

SAYRE & SAYRE Lecture Topics

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Joint Topics

Note: These topics may also be available for Pam or Rick to present individually.

Google Earth for Genealogists (2-hour session with Pam & Rick Sayre)

This two-hour live demonstration provides an overview of how to put the power of Google Earth to work and view your genealogy in a new way. Learn to mark and map the sites of historical buildings, cemeteries, or other features that no longer exist. View your ancestors' communities on period maps or land plat maps and see how to overlay these downloaded or scanned images on modern Google Earth maps. See a demo created with Google Earth tools (polygon, path, placemarks, overlay of photos and maps, and record-a-tour) and external tools such as 3D modeling to visualize one Civil War soldier's travels during the war.

This two-hour demonstration of Google Earth's features of relevance to family historians provides a visual learning experience based on live Google Earth demonstrations alternating with PowerPoint slides. Speakers provide their own projector and switchbox and two. Also required (to be provided by the host organization) are a highspeed Internet connection (wireless or wired), two microphones and podiums (for the speakers), two A/V tables (for the projectors), and one screen at the front of the room.

Apps Galore for Genealogists (2-hour session with Pam and Rick Sayre)

Learn about some of the many iPhone or iPad applications that will increase productivity for a genealogist. In this two-hour session, the speakers will discuss and demonstrate applications for the iPhone (or other smartphone) and iPad, from eBooks to genealogy programs to deed-platting to GoogleEarth, and beyond that to apps that help organize our busy lives—from accounting to contact management to file sharing. Live demonstrations from the iPhone and iPad will be shown on the projector, enabling attendees to see the usefulness of these apps for themselves.

Capital Treasure (2-hour session with Pam and Rick Sayre)

This presentation features four brief case studies that demonstrate the wealth of records that can be found in the Washington, DC area or on websites of repositories such as the National Archives, Library of Congress, Bureau of Land Management General Land Office, National Park Service, and Civil War Trust. Cases show how to find records of birth, marriage, and death for a burned county in which all such records were destroyed; how to learn how a Civil War veteran was shot to death in his old age; how to locate detailed facts about a person's life from a simple land record; and why numbers of Union Civil War soldiers are buried at a site far from where they fell.

GPS for Genealogists (1-hour session with Pam and Rick Sayre)

Learn how Global Positioning System technology and an inexpensive GPS device can help you solve genealogical research problems. Sure, a GPS can help you find the nearest Starbucks or convenience store, but why should a genealogist invest in one? It will keep you on course and help you find your ancestors, too. And it may just help you keep track of where you took all those photographs on your research trip. There are many practical uses for at least one GPS device, and prices are reasonable. We'll show you just a few of the creative ways a GPS can help in your ancestral quest.

Maps! Wonderful Maps! (2-hour session with Pam and Rick Sayre)

Maps enable genealogists to understand more about an ancestor's migration, community, and occupation. In this two-hour hands-on workshop, students will learn about traditional and online resources for finding historical, topographical, birds-eye view, and other maps, how to interpret the maps' symbols and notations, and how to correlate other information with map data to place an ancestor in time and place.

In on-line demonstrations, students will see some of the myriad sites for finding and downloading appropriate maps. For hands-on exercises, students will be provided with hard copies of maps, documents, and other tools to be used in correlating deeds, censuses, newspaper articles, or other documents with maps to solve genealogical problems using various kinds of maps, from deed plats to land ownership maps to panoramic maps. Demonstrations and exercises will include a mix of rural and urban problems and solutions.