Midwest Genealogy Center Hosts “Legal Genealogist”

MGC’s Spring Seminar Returns with Acclaimed Genealogist Judy Russell

Independence, MO – Midwest Genealogy Center’s annual Spring Seminar is back, and this year it will feature acclaimed genealogist and legal expert Judy Russell. The seminar will be held on Saturday, March 4 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Adams Pointe Conference Center in Blue Springs.

During the seminar, Russell will give four presentations for family history enthusiasts:

**After the Courthouse Burns: Rekindling Family History through DNA**
Catastrophic records 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.

**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.

**NARA Myth Busters: Your Family IS in the Archives**
“All the military records were burned in the fire.” “There isn’t any birth, marriage, or death information in federal records.” “There aren’t any details about ordinary families at the National Archives.” These kinds of myths stop genealogists from breaking down all kinds of brick walls using the wealth of information in NARA records. Join the myth busters with the treasures the National Archives holds for your family.

**Rogues, Rascals, and Rapscallions: The Family Black Sheep**
Playing detective in court records can unmask those black sheep every family has—and it’s fun! Learn to understand the criminal process in both federal and state courts and how to find the records to put meat on the bones of the skeletons in your family’s closet.

Russell earned a bachelor’s degree in journalism from George Washington University and a law degree from Rutgers School of Law-Newark. Her professional career has taken her from the newsroom to the courtroom as a defense attorney and federal prosecutor. Over the last decade, Russell has used her journalistic and legal acumen to
conquer the genealogy world. She is a Certified GenealogistSM and Certified Genealogical LecturerSM and currently serves on the Board of Trustees for the Board for Certification of Genealogists. She is also a member of the National Genealogical Society and the Association of Professional Genealogists and has written for National Genealogical Society Quarterly and National Genealogical Society Magazine.

The cost of the 2017 Spring Seminar is $60, which includes lunch. Registration is required by March 1 on Eventbrite.com. For more information about the seminar or about the Midwest Genealogy Center, visit midwestgenealogycenter.org.

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