

Presentations by Shirleen Hoffman, PGDip, QG

Genealogy Talks · www.genealogytalks.com · genealogytalks@gmail.com

Bring a Detective's Eye to Your Family History

These are the presentations I currently offer to genealogical societies, historical societies, libraries, and community groups. I can also **tailor an existing topic or develop a custom talk** specifically for your group's needs. Every talk is available virtually via Zoom — wherever your group meets — or in person here in Minnesota.

See a topic that fits or have an idea for a custom presentation? Reach out through [Request a Presentation](#), and I'll follow up to discuss details, format, and fees. Be sure to follow me on [LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#) — that's where I announce new presentations first.

Core Research & Essential Records

Introduction to Genealogy

Every family has a story. Here's how to start finding yours.

Beginners learn essential first steps—setting goals, understanding core records, and organizing finds—so they leave with a clear plan, not website overload.

Why Book This Talk: Your beginners walk out knowing exactly what to do first.

Beyond Beginning Genealogy

You've found the easy answers. Now find the rest.

Sharpen your skills with the strategies and sources experienced researchers rely on. Learn to focus your research, track down the right records, and weigh evidence.

Why Book This Talk: It turns record collectors into real researchers.

Hatch, Match and Dispatch

Births, marriages, deaths—the records closest to the truth.

Vital records were created near the event by people who knew the facts. Learn where to find birth, marriage, and death records and how to get the most from them.

Why Book This Talk: These are the core records every tree stands on; master them and everything gets easier.

US Census Records

More than just names... every census hides a story.

The census is far more than a head count. Discover what each census year reveals and problem-solving strategies that squeeze every clue from the columns.

Why Book This Talk: Attendees find new clues in records they thought they'd finished with.

On-the-Ground & Regional Repositories

Researching at the County Courthouse

Your ancestors' whole lives recorded cradle to grave.

Births, marriages, deaths, deeds, mortgages, wills, probate, and guardianships follow families through every chapter. Learn to research courthouses with confidence.

Why Book This Talk: Takes the intimidation out of visiting the richest record source most researchers skip.

Problem Solving Using Cemetery Records

The headstone is only the beginning.

Cemeteries hold far more than what's carved in stone. Explore cemetery types, record keeping, and strategies that turn visits into discoveries.

Why Book This Talk: Cemetery offices keep records most researchers never think to ask for.

Presentation by Shirleen Hoffman, PGDip, QC (continued)

On-Line Databases & Regional Repositories

Finding Minnesota Records in Free Resources

Minnesota's best records won't cost you a dime.

Expand your toolbox with free Minnesota resources: MHS People Finder, Iron Range Research Center, MOMS marriage index, and digitized city directories.

Why Book This Talk: Attendees start finding local records that very day for free!

Navigating FamilySearch

70% of FamilySearch is hidden. Here's your map.

Only ~30% of FamilySearch records are indexed. Learn the filters, wildcards, full-text search, and techniques that unlock the other 70%.

Why Book This Talk: Most attendees find a record in the unindexed 70% before the Q&A even starts.

Specialized Record Sets

UK Census Records

"Single night in time" — unlocking secrets of British schedules.

Learn to navigate 1841–1921 rules, trace mobile ancestors, and spot hidden clues often missed in British household schedules.

Why Book This Talk: Gives attendees confidence to bridge the gap between US and UK research.

Naturalization Records

Follow the paper trail your immigrant ancestors left behind.

Naturalization files hold birthplaces, arrival dates, and family details found nowhere else. Learn how processes changed and how to interpret files.

Why Book This Talk: One naturalization file can break an immigrant brick wall—this talk shows where to find it.

Advanced Methodology & Detective Work

Strategies for Genealogy Brick Walls

Every brick wall has a weak spot. Learn how to find it.

Work the problem like an investigator using methods, tools, and underused records that crack cases standard searching can't.

Why Book This Talk: Strategies built on 24 years of solving real-world complex cases.

Case Study in Genealogical Problem Solving

Who was Ellen Call? Solve the case with me.

Work a real identity mystery from open question to sound conclusion using timelines, spreadsheets, comparison tools, and the Genealogical Proof Standard.

Why Book This Talk: Watching a real case unfold teaches more than any lecture about method ever could.

Ready to book a talk?

Every presentation is available virtually via Zoom or in person in Minnesota.

Reach out through [Request a Presentation](#) to discuss dates, format, and fees.

www.genealogytalks.com - genealogytalks@gmail.com - Follow on [LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#).