

Carol Cooke Darrow

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Denver, CO 80229

Cell: 720-416-1414

E-Mail: Cdarrow944@yahoo.com

Website: www.unravelingyourpast.net



Credentials: Professional Genealogist

AV / Equipment: Zoom link

Fee: \$100 per Lecture

Travel Restrictions: Zoom Presentations Only

Presentations:

- **Opening Up the Bureau of Land Management (BLM)**

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management (gloreCORDS.blm.gov) is full of treasures. There are documents dealing with Cash Sales of land across the U.S. There are Military Bounty Land assignments and, after 1862, there are Homestead patents “to secure homesteads to actual settlers on the public domain.” The BLM also granted Timber Culture (1873), Homestead Entry-Stock Raising (1916) and Mineral Patents, Indian Allotments, and more. Let’s find your ancestors there.

- **Women and Property Ownership: A Historical Perspective**

In the beginning women owned nothing. They were under the control of fathers and then husbands. Royalty owned all land and granted it to men who did them service. Transferring that process to the wild frontier on the American continent forced changes in the customs and eventually laws of land ownership.

- **Breathing Life Into Your Ancestor.**

Information such as occupation, education, even cause of death supplemented with newspaper stories, county histories, maps, journals and diaries can help you round out the picture of your ancestor and the world he lived in.

- **Writing Up the Family Tree.**

Whether you're writing a compiled genealogy or a family history, putting the facts on paper and bringing the ancestor to life can be challenging and fun.

- **Why Did They Do What They Did? Social and Cultural Influences on Our Ancestors.**

People are affected by the belief system, the laws, climate, and technology, as well as religious and ethnic influences of the time they lived in. We want to know why they do what they did.

- **Immigrants to America, Melting Pot or Salad Bowl. (all levels)**

Immigrants were typically pushed to leave their home country but the welcome in the new country was not always assured. Americans envisioned a melting pot where differences would be submerged. Immigrants often sought to recreate their homeland in America.

- **Cemetery Mysteries, Mistakes, Misinformation and Misidentification**

All of us have encountered tombstones with mysterious symbols, incorrect dates, and missing relatives. It's a challenging task to set the record straight.

- **Researching in Europe Without a Passport**

To succeed at European genealogy research, you must learn about the standard records of the country of your ancestors through websites, books, maps, and genealogy societies devoted to that country. The growing number of online resources will help to speed you on your way.

- **Castle Garden and Ellis Island: Immigrant doorways to New York and the U.S.**

Castle Garden opened as a New York City facility for processing the crowds of immigrants arriving between 1855 and 1890. Ellis Island, a federal immigrant receiving station replaced it in 1891.

- **The Immigrant Experience**

Leaving your home country to set sail for America was sometimes a wrenching decision. The trip was filled with dangers and hardship, and the welcome was not always friendly. Learn about your ancestor's decision to leave the home country and the experience of journeying to America.

- **Location, Location, Location: Research at the County Level**

Most genealogy records are created on the local level so it's vital that you learn as much as possible about the county boundaries, history, maps, population, geography, religions, crops, and occupations of your ancestor's hometown. When you become an expert on that location, you will find the records you're looking for.

- **For Better or For Worse: Marriage, Separation and Divorce**

Our ancestors' marriages are often idealized -- we think of them marrying for life and living happily ever after. But research often uncovers women living apart from their husbands, women abandoning their homes and families, and even divorcing or being divorced.

- **Wills and Probate Records Point to Relationships.**

Learn how the administration and probate process can tell us about the life of the deceased and clarify family relationships.