



# **Midwestern** **ROOTS** *lite*

**PARTICIPANT WORKBOOK**



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Immigration and Migration

## SAVE THE DATE

JULY 14, 2022 – EUGENE AND MARILYN GLICK  
INDIANA HISTORY CENTER

JULY 15-16, 2022 – INDIANAPOLIS MARRIOTT EAST

Explore your family's story with a variety of national and regional experts at the Crossroads of America, featuring:



Blaine T. Bettinger,  
Ph.D., JD



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**WE DO** *Family*  
**HISTORY.**  
INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



IndianaHistory

#MRoots2022

The Indiana Historical Society collects and preserves Indiana's unique stories to bring Hoosiers together in remembering and sharing the past; and inspire a future grounded in our state's uniting values and principles. One great way to help promote this mission is by helping others to discover and preserve their personal and family stories. At the IHS, we help to share those stories with the millions of documents we house in our archives, and many that are digitized that you can explore at home. If you aren't familiar with our collections, please jump over to [indianahistory.org](http://indianahistory.org) and start your journey.

Welcome to the *Midwestern Roots Lite*:  
*From Roots to Roofs* mini-conference!

## Why this? Why now?

Like you, we look forward to the return of in-person research and museum learning experiences, but we also welcome the new and exciting possibilities and opportunities the last 18 months presented. The decision to move Midwestern Roots to 2022 was not easy, but necessary. The virtual offering of Midwestern

Roots Lite in 2021 is a flexible opportunity to make greater connections to your story and research, and keep you excited for the full conference experience in 2022. The bonus opportunity to potentially win a conference registration can't hurt either!

Follow us on social media



## Intentions for Midwestern Roots Lite:

- Let's be intentional about our participation by making time and space in our schedules to absorb information, reflect on our own work, and think about how to apply it.
- Let's use this time to recalibrate how we think about and share family history in, and outside of, our traditional research networks.
- Let's celebrate what we have learned! Post live on any of your social media handles. Tag us so we can join in!
- Let's build our networks by connecting with other researchers and storytellers everywhere.

## Schedule at a Glance

### *Reconstructing Rural Communities*

Wednesday, August 11 | 6 – 8 p.m. EST

### *Leaving the Farm: Town and City Living*

Wednesday, August 18 | 6 – 8 p.m. EST

### *Stories Buildings Tell*

Wednesday, August 25 | 6 – 7 p.m. EST

### *Building Memories*

2-hour on-demand workshop available starting  
Saturday, August 28



# Reflections



What tools – skills, talents, experiences, knowledge – do I bring to my research?

How do I think about family history and local history research? Do I think in dates, names and records? What about stories, senses, and recreating memories or experiences?

How much have I explored outside of direct relations?  
How can I be more conscious of my collective ancestors and community history and story?

What is a highlight from my research that I don't want to forget?  
How can I challenge myself to share that highlight in a more captivating way?

What new directions can I go in my research?

Have you gathered your thoughts? Great! Take a few minutes to add into the Toolkit on the following page. (Save room for additions!) Print it out or keep this toolkit on your desktop as a reminder that you've got this! You are an expert in your own story!

# My Toolkit



Carefully store the skills, experiences and knowledge that already make you the strong researcher and storyteller that you are. Continue to add to this toolkit as you move through the series.

		Keep this space open for new tools you discover.
Keep this space open for new tools you discover.		
	Keep this space open for new tools you discover.	

When I need a boost, I'm going to remember that time...

List the highlight you mentioned on the prior page here.

# Speaker Bios



## **LaDonna Garner, M.A., R.V.T.**

is a consultant focused on historical preservation and genealogical research in and outside Southeast Missouri. She lectures often on both subjects at conferences and as an instructor for the Continued Education Program at St. Louis Community College. Garner is an active board member for the Association of Professional Genealogists, volunteers for the National Genealogical Society, and numerous organizations in various capacities. She is also a Licensed Veterinary Technician with a devotion to heritage animals. Researching her family history for over 30 years, she is passionate about recording historic minority communities and cemeteries, genealogy education, client assistance, and consultations in archival documents, protecting our history and natural landscapes through historic preservation, and cemetery restoration.

## **Amy Vedra**

is Director of Reference Services at the Indiana Historical Society. She was born and raised in Griffith, Indiana, in the northwest corner of the state. Amy graduated with a bachelor's degree in history from Purdue University, Calumet, now Purdue University Northwest. She moved to Indianapolis to pursue graduate studies at Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis, obtaining master's degrees in history and library science. Amy began her professional career at the Indiana Historical Society in 2005 as a library cataloger, switching to her current position in 2013.

## **Suzanne Stanis**

is the Director of Heritage Education for Indiana Landmarks. She has a bachelor's degree from Hanover College and a Master of Library Science from Indiana University. Suzanne is the creator of continuing education courses, workshops, and children's camps. She also supervises Indiana Landmarks' heritage tourism divisions in Indianapolis, French Lick and West Baden Springs, and Samara, a Frank Lloyd Wright-designed house in West Lafayette. During her 30-plus years with Indiana Landmarks, she has researched and nominated over 15 buildings and neighborhoods to the National Register of Historic Places. As librarian for the organization, Suzanne regularly assists people with researching and restoring historic houses.

## **Lauren Peightel**

is a Manager of Engagement at the Indiana Historical Society, and co-chair of Midwestern Roots, where her goal is to inspire others to understand how their story fits into a larger historical context and why that history really does matter today and tomorrow. Lauren first discovered object-based learning during her art history studies at Seton Hill University and continued learning ways to bring those techniques to documents through the Museum Studies program at Johns Hopkins University. She comes to the Midwest with over 10 years of experience as a research librarian with time in local, academic and national museum archives. Passionate about storytelling, she has been in love with history since she was a young girl playing with her American Girl dolls and taking family vacations to historic sites.

# Program Notes



## Reconstructing Rural Communities

Wednesday, August 11 | 6 – 8 p.m. EST | \$15; \$10 IHS Member

*LaDonna Garner | Professional Genealogist | Leafseeker Consulting*

Let's jump right into "Roots to Roofs" with the open roads and open spaces that enticed people for generations. Researching rural areas and towns does not need to be difficult due to their remoteness from big city life. Explore documents, maps and alternative resources to navigate the rebuilding of a farmhood.

### My Class Notes:

Quotes I might post (and tag @IndianaHistory) online later:

Questions I want to ask my peers:

Questions I want to ask the presenter:

General Notes:



# Program Notes



## Leaving the Farm: Town and City Living

Wednesday, August 18 | 6 – 8 p.m. EST | \$15; \$10 IHS Member

Amy Vedra | Director, Reference Services | Indiana Historical Society

Dive into tips on building the town of your family. With expert advice on really understanding how to use city directories, employee newsletters and newspapers, we'll guide you into rebuilding community. With examples of 20th century Eastern European immigrants and African American families from the Great Migration, walk away with understanding how to research, write and build a community identity around your ancestors.

### My Class Notes:

Quotes I might post (and tag @IndianaHistory) online later:

Questions I want to ask my peers:

Questions I want to ask the presenter:

General Notes:

# Program Notes



## Stories Buildings Tell

Wednesday, August 25 | 6 – 7 p.m. EST | \$10; \$5 IHS Member

Suzanne Stanis | *Director of Heritage Education & Information* | *Indiana Landmarks*

Have you ever heard the saying, “If these walls could talk”? If you know how to look at a building, it will tell you many fascinating stories from long ago. Join Suzanne Stanis as she leads the audience on a virtual tour of historic architecture and landscapes. Learn to see details in our built environment that give clues to the past and the people who occupied them. We guarantee you’ll never look at your community the same way again.

## My Class Notes:

Quotes I might post (and tag @IndianaHistory) online later:

Questions I want to ask my peers:

Questions I want to ask the presenter:

General Notes:

# Program Notes



## Building Memories

2-hour on-demand workshop available starting Saturday, August 28 | \$15; 10 IHS Member  
\$15 building kit with special instructions

*Lauren Peightel | Manager, Engagement (genealogist and miniature craftsman)*  
*Indiana Historical Society*

Looking back on the previous workshops, let's put it all together and learn about building these communities and houses together. With a focus on oral histories, family photos and videos, and historic research, we'll explore the value of model making your family or community story in a way that supports intergenerational learning and play.

## My Class Notes:

Quotes I might post (and tag @IndianaHistory) online later:

Questions I want to ask my peers:

Questions I want to ask the presenter:

General Notes:

# Program Notes



## Building Memories Continued

What scene or story from your research might be a great idea for something to create in miniature?  
Grab some pencils and sketch or make notes of what design elements you want included.  
Feel free to use a family photo or inspirational image that would be fun to explore:

Who do I want to work on this with? Who, among my family and friends, would enjoy the research and/or creation of this project?

When you're done with your miniature – post a pic and tag media!

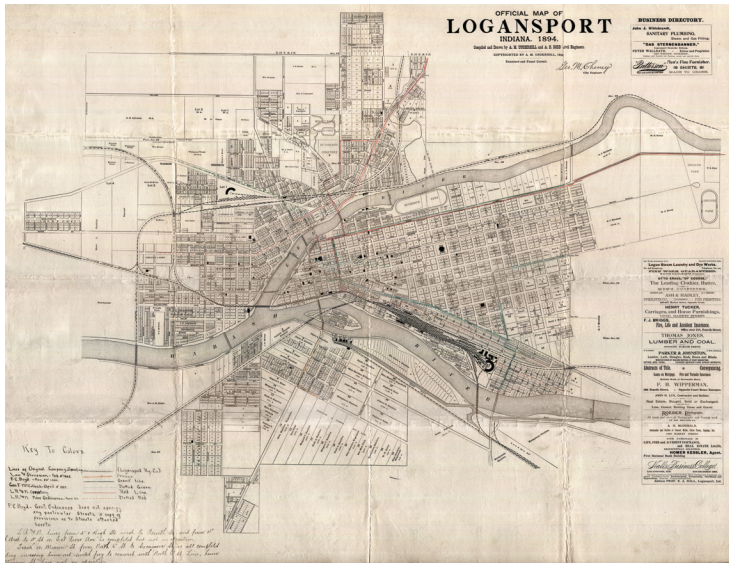


@IndianaHistory on social



# Resources

For inspiration for your own research, check out some Indiana Historical Society resources. Whether your story brings you to the Hoosier state or elsewhere, understanding what is possible to find in collections anywhere opens our eyes to explore and ask better questions of librarians and archivists.



Official Map of Logansport, Indiana, 1894,  
*Indiana Historical Society.*

This 1894 map helps to show the various subdivisions within the city of Logansport. It includes the owner names for the large plots still left within the city. In addition, it pinpoints places of interest, such as businesses, schools, churches, et cetera.



Walnut Street, Bloomington, IN, 1920,  
*Indiana Historical Society, P0115.*

Showing a small portion of downtown Bloomington in 1920, it is obvious the area sported many automobiles, but it was also an area where horse-drawn wagons were still used. Photos like this can assist in helping determine what would have been important or frequented businesses for a resident of the area. This, in conjunction with city directories, can be quite helpful.

# Resources continued



**Calvin Fletcher Papers, 1817-1917.** The Calvin Fletcher Papers highlight the early years of Indianapolis. The collection helps to speak to what the area was like as it began to emerge and evolve into the capital city. Fletcher had his finger on the pulse of the city and its residents.

**Early African American Settlement Heritage Initiative Collection, 2014 and the digital companion for the project, Early Black Settlements.** Concentrating on Black settlements throughout Indiana prior to 1870, these collections speak to the early Black settlers of Indiana and how they came to be residents of the Hoosier state. Looking at the methods and resources used in the research can assist others who are looking to make connections with these and later Black communities in Indiana.

**One Room Schoolhouses in Indiana Research Collections, 1959-1987.** These collections center on the small schools that dotted the Indiana landscape in the early years of education and in some places much later. Though the photographs and contents of the collection focus on those buildings from the late 1950s to the mid-1980s.

**Ruth Brewer Diaries, 1944-1979.** This collection highlights a woman's life for over three decades, with only one year unaccounted for (1965). While Brewer had romantic interests, she chose to care for family members (parents and brother) rather than ever marrying herself. Her diaries can speak to what life for a single woman was like throughout those decades, as well as the various happenings to her and in the world.

**Indiana Postcard Collection, 1902-1986.**

This collection is primarily divided by county, allowing a quick review of the postcards that feature specific counties. These can help to fill in visual cues to family histories and other research projects.

**For other cool tools, check out...**

IHS's various resources:

- [Library Catalog](#)
- [Digital Collections](#)
- [Indiana Historical Society Website Search](#)

City directories

- [Indianapolis City Directories](#)
- City Directories for across the country on Ancestry Library Edition, in the IHS Library or check with your local library for access

Inspiration for expanding your family history

*It's Not Just Dates: Building a Different Family History*, blog series:

- Part 1: <https://indianahistory.org/blog/its-not-just-dates-building-a-different-family-history-part-1/>
- Part 2: <https://indianahistory.org/blog/its-not-just-dates-building-a-different-family-history-part-2/>
- Part 3: <https://indianahistory.org/blog/its-not-just-dates-building-a-different-family-history-part-3/>

Do these collections inspire you to look for different information from other archives to help tell your story?

# Further Exploration



Looking for ideas for how to overlay historic maps with contemporary ones? How about creating new maps, or pulling data from existing ones? How can I combine various records and media into a creative visual tool?

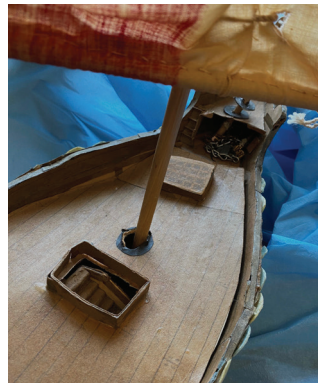
- [Historical Maps: Creating Maps at Penn Libraries at the University of Pennsylvania](#)
- [Mapping and GIS Lessons for Poets, Historians, and Scientists: Activity: Playing with Historic Maps](#)
- [Check out the United States Geological Survey's topoView app](#) for your smartphone to help with overlaying historic, topographical, and contemporary maps. Check out their website to jump to demonstration videos and more.
- Do not forget about all the cool tools at your fingertips from Google Maps. You can add photos, video, and text as well as drop pins and make layers of labeling. There are a lot of great videos and print tutorials out there to help with this.

## What are some more fun and creative ways to share my work?

Such a great question!

Every person and every place have amazing and rich stories to share. Maybe it brought you to researching the experiences of the high seas, of crashing waves, charting voyages, cramped quarters, and meager rations. Or it carried you to a farmhouse during harvest season, and all the crops brought to the kitchen for preparation for the winter and spring seasons, with pots boiling and simmering stews to be eaten on heirloom dishes that are now in your cabinet at home.

Or you are deep into researching the steel industry and understanding all the departments and equipment needed for production, and how one person fits into this giant puzzle. Your search could even just carry you to a few town blocks of bustling businesses, friends who were family, schools and restaurants that were the entire world to past generations.



Peightel Family Collection. "Dew Stalker" created by William Peightel, 1970 aged 13. Inspired by "The Dawn Treader" from *Chronicles of Narnia* and used as a pirate ship by his daughters with LEGOs.

While you were finding these stories, did they unveil how they should be told? All these experiences can have uniquely different ways to share with others, beyond charts and scholarly articles. In *Midwestern Roots Lite: From Roots to Roofs* we explore model making and intergenerational learning in depth, but

what other ways can we share a story? How do you think others in your family might like to learn about these stories?

- Design a short comic or graphic novel that covers a story from one person's perspective of an experience.
- Write a short play for a wider perspective on a group experience.
- Develop a short video that overlaps oral history, documents and photos.

# Further Exploration



- Plan a trip to the places you have researched. Find exciting ways to share their story where it happened.
- Prepare a full heritage meal, keeping in mind seasonal foods, available utensils and more.
- Create a board game by reworking a classic or start from scratch. The staff at IHS created its own Indiana Avenue Monopoly game based on primary and secondary research on a few city blocks in Indianapolis. [Download and print your own copy here to play at home.](#)



The only limit is your *imagination!*



# Research Roundtables



We would like to invite you to the Indiana Historical Society's Research Roundtables. Hosted by the IHS team with the Genealogy Center at Allen County Public Library, these conversations were created because we miss all of you. We miss hearing about the stories you find, your connections to the past, and your frustrations and excitement in what you discovered. Every month through 2021, we're meeting on different days and times to just chat about what you're working on, where you need some encouragement, and how we can build a stronger network together.



Save the date for all the upcoming Research Roundtables with us and the Genealogy Center. We hope to "see" you there!

These events are held in Zoom meeting and are free! Please register ahead of time. Spaces are limited to the first 50 people. For more information, check out our calendar at [www.indianahistory.org](http://www.indianahistory.org).

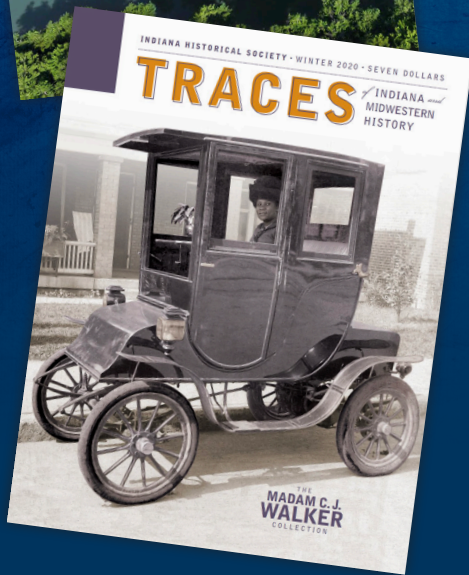
**Sep 2 | 1 – 2:30 p.m. EST**  
*Blue Collar Jobs*

**Oct 2 | 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. EST**  
*Sharing Our Research for Future Generations*

**Nov 4 | 5:30 – 7 p.m. EST**  
*Lessons Our Research Taught Us*

**Dec 1 | 1 – 2:30 p.m. EST**  
*A Look at 2021*

# Share Your Story



With more than a century of experience, the Indiana Historical Society Press publishes books – from academic tomes, such as the History of Indiana series, to beautiful coffee-table books, such as *Mapping Indiana: Five Centuries of Treasures from the Indiana Historical Society*. The Press also publishes historical fiction for children, youth biographies and family history books.

Learn more about the IHS Press and Author Guidelines [here](#).

## Family History Publications Guidelines:

The editors of family history publications at the Indiana Historical Society Press publish research guidebooks and ethnic and immigration history books; the biannual family and local history journal *THG: Connections* and online publications that include book- and article-length indexes and source material that serve as keys for researchers into rare, archived material including (but not limited to) historic court records, business ledgers and personal journals. The editors of IHS Family History Publications seek nonfiction articles and book-length manuscripts that are solidly researched and attractively written, and they encourage genealogists, historians, journalists and freelance writers to make contributions.

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