



Oakland County Genealogical Society

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2023-2024 Program Schedule

The Oakland County Genealogical Society meets at 7:00 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month, October through June (except November) at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 5500 N. Adams Rd. (between Long Lake and Square Lake Roads), Troy, MI 48098. The church has a flat entrance and ample, lighted parking. Meetings are open to the public and free of charge; all are welcome. The Zoom joint meeting with the Detroit Society of Genealogical Research (DSGR) will be on Saturday, November 2nd at 11 a.m. We are planning for hybrid meetings, however, in-person attendance is encouraged. The Zoom link for all meetings will be posted a week in advance on our website and in our Facebook Event.

November 11, 2023 - (Saturday-Veterans Day at 11 a.m.) - Logan Knight - The Fox Wars: Conflict in the Middle Ground - During the heyday of the French at Fort Detroit, a devastating war was sparked there against the nearby Fox (Meskwaki) Tribe. This horrifying conflict would spread throughout the Midwest with catastrophic consequences for everyone in the Old Northwest. The speaker will appear via Zoom from Genealogy Center, Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana. In-person attendance is encouraged at St. Stephens's Church, Troy, address above. Remote attendees may view the joint program with the Detroit Society for Genealogical Research (DSGR).

December 5, 2023 - Jeff Mason - Magnificent Land Records and Where to Find Them - Land records are an important piece of any genealogical puzzle, especially in years that pre-date census records and vital records. We will review the various types of land records that are typically held in a courthouse.

January 2, 2024 - Richard Hill - Finding Family with DNA Testing - Learn how adoptees and others find biological parents and siblings through DNA testing. Review the case that started it all and see today's recommended strategies. View examples of surprise discoveries and see the tools used to identify relationships.

February 6, 2024 - Rozlyn Kelly – Finding Black Ancestors. The presentation discusses the unique challenges of African American genealogical research, sharing some of the relevant history and resources available to research. It includes a case study of researching freedom seekers (Underground Railroad), free blacks and enslaved persons.

March 5, 2024 - Cathy Cottone - Beginning Irish Genealogy – Following the clues from your U.S. paper trail, this program will help show you different resources and examples of that paper trail and then we will talk about different Irish websites that will help you once you are researching over the pond.

April 2, 2024 - Derek J Blount - Lumber Barons and the Shanties that Worked for Them – A historical look at the Michigan lumber industry and the men that worked for it. Available records to locate them will be discussed, and sources identified.

May 7, 2024 – Annette Burke Lyttle - Our Quaker Ancestors: Their History and the Records They Left
Quakers were among the earliest settlers in North America and as they moved west, they were often the earliest settlers in newly-opened territory. Quakers were amazing record-keepers. Not only did they record births, marriages, and deaths, they kept extensive records on those who came into their local meetings and those who left. Transgressions by members of the community were publicly discussed and recorded, and as they came to believe that slavery was evil their records on Quakers who kept slaves became extensive. Learn about the history of these pioneering Americans and how to find the rich records they left behind.

June 4, 2024 - Karen Batchelor – Finding Courage to Accept the Good, the Bad and the Unexpected in Your Family History - A case study presented by genealogist Karen Batchelor on lessons learned and wisdom gained from over 45 years of researching her unique family history with its many surprising twists and turns.