



Eilene Lyon

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Durango, CO

Cell: (970) 385-4414

E-Mail: biotech46@gmail.com

Blog: Myricopia.com

Website: EileneLyon.com

Credentials:

- Genealogical and family history researcher for over 20 years
- Author of *Fortune's Frenzy: A California Gold Rush Odyssey* (a family history coming from TwoDot in 2023) and *What Lies Beneath Colorado Cemeteries and Graveyards* (from TwoDot in 2024)
- Degrees in accounting and environmental biology (minors in GIS, chemistry)
- Former real estate broker
- Family history articles published in *Latah Legacy* and *Michigan History* magazines
- Experienced public speaker

AV / Equipment: Screen, projector, cordless or clip-on microphone; will provide own laptop.

Fee: \$125 per Lecture plus travel over 1 hour each way

Travel Restrictions: None

Webinars: Can provide a remote presentation upon request. Society must provide high-speed internet and platform (e.g. Zoom or Go-To-Meeting)

Presentations:

Eureka! How to find your California Gold Rush ancestors Tips for uncovering those who went to California but didn't stay, including a case history.

Immortal words: Keep your family history alive with a lively blog Best practices to make your family history blog successful.

Case Study: Capt. E. D. Pierce, the man who made Idaho Born in (West) Virginia, E.D. Pierce served in Mexico, went to California with the 49ers, served in the California legislature, made the first summit of Mt. Shasta, then went on to spark the Idaho gold rush. Though he wrote a memoir, he never revealed his family history.

Using diaries, letters, and memoirs, even if your ancestors left none Even if your ancestors left no personal papers, their contemporaries did. You might be surprised how much can be revealed about your family's past.

Question everything: Breaking through the brick walls we've built Sometimes we do not realize that a brick wall is of our own making. Learn how to find the keystone that will bring it tumbling.

Road trips: Digging deep in the archives before you leave hit the gas Prepare for research trips by digging into archive sites to create an organized plan. Expand your definition of archive to ensure you get the most from your time on the road.

Finding and using property records Deeds can reveal much more than just a transfer of title to a property. You can also use them to develop maps for your family history.

Death in 19th Century America Some of the diseases and conditions that killed your ancestors before modern medical “miracles” made them a thing of the past.

My DNA matches have completely different trees. What now?! Non-parental events are a common discovery when doing DNA research. How to follow the leads presented in your matches.

Extra! Extra! Using newspaper research to develop a family history story Newspapers have a unique ability to bring the past alive. Be sure to include the news in every family history.

John Annable: United Empire Loyalist Annable arrived in America just before the start of the Revolution. Naturally, he fought for the British, and wound up in Canada.

The “Bounty” in bounty land records Like pension records, bounty land records can provide genealogical clues.

San Juan Sagas: A family history derived from an antique store photograph How researching an old photograph can reveal local history tales.

Overlooked records: What you can learn from lawsuits Our ancestors relied heavily on Justices of the Peace and local courts to settle disputes, even more so than today.

What does it say? Reading and transcribing old documents Transcription is a tedious, but necessary, process so that you don’t have to keep re-reading difficult documents.

Immersion: Developing a FAN-based local history Understanding local history and focusing particularly on your ancestor’s friends and associates will enrich your understanding of their lives and help you build compelling family history stories.

Get Organized: Compiling a large research and writing project Using Zotero, Scrivener, and Word to organize your research and write your book.