



**LIGHT UP YOUR
GENEALOGY**

OGS
30 APRIL–3 MAY
2025

REGISTER TODAY!

www.ogs.org/2025-conference ♦ www.ogs.org

Come to the OGS 2025 Conference

Once again, we will be meeting at the Kalahari Resort and Conference Center in Sandusky for the OGS 2025 Conference April 30 – May 3, 2025. Conference Chairs Cheryl Brown Abernathy and Becky Plank along with Conference Coordinator Marleen Applegate and their entire Conference team have been working hard to procure first rate speakers, including our well-loved regulars as well as both nationally and internationally known presenters.

This year's theme is "Light Up Your Genealogy" in tribute to Thomas Alva Edison, who was born a few minutes down OH-250 in Milan in 1847. Besides inventing the incandescent light bulb, Edison also brought us the phonograph and the motion picture camera, as well as improvements to the telegraph and telephone!

We are excited to have as our Keynote speaker, "The Legal Genealogist" Judy G. Russell to open the conference. She is both delightful and a fantastic presenter, who I am sure will entertain us as she imparts her unique outlook on all things genealogy.

As usual we will be offering a number of tracks, among them a current "hot" topic — DNA, along with Military, searching records, Ethnic groups, and Technology — including the current "hottest" topic — Artificial Intelligence and Genealogy!

There will be paid workshops available highlighting Family Tree, Artificial Intelligence and Genealogy, Banyan DNA, Records of Colonial Pennsylvania, and Research in Austria-Hungary. Once again, we will offer four Society Sessions that are free covering topics to help you run your Chapters more efficiently.

Inductees into the OGS Lineage Societies will be recognized and awarded their medals at a Banquet on Friday night. There will be a variety of vendors displaying their wares throughout the conference. As always, the OGS Annual Meeting, as well as the Chapter Awards and Book Awards, will be held at the Saturday luncheon.

Make sure to mark the dates on your calendar now. I look forward to seeing you in April!

Dot Martin • OGS President

IMPORTANT DETAILS

Early Bird Registration Ends

• March 7, 2025

Last Day for Refunds in Writing

• March 7, 2025

Last Day for Mail-in Registration

• April 11, 2025

Online Registration Ends

• April 18, 2025

Refunds

A refund will be issued up until March 7, 2025 but a \$75.00 administrative fee will be charged. **No refunds** will be issued after March 7, 2025. All refunds must be requested in writing and can be done so via a letter to OGS or via email to ogscord@ogs.org.

Workshops

In order to attend any Wednesday workshops an attendee **MUST be registered** for at least a one-day conference registration Thurs-Sat as well as pay for the workshop they wish to register for.

Meals and Banquets

These must be purchased separately. See individual prices and menu options. Special menu requests available with advance notice.

B=Beginner

I=Intermediate

A=Advanced

Stay at Kalahari Resort

Kalahari Resort & Convention Center, 7000 Kalahari Drive, Sandusky, Ohio



Attendees can reserve their hotel accommodations using the following link: <https://book.passkey.com/e/50882545> and get their room rate of \$152.00 per night plus tax on available rooms in the room block, or they can call the following number: 877-525-2427 (please anticipate long wait times). They must indicate that they are with the Ohio Genealogical Society 2025 Conference to get the room rate of \$152.00 plus tax per night. The last day to register for hotel reservations in the OGS room block is March 30, 2025.

Registration and vendor hall set-up will be open 12:00–6:00 pm

Wednesday

GENERAL WORKSHOP SESSIONS

\$20 each, with conference registration (see left)

1:00 pm

W01 MyHeritage PedigreeMap: An Interactive Map of Your Family History \$20

DANIEL HOROWITZ

Sponsored by MyHeritage

Explore your family history from a geographic perspective and gain new insights on your family's journey with MyHeritage PedigreeMap™ and other features. Sponsored by MyHeritage. **B/I/A**

W02 BanyanDNA: A New Tool for Genetic Genealogy and Complex Pedigrees \$20

DR. LEAH LARKIN

Sponsored by Borland Genetics

BanyanDNA is a sophisticated online tool to help visualize, validate and expand your tree using DNA, even with complex relationships. **I/A**

W03 Learn to Write Stories about Your Ancestors \$20

KELLI JO BERGHEIMER

Each session will focus on telling a story in a different way to spark ideas on how to tell your story. **B/I/A**

3:15 pm

W04 Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Genealogy \$20

DREW SMITH

AI tools are being used by genealogy companies and have recently become available to genealogists. What are they? How can we use them appropriately? **I/A**

W05 The Trails Through Penns Woods: Records of Colonial Pennsylvania \$20

SANDRA RUMBLE

Researching Colonial Pennsylvania records can be a challenge for genealogists unfamiliar with the diverse religions that settled in William Penn's colony. Please bring a laptop or tablet, or partner with a friend who is bringing one. **B/I/A**

W06 Journey to the Old Country: Shedding Light on Research in the Former Austria-Hungary \$20

JUSTIN K. HOUSER & MICHELLE CHUBENKO, AG

Sponsored by the Ukrainian History & Educational Center

Explore Polish, Ukrainian, Jewish or German ancestry in Galicia in the former Austrian Empire, from which millions emigrated in the 19th and 20th centuries. This workshop introduces best steps to begin research and allows for hands-on analysis of your "brick walls." **B/I**

SOCIETY ENHANCEMENT SESSIONS

FREE and open to the public. Pre-registration is required.

1:00 pm

W07 Picture This! Images We Can Freely Use

JUDY G. RUSSELL, JD, CG, CGL

Copyright. Licensed. Public domain. The difference between an image that's covered by one of these terms rather than another can be the difference between getting sued for using an image in your genealogy report or book or blog or website — and having no problems at all. Here's how to find images we can freely use. **B/I/A**

2:15 pm

W08 Crafting Effective Policies for Genealogy Societies

LAUREN KUNTZMAN, MA, MLIS

Policies help societies establish guidelines for decision-making, while fostering consistency and accountability. Explore a range of policies and learn tips for crafting effective policy statements. **B/I/A**

3:30 pm

W09 Restructuring Societies for a Healthy, Active Membership

LADONNA GARNER, MA

Is your society waning? Restructuring the group may encourage and motivate growth in membership and volunteers. **B/I/A**

4:45 pm

W10 How to Make the Most of Your Genealogical Society Memberships and Newsletters

KELLI JO BERGHEIMER

Genealogical societies have gems to help us learn about our families and with our genealogical research. Come learn how to maximize society memberships. **B/I/A**

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SOCIAL

6:30 pm

W11 Dinner \$39

Join us Wednesday Evening for a Stir Fry Buffet followed by a few social networking activities and then a game of SIMON. Teams of 4 will be given a chance to see if they can follow the light path to a win.

Reminder, have your Family Tree (FamilySearch) app to find "Relatives Around Me."

Menu: Stir Fry Buffet: Stir Fried Rice and Lo Mein with Vegetables, Mini Egg Rolls, Fortune Cookies, Sweet & Sour Chicken, Mongolian Beef.

Beverages: Water, Iced Tea, & Coffee

	8:00 AM	9:15 AM	10:00 AM	11:30 AM
DNA	<p>T01 Keynote Session</p> <p>JUDY G. RUSSELL, JD, CG, CGL</p> <p>After the Courthouse Burns: Rekindling Family History through DNA</p>	<p>GRAND OPENING: EXHIBITOR HALL</p> <p>Please visit with representatives of many organizations and companies in the Exhibitor Hall who are there just to meet YOU!</p>	<p>T02 DNA Case Study: An Unknown Grandfather in Washington Co., PA</p> <p>KELLI JO BERGHEIMER</p> <p>DNA research questions sometimes require different strategies. See this research question solved using DNA analysis strategies you can apply to your own research. B/I</p> <p>Sponsor: Borland Genetics</p>	<p>T09 Speaker Luncheon</p> <p>SANDRA RUMBLE</p> <p>Working to Keep the Family Fed</p> <p>Americans shop at the grocery store — but how did great great grandma keep her family fed? To discover gardening and food preservation skills, study the Mennonite/Amish communities.</p> <p>Lunch: \$39</p> <p>Regular Meal: Caesar Salad/Italian & Caesar, Thyme Roasted Chicken, Butter Whipped Potatoes, Grilled Asparagus with Blistered Tomatoes, Dinner Rolls & Butter.</p> <p>Vegetarian Meal: Caesar Salad/Italian & Caesar, Three Cheese Mac & Cheese, Dinner Rolls & Butter.</p> <p>Beverages: Water, Iced Tea, Coffee</p>
TECHNOLOGY	<p>Catastrophic record loss due to fires and disasters at courthouses is a fact of life for genealogists. When a disaster takes out birth, marriage, death, court, land and probate records all in one fell swoop, it may still be possible to light our family's research fires — to rekindle our interest in our ancestral roots — using DNA evidence.</p>		<p>T03 State Censuses: Filling in the Gaps of Genealogical Research</p> <p>ROSS NELSON</p> <p>This lecture on U.S. state census records will focus on what records are available, what information they provide, and how best to utilize them. B/I/A</p>	
MILITARY			<p>T04 The Road to Independence: Exploring the Revolutionary War</p> <p>MICHAEL STRAUSS, AG</p> <p>2025 marks the 250th anniversary of the beginning of the War of Independence and fought over tensions between England and her upstart colonies. B/I/A</p>	
ETHNIC			<p>T05 Tracing Your Swiss Ancestors</p> <p>JUSTIN K. HOUSER</p> <p>Learn how to trace ancestors in Swiss records and understand their historical context. B/I/A</p>	
RECORDS			<p>T06 Why is My Grandmother's Record Private?</p> <p>DANIEL HOROWITZ</p> <p>Do you really have to wait 100 years to access that historical record? Daniel will explain privacy regulations and share strategies for accessing restricted collections. B/I/A</p>	
METHODOLOGY			<p>T07 Light Up Your Genealogy</p> <p>MICHAEL D. LACOPO, DVM</p> <p>Ten ways to better illuminate your research to find what you are seeking! B/I/A</p>	
LIGHT IT UP			<p>T08 Organizing Your Genealogy Files</p> <p>DREW SMITH</p> <p>Overwhelmed with too many paper documents and digital files? Learn to organize these so that you can quickly find just the one you need. B/I/A</p>	

Exhibitor Hall will be open 9:15 am–6:00 pm

Thursday

1:00 PM	2:20 PM	3:40 PM	6:00 PM
<p>T10 Jewish Settlements in the Ohio River Valley: DNA Case Study <i>KATE PENNEY HOWARD</i> By the mid 19th century, thousands of Jewish immigrants had settled in the small towns along the Ohio River, building an essential network of merchants. B/I/A</p>	<p>T17 No One Told Me There Would Be Math! DNA By the Numbers <i>DR. LEAH LARKIN</i> Learn to interpret the math behind ethnicity estimates, DNA matches, the What Are the Odds and BanyanDNA tools, and FamilyTreeDNA's Time Trees. B/I/A Sponsor: Borland Genetics</p>	<p>T24 When the DNA is a Thorny Thicket <i>KATE PENNEY HOWARD</i> Strategies for success with low-cM cases, endogamy, high-RoH and other hazards. I/A Sponsor: Borland Genetics</p>	<p>T31 Speaker Dinner SUNNY JANE MORTON Fact or Fable? How True Are Those Stories? You Decide Three old family stories. Three sets of evidence found by a genealogist. You'll weigh in on how true these family stories may be — and how you might tell them. Interactive! Dinner: \$49 Regular Meal: Tomato Florentine Soup, Roasted Pork Chop with roasted apple and mustard seed chutney, Thyme Roasted Potatoes and caramelized onion hash, herbed green beans. Dinner Rolls and Butter. Mini Dessert Assortment. Vegetarian Meal: Tomato Florentine Soup, Stuffed Peppers with vegetable rice, braised in tomato, pickled in fennel, broccolini. Dinner Rolls and Butter. Mini Dessert Assortment. Beverages: Water, Iced Tea, Coffee</p>
<p>T11 Preserving What Can't Be Preserved <i>MICHAEL JOHN NEILL</i> You can't preserve everything in your relative's home. See how to leave at least a digital version of it behind. B/I/A</p>	<p>T18 Artificial Tears: The Pains and Joys of AI for Genealogy <i>JUDY G. RUSSELL, JD, CG, CGL</i> All the rules for sources, copyright, plagiarism and more are being rewritten as we learn how to use this new tool for genealogy wisely. B/I/A</p>	<p>T25: Using Ohio Libraries' Digital Collections in Your Genealogy <i>CINDY LINDSAY</i> Over the last 25 years, libraries across Ohio have created digital collections. Genealogists can use material digitized by public and university libraries in their research. B/I/A Sponsor: Great Lakes Chapter, APG</p>	
<p>T12 The U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps in World War II <i>CINDY LINDSAY</i> Over 120,000 women participated in the U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps program. Learn its history and find out if your ancestor took part in it. I/A</p>	<p>T19 Free Trade and Sailors Rights: Records of the War of 1812 <i>MICHAEL STRAUSS, AG</i> Often called America's "Forgotten War." The causes were many that brought the United States into this second domestic conflict with England. I/A</p>	<p>T26 American Federal Military Records for the 18th and 19th Centuries <i>SANDRA RUMBLE</i> Early U.S. military records can be used to resolve the identities of same-named men, revealing post-military life, including invaluable demographics to family researchers. B/I/A</p>	
<p>T13 "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot:" The Underground Railroad in Ohio <i>PEGGY CLEMENS LAURITZEN, AG, FOGS</i> If they could just make it to the Ohio River, the enslaved were looking at the possibility of their ticket to freedom. Known also as the "trunk line" of the Underground Railroad, there were many secret routes and safe houses where abolitionists would guide them to freedom. B/I/A</p>	<p>T20 Researching Ancestors from Poland and Ukraine <i>JUSTIN K. HOUSER</i> Learn how to research ancestors and use online records from present-day Ukraine and Poland. B</p>	<p>T27 Echoes of the Exile: The Ohio Native American Removal <i>AIMEE ROSE-HAYNES</i> Besides the Five Civilized Tribes, multiple Ohio tribes were affected by Andrew Jackson's removal order, relocating to present-day Oklahoma. Discover their challenges during displacement. B/I/A</p>	
<p>T14 Overlooked and Underused: Special Collections and Databases <i>ELAINE KUHN, MLS</i> Learn about methods for finding your family history in unusual locations. B/I/A</p>	<p>T21 Finding Treasure in the Hoosier Courthouse <i>MICHAEL D. LACOPO, DVM</i> There is far more than meets the eye in the Indiana courthouse! Go beyond the typical vital records and deeds and probates and dig deeper to find your ancestors in "The Crossroads of America." B/I/A</p>	<p>T28 Church Records and Their Use in Genealogy <i>REV. DAVID McDONALD, DMIN</i> Many Christian churches produce records that genealogists seek in the absence of, or to supplement, vital records. They're more than hatchings, matchings and dispatchings! B</p>	
<p>T15 Immigration and Naturalization: An Introduction <i>DREW SMITH</i> For those in the United States with European ancestry, this presentation explains how to search for and interpret our ancestors' documents of immigration and naturalization. B/I/A</p>	<p>T22 Inventories and Receipts: Solving Mysteries with Minutiae in Probate Packets <i>LAUREN KUNTZMAN, MA, MLIS</i> Estate files contain original records created during the probate process. Despite limited microfilming or digitization, explore the value of locating these packets for research. B/I/A Sponsor: Stark County Chapter, OGS</p>	<p>T29 Navigating the 1890 Gap: Research with State Census Records <i>KRIS W. RZEPZYNSKI, MLIS, MA</i> With the near-total loss of the 1890 U.S. census, state censuses can be an effective substitute. This program will emphasize the available schedules. B/I/A</p>	
<p>T16 Ohio: Crossroads of Westward Expansion <i>REV. DAVID McDONALD, DMIN</i> A case study in transcontinental migration, from New England, through Ohio, to the Plains, to California in a century. B/I/A</p>	<p>T23 Researching the Black Sheep of the Family Tree <i>LADONNA GARNER, MA</i> Family trees hide colorful leaves among its branches, but their records do not be elusive. Discover records that document the lives of black sheep ancestors. B/I/A</p>	<p>T30 Finally Finding Females <i>MICHAEL JOHN NEILL</i> See ways to uncover female ancestors whose details are often buried in records on their sons, husbands, and fathers. B/I/A</p>	

Friday

Registration will be open 7–11:30 am • 1:15–4:30 pm

	8:15 AM	9:30 AM	10:45 AM	12:00 PM
DNA	<p>F01 From Mad to Method: Making Sense of Your DNA Results <i>DR. LEAH LARKIN</i> Getting started in genetic genealogy can be daunting. Learn a step-by-step approach to make sense of your results and start breaking down brick walls. B/I/A Sponsor: Borland Genetics</p>	<p>F08 Gateway to Opportunity: The Many Paths to the Northwest Territory <i>AMBER OLDENBURG</i> Explore the diverse routes — from water travel on rivers to treacherous overland passages — that led settlers to build new lives in the Old Northwest Territory B/I/A</p>	<p>F15 Quhat's in a Nayme <i>MAUREEN BRADY</i> This presentation will look at the origin and history of names, various naming and cultural patterns, and research strategies for locating names in records. B/I</p>	<p>F22 Speaker Luncheon REV. DAVID McDONALD, DMIN John Wilson: Ohio Pioneer A member of the 1802 constitutional convention and early Ohio settler, Wilson's families demonstrate the blending of families from North and South on Ohio's frontier.</p> <p>Lunch: \$42</p> <p>Regular Meal: Field Greens Salad/Ranch & Italian, Grilled Flank Steak, Roasted Tomato & Bordelaise Sauce, Kalahari Scalloped Potatoes, Glazed Baby Carrots, Dinner Rolls & Butter</p> <p>Vegetarian Meal: Field Greens Salad/Ranch & Italian Dressing, Roasted Tomato Lasagna, Sun Dried Tomato Sofrito, Eggplant, Spinach, Ricotta, Parmesan Cheese, Broccolini, and Tomato Ragout. Dinner Rolls and Butter.</p> <p>Beverages: Water, Iced Tea, Coffee</p>
TECHNOLOGY	<p>F02 Tell Your Family Stories More Powerfully in PowerPoint <i>SUNNY JANE MORTON</i> Learn how PowerPoint software can help you create "mini-documentaries" of your family stories, with appealing visuals, images, video, transitions and text. B/I/A</p>	<p>F09 AI-Assisted Genealogy: The Family History of the Future <i>DANIEL HOROWITZ</i> Learn how to use artificial intelligence (AI) to boost your research, and enjoy a peek into the future of AI-assisted genealogy. B/I/A</p>	<p>F16 Math Skills for the Genealogist <i>MICHAEL JOHN NEILL</i> Brush up on your genealogical math skills. An intuitive presentation will help add members to your family tree and subtract from your frustration with numbers B/I/A</p>	
MILITARY	<p>F03 Vital Records of Pennsylvania from 1682 to Today <i>DENYSE ALLEN</i> A fast-paced tour through the birth, marriage, divorce, death and adoption records created by state law in Pennsylvania. B/I Sponsor: PA Ancestors</p>	<p>F10 Pennsylvania's Taxes: Commonwealth's Best Residential Records <i>JAMES M. BEIDLER</i> Most of Pennsylvania's state census returns have been lost, but most tax rolls have been preserved and are excellent year-by-year records of residence. B/I/A</p>	<p>F17 Piecing Together the Migration Puzzle of Your New Jersey Ancestors <i>MICHELLE CHUBENKO, AG</i> Learn about New Jersey's key reference materials to trace your Ohio family back to the Garden State. B/I/A Sponsor: Genealogical Society of New Jersey</p>	
ETHNIC	<p>F04 Beginning Your Italian Research <i>MICHAEL D. LACOPO, DVM</i> By 1920, more than 4 million Italians had immigrated to America. If you have Italian ancestry and have yet to jump across the Atlantic, come learn some helpful research hints to start your journey from home. B/I</p>	<p>F11 The 1818 Welsh Migration to Ohio <i>KELLI JO BERGHEIMER</i> The earliest migration of Welsh to Ohio was in 1818. Learn the challenges and struggles they overcame to settle in the great state of Ohio. B/I/A</p>	<p>F18 Shedding Light on Eastern Catholic and Orthodox Churches and Their Records <i>JUSTIN K. HOUSER</i> Learn the basics of the denominational affiliations of immigrants from Eastern Europe and how to discover their records. B/I/A</p>	
RECORDS	<p>F05 Territorial Papers of the United States Reveal Early Ohio History <i>SANDRA RUMBLE</i> The Territorial Papers of the United States detail early Ohio history as part of the Northwest Territory, including early settlement, tribal disputes, governance and petitions. B/I/A</p>	<p>F12 Follow the Money! Records of the Record Makers <i>JUDY G. RUSSELL, JD, CG, CGL</i> Following the money trail to doctors, preachers, merchants and others who kept records can lead us to details about ancestors that no one else recorded. B/I/A</p>	<p>F19 The Symmes Purchase: Selling Land He Did Not Own <i>PEGGY CLEMENS LAURITZEN, AG, FOGS</i> Through some early miscalculations and measurements while performing the surveys, John Cleves Symmes ended up selling land he did not own, leaving many who had followed him there from New Jersey no better than squatters. Some land was sold more than once at the same time. B/I/A</p>	
METHODOLOGY	<p>F06 It Was Never Discussed: Breaking Through a Wall of Silence <i>ELAINE KUHN, MLS</i> Learn through case studies how family secrets may be discovered. B/I/A</p>	<p>F13 Crossing the Lines: Research Across State, County and Township Boundaries <i>KRIS W. RZEPZYNSKI, MLIS, MA</i> This program will explore the importance of researching in border townships, counties, and states, where our elusive ancestors are often hiding in plain sight. B/I/A</p>	<p>F20 Secret Societies: Records of Fraternal Organizations <i>MICHAEL STRAUSS, AG</i> Fraternal organizations have existed since the founding of our republic, being organized for many reasons. Fraternal records can provide little details about our ancestors. B/I/A</p>	
LIGHT IT UP	<p>F07 The Research Plan: Your Blueprint for Genealogical Success <i>DREW SMITH</i> Research processes only succeed when they begin with a well-written research plan. Learn to go from questions to what is known to relevant sources. B</p>	<p>F14 Reading Ye Old Handwriting and Tombstones: Decoding Historical Handwriting and Inscriptions <i>LaDONNA GARNER, MA</i> Learn techniques to tackle historical handwriting reading difficulties, extract pertinent information from records and headstones to advance research findings. B/I/A Sponsor: National Genealogical Society</p>	<p>F21 Fundamentals of Mennonite Research <i>MICHAEL D. LACOPO, DVM</i> Mennonites came to America in two waves: the 18th century German migration to Pennsylvania, and the 19th century Swiss migration to the Midwest. Research techniques and repositories unique to this Anabaptist group can yield amazing results! B/I/A Sponsor: Ashland County Chapter OGS</p>	

1:30 PM	2:45 PM	4:00 PM	6:30 PM
<p>F23 Genealogical Research Using Railroad Records <i>KIM S. HARRISON</i> Overview of the different types of records or sources that were created by the railroad or the people who worked on them. A quick look at the value of these records for our railroad ancestors. B/I/A Sponsor: Marleen Applegate</p>	<p>F30: Solved! Case Studies in Genetic Genealogy <i>DR. LEAH LARKIN</i> How do you identify a parent when there are no records? Three case studies showcase how to use DNA test results to get answers. B/I/A Sponsor: Borland Genetics</p>	<p>F37 Using Mitochondrial DNA Testing for Genealogical Problem Solving <i>MICHAEL D. LACOPO, DVM</i> The use of mtDNA often garners negative advice and nay-sayers, but this is a powerful tool in the genealogist's toolbox. This case study shows how mtDNA can solve genealogical problems when the paper trail is weak. I/A</p>	<p>F44 Lineage Banquet</p> <p>Celebrating Ohio Ancestors! Join us as we welcome the newest inductees into OGS' lineage societies.</p> <p>Dinner: \$49</p> <p>Regular Meal: Minestrone Soup, Sautéed Chicken Breast, Roasted Tomato, Wilted Spinach, Parmesan Cream Sauce, Basmati Rice Pilaf, Green Beans, Lemoncello Cheesecake, Dinner Rolls & Butter</p> <p>Vegetarian Meal: Minestrone Soup, Vegetable Stir Fry, Lemoncello Cheesecake, Dinner Rolls & Butter</p> <p>Beverages: Water, Iced Tea, Coffee</p>
<p>F24 Perfect Together: Facebook and Genealogy <i>MICHELLE CHUBENKO, AG</i> Need help in Ohio or elsewhere? Learn tips and techniques to effectively use the social media platform-Facebook-for your genealogical research. B/I/A</p>	<p>F31 I've Got Matches on MyHeritage, Now What? <i>DANIEL HOROWITZ</i> Make the most of MyHeritage technology by exploring cutting-edge features that will enhance your family history research and provide greater context to your family's story. I Sponsor: MyHeritage</p>	<p>F38 Using the Full-Text Search at FamilySearch <i>MICHAEL JOHN NEILL</i> Full-text searching is more than typing and hoping. This session explores approaches to get the most of full-text search of local records at FamilySearch. B/I/A Sponsor: Muskingum Co Chapter, OGS</p>	
<p>F25 Researching New England Town Records (Prior to 1850) <i>ERIC E. JOHNSON</i> Explore the resources available on the internet for researching New England town records and finding hidden ancestral gems. B/I</p>	<p>F32 A Tour of the County Courthouse of Your Pennsylvania Ancestors <i>DENYSE ALLEN</i> Our ancestors used the courthouse for everything in their lives. Learn what records they made and how to access them online or offline. B/I Sponsor: PA Ancestors</p>	<p>F39 Journey of the Seabird Rose Family and Their Ohio Legacy <i>AIMEE ROSE-HAYNES</i> Follow the Seabird Rose family's migration from Virginia to Ohio, settling in Wood County. Seabird and Amy Anna Lambert raised 10 children, including Pleasant Rose. B/I</p>	
<p>F26 The Bodenhorn Origins: Finding my Hessian Ancestor <i>KATY BODENHORN BARNES</i> Using records in both the U.S. and Germany, finding a long-lost Revolutionary War ancestor (on the other side!) also identified my eighteenth-century German hometown. B/I</p>	<p>F33 The First Frontiersmen: The Scots-Irish <i>MAUREEN BRADY</i> This presentation will provide a brief review of the history of the Scots-Irish, their migration to the American frontier and resources for research. B/I</p>	<p>F40 Back to the USSR: Tracing Your Russian Roots <i>AMY WACHS, JD</i> Using records in both the U.S. and Germany, finding a long-lost Revolutionary War ancestor (on the other side!) also identified my eighteenth-century German hometown. B/I/A</p>	
<p>F27 Midwest Repositories and Online Collections <i>KRIS W. RZEP CZYNSKI, MLIS, MA</i> The Midwest is bursting with genealogical records and online content. This session will explore some of the key research institutions and their digital collections. B/I/A</p>	<p>F34 Finding Ancestors in Organizational Resources <i>ELAINE KUHN, MLS</i> Learn about the methods for identifying and locating resources from organizations to which your ancestor may have belonged. I/A</p>	<p>F41 Using the Territorial Papers of the United States <i>REV. DAVID McDONALD, DMIN</i> Covers states in the public domain east of, and touching, the Mississippi River. It can be a gold mine for genealogists working in the territorial period. B/I/A</p>	
<p>F28 Murder in the Mountains: Grandpa's Birth Father in Court Records <i>KATE PENNEY HOWARD</i> In 1928, a man was shot during an argument regarding a baby's paternity in Magoffin County, Kentucky. This lively DNA case study settles the score. B/I/A</p>	<p>F35 Roosevelt's Tree Army: Records of the Civilian Conservation Corps <i>MICHAEL STRAUSS, AG</i> Thousands of men from cities and towns came together to serve in the vanguard of one of President Franklin D Roosevelt's "New Deal" programs. I/A</p>	<p>F42 The Colonial Hiester Family: Illegal Emigration, Bricks, Slaves <i>JAMES M. BEIDLER</i> A case study of a Pennsylvania German family who left the backwoods of Wittgenstein without permission and became a local political dynasty in America. B/I/A</p>	
<p>F29 Go West, Young Man (or Woman!): The Homestead Act <i>SANDRA RUMBLE</i> The Homestead Act was revolutionary, awarding federal lands to settlers, even females, transforming the heartland and encouraging westward settlement for over 100 years. B/I/A</p>	<p>F36 Martha Benschura: Enemy Alien <i>JUDY G. RUSSELL, JD, CG, CGL</i> When war divided our immigrant ancestors' native countries from their new residence, the law made them enemy aliens, creating the kinds of records genealogists love. I/A</p>	<p>F43 Understanding Copyright and Plagiarism <i>DREW SMITH</i> Concerned about the legal and ethical issues surrounding genealogical materials? Learn what copyright is and how to legally and ethically use the work of others. B/I/A</p>	

Saturday

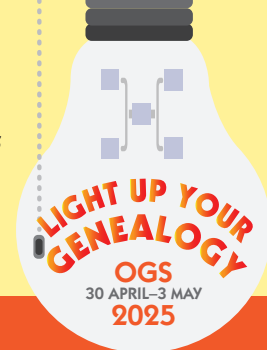
Registration will be open 7:00–11:00 am

	8:15 AM	9:30 AM	10:45 AM	12:00 PM
DNA	<p>S01 Identity Unveiled: Navigating the Path from Shock to Serenity <i>AIMEE ROSE-HAYNES</i> Accompany Aimee Rose-Haynes as she unravels Dr. Nicole Price's mystery birth father, triggered by unexpected DNA findings, culminating in a gratifying resolution. B/I/A</p>	<p>S08 Working with WATO and WATO+ (What Are the Odds) <i>DR. LEAH LARKIN</i> The "What Are the Odds?" tool revolutionized genetic genealogy. This talk explains how it works, how to use it, and how to interpret the results. I/A Sponsor: Borland Genetics</p>	<p>S15 Endogamy? Now What? <i>KELLI JO BERGHEIMER</i> Learn where to focus your attention in your DNA match lists and chromosome browsers and how to focus your attention on the most important matches. I</p>	<p>S22 OGS Business Luncheon OGS Business Meeting and Awards Join us for the Annual OGS Business Meeting! This is where we recognize our annual OGS Chapter award winners, writers' awards, induct new board members, and present other recognitions. This is also when we announce the next annual OGS Conference details. You do not need to be a member of OGS to join us at this annual Business Meeting!</p> <p>Lunch: \$39</p> <p>Regular Meal: Bibb Lettuce Salad/Ranch & Italian, Honey & Herb Brined Turkey Breast, Sage, Onion & Thyme Glaze, Garlic Smashed Potatoes, Mixed Vegetables, Dinner Rolls & Butter</p> <p>Vegetarian Meal: Bibb Lettuce Salad/Ranch & Italian, Three Cheese Ravioli, Dinner Rolls & Butter</p> <p>Beverages: Water, Iced Tea, Coffee</p>
TECHNOLOGY	<p>S02 Leveraging Social Media for Genealogical Research <i>DANIEL HOROWITZ</i> Learn how to harness the power of social media to connect with relatives, learn about your ancestors, obtain photos and new details, and much more. I/A</p>	<p>S09 Research Your Family for Free: Free Resources for Family Historians <i>AMBER OLDENBURG</i> Go beyond paid sites and learn about the tools and resources available to research your family history for free. B</p>	<p>S16 German Genealogy on the Web: Databases and Guides Big and Small <i>JAMES M. BEIDLER</i> Records of German-speaking people on both sides of the Atlantic are increasingly online, including a great map that debuted within the past year. Learn about it! B/I/A</p>	
MILITARY	<p>S03 Sultana: Civil War Maritime Disaster <i>KIM S. HARRISON</i> The lives lost and the events that led up to the disaster. This talk will mention the Civil War soldiers who were returning home from southern prisons and the owners of the steamship. B/I/A</p>	<p>S10 Creating a Narrative History with Grandpa's V-Mail <i>KATE PENNEY HOWARD</i> How do I create a narrative history of Grandpa's time overseas using his V-mail, military records, stories and the testimonies of other soldiers? B/I/A</p>	<p>S17 I'm In the Army Now! Exploring Local Militia Records <i>THOMAS S. NEEL, MLIS</i> We find an ancestor on a local militia list. So what does this actually mean? Does this count as veteran status and is the genealogist descendant eligible for membership in patriotic societies? I/A</p>	
ETHNIC	<p>S04 British Resources at FindMyPast <i>MAUREEN BRADY</i> <i>FindMyPast</i> has an extensive library of British databases and images. This presentation will include a website review and suggested search techniques. B/I</p>	<p>S11 "Deemed a Runaway:" Black Laws of the North <i>JUDY G. RUSSELL, JD, CG, CGL</i> Northern black laws impacting free people of color began in Ohio in 1804, and created valuable records for tracing African-American families and their white associates. B/I/A</p>	<p>S18 History and Geography: Tools for Eastern European Research <i>AMY WACHS, JD</i> This presentation will offer guidance for using a region's historical events and geography to help fill in the gaps and move past brick walls. B/I/A</p>	
RECORDS	<p>S05 Penn's Land, The Early Land Research Records of Pennsylvania <i>SANDRA RUMBLE</i> The early settlers of Pennsylvania were drawn here by two promises made by William Penn: freedom of religion and opportunity to purchase their own land. B/I/A</p>	<p>S12 Brick Wall Case Studies Using U.S. Church Records <i>SUNNY JANE MORTON</i> See how U.S. church records helped with brick-wall situations: unknown overseas hometown, migration mystery, conflicting evidence, African Americans before 1870 and reconstructing an entire family. I/A</p>	<p>S19 Our Ancestors' Immigration Records <i>MELISSA RZEP CZYNSKI</i> Using available immigration and supplemental documents, learn what information was collected, where to find these records, and watch our immigrant ancestor's story come alive. B/I/A</p>	
METHODOLOGY	<p>S06 Through the Back Door: Using Indirect Evidence to Identify Parents <i>KATY BODENHORN BARNES</i> It may not be a brick wall! Learn how to use evidence and proof arguments to identify an ancestor's parents, even when no record names them. B/I/A</p>	<p>S13 What Am I Looking For? Genealogical Research from Hypothesis to Plan <i>MICHAEL D. LACOPO, DVM</i> To topple your brick walls, you must focus on your problem and develop a plan to solve it. Your road to success relies on knowledge of records online and onsite and awareness of the tools at your disposal to smash that wall! B/I/A</p>	<p>S20 Snow, Nor Rain: The Records of the United States Post Office and Your Ancestors <i>PEGGY CLEMENS LAURITZEN, AG, FOGS</i> Genealogists and historians want to learn more about the history of their communities containing post offices, employees and mail routes which began in the earliest days of America. B/I/A</p>	
LIGHT IT UP	<p>S07 Women's Suffrage: Their Rights, Roles and Responsibilities <i>MICHAEL STRAUSS, AG</i> Life for early American women was burdened with setbacks. Limited by society without voting rights, opportunities and no legal identity, women sought to be equal in society. I/A</p>	<p>S14 That Holiday Talk: Saving and Sharing Your Family's History <i>MICHELLE CHUBENKO, AG</i> Learn ways to share your family legacy — pictures, stories and documents — with other family members and fellow researchers at holiday dinners and other social events. B/I/A</p>	<p>S21 Children's Aid: Nineteenth-Century Social Services in Pennsylvania and Ohio <i>KATY BODENHORN BARNES</i> Detailed stories and critical family information are often found in the records of institutionalized children (and not just orphans!) in the 1800s. B/I/A</p>	

Exhibitor Hall will be open 8:00 am–3:00 pm

1:30 PM	2:45 PM
<p>S23 Margaret's Mother: Using DNA to Solve a Mystery <i>JUDY G. RUSSELL, JD, CG, CGL</i> Paper-trail evidence identifies her twice-married father, but which of his two wives was Margaret's mother? Can DNA solve the mystery and produce a reliable conclusion? I/A</p> <p>Sponsor: Board of Certified Genealogists, Education Fund</p>	<p>S30 Ancestry Unveiled: Distinguishing Genealogy from Genetic Genealogy <i>AIMEE ROSE-HAYNES</i> Gain insight into the advantages and challenges of genetic genealogy and traditional genealogy. We'll delve into DNA types, documentation, accuracy, limitations and ethical aspects. B/I/A</p> <p>Sponsor: Borland Genetics</p>
<p>S24 BanyanDNA: A New Tool for Genetic Genealogy and Complex Pedigrees <i>DR. LEAH LARKIN</i> BanyanDNA is a sophisticated online tool to help visualize, validate, and expand your tree using DNA, even with complex relationships. I/A</p>	<p>S31 AncestryDNA: Using Matches and ThruLines <i>DREW SMITH</i> Learn to use AncestryDNA's most popular tools (Matches and ThruLines) to help match other testers, group matches and discover the most likely relationships. B/I/A</p>
<p>S25 The Forgotten Wars of the 19th Century <i>SANDRA RUMBLE</i> The westward expansion during early American history created many regional conflicts. While overlooked nationally, these conflicts generated a treasure trove of records for our ancestors. B/I/A</p>	<p>S32 The Great War: Researching World War I <i>MICHAEL STRAUSS, AG</i> With the war in Europe raging since 1914 and the United States remaining neutral. On April 6, 1917 the United States entered World War I. B/I</p>
<p>S26 The Québécois-French-Canadian Research <i>MAUREEN BRADY</i> This presentation will include a review of the settlement of French North America and the record sources and websites for researching the Québécois. B/I</p>	<p>S33 Guidelines for Finding Polish Records <i>AMY WACHS, JD</i> This presentation will provide information about resources available in state archives in Poland and neighboring countries and provide tips for effective research there. B/I/A</p>
<p>S27 Four Records You Can Find in Archives to Complete Your Family <i>DENYSE ALLEN</i> A Show-and-tell of the archival collections in Pennsylvania which can break down your 18th and 19th century brick walls. B/I/A</p> <p>Sponsor: PA Ancestors</p>	<p>S34 Researching Newspapers Outside of Newspapers.com <i>AMBER OLDENBURG</i> Extra, extra, learn all about the many free and low-cost newspaper collections beyond sites like Newspapers.com. B</p>
<p>S28 Incorporating Oral Histories and Folklores into the Family Narrative <i>LADONNA GARNER, MA</i> Many families share stories and old tales among the generations. Discover ways to support, highlight, and include cherished memories within the ancestral tree. B/I/A</p>	<p>S35 Telling Your Story: Adding Character to Your Genealogical Narrative <i>MICHAEL D. LACOPO, DVM</i> Take a walk through the lives of your speaker's ancestors, who were 19th-century German immigrants, and learn how you can tell a compelling story of ancestors who never left a single written word behind. B/I/A</p>
<p>S29 Genealogy Goes to the Movies <i>DANIEL HOROWITZ</i> From Harry Potter and Star Wars to Oppenheimer and Barbie, explore how family history plays a central role in Hollywood characters and actors. B/I/A</p>	<p>S36 Book of Clues: Using County Histories as a Resource <i>KIM S. HARRISON</i> Published county histories are a popular resource, but the researcher needs to understand their limitations as well as the rich clues they provided for the genealogist. B/I/A</p>

This year's conference theme is a tribute to the great inventor, who was born just down the road from our venue.



BY THE NUMBERS Thomas A. Edison

2,500

The number of notebooks in which he recorded the progress of his experiments.

11

The age at which he had his own chemical lab, in his Port Huron, Mich., home.

12

The age at which his formal education stopped.

17

The age at which he became a regular telegrapher on the Grand Trunk line at Stratford Junction, Ontario.



\$40,000

The first earnings from one of his inventions, the Universal Stock Printer, in 1870.

1,093

The number of U.S. patents he held.

2,332

The total number of patents he held throughout the world, including in the following categories: electric light and power; phonographs and recorded sound; telegraphy and telephony; batteries; mining and iron ore milling, cement and motion pictures.



84

His age at time of his death, in West Orange, N.J., on Oct. 18, 1931.

THANK YOU!

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First-time attendee

EARLY REGISTRATION (by March 7, 2025)

- OGS Member (Full registration) _____ @ \$185.00 ea
 OGS Member (2 day) _____ @ \$145.00 ea
 OGS Member (1 day) _____ @ \$105.00 ea
 Non-OGS Member (Full registration) _____ @ \$225.00 ea
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 Thursday Friday Saturday

REGULAR REGISTRATION (by April 18, 2025)

- OGS Member (Full registration) _____ @ \$225.00 ea
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WORKSHOPS (Additional fee/registration required)

- W01 MyHeritage PedigreeMap _____ @ \$20.00 ea
 W02 BanyanDNA _____ @ \$20.00 ea
 W03 Write Stories about Your Ancestors _____ @ \$20.00 ea
 W04 Artificial Intelligence and Genealogy _____ @ \$20.00 ea
 W05 Trails through Penns Wood _____ @ \$20.00 ea
 W06 Journey to the Old Country _____ @ \$20.00 ea
 W07 Picture This: Images to Freely Use _____ @ NO EXTRA
 W08 Crafting Effective Policies for Societies _____ @ NO EXTRA
 W09 Restructuring Societies _____ @ NO EXTRA
 W10 Make the Most of Society Memberships _____ @ NO EXTRA

OGS MEMBERSHIP PURCHASE. Due to changes with the OGS website, you can no longer purchase or renew OGS memberships with your Conference registration. Please purchase or renew your membership at www.ogs.org.

MEALS/SOCIALS (Additional fee/registration required)

- W11 Wed Night Social _____ @ \$39.00 ea
 T09 Speaker Lunch: Keep the Family Fed _____ @ \$39.00 ea
 T31 Speaker Dinner: Fact or Fable _____ @ \$49.00 ea
 F22 Speaker Lunch: Ohio Pioneers _____ @ \$42.00 ea
 F44 Lineage Banquet _____ @ \$49.00 ea
 S22 OGS Annual Business Meeting _____ @ \$39.00 ea
Meals Regular Vegetarian

DONATIONS AND EXTRA PURCHASES

- OGS 2025 Syllabus \$30.00
 OGS 2025 Conference Pin \$ 5.00
 OGS Donation \$
Use for: Website Fund Endowment Fund
 Operating Fund Capital Fund

PAYMENT SUMMARY AND TOTAL

Registration Cost	\$ _____
Workshops Cost	\$ _____
Meals Cost	\$ _____
Donations and Extra Purchases Cost	\$ _____
TOTAL PAYMENT DUE	\$ _____

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Credit Card: MasterCard VISA Discover

NUMBER _____

EXP DATE _____ CVV _____

SIGNATURE ON CARD _____

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Make checks payable to the Ohio Genealogical Society. OGS will charge a fee of \$25 for each returned check and/or declined credit card charge. Returned checks must be paid by cash, money order, cashier's check, or credit card.

MAIL REGISTRATION FORM AND PAYMENT TO:

OGS 2025 Annual Conference
611 State Route 97 West, Bellville, OH 44813-8813

OR SAVE TIME!

Register online at www.OGSConference.org
Phone: (419) 886-1903 E-mail: ogsconference@ogs.org

No mailed-in registrations will be processed after APRIL 11, 2025. If mailing please ensure they arrive at OGS by this date. online registrations are open through APRIL 18; after this date, register in person at the conference.



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Bellville, Ohio 44813

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DNA

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LIGHT IT UP

