

## Faculti Summary

<https://faculti.net/forgetting-fathers-untold-stories-from-an-orphaned-past/>

This video is a talk by a scholar who specializes in 18th-century fiction, aesthetics, and moral philosophy, with a focus on autobiography and the early novel. The speaker discusses their personal project related to their family's history, particularly the search for their ancestral origins and the complexities surrounding their family name, Marshall, which was believed to have been Americanized from an immigrant name.

The narrative intertwines themes from 18th-century literature, particularly the motifs of orphans and the quest for identity, with the speaker's exploration of their grandfather's past. They reflect on the impact of familial loss, heritage, and the act of uncovering personal and historical narratives through archival research.

The speaker undertakes a detective-like approach to their genealogical search, emphasizing how personal histories can be inscribed in public records. They share insights about using archives, the challenges of immigrant identity, and how personal stories connect to larger social histories.

The book they discuss, titled "Forgetting Fathers," emerges as a blend of literary nonfiction, detective story, and memoir, illustrating the author's journey through grief and the quest for understanding lost heritage. The narrative portrays a complex interplay of memory, historical context, and the process of writing as an act of mourning, culminating in a reflection on the legacies of forgotten fathers and the stories that shape personal identity.