

York County Library Genealogy & Family History Expo

Saturday, October 18, 2025
Courtyard by Marriott, Fort Mill, S.C.
8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Register beginning September 22 at yclibrary.org/events
or email reference@yclibrary.org or john.skardon@yclibrary.org



Judy G. Russell
The Legal Genealogist®



Rebecca Whitman Koford



Ari Wilkins



Kelli Berghmeier



Lisa T. Lisson



Cheri Hudson Passey

- ❖ **FREE** event sponsored by the York County Library.
- ❖ 13 informative presentations by professional genealogists.
- ❖ Catered complimentary luncheon.
- ❖ Exhibitors and vendors from local and regional genealogical societies.
- ❖ Fantastic door prizes, including DNA testing kits, free subscriptions to genealogy websites and software, genealogy books, and more!
- ❖ Plus, a variety of free genealogical resources and gifts to enhance your family research.



NATIONAL
GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY®



LECTURE DESCRIPTIONS

From Blackstone to the Statutes at Large – How Knowing the Law Makes Us Better Genealogists

To understand our ancestors' lives - why they did what they did, we need to understand the law that governed their lives in so many ways. Learn how knowing the law our ancestors lived by helps us make sense of the records they left and find clues to more and different records.

Putting Those Records to Work

Every document we locate in genealogical research has its clear use: a census record will help us identify family members and trace them over time; a court record will tell us what was happening with that person at that time; a will or probate record will help recreate a family at a specific point in time. But every document we locate can be mined—directly or in combination with other records—for more: a deeper richer context for our family members and their place and time.

The Discriminating Genealogist: Telling Good Evidence from Bad

The “best evidence” rule in law requires the presentation in court of an original rather than a copy, and a copy won’t even be admitted if the original is available. In genealogy, our rules require us to do the same: to discriminate, choose in favor of, prefer certain types of evidence to others, certain bits of information to others, certain sources to others.

“Don’t Forget the Ladies” – A Genealogist’s Guide to Women and the Law

In early America, women were all too often the people who just weren’t there: not in the records, not in the censuses, not on juries, not in the voting booth. The common law relegated women to “protected” – second-class – status, and understanding how they were treated under the law provides clues to finding their identities today.

DNA Success: Understanding Genetic Networks

Understanding genetic networks is key to determining who your DNA matches are and where they fit into your tree. Come learn about three types of genetic networks to help you make progress in your research.

How to Clear the Mess on Your Desk

Learn tips and tricks to organize your papers, photos, documents, research, DNA cousins, research trips, and digital records. Learn some common backup tools to protect what you have acquired. Get the most out of your family tree software program to allow your ancestry information to be available on the go. Organize yourself in a way that leaves you more time for the fun stuff of genealogy-- sharing, publishing, and finding even more!

How I Built My Own Brick Wall & the Sledgehammer of Experience

In this lecture, we identify ways that researchers have built their own "brick wall" through inexperience, lack of organization, incorrect assumptions and how to resolve these issues.

Military Pension Records: Revolution to Civil War

This lecture introduces students to the wealth of information for whole families among pension records for military war veterans from the Revolution through the Civil War. Terminology and pension law are also explored.

Finding the Last Slave Owner

Locating the last slave owner is essential in African American research. Explore records that will help transition your research from 1870 into the Antebellum Era.

Unique African American Records

Move beyond the more common genealogical records to discover some of the most unusual and underutilized African American records. This lecture will discuss the plethora of information that can be gleaned; where to find these records and how to apply them to your research.

Don't Miss a Beat: Unlocking Ancestral Clues in Newspapers - What You Might Be Missing!

Newspapers are a goldmine of information for family historians, but are you tapping into their full potential? From obituaries and marriage announcements to news articles and advertisements, newspapers offer a wealth of valuable details that may be missing from traditional genealogical records. Discover how to effectively search, interpret, and utilize newspapers to unearth fascinating stories and gain deeper insights into your family's history. Make sure you're not overlooking any clues that newspapers can reveal about your ancestors!

Collateral Research—The Secret Sauce to Finding Family Records

Your ancestors didn't live and have experiences alone. Researching collateral lines may be the secret sauce you need to find clues that will answer genealogy questions. What is Collateral Research? Research of family members you are not a descendant of.

From Name Collection to Name Confirmation: Adding Leaves to the Right Branch

In our desire to find family and build our tree, we may be guilty of name collection instead of name confirmation. Learn steps to help slow down, take a good look, and verify to add leaves to the right branch.

8:30 - 9:30	Check-In / Exhibits & Vendors			
9:30 - 9:45	Welcome: John W. Skardon, YCL Genealogy Librarian			
9:45 - 11:00	Keynote Address: From Blackstone to the Statutes at Large: How Knowing the Law Makes Us Better Genealogists <i>Judy G. Russell</i>			
11:00 - 11:15	Break / Exhibits & Vendors			
	Lecture Hall A		Lecture Hall B	
				Lecture Hall C
				Lecture Hall D
11:15 - 12:30	Methodology How I Built My Own Brick Wall and the Sledgehammer of Experience <i>Rebecca Whitman Koford</i>	Methodology Putting Those Records to Work <i>Judy G. Russell</i>	African American Finding the Last Slave Owner <i>Ari Wilkins</i>	Organization How to Clear the Mess on Your Desk <i>Kelli Bergheimer</i>
12:30 - 1:45	Luncheon / Exhibits & Vendors			
1:45 - 3:00	Record Groups Military Pension Records: Revolution to the Civil War <i>Rebecca Whitman Koford</i>	Evidence Analysis The Discriminating Genealogist: Telling Good Evidence from Bad <i>Judy G. Russell</i>	African American Unique African American Records <i>Ari Wilkins</i>	Methodology Collateral Research: the Secret Sauce to Finding Family Records <i>Cheri Hudson Passey</i>
3:00 - 3:15	Break / Exhibits & Vendors			
3:15 - 4:30	DNA DNA Success: Understanding Genetic Networks <i>Kelli Bergheimer</i>	Law & Records "Don't Forget the Ladies" A Genealogist's Guide to Women and the Law <i>Judy G. Russell</i>	Methodology From Name Collection to Name Confirmation: Adding Leaves to the Right Branch <i>Cheri Hudson Passey</i>	Record Groups Don't Miss a Beat! Unlocking Ancestral Clues in Newspapers <i>Lisa T. Lisson</i>
4:30 - 5:00	Door prize drawings and closing remarks			



**The York County Library
Genealogy & Family History Expo will be at the
Courtyard by Marriott located at
1385 Broadcloth Street, Fort Mill, S.C. 29715.
(803) 548-0156**

From Charlotte take I-77 South to exit 85. Turn left onto Highway 160. At the second traffic light (Kingsley Springs) turn left, then a second left onto Broadcloth Street. The hotel is at the end of the street.

From Columbia take I-77 North to exit 85. Turn right onto Highway 160. At the first traffic light (Kingsley Springs) turn left, then a second left onto Broadcloth Street. The hotel is at the end of the street.



PLEASE REGISTER

Registration for the conference is required. Visit
www.yclibrary.org/events or email reference@yclibrary.org
or email John Skardon at john.skardon@yclibrary.org

