

Barbara Coakley



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Bio

Barbara Coakley's interest in family history began over 30 years ago when she was given an envelope of family papers. Her journey to discover the stories of her ancestors has taken her to homelands across the US and Europe. Barbara is President of Genealogy Friends of Plano Libraries and volunteers for TxSGS and the Dallas Genealogical Society. She is an alumnus of ProGen, IGHR, TIGR, GRIP, SLIG and GenFed. Barbara taught genealogy continuing education classes at Collin College from 2008 to 2021. She does presentations for libraries and genealogical societies throughout the U.S. and U.K.

Recent presentations included the TxSGS 2023 Family History Conference, Utah Genealogical Association Summit of Excellence 2023, The Really Useful Family History Show, and a lecture for the Allen County Public Library.

Presentations

Getting Around the Fire at the Military Records Center: Corporal John Coakley's Service in WWI – Learn about sources to reconstruct the service of a WWI soldier whose file was destroyed in the fire at the Military Records Center.

After They Are Gone: What Probate Records Can Tell Us – Court records created by the death of an ancestor relate to decisions made regarding the distribution of their estate to heirs, creditors, and dependents. A case study demonstrates how a probate file led to other sources and answers that filled in gaps in the family history.

Census Records: Have You Really Looked at Them? – Census records can provide clues to our ancestors' lives. In addition to family groups, marital status, ages, and birthplaces they contain information about economic standing, military service, occupation, literacy, education, and disabilities. Studying and analyzing the records carefully is the key.

Extra, Extra, Read All About Your Ancestors – Newspapers are so much more than just obituaries and marriage notices, they can provide details about the lives of your ancestors that can't be found anywhere else. Learn about what newspapers have to offer and where to find them.

Search vs. Research – Searching is just one step in the process of researching your family history. A case study based on a family story from Chicago in the 1920's demonstrates the research process from

beginning to end - how to develop a research goal, plan the research, document results, and preserve your findings.

Organizing Genealogy Stuff – Organization is more than a filing system. Learn about having an organized workspace, consistent research process, and filing system for both paper and digital research results to be a more effective and efficient researcher.

Digging Up Deeds – U.S. Land records are some of the earliest and most complete records available. They contain clues to relationships, economic standing, migration, and much more. Learn about transactions between individuals using case studies to demonstrate how to find and understand different types of deeds.

Go West: Leaving Kansas to Homestead in California – A homestead case study demonstrates how events and circumstances impact the lives of a couple and where to find information about more than just names, dates, and places.

Using Microsoft OneNote for Genealogy Research Planning and Results – Microsoft OneNote is an electronic notebook. Learn how to replace the three-ring binders on the shelf with an electronic notebook. Research plans, research results, and reference materials are stored digitally and are searchable.

Research the Location First - Before you start researching your ancestors you need to understand the location and time period where they lived. Learn about sources for information about records, historic events, and more to create a location guide.

Branching Out: Researching Collateral Ancestors – Records exist for siblings, cousins, and in-laws that can help fill in gaps in records for direct line ancestors. Case studies demonstrate expanding research to other family members to answer research questions.

Beyond the Death Certificate - Learn about other records that can provide details about our ancestors' passing.