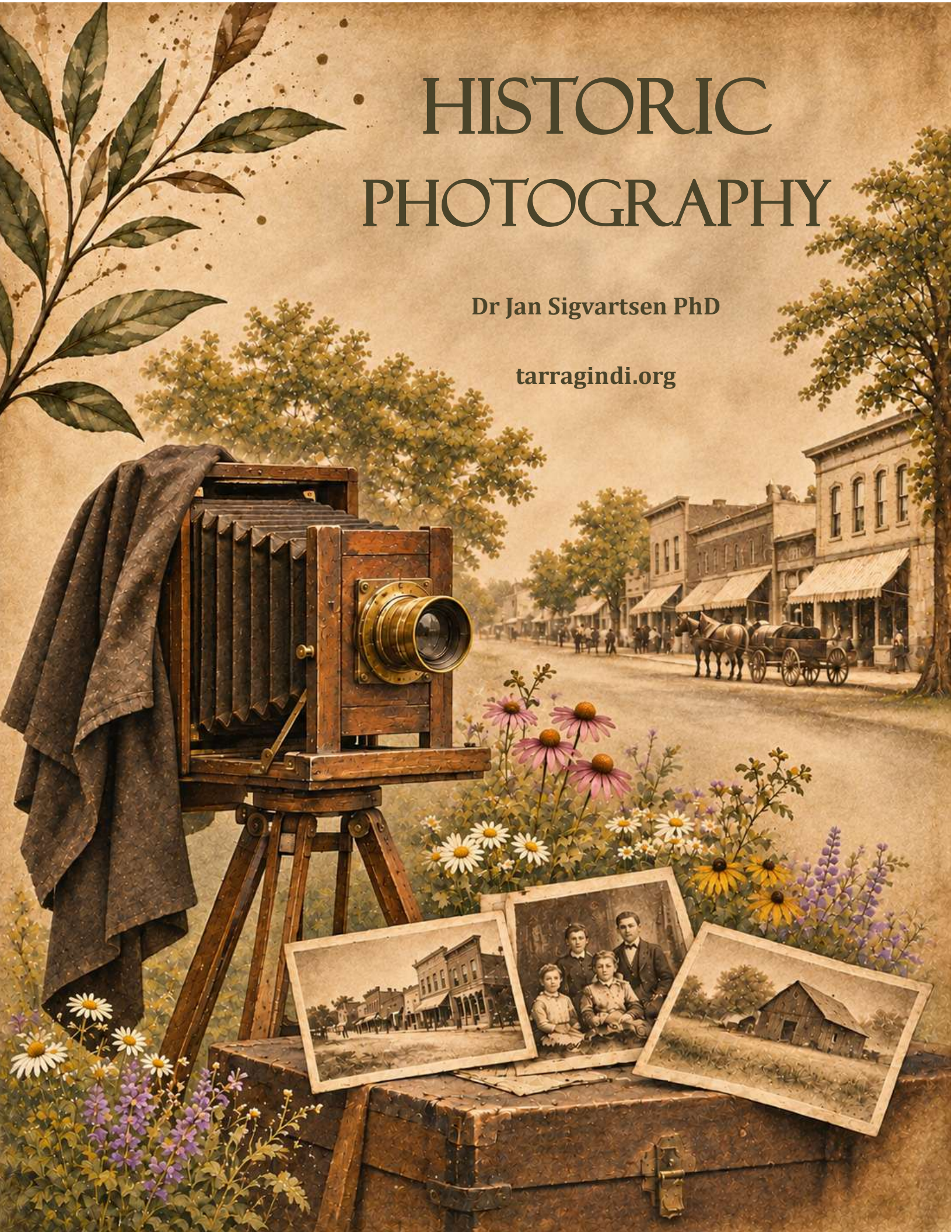
HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHY

Dr Jan Sigvartsen PhD

tarragindi.org



Berrien Springs Partnership Syllabus

CLASS TITLE:	Historic Photography (ages 8-20)
TOTAL REQUIRED HRS:	16
ADDITIONAL TIME POSSIBLE:	Yes (if needed)
TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS:	32
LOCATION (address):	Varies from week to week.
PRIMARY INSTRUCTOR:	Dr Jan A. Sigvartsen PhD **(goes by Dr Jan)**
SECONDARY INSTRUCTOR:	Ms Leanne M. Sigvartsen **(goes by Ms Leanne)**
CONTACT INFORMATION:	269-363-3968 (text available)
	Jan@tarragindi.org
	Leanne@tarragindi.org
	tarragindi.org
INSTRUCTOR QUALIFICATIONS:	Dr Jan - BA, MA, PhD
	Ms Leanne – BA Psych, PGD Psych, MCouns

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To allow students to learn to document historic sites and historic buildings in their local community, learn about their history, and about the fascinating people who lived in/created these places.
2. To teach students how to take beautiful photographs, and skills in archival, posterity, and architectural photography. Also how to pay special attention to details in the event that the site or building has to be recreated or refurbished. A positive side effect of detail-oriented photography is students start to see small details and beauty where they may not have seen it before – changing their outlook on their surroundings.
3. To create a Youth Archive for future generations of photographs taken by the students in this class of the history and condition of buildings and historic sites in Berrien Springs in 2027.

All our classes are half semester (8 week) programs due to weather constraints.

Dr Jan can't do an archaeology in the snow or frozen ground! But he can teach Photography! All his 12 programs do two classes in January and then half of them continue until March. The other half take a break and continue in April when the ground is thawed and we can be outside. This class is in the first half of the semester. **A list of his classes and when they are taught is on the next page.**

If you are eligible, you can register for two of his programs in the Spring 2027 semester – one in the first half of the semester, and one in the second half and not overload your schedule each week!

CLASS TIMES:
*You only attend **one** 2-hour Historic Photography class each week FOR 8 WEEKS ONLY – January 13–17 and then again February 24 - April 9 to catch the winter-spring transition. You will get your preferred class time. You can make up missed classes by attending the other time slot if needed.*

- Wednesday 4:30pm – 6:30pm
- Friday 10:00am – 12:00pm

Our Spring 2027 Classes

First Half of the Semester

- **Arrowhead Making and Ancient Tools** - learn to make stone arrowheads, identify and date them, and make ancient stone and wood tools used by ancient people. Syllabus at tarragindi.org
- **Board Gaming, Civilization Building** – learn to build strong communities by building small ones in an in-person, interactive, screen-free class. Syllabus at tarragindi.org
- **Genealogy 101** – trace your family tree as far back as you can go (Warning: HIGHLY addictive!!). Syllabus at tarragindi.org
- **Historic Photography** – learn photography by capturing a new local historic site each week and learning its story. Syllabus at tarragindi.org
- **Historic Court Trials** – bring your acting skills and relive real 1800s court trials that were tried in the Berrien Springs Courthouse – Michigan's oldest courthouse. Syllabus at tarragindi.org
- **Historic Storytelling** – learn the ancient art of telling stories and keeping our history alive. Syllabus at tarragindi.org

Second Half of the Semester

- **Archaeology Dig – Tarragindi** - Excavate one of the Berrien County's oldest settler farms, that is nearly 200 years old, with archaeologist Dr Jan Sigvartsen PhD. We find antique bottles, coins, and so much more! Syllabus at tarragindi.org
- **Cemetery Restoration Project** - Help save one of Berrien County's oldest cemeteries and learn the life stories of our earliest European settlers who are buried there. Syllabus at tarragindi.org
- **Garden Recreation Project - 1000 Years Ago** - Recreate a real Woodland Native American garden based on Michigan's very own archaeology record. Syllabus at tarragindi.org
- **Gardening Project, 1830s Early Settlers Garden** - Recreate a real Berrien County early settler garden based on historical records. Syllabus at tarragindi.org
- **Historic Tree Rescue - 250-Year-Old Oak** - Participate in the rescue of what we believe may be Berrien County's last "Witness Tree." Syllabus at tarragindi.org
- **Historic Writing** – hone your writing skills by capturing local historical stories and getting them published. Syllabus at tarragindi.org

SYLLABUS/OUTLINE: Weekly approximate breakdown of activities:

Class 1: (2 hours) January 13 or 15
Tarragindi Archaeology Dig site: 6161 Pheasant Court, Berrien Springs, MI 49103.
This class is the foundation of your program. We go through the syllabus and signing documents, like photo releases.

Class 2: (2 hours) January 16, 2:30-4:30pm OR January 17, 2:30-4:30pm (attend 1 only)
1860 County Poor Farm Tour (Love Creek County Park, 9292 Huckleberry Rd, Berrien Center)

Did you know most early settlers in Berrien County couldn't tame the land into a workable farm? Many didn't even have the money to go home. That is why Berrien County set up the County Poor Farm that became a thriving community of its own and an example of what can be achieved when communities work together.

Class 3: (2 hours) February 24 or 26
Historic Photography – Madeline Bertrand County Park, 3038 Adams Rd, Niles, MI 49120

Tour the historic Madeline Bertrand County Park, a part of the 30,000 acres that was given to Madeline Bertrand's husband so he would sell out her people, the Potawatomi… but he didn't.

Class 4: (2 hours) March 3 or 5
Historic Photography – Moccasin Bluff (at the Historic Marker Green Sign), 14999-14501 Moccasin Bluff, Buchanan, MI 49107

Moccasin Bluff has been inhabited for over 8,000 years and was on a Native American Trail that extended right up to Berrien Springs and beyond.

Class 5: (2 hours) March 10 or 12
Historic Photography – Niles Downtown (at the Historic Canon by the Bridge),West Main Street, Niles, MI 49120

Hear about how Niles was started with the Carey Mission, and how these missionaries ran Squire Thompson, who was technically the first settler in Berrien County, right out of town.

Class 6: (2 hours) March 17 or 19
Historic Photography – Berrien Springs Downtown (at the Journal Era Building), 101 W Ferry Street, Berrien Springs, MI 49103

Visit and hear about Michigan's Oldest Courthouse located on the oldest Townsquare in the mid-west. We will also photograph the historic downtown area and some of Berrien Springs's oldest Historical Homes.

Class 7: (2 hours) March 24 or 26
6161 Pheasant Court, Berrien Springs, MI 49013

Show your favorite pictures to your class and receive constructive feedback.

Class 8: (2 hours) April 7 or 9
1860 County Poor Farm Tour (Love Creek County Park, 9292 Huckleberry Rd, Berrien Center)

We will revisit Love Creek County Park, to see the seasonal change from our January visit. Spring time is very different than Winter time, and it is interesting to visit the same location during the different season.

STUDENT ASSESSMENT

1) Students agree to attend at least 80% of class sessions/lessons offered. We have plenty of classes scheduled so you can easily catch-up missed classes. Attendance is kept online and tracked by Partnership staff. Unexcused absences, or failure to meet the 80% threshold may result in program discontinuation. See Ms Leanne if there is a problem or you need to attend a different class time.

2) The Partnership Student Assessment is filled out by the teacher and turned in to Partnership staff. The rubric is found on the teacher's online attendance sheet. Failing marks for lack of participation, behavior issues, excessive absences, etc. may result in program

discontinuation.

3) Other class-specific assessment: Engagement in the program, follow through with instruction, care taken with handling artifacts, and participation in research of artifacts found.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

www.tarragindi.org/resources - page on our website giving links to local history resources, and Parent Partnership project resources.

CLASS-SPECIFIC POLICIES:

ZERO BULLYING – we have a zero bullying policy. We want to be a space were people build one another up, not tear each other down. Please report bullying to Ms Leanne immediately. Do not attempt to deal with it yourself or have your parent deal with it.

We work on a compassionate three-warning system. A child engaging in anti-social behaviors will be given a first and a second warning, along with compassionate and clear expectations of future behavior and examples of that behavior. We have only ever needed to give one first warning, due to the efficacy of this compassionate system. However, if a child requires a third warning, they will be removed from all Tarragindi Initiative programming.

ZERO Sexual harassment, profanity, sexually explicit, or crude behavior or speech – we have a strict zero-acceptance policy for anti-social behaviors. Again, we are a space that makes people feel welcome and accepted, not uncomfortable. Please report these behaviors to Ms Leanne immediately. She will deal with it and these behaviors were the topic of her Masters research thesis. Again, grace will be offered along with the same compassionate three warning protocol outlined above.

Withdrawal from the class: If you wish to withdraw from the class, you must do so *following Class 1 (January 13-15) or prior to Class 2 (January 16-17)*. Otherwise, very significant investment will be made in you/your child and their participation in the class that you may be financially responsible for if you withdraw after this. *Your class starts on January 13-15 – not when we photograph at the historic Madeline Bertrand County Park on February 24-26.* You must attend your two January classes as they are the foundation of the program – let us know if this is a problem as we may be able to schedule a catch-up class for you. Parent Partnership staff have been advised of our deadlines. If your schedule changes after the Tarragindi withdrawal deadline, please talk to Ms Leanne, as she may be able to work something out for you or schedule another class time for you.

Attendance: If you can't attend the first two classes in January, please let Ms Leanne know so she can arrange a make-up class for you as they are the foundation of the program. Students can attend any of the two scheduled classes each week. They are also welcome to make up a class by attending another class time too.

Weather: It is rare that we cancel class due to rain or snow. If it is raining hard, the class will be canceled the night before and all students emailed. Check your email before coming to class. No email – class is on. Dr Jan will still go down to the meeting place to ensure everyone got our email message. Double check your spam folder.