



Outreach Presentations

Iron Range Research Center (IRRC)

www.mndiscoverycenter.com



Archivist Christopher Welter hosts a variety of public programs to help you learn about the research center's background, resources, and services.

Ancestry.com: The Good, the Bad & the Ugly

Ancestry.com is the preeminent resource for people researching their family history. Its suite of resources is invaluable in some ways, misleading or incomplete in others, and downright inaccurate in others.

Archives Program Overview: Mystery & Wonder

The IRRC has maintained an archives of historical collections since 1980. Its existence, however, is a mystery to most, and even Iron Rangers find themselves wondering what's there.

Chisholm & Glen Location: A (Sort of) Scottish Origin Story

Minnesota Discovery Center calls Chisholm home, and it sits across the open pit from the former Glen Location. Both the city and the location exist because of a Canadian who identified as a Scotsman.

Creating Family Archives: A Step-by-Step Guide for Saving Your Memories for Future Generations

Family history is important. Photos, videos, aged documents, and cherished papers—these are the memories that you want to save. And they need a better home than a cardboard box. Archivist and author Margot Note has published a guide to help you save your family's memories.

Finding Family: Are Your Ancestors Waiting to be Discovered?

Minnesotans typically leave records of births, marriages, and deaths, education, employment, religious and political affiliations, military service, property ownership, and relationships to governments and the law. Learn how your ancestors may be hiding in plain sight within the IRRC's collections.

Genealogy Overview

Whether you are a novice or an experienced student of family history, you will learn more about how and why ancestral lineage has mattered to people for thousands of years, and how you can get started with your own family at the IRRC.

IRRC Genealogy Database: Millions of Records at Your Fingertips

Since 2000, the IRRC has maintained an online genealogy database. You can find references to millions of Minnesotans—a site so information rich and easy to use that *Family Tree Magazine* has named it "Best State Website" eight times!

House & Building History: These Walls Can Talk? (They Can!)

If you aren't the original occupants of your house, then you might be curious to know about the people who made it their home first. Learn who they were, where they came from, and what became of them.

IRRC Overview

When the museum that is now MDC opened back in 1977, its purpose was to tell the history of the Iron Range and its peoples. But the stuff of history that informed those stories had nowhere to be preserved for future generations. You will learn the how and why of the IRRC's existence, and what it can do for you today.

Maps

The histories of families are populated with names, birth and death dates, academic achievements, vocational endeavors, and rites of passage (baptisms, graduations, weddings, funerals). What about the **places** where all of these things transpired? Learn about resources both analog and digital that will put your family on the map.

Naturalization Records

Naturalization is the process by which an alien (i.e., foreign-born person) becomes an American citizen. Many Iron Range families' life in America begins with this process. Learn more about its details and your ancestors' records that are still available.

Newspapers

Although it may be news to you, your ancestors' lives were newsworthy. Their names and happenings may be preserved in print for any number of reasons—birth & marriage notices, obituaries, business successes (or failures), sports honors, scandalous affairs(!), criminal offenses, real estate transactions, out-of-town travel, house calls and social gatherings. You will learn how and where to look for them—including online digital databases.

Oral Histories

Even before the museum opened in 1977, amateur historians were recoding Iron Rangers' life histories by the 100s. These oral history interviews are still available in digital audio format (with verbatim transcripts available in some cases). Interested in undertaking your own oral history project? Learn the what/why/who/when/where of modern-day oral history projects.

Picture This! IRRC's Photographic Collections

During this presentation, you will learn what we have, how you can see what we have, how you can purchase reproductions of what we have, and about other photographic resources that are available to you—including in digital format online.

The Once & Future Minnesotans: RMS *Titanic* Passengers

When the RMS *Titanic* set sail for the United States, her passenger manifest included Minnesota residents from Duluth and Virginia, immigrants headed for fresh beginnings in Aurora and Hibbing, and relatives headed to Tower to visit family. Learn more about these nearly 3 dozen people who were among the fortunate and the luckless.

If you would like to reserve a time for one of Christopher's presentations, you may reach him at 218-254-1229 or archivist@mndiscovery.center.com