

# BOUSE GENIES

## A BETTER GENEALOGICAL RESEARCHER RESULTS IN A BETTER FAMILY HISTORY

[From the SKP Genies Newsletter Summer 2013]



Years ago when we first began our genealogy research we concentrated on gathering names, dates and places of major events of our direct ancestral lines. We gathered data from wherever we could and recorded it. Few of us analyzed what we found, nor did we make annotations about the source document containing the information.

As our family tree grew and our research techniques matured we realized we had to expand our search to include collateral lines; we had to find and analyze various sources of data; we had to keep track of the places we searched for documents; and we had to thoroughly cite our sources.

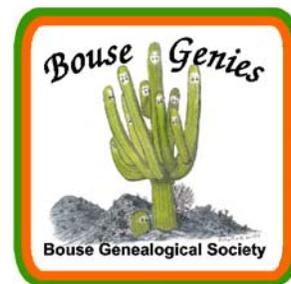
Home computers and the software we use in recording our findings have also matured through the years providing tools that make us better genealogical researchers. The first programs had only a few fields where we could record one "fact" about each event, and the NOTES FIELD was the only place to record information about source documents.

Hooray for the software of this decade! Now many genealogical programs are analytical-friendly databases that allow us to document every piece of information we find about each individual in chronological order; and provide templates for properly and accurately citing our sources. We can also attach supporting source documents and photographs to each individual, and create "to-do" lists to assist in further research and analysis.

Computers are still only a tool. It is up to the genealogist to gather all the available source documents we can; do a thorough analysis of all of the data; and record our findings with a full explanation of why and how we came to our conclusions about the events in our ancestors' lives.

We have excellent, experienced mentors to help us along the way—the National Genealogical Society (NGS) and the Board for Certification of Genealogists (BCG). In order to promote more sound research, NGS issues *Genealogical Standards* and the BCG has developed the *Genealogical Proof Standard* for family history researchers. These are periodically updated to include situations brought on by new technology and the ever-increasing accessibility of source documents and others' research.

In this second of the *Bouse Genies Newsletter* series focused on leaving your legacy for future generations we are exploring and explaining evidence gathering and analysis techniques based on the NGS and BCG guidelines. Following these are guaranteed to make you a better genealogical researcher and are essential for writing a fact-based family history. ⚙



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## Bouse Genealogical Society

### Electronic Newsletter

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The Bouse Genies meet every other Friday at the Bouse Community Building next to the Library. The schedule of meeting is posted in this newsletter.

The Bouse Genies Website is:  
<http://bousegenies.weebly.com>

## FROM THE COMPUTER DESK

### GENEALOGY CONFERENCES KEEP IN STEP WITH CURRENT TECHNOLOGY

By Carolyn H. Brown and Barbara A. H. Nuehring [From the SKP Genies Newsletter Summer 2013]

Every year the National Genealogy Society and the Federation of Genealogy Societies insure their conferences keep up with current user-friendly technology and applications. This year is proving to be no different.

In May we attended the 2013 National Genealogical Society Family History Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada, along with over 1,900 other genealogists, including Nikki Mackey, Vicke Southam, and Jane Pattison. It was interesting to see the number of attendees who were using various electronic devices during the conference. We both appreciated the handiness of using our tablets with the NGS applications. (Carol has an iPad2 and Barbara uses a Samsung Galaxy 10 Tablet.).

We downloaded the PDF of the syllabus a week prior to the conference. This enabled us to review seminar content in order to make the “right” choice among nine sessions held each hour. Then, at the conference, we were able to follow along with the speaker without carrying around a five pound printed syllabus.

Many conference-goers had downloaded the conference application (App) to their cell phones or electronic devices. We loved it! The App was loaded and interactive!

- ◆ We could browse the various seminars by day or by track and skill level. When we selected a session, it provided the title, date/time, seminar room location, track and skill level, the speaker’s name and a short description about the seminar. There was a screen for making notes and a place where we could add it to “My Schedule.” What Barbara found particularly nice was as soon as the seminar was completed she could rate the speaker’s knowledge and delivery, visual aids, and the handout using a scale as well as typing in personal observations/comments.
- ◆ “My Schedule” was the title of the conference’s daily calendar. In addition to the sessions we selected and told the App to add, we could also add other appointments such as when and where we would meet each other for lunch; or we could annotate which seminars we had to attend because we were the room-host or introducing the speaker.
- ◆ Touching the “Speaker” icon we brought up a list of all the speakers and each had a screen with a picture, bio and all the sessions they were presenting with date and time.
- ◆ Tapping the “Exhibitor” icon we got a list of the vendors. When we selected one, it showed the contact’s name, email, website, and phone number; the vendor’s booth number; and a summary of the product(s) the exhibitor was displaying, demonstrating, promoting or selling. We also had the ability to bookmark those we planned to visit; make notes about the vendor; and keep track of who we visited.
- ◆ Other features of the NGS App included maps of the conference center floor plan and the exhibit hall layout; information about local libraries, museums and transportation; a photo gallery; and a way to “friend” other attendees.

In class, we were asked to turn the sound down, but we were allowed to use our electronic devices to make our class notes—or even tweet!

NGS had a huge area set up with tables and chairs with free WiFi available. During the periods between classes this area was usually full with people checking their email and blogging. Of course, there were several conference blogs that had to be checked regularly.

Naturally, we also had our own Apps for note-taking like “Evernote” or “OneNote.” Carol had the App associated with her genealogy program (Legacy). Thus, if she had met someone new who may be a family connection she had all of her family information at a touch of a button and a tap on the screen.

It was obvious many of the genealogists attending the NGS conference agree with us. These light-weight electronic devices are the way to go to a conference, without leaving anything we may want with us in the hotel room or at home. ⚙

## *THE GENEALOGICAL PROOF STANDARD*

**By Board for Certification of Genealogists®** [From the SKP Genies Newsletter Summer 2013]

Proof is a fundamental concept in genealogy. In order to merit confidence, each conclusion about an ancestor must have sufficient credibility to be accepted as "proved." Acceptable conclusions, therefore, meet the Genealogical Proof Standard (GPS). The GPS consists of five elements:



- a reasonably exhaustive search;
- complete and accurate source citations;
- analysis and correlation of the collected information;
- resolution of any conflicting evidence; and
- a soundly reasoned, coherently written conclusion.

Each element contributes to a conclusion's credibility in a different way, described in the table below, but all the elements are necessary to establish proof.

<b>Element of the GPS</b>	<b>Contribution to Credibility</b>
Reasonably exhaustive search	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assumes examination of a wide range of high quality sources</li> <li>• Minimizes the probability that undiscovered evidence will overturn a too-hasty conclusion</li> </ul>
Complete and accurate citation of sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrates the extent of the search and the quality of the sources</li> <li>• Allows others to replicate the steps taken to reach the conclusion. (Inability to replicate the research casts doubt on the conclusion.)</li> </ul>
Analysis and correlation of the collected information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitates sound interpretation of the data contributed by each source</li> <li>• Ensures that the conclusion reflects all the evidence</li> </ul>
Resolution of conflicting evidence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Substantiates the conclusion's credibility. (If conflicting evidence is not resolved, a credible conclusion is not possible.)</li> </ul>
Soundly reasoned, coherently written conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eliminates the possibility that the conclusion is based on bias, preconception, or inadequate appreciation of the evidence</li> <li>• Explains how the evidence led to the conclusion</li> </ul>

The GPS reflects a change from the term "Preponderance of the Evidence," used earlier to describe the high standard of proof BCG had always promoted. Case studies in national genealogical journals, such as the National Genealogical Society Quarterly and The American Genealogist, illustrate the GPS. ✨



This whole issue is dedicated to finding the truth about our ancestors through the use of multiple records and recording those findings for others to build upon. This is not an easy process, but it is one that we, as genealogists, should try to follow.

All of us have found information recorded in a family genealogy—whether it was in a book or a database—which we have disproved. In most cases, there is no way we can now go back and make corrections so no one else uses the erroneous information. The only recourse we have is to do our own in-depth research and publish what we found and where we found it. If we do the work, and don't get the message out to the rest of the genealogical world about what we discovered, then we have done a disservice to future generations researching this family.

Please spend time reading this issue of the Bouse Genies Newsletter and learn what you need to do to get your family history right and how to record what you have discovered. Then follow us in the next few issues to learn how to cite your sources correctly and the many ways to leave your family history to others. There will always be mistakes, but we can help to clear up the muddy waters of what we have found. ✨



## EVIDENCE ANALYSIS

By Carolyn H. Brown [From the SKP Genies Newsletter Summer 2013]

Elizabeth Shown Mills has helped us understand the process of analyzing evidence in her 2007 publication, *Evidence Explained Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace*, Genealogical Publishing Company, Baltimore, Maryland.

In the introductory page "Evidence Analysis, A Research Process Map" she states "...sources provide information from which we select evidence for analysis. A sound conclusion may then be considered "proof".

The first step in analyzing the evidence is to determine if the source (i.e., document, artifact, publication, register, people, website, etc.) is in its original or a derivative form. As genealogists, once we have located a derivative document we are encouraged to locate the original.

### ◆ SOURCE

*Original*: material in its first recorded or oral form. It is specific information not previously recorded, such as birth and death registrations, marriage licenses, deeds, and probates. Unaltered digital images, microfilms and microfiche of the complete original document can be considered an original source.

*Derivative*: material which has been produced by manually copying an original document or manipulating its contents. For example: transcripts, abstracts, lists, databases, compilations, translations, extracts, and authored works such as family histories, etc. are derivative sources. Errors often occur in the process of creating the derivative document. Handwriting itself often is the cause of errors; and when you add the interpretation of the context of the documents there is a higher probability that errors have occurred.

To further qualify the source we must determine the informant's degree of participation in or knowledge of the event being recorded. In other words, is the information primary or secondary?

### ◆ INFORMATION

*Primary*: information provided by the informant who participated in or witnessed the event. This would apply to the testimony directly related to the event he or she experienced or witnessed and is considered first hand information. Primary information can be wrong, especially where the informant wants to cover up actual information about the event being recorded. Primary information may also be distorted based on the exact questions asked.

*Secondary*: information gleaned from a source where it had previously been recorded or spoken, is considered second hand information. When working with lists, databases and indexes, mistakes are often made in the recording process.

According to Wikipedia: "Evidence is and includes everything that is used to reveal and determine the truth, and therefore is presumed to be true and related to a case. Evidence is the currency by which one fulfills the burden of proof."

In genealogy, we also realize that evidence can be true or false as it relates to the questions being posed. For instance, there are times when we may need to prove who someone wasn't to prove who they were.

The information needs to be further analyzed based on its relevance and its adequacy to answer the questions being addressed. Evidence is either direct or indirect.

### ◆ EVIDENCE

*Direct*: evidence supporting the truth of an assertion without an intervening inference. In genealogy, direct evidence is generally based on an explicit statement or answer to a question by an item or document usually created by someone who was an eye witness to an event. For instance, Sal Martin's birth certificate is direct evidence that Sal Martin was born. The same birth certificate may show the names of his parents and grandparents. This is direct evidence that Sal Martin was a member of a particular Martin family.

*Indirect*: evidence established from facts from which another fact may be inferred and from which we can draw conclusions. It is also known as *Circumstantial Evidence*. As an example, if records show that Sally was John's sister, and Joe is John's brother, then Sally is Joe's sister.

Once we have determined all the items discussed are regarding a piece of evidence, we then need to analyze the information contained therein to determine the informant's degree of participation or knowledge.

#### ◆ ANALYSIS

The basis of our analysis needs to be judged on the reliability of the information based on two factors:

1. Exactly where the source came from.
2. The strengths and weaknesses of that particular source.

Then and only then can we reach a reliable conclusion.

#### ◆ CONCLUSION

Only when we have completed the research process to the very best of our ability based on multiple reliable sources can we come to a conclusion. Typically we reach one of the following three types of conclusions, each of which carries a different weight.

*Hypothesis*: a proposition set forth as an explanation for the occurrence of some group of phenomena, accepted as highly probable based on established facts.

*Theory*: a coherent group of tested general propositions, commonly regarded as correct, that can be used as principles of explanation.

*Proof*: a conclusion based upon the sum of the evidence that supports a valid assertion of deduction.

#### ◆ PROOF

Proof can only be determined when we have completed a thorough analysis of the sources that might help answer the research question. Even when we have completed the process of a reasonably exhaustive search, information may be discovered which renders our research wrong. For genealogy researchers, there is no such thing as proof that can never be rebutted.

Analyze and compare the relevant sources and information to assess their usefulness as evidence.

Compare multiple sources to determine if the question is specifically answered, or the combination of sources answers the question.

Resolve any conflicts between the evidence and the proposed answer to the question.

#### ◆ RECORD FINDINGS

Just as it is important to complete a reasonably exhaustive search, it is imperative we record our findings, explain our analysis, present our conclusions, and cite our sources. ⚙

## *A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS*

By **Barbara A. H. Nuehring** [From the SKP Genies Newsletter Summer 2013]

I have found a chart which makes plotting my course-of-action all that much easier. You may, too. Take a look at *The Genealogy Research Process Map* at <[www.thinkgenealogy.com/2008/02/24/genealogy-research-map/](http://www.thinkgenealogy.com/2008/02/24/genealogy-research-map/)>.

It is a downloadable 11.4 meg PDF chart that combines the concepts found in The Genealogical Proof Standard (GPS) from the Board for Certification of Genealogists and the many works of Elizabeth Shown Mills into a single visual aid. It is a wonderful guide.

Consider what a friend of mine who lives in a stick house did. She put it on a USB/jump/flash drive, then took it to a local commercial printer and had it printed and laminated. Thus, it holds up to her frequent referencing, plus it travels well to the FHL and other repositories. Of course, since my space in the coach is limited, the PDF resides on my PC, laptop, tablet and smart phone. ⚙



**GENEALOGY RESEARCH PROCESS MAP  
BY MARK TUCKER, 2008**



## *SYSTEMATICALLY FOLLOW THE EVIDENCE: CREATE A RESEARCH PLAN*

By Carolyn H. Brown [From the SKP Genies Newsletter Summer 2013]

Over the years most of us have wasted many research hours and precious financial resources using the “hit or miss” research method. Our casual research sessions on the home computer have us gathering numerous documents in an aimless manner. We often sit down at the computer and access one of the many databases and try to gather all the information we can on ancestors and other family members.

We print documents, put them in folders and go to the next individual without scrutinizing and analyzing the document we just accessed. We enter some of the information from the document in our genealogy program and move on to the next person of interest. This method of research leads to neglected clues, ignored or overlooked connections, or inconsistent family data.

We are all planners in our daily lives, whether it's making a grocery list before going to the store or planning our RV route for the year. Why, then, do we not plan our research?

### **CREATING A RESEARCH PLAN**

Determining the steps that maintain your focus while keeping tangents to minimum will make you a more effective researcher.

1. Set goals—what are you looking for?
2. Review the information you have.
3. Establish objectives for your research.
4. Select the documents you need to look for and identify where they are located.
5. Do the research.
6. Analyze and incorporate information.
7. Re-examine the plan.

### **SETTING GOALS**

The goals you set need to be the purpose and heart of your research. These goals should be focused, clear and understandable. The way to eat an elephant is one bite at a time. The way to achieve success in genealogy is one family group at a time.

Begin the process with a question like “Who is my person/family of interest?” Determine what you want to know about that particular person or family.

- ◆ Vague goal: Locate everyone with the surname SPRAGINS in the United States.
- ◆ Broad goal: Find Melchizadek SPRAGINS' place of origin.
- ◆ Focused goal: Find Melchizadek SPRAGINS' birth date.

Place your goal in a prominent place where you can review it as you are researching.

### **DOCUMENT REVIEW**

Analyze the documents you gather and the information therein at the time you first access them. Identify the source form. Is it original or a derivative? What type of information does it contain; i.e., is it primary or secondary? Does it provide direct, indirect or even negative evidence? Is the document legible or fading? Why was the document created? Have you extracted all of the information the document holds about your goal family? Are there people listed in the document you can't identify? How are they related to the family or event in question? Are the facts you have gathered consistent with the age of the person and the time period?

### **REVIEW IMPORTANT FAMILY EVENTS**

Have you researched all of the important family events? Have you looked for the original forms as well as newspaper accounts or other accounts of the events?

- |                         |                   |                    |                   |
|-------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| ◆ Birth and/or adoption | ◆ Religion        | ◆ Divorce          | ◆ Residences      |
| ◆ Christening           | ◆ Marriage        | ◆ Occupation       | ◆ Death           |
| ◆ Siblings              | ◆ Spouse          | ◆ Military service | ◆ Probate records |
| ◆ Parents               | ◆ Family movement | ◆ Property owned   |                   |

Review honestly and assess candidly the information gathered. Are the individual points of information accurate? Have you found at least three records—not created from the same source—to prove each bit of information you are recording? Have you resolved all inconsistencies? Based on this review, have the results changed, modified, transformed or altered your goal?

### RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

As you work on your main goal you will have many individual objectives. Objectives are the way you consume the elephant one bite at a time.

In this step you need to establish objectives to fill in the gaps left in your research. Review the information to see if some clues were overlooked? Did you make an assessment early on which now needs to be changed? Make a list of all of the holes in your research related to the goal.

### LOCATING DOCUMENTS

From the list of holes you have identified, establish a research plan to find the needed records. What documents have the potential of providing the information you are seeking? Where would those documents likely be found? Create a time line for the family or person.

If you have looked for the original documents and could not find them, ask yourself what alternate documents may provide the answer. If you are looking for a death date but couldn't find the death certificate, have you located the obituary, cemetery, funeral home, and other family members who may have the information to help you locate records of the event?

### ANALYZE INFORMATION

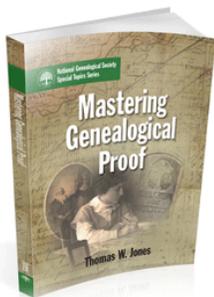
Before incorporating information into your family, analyze and evaluate the source. Put the information in context with other information you have gathered. Make sure you have the full source document and citation for each piece of information you have gathered.

### RE-EXAMINE THE PLAN

Was the goal met? Is more research required based on the information gathered. If the goal has been met, it is time to move on to the next goal. You have now taken one bite out the elephant.

Establishing a plan takes many steps. It is hard work and requires you to focus on one problem at a time. Once you have completed your plan and met your goal, you may find you have a new goal you never imagined. Following these steps will definitely make you a better researcher. ⚙

## *MASTERING GENEALOGICAL PROOF IS A WORKBOOK FOR GENEALOGISTS*



[From the SKP Genies Newsletter Summer 2013]

The newest genealogical-related book, “Mastering Genealogy Proof”, by Thoms W. Jones, NGS Special Publication No. 107, Published by the National Genealogical Society, Arlington, Virginia, was released at the 2013 NGS Family History Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada. It is designed to teach the full scope of the “Genealogical Proof Standard.”

On the back cover Mr. Jones tells us about the book:

“Everyone tracing a family’s history faces a dilemma. We strive to reconstruct relationships and lives of people we cannot see, but if we cannot see them, how do we know we have portrayed them accurately? Is determining ancestry that predates living people’s memory just guess work? Or do we blindly trust every source we examine and ignore inconsistencies? Should we perhaps do the opposite—mistrust sources to the point that our conclusions are mostly tentative? Can we not determine reliably which findings reflect the past? If we can make that determination, how can we show others its credibility?”

"*Mastering Genealogical Proof* aims to help researchers, students, and new family historians address this dilemma and apply respected standards for acceptable conclusions. It presents content in digestible chunks. Each chapter concludes with problems providing practice for mastering the chapter's concepts. Those problems, like examples throughout the book, use real records, real research, and real issues. Answers are at the back of the book along with a glossary of technical terms and an extensive resource list."

Mastering Genealogical Proof by Thomas W. Jones. Now available for \$25 or \$20 for NGS members at [http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/mastering\\_genealogical\\_proof](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/mastering_genealogical_proof). ☼

## GENEALOGICAL STANDARDS: GUIDELINES FOR SOUND GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

**Recommended by the National Genealogical Society**

Remembering always that they are engaged in a quest for truth, family history researchers consistently—

- ◆ record the source for each item of information they collect.
- ◆ test every hypothesis or theory against credible evidence, and reject those that are not supported by the evidence.
- ◆ seek original records, or reproduced images of them when there is reasonable assurance they have not been altered, as the basis for their research conclusions.
- ◆ use compilations, communications and published works, whether paper or electronic, primarily for their value as guides to locating the original records, or as contributions to the critical analysis of the evidence discussed in them.
- ◆ state something as a fact only when it is supported by convincing evidence, and identify the evidence when communicating the fact to others.
- ◆ limit with words like "probable" or "possible" any statement that is based on less than convincing evidence, and state the reasons for concluding that it is probable or possible.
- ◆ avoid misleading other researchers by either intentionally or carelessly distributing or publishing inaccurate information.
- ◆ state carefully and honestly the results of their own research, and acknowledge all use of other researchers' work.
- ◆ recognize the collegial nature of genealogical research by making their work available to others through publication, or by placing copies in appropriate libraries or repositories, and by welcoming critical comment.
- ◆ consider with open minds new evidence or the comments of others on their work and the conclusions they have reached.

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When I was young we used to go "skinny dipping," now I just "chunky dunk."  
Don't argue with an idiot; people watching may not be able to tell the difference.  
Wouldn't it be nice if whenever we messed up our lives we could simply press Delete and start all over? ☼

## *CLASSES FORM AROUND TOM JONES'S MASTERING GENEALOGICAL PROOF*

The following is a transcript of a message sent by Jordan Jones, President of the National Genealogical Society to NGS members on 10 June 2013. This is a great learning opportunity to take advantage of right in your RV and you don't have to be a member of NGS to learn to master the Genealogical Proof Standard.

I had an opportunity to talk to Tom Jones about his book, *Mastering Genealogical Proof*, recently published by the National Genealogical Society.

The book is a culmination of Tom's years of interest in the topic of genealogical proof. While he was serving as its president, the Board for Certification of Genealogists published *The BCG Genealogical Standards Manual* (Provo: Ancestry Publishing, 2000). According to Tom, this book was "one of the first places where the Genealogical Proof Standard (GPS) was articulated and laid out in its five parts." He continues: "In fact, the Standards Manual was released at the NGS Conference in Providence in 2000, and I did a presentation on the GPS at that conference and have been doing them in one form or another over the years." Often, in the course of a one-hour lecture, Tom can share an insight into some aspect of the GPS, but the proof standard is a large topic that requires far more than a single hour.

The courses Tom teaches at Boston University and at the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy treat the GPS in a broader context, and this book builds on that approach. "It's the result of my learning from all the teaching I have done, at BU and at the Salt Lake Institute particularly." Originally, the book was to have been an NGS online course. As he started to develop the content, Tom felt that "the complexity and the length suggested that an online course was not the best way to deliver the content." The exercises also made the work better suited to being a "textbook to accompany a course, rather than a course itself." So, the National Genealogical Society worked with Tom to re-conceive the project as a book to support in-class coursework.

And now the courses are coming: Two study groups have formed to study *Mastering Genealogical Proof*. One study group is hosted by Angela Packer McGhie, a genealogical researcher, lecturer, and instructor. Angela serves as the administrator of the ProGen Study Program and course coordinator. She has set up a "train-the-trainer" model where she is working through the content with a small group of mentors, who will then teach others. The course is being held online via Google Hangouts. For more information, see the "Gen Proof" groups post on her blog, Adventures in Genealogy Education <<http://genealogyeducation.blogspot.com/2013/04/gen-proof-groups-to-study-mastering.html>>.

Another study group is led by Pat Richley-Erickson, the irrepressible blogger also known as "Dear Myrtle." This course started with an orientation session on Sunday, with fifteen other panelists. There will be sessions through September, including a graduation ceremony. For more information, see Pat Richley-Erickson's blog Dear Myrtle <<http://blog.dearmyrtle.com/>> or her MGP Study Group schedule <<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/ccc?key=0AkvrkpbaGH0dHRpMjJNV3FtVDZRS09iNExCOFYwTHc#gid=0>>.

Of the audience for the *Mastering Genealogical Proof*, Tom says he hopes it would include "everyone interested in tracing their family history. Most of my teaching experience has been with people that I would say are intermediate and higher in terms of their research experience. I think the greatest interest in the book is among that group, but I really hope people who are just embarking on their family history research will pick this up and get a lot out of it, because it will get them started off on the right foot. It will minimize all the hours of work put into something that a few years down the road they realize is worthless. I don't think anything in here is too advanced or too complex for a new family historian to digest and benefit from and apply to their own research." I agree, and hope researchers, those just beginning, and those with more experience, will take a look at Tom's book, and learn to benefit from the rigor and clarity of the genealogical proof standard. The National Genealogical Society is proud to have helped bring Mastering Genealogical Proof to the community of genealogists. We are heartened to see that the book is generating interest in advanced genealogical study, and that students and teachers are using it to explore and extend their understanding of the GPS.

## *WRITING PROOF REPORTS*

By Carolyn H. Brown [From the SKP Genies Newsletter Summer 2013]



All of us have cases where there isn't one document which by itself proves a relationship between persons, or provides the date and/or place of a specific event we are seeking.

Therefore, we must rely on the correlation of a collection of documents to solve our problem and prove the case. Once we have completed the research process, it is very important that we record what we discovered, and—when the case is complicated—we need to explain in detail each step of our analysis and our conclusion.

### PROOF REPORTS

There are three basic formats for recording proof. They are each based on the Genealogical Proof Standard.

1. *Proof statement*: a sentence or data item mixed in with broader context.
2. *Proof summary*: a page or more focusing on the proof.
3. *Proof argument*: several or many pages focused on proof. Includes case studies.

### PROOF STATEMENT

A simple statement documenting a data item or a sentence stating the conclusion within a documented genealogical report. Though the statement may not be a combination of documents, it does make a concise statement about an issue in question. They are clear, complete and accurate. The proof statement is supported by at least one footnote citation of an original record stating the conclusion. They do not support the resolution of conflicting evidence.

### PROOF SUMMARY

A documented list or narrative stating facts which will lead to a proved conclusion. More than one documented fact with footnotes is required to prove a point. Answers a simple question, such as, "who is John Brown's father?" They are clear, complete and accurate. The proof summary is supported by at least one footnote citation of an original record, and one primary information item, providing information that directly, indirectly, or negatively supports the conclusion. The proof summary itself contains a clearly written conclusion. Proof summaries are used for less complex cases, those where questions of identity and conflicting evidence are resolved without serious difficulty.

### PROOF ARGUMENT

A thoroughly documented narrative in which the writer explains the answer to a complex genealogical problem. They are clear, complete and accurate. They are used where questions of identity or conflicting evidence are difficult to resolve. They may be stand-alone documents, like articles, case studies, reports and monographs, or they could be part of a chapter, family history, report, or other documented genealogical work.

Proof arguments have the following three major sections;

1. *Beginning*: The opening explains the research question. It identifies the starting point, describes any relevant contextual information, including prior research on the target family or individual.
2. *Middle*: This is the longest section and describes the rationale for proof. The evidence is presented, interpreted, and conflicting evidence is resolved. It explains why the composite of resulting evidence supports the conclusion. It leads up to and states or restates the conclusion. It may include document abstracts, digital copies of original documents, and photographs, when they apply directly to the problem being discussed.
3. *END*: This is the shortest section of the report. It briefly recaps the main points showing the conclusion is proved.

### CASE STUDY

A case study provides an intelligent, honest illustration of how the writer used a technique—or series of closely related techniques—to bring about the described result. They include a brief, clear description of the problem that generated the research project and is presented in a logical, sure progression from the problem to the solution. It is free of rambling explanations, extraneous characters and details, undue generalizations from the particular, and unexpected solutions based on data not included within the compilation. Case studies are used where questions of identity or conflicting evidence are difficult to resolve and reflect extensive research.

All of the above reports require clear, concise writing, full documentation and source citation.

#### **FURTHER YOUR KNOWLEDGE:**

Board for Certification of Genealogists, *The BCG Genealogical Standards Manual* (Orem, Utah: Ancestry, 2000): 14 -17. Check out the BCG website at <[www.bcgcertification.org](http://www.bcgcertification.org)>. Review their web pages *Skillbuilding: Your Learning Center* and *Work Samples*. The articles on the Skillbuilding web page explain each step of the GPS in more detail.

Thomas Jones, *Mastering Genealogical Proof*, National Genealogical Society (Arlington, Virginia: NGS Special Publications No. 107, 2013): 86-90. (See the article on page 9 about this beneficial publication.)

Samples of proof reports can be found in any *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* or *The American Genealogist*. ⚙

### ***APPLYING THE GENEALOGICAL PROOF STANDARD***

**By Carolyn H. Brown** [From the SKP Genies Newsletter Summer 2013]

How effectively the five stages of the GPS are applied as related to our research questions; the sources used to investigate those questions; the information those sources provide; and how that information is used as genealogical evidence, determines how solid the proof will be.

#### **◆ RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

The research questions should be focused to specific information. The questions should not be so broad that they allow for several answers, or too narrow as they are unanswerable.

Example:

- *Too-broad:* Who was John SULLEY?  
*Better:* Who were John SULLEY's parents?
- *Too-narrow:* What was Ann SULLEY's exact birth date?  
*Better:* When was Ann SULLEY born?

Avoid questions with unsupportable assumptions where the questions assume that a record of a single or consistent legal name existed in a time when spellings varied from one record to another. In many cases the record keeper changed over time and the name could have been spelled in various ways. In the Parish Register for High Bickington, Devonshire, England I found the surname BOATFIELD spelled 57 different ways. I have one document where the name of one of the individuals therein recorded was spelled three different ways.

Example: What was William B. BROWN's real name?

Your questions should fit one of the following three categories:

- *Identity:* Which James BULLIFANT served in the American Revolution?
- *Relationship:* Who were the children of Solomon COX and his wife Deborah (COLLINS) COX, in Dover, Missouri between 1817 and 1849?
- *Activity:* In which churches was Reverend Charles Washington WOOD pastor between 1850 and 1900 in Pittsylvania County, Virginia?

#### **◆ SOURCES PROVIDE EVIDENCE**

The most helpful sources of evidence for genealogists can be:

- *Published or unpublished written material*—original documents, and records.
- *Artifacts*—gravestones, needlework, paintings, photographs, and scrapbooks.

If facsimiles of sources are digital images of the original sources—showing no cropping, blurring, or evidence of alteration—they can often be considered as the same physical sources. Finding aids, databases and indexes are not genealogical sources. They may, however help to document negative evidence and

nonproductive searches. If a searchable database contains images from books, documents, files, microfilm, or photographs, those images are sources.

All sources contain some errors, however, some sources are less prone to errors than others. It has been observed that censuses contain more errors than land and probate records.

There are two broad types of genealogical sources:

- *Authored works* are books and other unbound reports based on information taken from many prior sources. They present a writer's or researcher's conclusions, interpretations or thoughts.
- *Records* describe or document an action, event, observation or spoken word.

#### ◆ INFORMATION EQUALS EVIDENCE

Sources are the container and information is the content. Do not equate derivative records with secondary information; that is like confusing the container with the content. Creating a derivative record from an original does not change the primary information to secondary. Many original records contain both primary and secondary information.

It is up to us to analyze the information and extract the evidence to obtain the suggested answer to the genealogical research questions we present. The answer is not a conclusion as the conclusion may rest in the summary of multiple evidence items that have passed the accuracy test. Accuracy is never obtained by just one piece of evidence.

Evidence can be at the same time right or wrong, complete or incomplete, and specific or vague. Therefore, the evidence needs to be tested with more complete research coupled with the reasoning process, thus proving the conclusions that the aggregated evidence items indicate. By gathering multiple unrelated sources we can determine a more accurate conclusion.

Example:

Question - Who were the parents of Henrietta GOULD, born between 1830 and 1835 in Dutchess County, New York?

Source Documents:

Henrietta GOULD appears in the home of George and Sarah GOULD in the 1850 US Census of Liecester, Livingston, New York, as age 15. In the 1855 State Census of Liecester, Livingston, New York, she appears as a servant in the home of A. H. BURCHARD with her age listed as 23. The state census lists all three of them as having been born in Dutchess County, New York.

In the 1860 US Census of Ashford, Cattraugus, New York, Henrietta GOULD appears with Sarah and George GOULD and is listed as age 28. She also appears in the 1860 census of Perry, Wyoming, New York—the county where she died in 1892—with Asa WHIPPLE working as a domestic in a hotel. Livingston County and Wyoming County are adjoining and Liecester is just a few miles from Perry.

I have been unable to locate Henrietta in any census since 1860. She was not in the household with George and Sarah GOULD when they appear in the 1870 US Census of Wexford, Wexford, Michigan. The only child home with them at the time was their daughter Lavina. This information helped make the determination that this was the same George and Sarah GOULD, as all ages and places of birth match other censuses.

Based on the information obtained at this time it was determined that George and Sarah GOULD were probably the parents of Henrietta GOULD. A search has been made of the 1870 and 1880 censuses online and Henrietta GOULD has not been located. Sarah GOULD has not been located in the 1880 US Census.

According to her death record, Sarah GOULD died 9 March 1889, age 78, and is buried in the Pearl Creek, Wyoming, New York, cemetery. According to



Grave stone of Sarah and Henrietta GOULD, Pearl Creek Cemetery, Wyoming, New York.

Henrietta's death record she died 25 May 1892 at age 62. She shares a beautiful headstone with Sarah in the Pearl Creek, Wyoming, New York, cemetery.

Henrietta's death record shows that her parents were William and Sarah GOULD, both born in New York. If her parents were William and Sarah, not George and Sarah, then additional research is required.

Using the information supplied in the 1855 New York State census stating that all three of them were born in Dutchess county, New York, a search for information in that county was undertaken.

In the Episcopal Trinity Churchyard, Fishkill, Dutchess, New York, there is a tombstone which has been recorded in the list of burials in that churchyard as follows:

"GOULD, William, d. 1838, Oct. 2, a . 34-5-28, also Sarah, his wife, d. 1838, Oct.2, a. 35-2-24, also, Charles, their son, d. 1838, Oct 3, a. 4 y. 4 d. Natives of North (Wootton), England. Died by eating toadstools."

The Niagara Democrat of 10 October 1838 published an article as follows:

"DISTRESSING OCCURRENCE.—A fatal instance of the danger of eating *mushrooms* occurred at Glenham, in Dutchess county, this week. On Monday afternoon a family by the name of Gould, had prepared a supper of mushrooms, as they supposed, of which the man and wife and one child, three or four years old ate freely. The rest of the children, four in number, were all, except the infant, at work away from the home and were thus prevented from eating with their parents. Shortly after supper the man was taken sick, and then the wife and child. They soon discovered that they were poisoned by *toadstools*, and lingering in great agonies through the night, the *three* died the next day, and were buried together. All the exertions that could be made were ineffectual to save them, and their sad fate should be a melancholy warning to all others to let such stuff alone. The most experienced can scarcely distinguish between the mushroom and some kinds of toadstool, and this only safe course is to avoid them altogether.

Since writing the above, we are told the infant nursed the mother shortly before she died, and was taken sick and will not probably recover."

A thorough search of the church records in both Wootton and North Wootton, England has not revealed any possible parents for George or William GOULD, however, based on the information so far obtained it seems very logical that William and Sarah were the parents of Henrietta, and when her parents died the four children not at home were taken in by family members, thus indicating that George was possibly the brother of William. Based on their calculated ages William was born 4 April 1804 and George was born about 1807.

Additional research is required to prove the relationships, however, the issue remains that Henrietta GOULD was probably not the daughter of George and Sarah GOULD, but their niece.

By recording our analysis of each piece of evidence found where conflicting information is identified, we can build an effective research plan. We have also created a case study to pass on to future generations. Of course each source of the information needs to be recorded in footnotes or endnotes. Those will be addressed in the next edition of the *Bouse Genies Newsletter*. ☀



Tombstone of William, Sarah and Charles GOULD October 1838.



"There is simply no substitute for obtaining a copy of an original document proving our lineage." This was a quote from Myra Vanderpool Gormley (a.k.a. Dear Myrtle). That means settle for no abstract, no extract, no index, no summary, no "other's version," but whenever possible go after the original record. —DONNA POTTER PHILLIPS, AUTHOR OF *HERITAGE HUNTING*. ☀



## ***SPREADSHEETS MAKE EXCELLENT ANALYTICAL TOOLS***

By Barbara A. H. Nuehring [From the SKP Genies Newsletter Summer 2013]

All through this edition of the *SKP Genies Newsletter* you have read about the standards and methodology for successfully and professionally documenting an evidence-based family history, including these pieces of sound advice:

- ◆ “Before incorporating information into your family, analyze and evaluate the source. Put the information in context with other information you have gathered.” (“Systematically Follow the Evidence: Create a Research Plan” on page 6.)
- ◆ “It is up to us to analyze the information and extract the evidence...” (“Applying the Genealogical Proof Standard” on page 11.)

But when it comes down to where the pen meets the paper or the fingers meet the keyboard, it is up to you to put those theories into practice.

I’m sure you noted the one word that is prominent in all the articles is “analyze”. We must analyze each piece of evidence and the place to start is by organizing all the evidence into one format. Simply spreading out the various source documents on the dining room table never worked for me. For the past three decades I have been using a spreadsheet application—before computers I used paper, pencil and ruler. Either way, it is so much easier to analyze evidence when it is all together in one place.

### **TIMELINES PUT INFORMATION INTO CONTEXT**

A list of chronological events (a.k.a. a timeline) is an essential tool in many steps of genealogy research, but no more so than when you need to analyze evidence you have collected. It organizes the abundance of clues, “facts” and evidence you have amassed.

In the late 1990s I switched from Family Tree Maker (FTM) to The Master Genealogist (TMG) for three big reasons. Two of those reasons are that TMG focuses on the individual’s life displaying all events in chronological order; and I can list several dates/locations for one event which significantly helps in analyzing the various bits of data. In recent years other lineage software developers have followed suit and added a timeline display to their program.

If your program doesn’t have that feature, create a timeline using a spreadsheet. It is easy. Of course the first event will be his/her birth and the last will be his/her burial. Then add all other events—name/description of the event, the place where the event occurred, the date of the event and the age of the individual at the time of the event. Make sure you list the source document that gave you that information. You can add information as you find it and then simply sort on the date.

List all occurrences of an event—whether proved, likely, possible, probable or wrong. For instance, my maternal grandfather Nickolas SCHOBER’s birth year appears differently in his military enlistment records, his WWI draft card and his pension records (born in 1889) than it does on his vital records and WWII draft card (born in 1894). Including erroneous information provides material for writing a proof report and helps me find more records where he may have used a “creative” age.

### **COMPARISON CHARTS HELP US TO ANALYZE THE DATA**

It is difficult to draw conclusions when the information about a particular event is different on the various sources. It is also difficult to draw conclusions when there are too many similarities—such as people with the same name in the same locale at the same time. Listing names and gathered data about the individual or individuals on a spreadsheet gives you an all encompassing picture. In most cases this can be quite complex.

However, to give you a simplified, abbreviated example, take the case of great-grandmother Helen (on the following page.) Our goal is to determine her likely birth date and location during a time before birth records were kept. By combining all available evidence in one format, we can analyze the data, write a proof report and draw probable conclusions.

### Goal: What is Helen's Birth Date and Place?

Record	Age	Birth Date	Birth Place	Informant
Death Certificate dated: 8 Apr 1916 Boyer Valley Twp, Sac County, IA	75	Est. from age: 1840 - 1841	Wisconsin	Daughter-in-law Amy HAMILTON
1880 Federal Census, Jericho, Chittenden County, VT	34	Est. from age: 1843 - 1844	Connecticut	Census Taker
1900 Federal Census, Glen Haven, Grant County, WI	57	March 1843	Connecticut	Census Taker
1910 Federal Census, Boyer Valley Twp, Sac County, IA	68	Est. from age: 1841 - 1842	Vermont	Census Taker
20 Feb 1863: Marriage to Samuel HAMILTON, Underhill, Chittenden County, VT	19	Est. from age: 1842 - 1843	Not listed	issued by County Clerk, signed by the Minister
23 Jul 1901: Marriage to David YOUNGER, Sac City, Sac County, IA	55	Est. from age: 1846 - 1847	Not listed	County Clerk

#### MAKE THE SPREADSHEET FIT THE RESEARCH

One size does not fit all. Each research problem, each research goal, each formulated research question will require specific columns of data. Design your spreadsheet to include all the evidence most likely to have answers to your question. You don't have to leave the spreadsheet on the monitor. If pencil and paper help you analyze the data, print the spreadsheet and, if necessary, tape pages together. You want the "big picture" and you want the details in order to do a thorough analysis and draw a logical and accurate conclusion.

After reading this edition of the *SKP Genies Newsletter* you should know not to keep your nose buried in your lineage database with the hopes that you have accurate information about the "right" ancestor. A spreadsheet is a perfect tool for organizing the mountain of data you have collected; for applying the standards for sound genealogical research; and for meeting the Genealogical Proof Standard. ☀

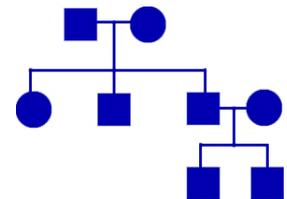
### *BEWARE OF INHERITED FAMILY PEDIGREES*

By **Barbara A. H. Nuehring** [From the *SKP Genies Newsletter* Summer 2013]

There is nothing more exciting than to find a pedigree of your family on a website. But is it a legitimate pedigree? Although some genealogists claim to have documentation for their familial lines, it may be that all they have is a collection of the same information repeated over time by several different researchers. On the other hand, the genealogist may have reliable source documents, only they mis-read or mis-interpreted them.

I speak with a voice of experience. When I contacted an individual for sources who posted a branch of Lee's family, I learned he had found the pedigree on the Internet. When I tried to contact the "original source" he was not to be found. All was not lost. At least I had clues to follow about possible locations I didn't have before. In another instance, the genealogist did not understand archaic dating conventions and recorded my ancestor's birth date as "25 Aug 1699." By obtaining and analyzing a copy of the source document, I saw the original entry of "25 8ber 1699" and knew the birth date should be recorded as "25 Oct 1699." (When the Gregorian calendar replaced the Julian calendar the location of the month within the calendar year shifted, but the names remained the same. The Latin word for the cardinal number eight is *Ocot*.)

Bottom line: If you inherit a family pedigree, don't arbitrarily merge it with your work. Get copies of all the sources, and analyze them thoroughly without assuming they were correctly evaluated and interpreted. ☀



# BOUSE GENIES NEWS

## CAROL BROWN: RECIPIENT OF THE 2013 NGS AWARD OF MERIT

By Barbara A. H. Nuehring

[From the SKP Genies Newsletter Summer 2013]

It was a secret until the very last moment. A secret kept by only a few co-conspirators. Very few people were aware of what was going to happen the evening of 10 May 2013!

We were at the National Genealogy Society Annual Banquet. Six of us finagled our way to the head of the line for entrance into the banquet hall and Carol was given the task to grab a table close to the podium. Five of us were giddy as we watched her hustle her way to one front and center. The meal was exceptional and there was plenty of laughter and genealogy-speak around our table of ten. Then it came time for the guest speaker, Mark Hall-Patton, administrator of Clark County Museum and artifact authenticator on Pawn Stars, followed by door prizes and awards.

Several awards were presented and then the Awards Chairman announced:

*The Award of Merit is presented to an individual or non-profit genealogical or historical organization to recognize exceptional contributions to the field of genealogy over a period of five or more years, which has significantly aided research or increased interest in genealogy.*

*For over twenty-five years, Carolyn Marguerite Hutchinson Brown has taught genealogy classes and passionately and unabashedly promoted genealogy. She has published six books on her family and her husband's family lines and has authored many articles published in a variety of genealogical publications. She also founded the Bouse Genealogical Society in Bouse, Arizona, in 2007. She continues to chair, teach, and mentor the group today. As the nomination form concluded, "One person can and does make a difference!"*

For all that Carol has done for genealogy; for all she is doing for the Bouse Genealogical Society, no one is more deserving of this award. Congratulations, Carol.

### WHAT'S HAPPENING IN BOUSE?

The Bouse Genies have been growing. Since the last newsletter we have gained two new members. This has been a really good year for us and I know we will continue to grow.

With so many of our members gone for the summer things are quite here. Even those who live here full time are taking short vacations to get out of the 114° weather.

Our new format for the bi-weekly meetings seems to have really made a difference in the interest level of our membership and those visiting with us. Thanks to Harry Jensen for suggesting and promoting the extended meeting hours.

### 2014 GENEALOGY WORKSHOP

We have not heard from the Lake Havasu LDS concerning the proposed genealogy workshop in late February 2014 in the LDS facility in Lake Havasu, Arizona. We are hoping to be able to have multiple class tracks, rather than just one specialized speaker. We will keep you informed on the progress of this endeavor.



THE MOMENT CAROL HEARD  
HER NAME ANNOUNCED.  
PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY  
OF HARRY JENSEN



CAROL RECEIVES HER AWARD FROM  
NGS PRESIDENT JORDAN JONES  
© 2013 NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.  
PHOTOS COURTESY NGS & SCOTT STEWART.

## GENEALOGY STUDY GROUP

The Bouse Genealogical Society - Genealogy Study Group (GSG) had their last meeting of the season on 15 April. The focus of the group is to study an article from the National Genealogical Quarterly at each meeting. By understanding how professional genealogists gather, analyze, and record information concerning a particularly difficult genealogical problem, we can learn how to become better genealogists ourselves.

Carol chose, as the first article for discussion, the Jefferson-Hemings Case from Volume 89, No. 3, September 2001 issue of the NGS Quarterly. The group had such an extensive discussion on "slavery in America" that it took two meetings to cover the whole article. Related articles will be discussed at the next meeting on 16 September 2013, which is the third Monday of the month, from 10 AM - 12 NOON at the Bouse Community Building.

## SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you, Harry and Joanne Jensen, for your work over the summer for the society. Joanne took the minutes of the last meeting, and Harry has been working to set up our schedule of speakers and webinars for the coming season. ⚙



## From the Editor's Desk

By Carolyn H. Brown

Thanks to all of you who sent your congratulations to me concerning my being awarded the NGS 2013 Merit Award. I wish all of you could have been there with us to celebrate the event. It was really a surprise to me. The people in both the *SKP Genies* and the *Bouse Genies* are really great at keeping secrets. I will be forever grateful for the support you have given me over the years.

As you may have noticed, we are not exactly following the themes as we had defined them in the last issue. As we were working on this issue we realized that the theme planned for next issue fit so well with this issue that we combined them. We think it makes this issue flow much better. Therefore, the themes for the next two issues of this year, and our plans for next year are in the process of being re-worked.

Our focus at this time is less on doing research and more on analyzing, recording, and sharing that information with our families. There comes a time in everyone's research when you want to share what you have found. There are many ways to do it, and we are going to share with you the various options you have.

If you have written stories, books, or just shared your genealogy program's database with your family, we would love to hear about what you did and the response you received from your family.

We all know that genealogy without documentation is mythology. Therefore, we will start by preparing you to cite your sources so others can find where you obtained your information. We will follow that with the writing process. If you haven't written your family history, now is the time to start thinking about sharing what you have found in a way others will want to read it.

Please consider sharing your experience on our Yahoo Group at:  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BouseGenies>.

In 2013-4, the themes for the next three issues focus on the steps for leaving your legacy for future generations by preparing to publish your family history.

**OCT-NOV-DEC 2013:** *Citing Your Sources Correctly*. Looking for articles on gathering source information, footnotes, endnotes and reference formats, layout samples. (Deadline is 1 September 2013.)

**JAN-FEB-MAR 2013:** *Leave your Legacy; Write your Family History*. What to include, what not to include, selecting the family, deciding whether or not to use your genealogy program. Other topics we will address include: working with photographs, adding information not maintained in our genealogy software, organization and layout, and copyright laws. (Deadline is 1 December 2013.) ⚙

## Just Thinking!

If love is blind, why is lingerie so popular?

If it's true that we are here to help others, then what exactly are the others here for?

Why do they put pictures of criminals up in the Post Office? What are we supposed to do, write to them? Why don't they just put their pictures on the postage stamps so the mailmen can look for them while they deliver the mail?

Ever wonder what the speed of lightning would be if it didn't zigzag?

Why is the man who invests all your money called a broker?

When cheese gets its picture taken, what does it say?

If people from Poland are called Poles, why aren't people from Holland called Holes? ⚙



## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Education and skill-advancement do not take a Summer Vacation. Check out these great learning opportunities:

American Historical Society of Germans from Russia  
7-14 July in Fort Collins, Colorado

[www.ahsgr.org/Conventions/2013\\_Convention.htm](http://www.ahsgr.org/Conventions/2013_Convention.htm)

BYU Conference on Family History and Genealogy  
30 July – 2 August in Provo, Utah

<http://ce.byu.edu/cw/cwgen/>

Colorado Family History Expo  
2-3 August in Colorado Springs, Colorado

[www.familyhistoryexpos.com/viewevent/index/63](http://www.familyhistoryexpos.com/viewevent/index/63)

Society for German Genealogy in Eastern Europe  
9-11 August in Seattle, Washington

[www.sggee.org/convention/convention\\_news.html](http://www.sggee.org/convention/convention_news.html)

Federation of Genealogy Societies Conference  
21-24 August in Fort Wayne, Indiana

[www.fgs.org/cpage.php?pt=43](http://www.fgs.org/cpage.php?pt=43)

Midwest Family History Expo  
6-7 September in Kearney, Nebraska

[www.familyhistoryexpos.com/viewevent/index/64](http://www.familyhistoryexpos.com/viewevent/index/64)

Polish Genealogy Society of America  
13-14 September in Naperville, Illinois

[www.pgsa.org/#Conference](http://www.pgsa.org/#Conference)

New York State Family History Conference  
20-21 September in Syracuse, New York

Info at: [www.nysfhc.org](http://www.nysfhc.org)

13th Annual British Institute  
7-11 October in Salt Lake City, Utah

<http://isbgfh.org/> ⚙

## BOUSE GENIES 2013 MEETING SCHEDULE

All meetings are held in the Bouse Community Building from 9:30 AM -2 PM unless otherwise specified.

27 September

11 & 25 October

8 & 22 November

6 & 20 December

Christmas Party 20 December

## GENEALOGY STUDY GROUP 2013

### MEETING SCHEDULE

All meetings are held in the Bouse Community Building from 10 AM -12 NOON unless otherwise specified.

16 September

21 October

18 November

16 December ⚙

### CURRENT BGS OFFICERS:

Chairman - Carol Brown	Treasurer - Ann Kimble
Vice-Chairman - Barbara Weber	Assistant Treasurer - Brenda Dixon
Secretary - Gloria Freeman	Librarian - Nikki Mackey
Corresponding Secretary - Nikki Mackey	Webmaster - Dennis Chapman
Historian - Gloria Freeman	Newsletter Editor - Carol Brown
Webinar Librarian - Shirley Baker	GSG Moderator - Carol Brown