

2018 Abrams Foundation Family History Seminar
Friday, July 20 - Saturday, July 21
Archives of Michigan

Featuring David Allen Lambert,
New England Historic Genealogical Society

Welcome to the Abrams Foundation Family History Seminar, featuring David Allen Lambert, 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 20

10:00a – 12:00p

Join Archives of Michigan staff in the Reading Room and index a batch or two (or more!) of Michigan naturalization records.

1:00 – 1:45p

A. **Break into the Past: A Game for Genealogists**

Inspired by the escape room phenomenon, this game has players solve a puzzle using a series of clues, including genealogical resources.

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. **Over the Top: Researching Your Michigan World War I Ancestor**

– Kris Rzepczynski, Archives of Michigan

Explore the fabulously rich record collections and resources available for Michigan World War I servicemen.

D. **City Directories: Not Your Average Phone Book**

– Daniel Earl, MS

Many beginning genealogists stay close to census, birth, marriage, and death records and largely ignore a valuable resource: city directories! These records are not your average phone book to be sure. This presentation will teach participants what city directories are available online, where hard copies are located near them, and will use a case study to solve a brick wall problem.

E. **Putting It All Together**

– James Jackson, Professional researcher

Most lectures focus entirely on a particular type of record or research methodology, i.e. family records, church and civil records, census research, land records, military service, etc. This presentation follows one (well-known) pioneer family, through their travels 'Out West', examining the many records that were generated and left behind - just like your family.

3:30 – 4:30p

F. Anatomy of Coroner's Records

– Annakathryn Welch, Archives of Michigan

One way we track our ancestors' is through their deaths. However, some deaths can prove to be more interesting than others. This discussion will explore coroner's records here at the Archives of Michigan and dissect the information found in them.

G. Finding Records of Your Detroit and Wayne County Ancestor

– Thomas Koselka, Michigan Genealogical Council

Examine the records created by, for, and about our ancestors in Detroit and Wayne County, Michigan. We will explore who created them and when, what information is in them, why they were created, and where they can be located today.

H. I Have a DNA Test Result – What Comes Next?

– Dr. James Sims

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 21:

Barbara J. Brown Family History Day

Educational programs and family fun activities throughout the Michigan History Center; held concurrently with the Abrams Foundation Family History Seminar, including an oral history recording booth and genealogical trivia.

As the longtime President of the Abrams Foundation, Barbara Brown's commitment to family history and generous support helped make the Abrams Foundation Historical Collection the destination collection that it is today.

9:30 – 11:00a

Welcome & opening comments

I. Researching New England Vital Records

– David Allen Lambert, New England Historic Genealogical Society

This lecture will cover the vital record resources for each New England State from the Colonial Era through the 20th century Vital Records. The resources of original, microfilm and digitized resources for CT, MA, ME, NH, RI and VT will be discussed.

11:15 – 11:45a

J. **Utilizing the Abrams Foundation Historical Collection**

– Kris Rzepczynski, Archives of Michigan

In this mini-session, attendees will hear about the many resources available in the Abrams Foundation Historical Collection, one of the larger family history collections in the country. States of particular strength include those with historic ties to Michigan, including the New England region, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, and the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Quebec.

K. **Naturalization Records Online! The Archives of Michigan & FamilySearch**

– Jill Arnold, Archives of Michigan

The Archives of Michigan and FamilySearch, with assistance from the Michigan Genealogical Council, are partnering to digitize hundreds of thousands of Michigan naturalization records. In this mini-session, come hear about the current status and future plans of the project!

1:00 – 2:00p

L. **Researching Colonial New England Probate Records**

– David Allen Lambert, New England Historic Genealogical Society

New England Probate records were different in each colony. Learn about the resources and where to find them online from home, or how to best research without visiting the courthouse.

2:30 – 3:30p

M. **The Voyage to America**

– Katherine Willson, Researcher & lecturer

Learn about your immigrant ancestors' voyage to America, and how those journeys changed from the 17th century through the 20th century. How did our ancestors prepare for the journey? What immigration restrictions & quota laws did they face? How were ports of departure and arrival chosen? What was the ticket cost? How long would the journey take, and what were the expected ship accommodations?

N. **Licensed to Work: Professional Registries at the Archives of Michigan**

– Jill Arnold, Archives of Michigan

Government agencies have at different times required members of certain occupational fields to register, ranging from barbers and doctors to boxers and drugless healers. This program will review how to determine an occupation for an individual, identify collections of interest within the Archives of Michigan, and review what kinds of family history information are held within these registries.

O. **TB in the Family Tree**

– Jessica Trotter, Researcher & blogger

This session looks at ways to find out more about TB patients, staff and other residents in the heyday of Sanatoriums in America (the early 20th century to the 1940s) with examples from the Michigan State Sanatorium.

Registration:

- Registration is \$60. This includes full attendance for the seminar, a boxed lunch on Saturday, and a seminar syllabus as a downloadable file. Registration opens one hour before each day's first event.

2018 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., 7/20: **1:00** A B **2:00** C D E **3:15** F G H

Sat., 7/21: **9:30** I **11:15** J K **1:00** L **2:30** M N O

For more information, please contact the Archives of Michigan at (517) 373-1414 or by email at archives@michigan.gov.