.

Making the Records Talk will feature African American research experts Timothy Pinnick and Janis Forte. Tim will present *Toolbox Building I: Eight Essential African American Resources* and *Toolbox Building II: Fifty Noteworthy Books for the African American Researcher* in the morning while Janis will present *Seven Proven Strategies for Identifying Slave Ownership & Reconstructing Slave Era Families* and *They're Not on the Census: Using Non-Traditional Sources to Identify Slave Holders*. This information-packed day will offer much to beginning and more experienced researchers alike. Making the Records Talk is free, and it offers great opportunities to enjoy more success in finding your families' stories.

Timothy N. Pinnick is an accomplished researcher, popular national speaker, author of the book *Finding and Using African American Newspapers* and owner of History and Genealogy Spotlight, a business specializing in assisting libraries and individuals in identifying new and used African American books relevant to the African American research process. He is the author of more than half a dozen articles, including *Using an Extended Research Project to Reconstruct a Community* which appeared in the *Association for Professional Genealogists Quarterly*, *Answers in African American Newspapers* written for *Family Tree Magazine*, *The Carnegie Medal* in the *NGS Magazine*, and co-authored *From Runaways to Reunions* in the January/February 2018 edition of *Family Tree Magazine*.

Janis Minor Forté is the granddaughter of slaves. She has been researching her family history since about 1979. Elements of her genealogical research have been presented before large and small audiences on radio talk shows and national television. Articles about her research have appeared in the *Chicago Tribune*. She has also authored articles in several genealogy journals and magazines. In 2009, she chaired the publication of an African American Heritage Book. This 386-page hard cover, fully-indexed book is housed in all of the major genealogy libraries and archives. It has been digitized by FamilySearch.org and is available for online reading.

STORYTELLING SUNDAY

Sunday, October 19
Facebook & Instagram

A Letter to the Past (or Future)

Sometimes the best way to share history is through a letter. Write to an ancestor, your future grandchild, or even your younger self. Tell them what you've discovered, what you're proud of, or what questions you still have.

Prompt: If you could send a letter to one family member—past or present—what would you say?

allow as soon as I get one
they was 2 Rebel Deserters
as in one tent and they

I Dont know what to
say know I will write me
next time Ed send his

VIRTUAL CEMETERY TOUR

THE CATHOLIC CEMETERY

MONDAY, OCTOBER 20 • SOCIAL MEDIA

Join us each Monday on Facebook and Instagram as we explore the trials, tribulations, and triumphs of those resting in Fort Wayne's Catholic Cemetery.

Monday, October 20

LINEAGE LAB: DROP-IN GENEALOGY HELP

7–8 PM
Tecumseh Branch

Are you feeling stuck in your family history research? Drop in and get one-on-one assistance from a genealogy librarian! Whether you're a beginner just starting your family tree or an experienced researcher tackling a tough challenge, our genealogy librarian can provide personalized help, recommend resources, and offer guidance to help you make progress in your search.

Address: Tecumseh Branch Library, 1411 East State Boulevard, Fort Wayne, IN 46805.

Tuesday, October 21

DIGGING INTO MILITARY RECORDS: GENEALOGY RESEARCH WITH FOLD3

Presented by **Logan Knight**

2:30–3:30 PM
Virtual Program

Explore the rich world of military history through Fold3, a powerful resource for genealogists. This hands-on program introduces you to Fold3's collections of service records, pension files, draft cards, and more spanning the Revolutionary War through Vietnam. Learn how to uncover your ancestors' military stories, navigate complex record sets, and integrate these findings into your family tree. Perfect for beginners and experienced researchers alike. Presented by Logan Knight.



Join virtually. Registration is required for this free event. Scan the code or visit acpl.libnet.info/event/14503527.

STORIES BEHIND THE SHELVES

Wednesday, October 22
Facebook & Instagram

Genealogy Center librarians share the unforgettable stories of their own ancestors—from war heroes to black sheep, pioneers to pranksters.

Discover the real-life characters who shaped their family trees and inspired their love of history.

Thursday, October 23

HISTORY OF SPANISH LANGUAGE

Presented by **Jens Clegg**

6:30–7:30 PM
Virtual Program



Join virtually. Registration is required for this free event. Scan the code or visit acpl.libnet.info/event/14503692.

Discover how the Spanish language has shaped—and been shaped by—the history of the American West. Based on the book *U.S. Mexican Spanish West of the Mississippi*, this program looks at how the Spanish language arrived with early settlers, adapted as borders changed, and developed into unique regional dialects. We'll explore:

- How migration and historical events, like the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, influenced where and how Spanish was spoken.
- The role of Spanish in identity, community, and culture.
- How these factors and events have shaped the Spanish spoken in this region today.

This program offers an approachable look at the history of Spanish in the United States and how it continues to connect people, place, and heritage today.

Jens H. Clegg is Professor of Spanish Linguistics at Purdue University Fort Wayne, USA. His research interests include US Spanish, language contact, bilingualism, and sociolinguistics.

FAMOUS ANCESTORS

Friday, October 24
Facebook & Instagram

Take our poll!

Do you have a famous (or infamous!) ancestor?

- **Yes, and it's wild**
- **Maybe, still digging**
- **Not that I know of**
- **I might be the interesting one 😊**

Share in the comments!

October 24, 25, & 26

HAUNTED FOREST

A LINDENWOOD TOUR

6 PM, 7 PM, & 8 PM

Lindenwood Cemetery



Join in person. Registration is required for this free event. Scan the code or visit acpl.libnet.info/event/14504485.

Lindenwood Nature Preserve, Lindenwood Cemetery, the Allen County Public Library, and Northrop High School invite you to an October event unlike any other. Your journey begins at Lindenwood Cemetery, where the lives of some of Fort Wayne's past residents will be shared through stories that linger among the stones. From there, the experience continues at Lindenwood Nature Preserve, where students from Northrop High School's theatre department will guide you through the darkened woods on a haunted hike filled with chilling tales and eerie encounters.

Details

Ages 8–Adult (*Children must be accompanied by an adult.*)

Families with younger children are encouraged to attend the 6 PM program for a gentler experience. Tours run three times each day. Pre-registration is required (no fee).

Starting location: Lindenwood Cemetery, 2324 W Main St., Fort Wayne

STORYTELLING SUNDAY

Sunday, October 26
Facebook & Instagram

Share a "Why"

Why did you start researching? Why does this matter to you?

Prompt: What inspired your interest in family history?

VIRTUAL CEMETERY TOUR

THE CATHOLIC CEMETERY

MONDAY, OCTOBER 27 • SOCIAL MEDIA

Join us each Monday on Facebook and Instagram as we explore the trials, tribulations, and triumphs of those resting in Fort Wayne's Catholic Cemetery.

Tuesday, October 28

TRACING FAMILY ROOTS THROUGH GERMAN WORDS

Presented by **Gabi Jauregui**

2:30–3:30 PM
Virtual Program

The Germanic family of languages has experienced several phonological "sound shifts" over the last 2,500 years. These linguistic changes can create challenges for genealogists who are researching Germanic heritage. Beginning with the descentance of Proto-Germanic from the Proto-Indo-European language, this presentation will teach attendees about the etymology of the German language in a genealogical context and will provide concrete examples of linguistic variations present in genealogical materials across time periods. Attendees will also be introduced to the German "Fraktur" typeface and will be provided with helpful tips to aid their Germanic genealogical research.



Join virtually. Registration is required for this free event. Scan the code or visit acpl.libnet.info/event/14503801.





STORIES BEHIND THE SHELVES

Wednesday, October 29
Facebook & Instagram

Genealogy Center librarians share the unforgettable stories of their own ancestors—from war heroes to black sheep, pioneers to pranksters.

Discover the real-life characters who shaped their family trees and inspired their love of history.

Thursday, October 30

UNCOVERING TRUTH THROUGH DNA: THE POWER OF GENETIC GENEALOGY

Presented by
Aimee Rose-Haynes

6:30–7:30 PM
Virtual Program

Join us for an inspiring journey into the world of genetic genealogy as we follow the true story of Dr. Nicole Price, whose life was forever changed by a DNA test. In this session, we will explore how DNA testing, combined with traditional genealogy research, can uncover hidden family secrets, confirm biological relationships, and help individuals find their true identities.

We will walk through Dr. Price's discovery of her unexpected parentage, the steps taken by DNAngels to solve her case, and the emotional and scientific processes involved in finding her biological father. Participants will learn about DNA testing methods, family tree building, DNA match analysis, the importance of genetic mirroring, and how genealogical mysteries are solved through perseverance and modern technology. This real-life case study will offer practical insights into how genetic genealogy works and why it is such a powerful tool for identity, healing, and connection.

Aimee Rose-Haynes is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists and is also a public speaker dedicated to reconnecting individuals with their lost heritage and biological families. A proud citizen of the Cherokee Nation, she has spent years assisting Native descendants in rediscovering their roots, offering guidance through the intricate processes of genealogy, DNA analysis, and tribal enrollment.

With a strong background in genetic genealogy and family research, Aimee has worked on hundreds of cases, specializing in helping adopted persons, donor-conceived individuals, and those with unknown parentage uncover their identities. Her expertise in DNA interpretation and historical records enables her to tackle even the most complex cases with both precision and empathy. As a public speaker, Aimee captivates audiences with insightful discussions on genetic discovery, family history, identity, and Indigenous genealogy, highlighting the profound role of DNA testing in reclaiming heritage. She is a passionate advocate for ethical genealogy and the responsible application of DNA technology in family research.



Join in person or virtually.
Registration is required for
this free event. Scan the
code or visit [acpl.libnet.
info/event/14504401](https://acpl.libnet.info/event/14504401).

Thursday, October 30

BRAIN BUZZ: SPOOKY GENEALOGY TRIVIA NIGHT

7:30-9 PM
Neon Pear

Join the Allen County Public Library's Genealogy Center, in partnership with Electric Works, for a spirited evening of history, heritage, and fun at Genealogy Trivia Night! Held at the Neon Pear at Electric Works, this in-person event is perfect for adults interested in local history, famous family trees, and uncovering stories from the past. Enjoy trivia, prizes, giveaways, and casual conversation with Genealogy Center staff.

Address: Neon Pear at Electric Works, 1622 Broadway, Fort Wayne 46802



Join in person. Registration is required for this free event. Scan the code or visit acpl.libnet.info/event/14574560.

GRAVE RESEARCH

Friday, October 31
Facebook & Instagram

Take our poll!

What's your favorite kind of "grave" research?

- Visiting cemeteries
- Using Find A Grave/
BillionGraves
- Decoding old
headstones
- Avoiding graveyards
at all costs 🙄

Share in the comments!

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Allen County
Public Library

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THE GENEALOGY CENTER

at the Allen County Public Library



Find your story at the country's largest public genealogy library.
Located on the second floor of the Main Library.

Allen County Public Library

900 Library Plaza
Fort Wayne, Indiana, 46802

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genealogy@acpl.info
genealogycenter.org



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@allencountypubliclibrary

Visit us during regular library hours for full access to our physical and digital collection. Our staff is available to assist with your family history research.

Monday–Thursday

9:00 AM – 9:00 PM

Friday–Saturday

9:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Sunday

12:00 – 5:00 PM



**Genealogy
Center**



Scan the code or visit
GenealogyCenter.org
for more information.