



## Presentations Available from the Delaware Public Archives

If you would like to schedule a presentation, please email [archives@delaware.gov](mailto:archives@delaware.gov)

### **Beginning Genealogy 101: Little-known Resources at the Delaware Public Archives.**

This presentation will include the most common records used by genealogists but will take a deeper look into those little-known resources that can be most helpful when researching your family tree. Some of the little know resources that will be discussed include Pauper Records, Legislative Petitions Apprentice Indentures, City Directories, and Enrolled Bills.

### **"Tales From the Vault"**

Tells four unique spooky stories from the vaults of the Delaware Public Archives. The first tale, "Would You Pass the Spurtle?" tells the harrowing tale of Sarah Kirk, who was tried for petit treason in 1787 after being accused of murdering her husband. The second tale, "Would Anyone Care for a Bon-Bon?", takes listeners through the 1898 murder by mail of Mary Elizabeth Dunning and Ida Deane with bon-bons from California. The third tale, "How to Get Away with Murder?", analyzes the life of William Albert Fitzpatrick, a man who was convicted of murder and pardoned within six years. The final tale, "Who Lives, Who Dies, Who Tells Your Story?", recognizes the life of Sarah Green Moore a black undertaker from Middletown, Delaware in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. These three tales are told using primary source documents found at the Delaware Public Archives and weave together to tell unique stories of the past.

### **"Forgotten Family: Pauper Records and Genealogy at the Delaware Public Archives"**

The Delaware Public Archives contains a wealth of resources for genealogists, covering centuries of vital records, wills, deeds, and much more. However, many researchers encounter dead ends, in which a family member seems to drop off the face of the earth. No birth record, no property records, no will or probate. How then do we find these forgotten family members? Pauper records can be indispensable resources for filling these gaps, as they document the Delaware residents that history was most likely to forget: the poor, illegitimate children, unwed mothers, and others. This presentation will guide you through the evolution of public welfare and poor relief in Delaware, the types of records that are available to genealogists for research, and how to access these records at the Delaware Public Archives.

### **"Like Thieves in the Night: Crime and Punishment in Jazz-age Wilmington"**

We often think of interwar America as a time drawn straight from a crime novel. An age of bootleggers, gangsters, organized crime, and the brooding lawmen who brought them to justice. While many of these stories have strayed into the realm of fantasy, primary sources can still tell the incredible true stories of one the most turbulent times in American history. The City of Wilmington Police Pedigree Files contain a wealth of information on crime and punishment in early 20<sup>th</sup> century Delaware, from career jewel thieves to sordid plots of deception and murder. These records also serve as important evidence of many of the challenges and hardships facing the American people at the time, including racial discrimination, unequal treatment, and inhumane punishments. Whether you are studying political science or writing a noir novel, this collection is sure to please. Join us as we delve into the crime and intrigue of old Wilmington through the collections of the Delaware Public Archives.

### **"Come Rain or Shine: Weather at the Delaware Public Archives"**

Highlighting records in the collections of the Delaware Public Archives, this presentation shows the state and its people's relationship to the weather, both good and bad. Beginning with significant damaging weather events, like the Blizzard of 1888 and the Hurricane of 1962. We then look to how our often beautiful and sunny coastal weather has been an enticement for tourism, through our collections of postcards. Delaware's swiftly changing weather patterns could prove dangerous, particularly to those working out on the marshes. We examine methods employed to predict and give warning utilized by the Civil Conservation Corps, in the 1930s. Rounding off with a demonstration of the role weather played in the daily lives of Delaware residents. We look at the incredibly diligent, and sometimes deeply personal and enlightening, records kept in the farming journal from the Frazier collection, and the Civil War era diaries of Sgt Townsend Downes, Spencer Hitch, and William Cloud Lodge.

### **"Black Family History at the Delaware Public Archives"**

Black family history research can pose unique challenges as you follow your family into the 19th century, prior to the passage of the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment, and earlier. This presentation highlights resources available at the Delaware Public Archives for researching Black family history within Delaware, from the present day and throughout the history of the state. Learn techniques to unearth crucial details about formerly enslaved ancestors and Delaware's rich history of free black communities.

### **"Teaching Through Television: The Delaware Educational Television Network"**

The 1960s saw the emergence of a new teaching tool sweeping the nation, educational television. Delaware was quick to implement this new tool with the creation of the Delaware Educational Television Network in 1965. Now a little-known part of Delaware's educational journey, the Delaware Educational Television Network aired programming in Delaware classrooms from 1965 to 1970. These programs were created by the Network with Delaware students in mind and provides a unique look at teaching techniques in the age of television. Join us as we examine the Delaware Educational Television Network from its creation in 1965 to its conclusion in 1970, discussing the impact it had on Delaware students.

### **"Property Research Guide"**

Have you ever wondered who owned your property before you? Have you started searching and hit a roadblock? Or are you about to embark on your search and want some tips? The Delaware Public Archives' Property Research Guide presentation is here to help. This presentation covers searching on the Recorder of Deeds websites, the language used in deeds, and best practices for taking notes. The presentation details the various other record types in the Archives' holdings that can be helpful if you get stuck, from maps to Chancery Court records and more. The presentation will also cover how to research the history of your house. Join us to go over the basics of researching your property to help you figure out who owned the land before you, perhaps all the way back to the 1600s.