MONDAY, MARCH 3
12:00 p.m. (noon) • The Filson Historical Society
Free for Filson members, $10 for non-members
Genealogy for Beginners: Research Strategies for a Successful Family History
Jana Meyer

Do you want to know more about your family history? Are you having trouble getting started? Join the Filson for a three-part genealogy series designed to help you learn how to research your family. Our first session will cover basic techniques and strategies to help you get started on your family history. Discover how to utilize sources that are readily available in your home and your extended family network. Learn how to avoid beginner mistakes and evaluate sources for their credibility. Find out how to organize your information, plan research trips, and much more. After this lecture, you are invited to apply your new knowledge in The Filson’s research library.

Jana Meyer is the Reference Librarian at The Filson. She has a Bachelor’s degree in History from the University of Louisville and a Master’s degree in Library and Information Science from the University of Kentucky.

TUESDAY, MARCH 4
6:00 p.m. • The Filson Historical Society
Free for Filson members, $10 for non-members
The Embattled Past
Edward M. Coffman

Internationally recognized for having reinvigorated and redefined his field, distinguished military historian Edward M. Coffman is a dedicated and much-admired teacher and mentor. In The Embattled Past, several of his most important essays have been assembled into a collection that serves as an essential reference to the discipline and an invitation to the study of military history for aspiring scholars. The essays explore a range of critical issues in military historiography—such as strategies for conducting oral history and research methodologies—and examine questions at the heart of the field.

Edward M. Coffman served as an army infantry officer in the United States, Japan, and Korea from 1951 to 1953 and is professor emeritus of history at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His works include The Regulars: The American Army, 1692-1898; The Old Army: A Portrait of the American Armies in Peacetime, 1784-1896; and The War to End All Wars: The American Military Experience in World War I.

THURSDAY, MARCH 6
12:00 (noon) • The Filson Historical Society
Free for Filson members, $10 for non-members
Women Bootleggers: For Family, Money, and Whiskey
Fred Minnick

Ohio Valley women have been known to be ornery. However, did you know they were the best bootleggers? Ohio Valley women bootleggers hid flasks in their dresses, drove trucks filled with whiskey and ran multimillion-dollar bootlegging operations before, during and after Prohibition. To this day, in the hills of dry counties, unsuspecting Ohio Valley women are evading taxes and selling booze.


MONDAY, MARCH 10
12:00 p.m. (noon) • The Filson Historical Society
Free for Filson members, $10 for non-members
Genealogy for Beginners: Census Records and City Directories
Jana Meyer

In the second part of our genealogy series, we will explore some essential family history resources. Census records are one of the basic building blocks in assembling a family history. Census records provide a snapshot of a family at a particular point in time. This session will help you learn what information is recorded in the census and how to search for your family in census records. We will discuss federal census records as well as state census records. Did your ancestors live in a town or city? This session will also discuss how to find out if your ancestors are listed in a city directory. After this lecture, you are invited to apply your new knowledge in The Filson’s research library.

TUESDAY, MARCH 11
6:00 p.m. • The Filson Historical Society
Free for Filson members, $10 for non-members
Nature’s Civil War: Common Soldiers and the Environment in 1862 Virginia
Kathryn Shively Meier

In the Shenandoah Valley and Peninsula Campaigns of 1862, Union and Confederate soldiers faced unfamiliar and harsh environmental conditions—strange terrain, tainted water, swarms of flies and mosquitoes, intermittent rain and snow storms, and oppressive heat—which contributed to escalating disease and diminished morale. Using soldiers’ letters, diaries, and memoirs, plus a wealth of additional personal accounts, medical sources, newspapers, and government documents, Kathryn Shively Meier reveals how these soldiers strove to maintain their physical and mental health by combating their deadliest enemy—nature.

Kathryn Shively Meier is Assistant Professor of history at Virginia Commonwealth University.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19
6:00 p.m. • The Filson Historical Society
Free for Filson members, $10 for non-members
Dunmore’s War: The Last Conflict of America’s Colonial Era
Glenn F Williams

Known to history as “Dunmore’s War,” the 1774 campaign against a Shawnee-led Indian confederacy in the Ohio Country marked the final time an American colonial militia took to the field in His Majesty’s service and under royal command. Led by John Murray, the fourth Earl of Dunmore and Royal Governor of Virginia, a force of colonials including George Rogers Clark, Daniel Morgan, Michael Cresap, Adam Stephen, and Andrew Lewis successfully drove the Indians from the territory south of the Ohio River in parts of present-day West Virginia, Ohio, and Kentucky. Although it proved to be the last Indian conflict of America’s colonial era, it is often neglected in histories, despite its major influence on the conduct of the Revolutionary War that followed. Glenn F. Williams is a historian at the U.S. Army Center of Military History in Washington, D.C. He is author of U.S.S. Constitution: A Short History of the Last All-Sail Warship Built by the U.S. Navy and Year of the Hangman.