

BOUSE GENIES

Happy New Year

By Carolyn H. Brown, President

Our annual Election of Officers was held 5 December 2014. The elected officers for 2015 are:

- President, Nikki Cowel-Mackey
- Vice President, Barbara Weber
- Program Chairman, Carol Brown
- Secretary, Gloria Freeman
- Corresponding Secretary, Nikki Cowel-Mackey
- Treasurer, Norman Cutshall

Thank you, Nikki, for stepping forward and taking on the office of President. I will be here to help you in any way I can as you get settle in. I am sure you will do a great job for us.

We also voted to change the title of the Chairman and Vice Chairman to President and Vice President. At the 19 December Meeting I was elected (railroaded) as the Program Chairman. Since the first of December we have added four new members: Kathy and Richard McBride, Ellen Mallinson and Lois Baker.

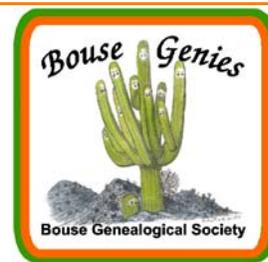
Starting 30 January 2015, we will meet every other meeting in the Bouse Public Library. All meetings start at 9:30 am and close between 2:00 and 2:30 pm. If you forget which building we are in, just look for the cars out front.

On 16 February 2015, Barbara Nuehring will be our guest speaker. This meeting will be help at the La Paz County Park in North Parker. Directions will be sent to the membership a week before the meeting.

It looks like we will be able to get back in the Bouse Community Building sometime during the spring or summer of 2015. The county has said the company they hired to repair the building in Parker will look at the Bouse Community Building and give them an estimate on the cost to repair it. The county will probably have to get funds from FEMA, as the damage was caused by the storms in September. We all understand how fast the Federal Government works, so we will be lucky to be back in that building by time we start up next fall.

As happens every year, some of our members no long spend their winters in the Bouse area, and new people come in. We are sorry to see those of you who will not be with us next year, and hope you are able to find an interesting genealogical society in the place you will be spending your winters. To our new members, welcome aboard. ❁

Dues Are Now Due



Vol. 9, No. 1
Winter 2015

IN THIS ISSUE

- Bouse Genies News* 19
- Bouse Genies Admin Team* 21
- Free Online Learning* 13
- From The Computer Desk* 2
- From The Editor's Desk* 20
- Genealogy How-To Books* 11
- Genealogy Study Groups* 6
- Go Back To School* 17
- Local Conferences & Seminars* 5
- National Conferences* 7
- NGS Standards & Guidelines* 9
- Professional Genealogist* 16
- Scholarly Journals* 14
- Webinars and Training CDs* 10
- Words About Self-Improvement* 3
- What's Happening?* 21
- Yes, Genies, There is a Santa Clause* 15

Bouse Genealogical Society

Electronic Newsletter

Published 4 times a year for the members of the Bouse Genealogical Society

Please send all general correspondence to:

Bouse Genealogical Society
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Bouse, AZ 85325
or e-mail

BouseGenies@gmail.com

The Bouse Genies meet every other Friday at the Bouse Booster Club. See the meeting schedule in this newsletter.

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

FROM THE COMPUTER DESK

APPS FOR MOBILE DEVICES

By Carolyn H. Brown [From the SKP Genies Newsletter Winter 2014]



FAMILIES APP

Electronic devices have advanced to the extent that most of us have at least one mobile device which functions as a mini-computer. These devices fall into two categories—mobile phones and tablet computers. They have steadily gotten physically lighter and at the same time more powerful. The advancements in these devices means that we can have the same programs and applications (apps) on multiple devices, whether they use Android (A), Apple's iOS (I), or Windows (W) operating systems.

Because of their small size and large file capacity, we can take all of our genealogy with us and have it available at our fingertips. Following are some of the apps used by many genealogists:

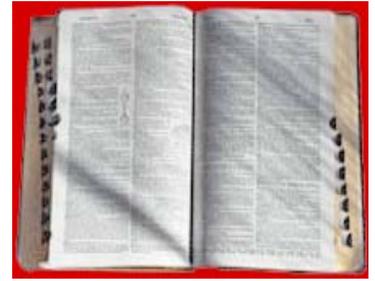
NAME AND (OPERATING SYSTEM)	DESCRIPTION	WEBSITE	PRICE
MyHeritage (A, I)	Database research	www.myheritage.com/myceleb?mode=site	Free
Billion Graves (A, I)	Cemetery & Grave Site Locator	http://billiongraves.com/pages/help/mobiledevice.php	Free
Mobile Family Tree (I)	Integrates with FamilySearch	www.syniumsoftware.com/mobilefamilytree	\$14.99
CamScanner (A, I)	Turns phone into a scanner	www.camscanner.com	Free or ann. subscription
Families (A, I, W)	Integrates with Legacy Family Tree	www.legacyfamilytreestore.com/SearchResults.asp?Cat=29	\$14.99
Pocket Genealogist (W)	GEDCOM or direct import from Legacy, TMG, Roots Magic, Ancestral Quest, FTM)	www.pocketgenealogist.com	Basic \$20 Advance \$35
Evernote (A, I)	workspace for daily projects. Syncs across all devices	http://evernote.com	Free
Ancestry (A, I)	Connect to your Ancestry Tree	www.ancestry.com	Free
FileApp (I)	File manager, reader & audio, video player. Opens PDF, MS Office files	http://fileapp.com http://itunes.apple.com	\$0.99
Wikipedia Mobile (A, I, W 8)	Read & edit Wikipedia files	http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:Mobile_access#Applications	Free - \$9.99
OfficeSuite 7 Professional (A)	Open, view, create, edit, print & share –MS Office, Open Office, opens PDF & ZIP files.	www.mobisystems.com/android_office/	\$14.99
MS Office (A, I, W)	View Word, Excel, & Power-Point files Must have an eligible Office 365 subscription to create or edit files.	http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/mobile/	Free



WORDS ABOUT HELPFUL SOURCES FOR SELF-IMPROVEMENT

By Barbara A. H. Nuehring [From the SKP Genies Newsletter Winter 2014]

SELF-IMPROVEMENT, the advancement of one's knowledge through one's own effort, makes us more efficient and better researchers resulting in a more accurate and detailed family history. Regardless of our experience level, there is always something more to learn in the vast field of genealogy. Thankfully, there is a wide variety of educational opportunities available to us. As William Faulkner put it: "Always dream and shoot higher than you know you can do. Do not bother just to be better than your contemporaries or predecessors. Try to be better than yourself."



QUICK GUIDES a.k.a. **CHEAT SHEETS** are small, handy reference aids on a wide-range of genealogy issues that are great for jogging our memories about steps or procedures we need to follow in order to improve our research techniques. Usually a laminated, two-sided sheet, rarely more than four pages, cheat sheets range from free to \$10.00. Quick guides are sold by Amazon and companies selling genealogy books and supplies. You can also make your own cheat sheets. Print and laminate diagrams or tables you find in books or in newsletters (i.e., The US Federal Censuses chart in the Spring 2012 edition of the *SKP Genies Newsletter*, or the Genealogy Standards sheets reproduced in the Spring 2014 and Summer 2014 editions); or you can download charts from the web (for example, the helpful *Research Process Map* reference chart at <www.thinkgenealogy.com>).

PROGRAMS are normally a mainstay of genealogy society meetings. Members or guest speakers present a structured lecture, usually about an hour long and accompanied by visual aids, on a particular subject. The speaker will have expertise in the subject of the program, so questions should remain "on topic" and not digress into other areas of genealogy research. You may find the schedule for the next few months or the coming year on the society's website.

Q&A is an abbreviation for Questions and Answers. Usually following a formal presentation, Q&A time enables the audience members to ask the speaker about the topic they presented. There are times when a genealogy society's program is strictly a Q&A so members can ask an individual or panel about any subject related to family history research. It is best to write out your question(s) before-hand so you can succinctly pose your question(s).

SIG is an acronym for Special Interest Group. Many genealogy societies have SIGs focused on a particular research topic, software program or geographical location that are of interest to a large number of their members (i.e., Early American Records; Legacy Family Tree; German Research). Normally they are less formal and are held at a different time and location than the society's general meeting. Check genealogy societies' websites for details about SIG meetings. You may also find Genealogy SIGs within other types of organizations (i.e., our Genealogy Birds of a Feather is a SIG of the Escapees RV Club).

WEBCAST is a live broadcast on a website that is watched by millions at the same time—much like a traditional television show is broadcasted. Users need an appropriate multimedia application in order to view a webcast. Conferences may webcast seminars or interviews from the floor of the Exposition Hall. Since a webcast is streamed to the computer, you watch it as it is shown. You cannot download and save it for future viewing.

PODCAST is not a live streaming of a presentation. A podcast is an audio or video recording placed on the web which you can access at any time and download for offline viewing at your leisure. It is a good way to stay up to date on the latest genealogy news, research techniques and resources. Files can be quite large. Two of the most popular podcasts are:

The Genealogy Guys <<http://genealogyguys.com>>

Genealogy Gems <<http://lisalouisecooke.com/podcasts>>.

The latter has a great explanation of podcasts. Most genealogy podcasts are free, but require a subscription.

BLOG, a truncation of the words web and log, is a journal or commentary written by an individual. Subject content, writing style and design are up to the owner with postings normally displayed in reverse chronological order. Often readers can post comments about a particular statement or subject. Most blogs have a feature that e-mails you new content when it is posted. There are thousands of blogs in cyberspace. You can search

for family history blogs at <<http://blogfinder.genealogue.com>>. Some popular blogs are:

Dick Eastman's *Eastman's Online Genealogy News* <<http://blog.eogn.com>>

Michael John Neill's *Genealogy Tip of the Day* <<http://genealogytipoftheday.blogspot.com>>

Randy Seaver's *Genea-Musings* <www.geneamusings.com>

Pat Richley-Erickson's *Dear Myrtle* <<http://blog.dearmyrtle.com>>.

Both NGS and FGS have blogs leading up to their annual conferences.

YOU-TUBE has various instructional videos on genealogy research. Go to <www.youtube.com> and search on "genealogy", "family history" or "FamilySearch". You can sort by date, length of video, and other features by clicking on the FILTERS ▼. Some You-Tube videos are taped lectures/seminars and some are in the form of interviews. A few examples are: *Series on the Genealogical Proof Standard (GPS)*; *FAN Club Research to Build Your Family Tree*; *How FamilySearch and OCLC (WorldCat) are Boosting Genealogy Records Access*; and *FamilySearch Indexing*.

FORUMS, known by a variety of names—Groups, Mail Lists and Message Boards—are great sources of personalized information. All you have to do is post a research question and others on the forum will provide answers. You can find a forum for most countries, counties and surnames. There are also ones for a myriad of genealogical topics (i.e., Cemeteries, DNA Research, Orphans) and forums hosted by genealogy groups. To post a question or answer you must be subscribed to the forum, but most are free. There are listings of groups at <<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/dir/1600040837>>, of mail lists at <<http://lists.rootsweb.ancestry.com>> and of boards at <<http://boards.ancestry.com>>.

CHAT ROOMS are where users communicate online in real time on a particular topic. To find genealogy-focused ones check Cyndi's List <www.cyndislist.com/chat/genealogy-chat-and-irc-home-pages>.

CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES, offered by universities, community colleges and city/county recreation departments, are designed for adults seeking personal growth. Structured classes are normally four to eight weeks long. Fees vary; some are even free. Check the organization's catalog listing between gardening and geology—you may find genealogy classes.

NARA (National Archives and Records Administration) offers genealogy programs at their various regional facilities. Topics range from introductory classes on using federal records, to lectures on a wide range of source documents available at NARA (i.e., military service and pension records, and passenger lists) to roundtable discussions. A calendar of upcoming events and hot links to individual regional facilities websites is at <www.archives.gov/research/genealogy/events/index.html>.

GENEALOGY CRUISES, which are hosted by a genealogy society or software manufacturer on scheduled sailings of a large cruise line, are great, fun-filled educational opportunities. Genealogy seminars by nationally-known speakers are held during "sea days" with all the standard—think extravagant—cruise amenities the rest of the time, along with great shore excursions. Currently there are two genealogy cruises scheduled in 2015. In June Legacy Family Tree's annual cruise will be in the western Caribbean <www.legacyfamilytree.com/CruiseInfo_2015.asp>, and in late August FGS is hosting an Alaskan Inside Passage cruise <www.fgsconference.org/cruise/>.

TIPS are often shown on pop-up screens when you first open your lineage database program. There is a box where you can check it to turn off the Tips—don't do it. You will learn or be reminded of ways of using your software's features, as well as techniques for improving your researching skills and documenting your genealogy discoveries.

PREPRINTED FORMS are good self-improvement tools for beginners. By filling out multi-generational charts, family group sheets and research logs, we are compelled to learn and apply the basic principles of genealogical methodology. ❀

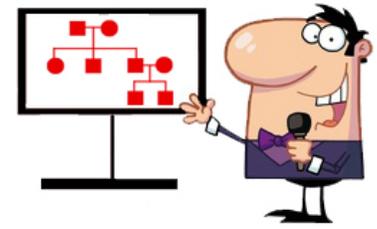


Whether you are going to a local seminar or a national conference get mentally prepared before you go. An excellent article by Michael John Neill "Preparing for a Genealogical Conference" is at <www.genealogy.com/genealogy/67_neill.html>. ❀

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF LOCAL CONFERENCES, SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

By Carolyn H. Brown [From the SKP Genies Newsletter Winter 2014]

Among the many options you can add to your genealogy learning process, are the one- or two-day local conferences, workshops, and seminars hosted by genealogy-related organizations. Because these events take place all over the country, in both small towns and large cities, you may have the opportunity to attend a workshop or seminar near you. A number of genealogy societies sponsor at least one of these smaller events each year. In general, a national conference lasts for more than one day with multiple class tracts and vendors. Local conferences, seminars and workshops are one-day events with a much smaller audience.



THE COST

The cost of local events is usually much less than the cost for a multiple day genealogy conference sponsored by a large organization. In some cases, when an event is sponsored by a large LDS Church, there may be no charge for admission. However, they do charge for lunch, or they allow you to bring your own. When an event is hosted by a smaller LDS church or genealogy society, they may charge a small set fee which includes lunch. When an organization needs to rent a facility, the cost may be a little more to cover the costs they incur.

LOCAL CONFERENCES

Local conferences provide multiple speakers with several classes taking place at the same time. The classes may cover several aspects of genealogy research. Depending on the facility, they may offer four or five class options per one hour time slot. Conferences may be theme focused, such as Early American Research or Research in Germany, etc.

The speakers at these events are often selected from the membership of the host organization, or they may pay professional speakers who live in the vicinity of the workshop. If professional speakers are used, the organization will work with the speaker and pay them an honorarium and/or per diem. The registration fee for the conference will reflect the cost of the speakers.

SEMINARS

There is generally only one speaker for a seminar, and the organization hosting the event will elect to pay a professional for their time and travel. The time frame of these events can range from a couple of hours to all day. There are times when the same person provides several different presentations, or the presentations are shared by two speakers. If the event is to be an all day seminar, then the host organization provides lunch included in the seminar registration fee. The expected attendance at these events is often less than for a local conference or workshop. Therefore, the fee for the seminar has to be sufficient to cover the cost of the seminar.

Sometimes an organization will call on a vendor to give a seminar and allows the vendor to sell their products. The hosting organization may sell items of their own as well. There usually are only two, or at the most three, vendor setups. Many societies are downsizing the amount of materials they maintain in their library collections and making the excess materials available for free or a small donation.

Legacy Family Tree will work with a hosting society, and Legacy supplies the speaker free of charge if they can sell their products. The hosting society generally asks their members to save their planned purchases from Legacy for the workshop. This way Legacy gets sufficient sales to support the trip. They do request that the host society pay for the speaker and one other employee for one night in a local hotel, and for their meals while there.

WORKSHOPS

Workshops offer hands-on training where the attendees: (1) use a specific computer program; (2) are given documents to complete; or (3) are given questions to answer on the class topic. Workshops may take a few hours, a full day, several days, or a week to complete. The longer the workshop duration, the higher the cost. Workshops may supply a workbook which the attendees have to complete.

If the workshop focuses on a specific computer program, the attendees may have to bring their personal laptop with the subject software installed. They may also have to purchase the vendor published user's guide. This is often true if the program was purchased as a download only. Some vendors offer a full user's guide as a PDF

with the program; others only offer the “help” file within the program.

CONCLUSION

These smaller events are usually worth every penny and minute of your time. No matter how many times you have attended a presentation on a specific topic, you almost always learn something new from a different speaker. I have personally learned something new in a beginners class—even though I have been researching over 32 years—because the speaker had a unique experience I never considered.

When local society conferences, seminars, and workshops are given in larger cities you may need to register early as the available space is often sold out soon after the event is publically announced. ❀

GENEALOGY STUDY GROUPS

By Carolyn H. Brown [From the SKP Genies Newsletter Winter 2014]

Most genealogy societies provide training on a variety of subjects in the form of monthly meeting programs and periodic seminars. Additionally, many societies have multiple Special Interest Groups (SIGs) focused on using a particular software product, researching a state or section of the country, DNA, or some other specific genealogy-related topic. All of these are designed to help us improve and advance our research.



What seems to be missing is what happens to the information after the research has been done? Are we collecting just names, dates and places, or are we actually doing in-depth analysis of the information discovered?

Most of us don't have a clue how to write a case study analyzing the data we have gathered to prove the answer to a problem we have encountered. This is especially true when the information forming the proof is a combination of multiple sources, including DNA. This is where another learning opportunity organized by genealogy societies is invaluable—Study Groups.

HOW STUDY GROUPS WORK

The leader of the Study Group makes a scanned copy of an article in a scholarly genealogy quarterly or magazine (i.e., the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*, the *Virginia Genealogists Magazine*, *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, *The American Genealogists*). The group leader e-mails a PDF of the article to group members about two weeks before the meeting. The members study the article and make notes as desired. At the meeting, they discuss the focus and layout of the article, the analysis made by the author, and the various footnotes provided.

They learn how to identify when they have done sufficient research on their own research problem, and how to present their findings and analysis in a well-documented format. Members often discover new types of resources to look for, and how to glean more information from the documents they find.

In some study groups, members are encouraged to write their own case study of a problem they have solved and share it with the group. The process of review makes all members better researchers as well as better recorders of the information discovered. They are finding that through this process they are doing more in-depth research.

FINDING A GENEALOGY STUDY GROUP

Wherever you are in your travels, look for a genealogy society which provides this opportunity and visit them. Most are very open to guests. However, you should contact them ahead of time so they can send you the article they will be working on in their next meeting.

Sharing with others in a Genealogy Study Group setting will improve your skills and make you a more thorough researcher. ❀



You can probably tell from some of my previous articles that I am a fan of genealogy conferences—in particular, large national conferences. There are several reasons, not the least being they are fun as well as educational.

There are two types of national conferences—general-interest conferences and those focused on a particular region or ethnicity. Both give me the opportunity to learn from professional genealogists and experts in related fields about research standards, methods and techniques; the latest technology, devices, software and apps; and the plethora of source documents containing obvious and hidden information. Some conferences host luncheons with a nationally-recognized speaker presenting a light-hearted look at some aspect of genealogy.

These annual multi-day conferences, with hundreds of seminars covering a wide variety of topics, are one of the best means of developing your skills as a family historian. For instance, at the FGS Conference in February the seminar subjects are appropriate for all experience levels from the novice (Vital Record Research) to the veteran (Writing a Prize-Winning Family History) and range from the general (Guidelines for Effective Research and Family Histories) to the specific (Searching for Our Ministers and Clergy). So many to choose from! Plus, each year there are new and different topics along with new twists on popular subjects.

The fun part of a national conference is the opportunity to socialize with like-minded people. There are luncheons, meet-n-greets, banquets, chat-lounges, the times before seminars begin, and even the halls between the classrooms provide an environment to get to know other genealogists—people who appreciate and share my enthusiasm for family history and don't wonder why I am so interested in dead people from the old world!

Another fun aspect is the chance to shop-til-I-drop. The Vendors or Exhibitors Hall is like a genealogy mall with boutique and big-name merchants displaying all types of genealogy books, maps, products, software, clothes, jewelry, gadgets, and gizmos. Some offer special discounts to attendees, others offer free samples, and some donate big-ticket items for raffles. Additionally, you will find national, lineage, heritage and local societies with booths that display their publications and can answer questions about their organization—even sign you up as a member.

GENERAL INTEREST CONFERENCES

The National Genealogical Society (NGS) hosts the largest annual conference in the USA. In 2015 it will be held from the 13th to the 16th of May in St. Charles, Missouri, just across the Missouri River from St. Louis. Registration is already open. Go to <<http://conference.ngsgenealogy.org>> for conference details, seminar listings and hotel accommodations. If you wish to stay in your RV during the conference, I recommend Sundermeier RV Park <www.sundermeierrvpark.com> north of Old Town. (The conference center is south of Old Town about four miles from the campground.)

The Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) has an annual conference in different parts of the country. This year it will be in Salt Lake City, Utah, from the 11th to the 14th of February and the agenda is quite different. It will be held in the same location as RootsTech with the organizations sharing general sessions, activities and the Exhibitors Hall. You can get all the details, download the conference brochure and register for the FGS Conference at <www.fgsconference.org>. There are two campgrounds open all winter if you wish

to stay in your RV during the conference. The VIP/KOA Campground <<http://koa.com/campgrounds/salt-lake-city>> on North Temple is very convenient. TRAX, the light rail system, has stops near the campground and at the convention center. The Pony Express RV Park <www.ponyexpressrvresort.com> is six miles from the convention center. There is no public transportation nearby. Planning in advance is always good. The FGS' 2016 conference will be in Springfield, Illinois, from the 31st of August to the 3rd of September.

RootsTech is a direct descendant of Brigham Young University's (BYU) Computer Family History Conferences. Meeting each winter, in 2010 the venue changed from Provo to Salt Lake City, Utah, and the conference has grown exponentially since then. Hosted by FamilySearch, the name leaves no doubt that the conference is technology-based. Many lectures are for the genealogist-user, but there are some seminars for the nerds who are developing future technology that will enhance our researching capabilities. This year RootsTech <<https://rootstech.org>> will be held from the 12th to the 14th of February.

Southern California Genealogical Society holds a Genealogy Jamboree each June in Burbank, California. This conference lasts three days, and since 2013 they have been having a pre-conference day specifically for seminars dealing with DNA and genetic genealogy. The 46th Jamboree will be held from the 5th to the 7th of June with the DNA pre-sessions on the 4th of June. Information is at <www.genealogyjamboree.com>. Because of its location, campgrounds are few and expensive; and not designed for anything longer than 40 feet. The closest parks are the Walnut RV Park in Northridge, California, <www.walnutrvpark.com> and Balboa RV Park in Van Nuys, California, <www.balboarvpark.com>.

The Conference on Family History and Genealogy is held annually during the summer on the BYU campus in Provo, Utah. In the past there have been about 40, one-hour seminars during the four full days of the conference. I expect the agenda to be the same next year. The dates for the 2015 conference are the 28th through the 31st of July. Their website at <<http://ce.byu.edu/cw/cwgen>> has details.

SPECIFIC REGIONS AND ETHNIC CONFERENCES

New England Regional Genealogical Consortium, Inc. (NERGC), a confederation of local genealogy societies, hosts a major conference every two years. In 2015 it will be held in Providence, Rhode Island, from the 15th to the 19th of April. For conference details visit their website at <www.nergc.org/Conference-Home-Page.html>.

The International Society for British Genealogy and Family History (ISBGFH) hosts the week-long International British Institute in Salt Lake City, Utah, every fall. Classes are held each morning, then the afternoons are spent in B2 of the Family History Library with the instructors available to help attendees use the library's British and Irish source documents. Information and registration usually appear on their website <www.isbgfh.org> in late Spring.

The Palatines to America (PalAm) is the premier nationwide society for those researching German-speaking ancestors. Based in Ohio, PalAm also has chapters in Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, New York, North Carolina and Pennsylvania. Their annual conferences are held in the summer. In 2015 it will be held from the 24th to the 27th of June in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. You can download a general information brochure from <www.palam.org/palam_update/resources/1413998069-2015-conf-flyer.pdf>.

The Foundation for East European Family History Studies (FEEFHS) holds their annual conference in Salt Lake City, Utah. The 2015 conference will run from the 11th to the 15th of August. Details will appear on their website <<http://feefhs.org>> in February.

The International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) has an annual conference and they are all over the map! In 2015 the conference will be in Jerusalem, Israel, from the 6th to the 10th of July. The conference is not always overseas. In 2014 it was in Salt Lake City, Utah, and in 2016 the conference will be held in Seattle, Washington, with the following year in Orlando, Florida. Information about the next conference is at <www.iajgs2015.org>.

Swedish American Genealogist (SAG) annual workshops are open to subscribers of the quarterly journal—*Swedish American Genealogist*—published by the Swenson Center of Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois. Subscribers are automatically mailed SAG Workshop reservation forms each spring. Information about SAG is at <www.augustana.edu/general-information/swenson-center/-swedish-american-genealogist>.

The Council for the Advancement of Forensic Genealogy hosts an annual Forensic Genealogy Institute (FGI). In 2015 there will be two, four-day courses held concurrently in Dallas, Texas, from the 26th to the 28th of March. Course descriptions and registration information are at <www.forensicgenealogists.org/institute>.

NATIONAL CONFERENCES AND BEYOND

These are the major national conferences in the USA. Other countries also have large genealogy conferences. If you are planning a trip to the "homeland", you may want to time it to include that country's conference. Think of the fun you will have meeting the citizens of your ancestors' lands. But remember, the lectures and seminars will be conducted in their native language.

Self-improvement can continue long after a conference ends because the syllabus contains the handouts of every seminar. These days they are normally published on CDs or flash drives, although sometimes Early Bird registrants are offered a printed syllabus for an additional fee. I like the digital versions because they don't take up much room in the RV and are easy to "leaf through" using links on the Table of Contents. If you cannot make a conference, you may be able to buy the syllabus from the hosting organization.

Some national conferences sell CDs of selected seminars. The larger national conferences contract with a private company to record, with the agreement of the speakers, presentations for resale. Although you'll miss the visual aids of the seminar, the CDs contain a wealth of information. Find out about purchasing these resources at <www.jamb-inc.com/genealogy>.

FINDING NATIONAL CONFERENCES

Always check out the "What's Happening" column on the last page of every *SKP Genies Newsletter* for the dates and locations of national conferences. Try one, or two, or make a national conference a regular destination on your RV travels. You will find these opportunities for self-improvement are fun as well as rewarding. ❀



NGS GENEALOGICAL STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

By Carolyn H. Brown [From the SKP Genies Newsletter Winter 2014]

Over the past several years we have included in this newsletter all of the National Genealogy Society's (NGS) Standards and Guidelines.



NGS publishes these to help us improve our research techniques. The very latest updates of the Standards and Guides are at: <www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/ngs_standards_and_guidelines>.

Following are the six Standards and Guidelines available:

- Standards for Sound Genealogy Research.
- Guidelines for Using Records Repositories and Libraries.
- Standards for Use of Technology in Genealogy Research.
- Standards for Sharing Information With Others.
- Guidelines for Publishing Web Pages on the Internet.
- Guidelines for Genealogical Self-Improvement and Growth. ❀

"You are essentially who you create yourself to be and all that occurs in your life is the result of your own making."

– Stephen Richards, *Think Your Way to Success: Let Your Dreams Run Free*

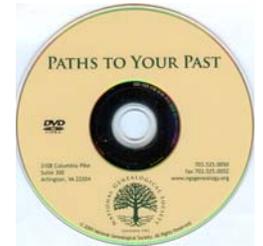
ADVANCE YOUR GENEALOGY RESEARCHING SKILLS THROUGH WEBINARS AND TRAINING CDS

By Carolyn H. Brown [From the SKP Genies Newsletter Winter 2014]

Reading books and attending classes are not the only ways to advance your genealogy research. Technology has expanded in the last 20 years such that we can watch and listen to a speaker address the subject of their presentation on our computers.

WEBINARS

Webinar is short for Web-based seminar. It is a presentation, lecture, seminar or workshop which is transmitted over the Web using audiovisual conferencing software. A key feature of a Webinar is its interactive elements—the ability to give, receive and discuss information. The ability for interaction between the presenter and the audience makes this an excellent method of disseminating information. Therefore, Webinars take place in real time. The presenter informs the participants of the time and online location of the Webinar. It is up to the participants to sign-in to the website and be ready for the Webinar to start at the specified time. In the genealogy world, it is not unusual for over 1,000 people from all around the world to take part in a single Webinar.



The ability of the participants to interact with the speaker and have information repeated or clarified if there is a problem, makes the experience similar to being in a lecture hall without leaving home. Many presenters offer handouts which the participants can download before the class begins.

The presenter doesn't have to be in the sponsoring organization's office either. In fact, they can be thousands of miles away at their own home, and still give their presentation. The only limitation to the number of participants of a Webinar is the hosting organization's computer capacity.

Because of the vast number of companies and organizations sponsoring Webinars, a genealogist can take part in a Webinar on almost any genealogy and computer software related topic. The sponsoring organization can even offer gifts for those attending the Webinar.

Most sponsors of genealogy related Webinars offer their previous Webinars in their Webinar Archives. Though the viewer doesn't have the ability to interact with the presenter, the viewer can watch the Webinar at their leisure. If the presenter provided a handout for the Webinar, it is usually available for the viewer. Because the Webinars offered change daily, the best way to locate them is to Google "genealogy Webinars". Many Webinars may also be purchased in CD format.

TRAINING CDS

A training CD may contain a digital version of a previously presented seminar. The CD will generally be made available for purchase a few days after the event. Most major genealogy conferences make some of the class presentations available for purchase on CD or flash-drive following the conference. If you attend a conference and missed taking a class you were really interested in, you may be able to purchase the CD for the missed class before leaving the conference. You may also be able to purchase the CD of the class you missed from the sponsoring organization's website after you get home.



Several genealogy software firms have an employee record themselves working on a sample family file within the software. These training sessions show every move the employee is making as they explain what is taking place on the screen. The training file is then transferred to a CD for sale. Legacy Family Tree is a leader in the creation of product training CDs.

CONCLUSION

Viewing Webinars and training CDs will keep you up-to-date on new advancements in genealogy research, as well as a software vendor's newest release of their program. You can take advantage of the training CDs to learn to how to use every function of a new product or update. Because of the advancements in creating Webinars and training CDs, you can "take" a class on almost every aspect of genealogy. What a great way to improve your researching skills! ❀

GENEALOGY HOW-TO BOOKS FOR EVERY LEVEL OF RESEARCH STUDY

By **Carolyn H. Brown** [From the SKP Genies Newsletter Winter 2014]

No matter what your current level of genealogy research, there are published reference books to advance your expertise to the next level. The prices listed have been taken from Amazon's website and apply to paperback format, unless hardback is the only format available. Many current books are also available for Kindle. There are some genealogy out-of-print books available for the Kindle as well. Start by searching for "Genealogy Reference Books".

The following lists contain only a small sample of the books available to enhance your genealogy research. If you are interested in researching a specific place, country, ethnic group or other specific topic, use Google to narrow your search.

BEGINNING GENEALOGY

When you are just starting to look for your ancestors, it is important that you read at least one how-to book before you go too far. There are some basics every genealogical researcher needs to know in order to start on the right track. It is often hard to retrace your steps to find sources if you don't start right in the beginning. Citing sources is just one of the many pitfalls beginners come up against when they take off on their own without the proper guidance.

Though there have been many books written for beginning genealogy in the past, there are some new books available today which take into account current technology. It is alright to read the old books, but the newer ones will bring you up-to-date with the way things are done now.

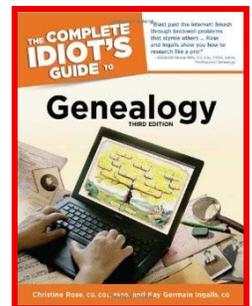
My Family Tree Workbook: Genealogy for Beginners by Rosemary A. Chorzempa – \$4.45.

The Complete Idiot's Guide to Genealogy by Christine Rose and Kay Germain Ingalls – \$15.58.

Unpuzzling Your Past, the Best-Selling Basic Guide to Genealogy by Emily Anne Croom – \$36.05

Who Do You Think You Are? The Essential Guide to Tracing Your Family History by Megan Smolenyak – \$14.40.

Genealogical Proof Standard by Christine Rose – \$8.83.



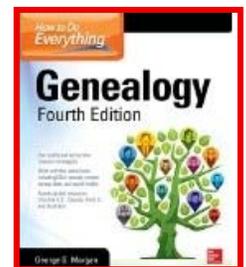
INTERMEDIATE RESEARCH – GENERAL TECHNIQUES

This group of research guides and reference books cover general genealogical topics in more detail than found in most beginning books.

How to Do Everything Genealogy, Fourth Edition by George G. Morgan – \$18.37.

Psychic Roots: Serendipity and Intuition in Genealogy by Henry Z. Jones – \$23.75.

The Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy by Val Greenwood – \$37.95.



INTERMEDIATE RESEARCH – SPECIFIC TOPICS

This group of books focuses on a single program or topic for the intermediate researcher.

Court House Research for Family Historians: Your Guide to Genealogical Treasures by Christine Rose – \$17.49.

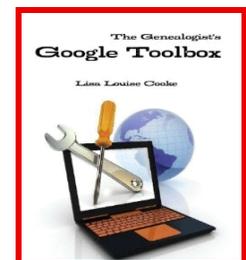
DNA and Genealogy by Colleen Fitzpatrick and Andrew Yeison – \$16.92.

Evidence! Citation and Analysis for the Family Historian by Elizabeth Shown Mills – \$16.95.

From Ulster to Carolina: The Migration of the Scotch-Irish to Southwestern North Carolina by H. Tyler Blethen and Curtis W. Wood, Jr. – \$7.77.

Genealogy Offline: Finding Family History Records That Are Not Online by Claudia C. Breland – \$11.06.

Genealogy Standards by the Board of Certified Genealogists - \$12.30.



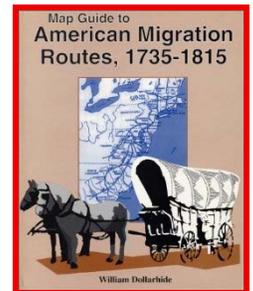
Breland –

- Mastering Census and Military Records (Quillen's Essentials of Genealogy)* by W. Daniel Quillen – \$9.92.
Mastering Immigration and Naturalization Records (Quillen's Essentials of Genealogy) by W. Daniel Quillen – \$8.96.
Reading Early American Handwriting by Kip Sperry – \$31.35.
The Everything Guide to Online Genealogy: Trace your Roots, Share Your History, and Create Your Family Tree by Kimberly Powell – \$15.44.
The Family Tree Problem Solver by Marsha Hoffman Rising – \$16.79.
The Genealogist's Google Toolbox by Lisa Louise Cooke – \$29.00.
The Official Guide to Ancestry.com by George G. Morgan – \$20.21.

INTERMEDIATE RESEARCH – REFERENCE

The following books are an enhancement to every genealogy bookshelf. Though much of the information may be found online, in these documents the information is organized especially for the genealogist. This is only a small sample of the books

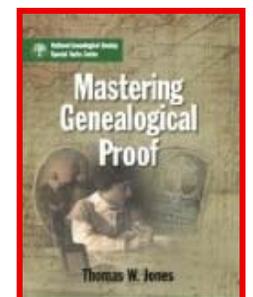
- Ancestry's Concise Genealogical Dictionary* compiled by Maurine & Glen Harris – \$11.39
Map Guide to American Migration Routes, 1735 – 1815 by William Dollarhide – \$22.95.
Map Guide to the United States Federal Censuses, 1790-1920 by William Thorndale and William Dollarhide – \$55.36.
Red Book: American State, County & Town Sources by Alice Eichholz - \$38.45.
The Family Tree Historical Maps Book: A State-by-State Atlas of U.S. History 1790-1900 by Allison Dolan – \$25.81.
The Genealogist's Address Book by Elizabeth Petty Bentley – \$66.45.
The Genealogist's Companion and Source Book by Emily Anne Croom – \$23.18.
The Great Wagon Road: From Philadelphia to the South by Parke Rouse, Jr. – \$15.43.
The Source: A Guidebook of American Genealogy by Loretto Dennis Szues and Sandra Hargraves Luebking – \$49.95.



ADVANCED RESEARCH

Ok! So you are totally hooked and genealogy research has become your passion. The following books are here to help you take your genealogy research to the professional level.

- Advanced Genealogy Research Techniques* by George C. Morgan and Drew Smith – \$17.84.
Becoming an Accredited Genealogist: Plus 100 Tips to Ensure Your Success by Karen Clifford – \$15.00.
Evidence Explained: Citing History Sources From Artifacts to Cyberspace by Elizabeth Shown Mills – \$48.31
Forensic Genealogy by Colleen Fitzpatrick, Ph.D. and Andrew Yessier – \$23.31.
Genealogy and Ethnicity: How to Interpret the Clues by Johari Ade – \$12.95.
Genealogy as a Pastime and Profession by Donald Lyons Jacobus – \$15.88.
Genetic Genealogy: The Basics and Beyond by Emily D. Aulicino – \$16.19.
Mastering Genealogical Proof by Thomas W. Jones – \$29.95.
Sustainable Genealogy: Separating Fact From Fiction in Family Legends by Richard Hite – \$17.06.



CONCLUSION

No matter where you are in your genealogy research, there is always another book to read. Each one of these books are a little different because the author has come at the hobby of genealogy from different experiences. Though some books may be similar, the way the author approaches their specific topic will vary, and you may find information in one book which another author hasn't covered. Read on and have fun! ❁

“Make the most of yourself....for that is all there is of you.”

— Ralph Waldo Emerson

FREE ONLINE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

By Barbara A. H. Nuehring [From the SKP Genies Newsletter Winter 2014]

There are times—many times I find—when I come across a genealogical situation unfamiliar to me. This is when online classes and how-to articles about a particular record type, investigative method, geographical region or software feature comes in handy. Thankfully, there are loads of free sources from which to choose. Some are videos, some are articles and some are Wikis. All aid us in improving our knowledge and research skills.



CLASSES AND ARTICLES

The FamilySearch Learning Center has an extensive inventory of video courses and reference articles. On the home page at <<https://familysearch.org/learningcenter/home.html>> you will find a list of the most popular courses, the newest courses and a beginning genealogy series of courses. On a side panel you can filter on topics by location, skill level, subject, format and language. You may smile at that last filter, but by clicking on English you will eliminate a lot of material written/presented in one of 12 other languages.

The New England Historic Genealogical Society has many how-to articles, subject guides, videos, archived webinars, lectures, and interviews they make available to the public. Although the society's emphasis is researching methods in the six New England states and New York, there are other topics that may help you to advance your genealogy skills (i.e., French-Canadian Genealogy, Naturalization Records, Quaker Genealogy, WWI and WWII Research). You can access them beginning at the NEHGS Online Learning Center at <www.americanancestors.org/read>.

Ancestry has a lot of free sources for furthering your genealogy know-how. On their Learning Center page <www.ancestry.com/cs/HelpAndAdviceUS> you will be able to navigate your way to PDF Research Guides, general articles on research techniques, a blog with posts from Ancestry staff members, and archived Webinars. (See Carol's article "Advance Your Genealogy Researching Skills Through Webinars and Training CDs" on page 10.) You can also access two great reference books: *The Source: A Guidebook to American Genealogy* at <www.ancestry.com/wiki/index.php?title=The_Source:_A_Guidebook_to_American_Genealogy> and *Red Book: American State, County, and Town Sources* at <www.ancestry.com/wiki/index.php?title=Red_Book:_American_State,_County,_and_Town_Sources>. The chapters of these publications are divided into one or more series of articles.

RootsWeb's Guide to Tracing Family Trees, at <<http://rwguide.rootsweb.ancestry.com>>, has a cornucopia of articles you can read online. Each guide has great explanations of the subject matter, a side bar of external links of related content and suggested reading and references to further your knowledge on a particular issue.

Kimberly Powell has authored a long list of individual online articles on various genealogy subjects that will improve your research capabilities regardless of your experience level. Start at <http://genealogy.about.com/od/make_family_tree/u/learn.htm> and make a selection.

WIKIS

A valuable genealogical resource, a Wiki is a database that allows people to add, modify or delete content. Some are "moderated", meaning the Wiki owner reviews input before changes can be made. The most famous, Wikipedia at <<http://en.wikipedia.org>>, is an English language electronic encyclopedia. There are also subject-specific Wikis (i.e., travel, books, how-to guides, and medical). Collaborative online family trees are based on the Wiki principle.

A Wiki that is very helpful for us is the FHL's Wiki at <https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Main_Page>. An overview of their Wiki, how-to navigate the Wiki, search tips, and instructions are on <https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Help:Basic_Searches>.

CAUTION

Although you are not investing any money when you use free online instructional information, you are investing your time and the integrity of your family history. So be careful when selecting and using the information found in courses, articles and Wikis. Remember, anyone can put anything on the Internet. Check the credentials of the instructors, writers or contributors. Still, these free online resources can be invaluable. ❁

USING SCHOLARLY JOURNALS TO ADVANCE YOUR GENEALOGICAL STUDIES

By Carolyn H. Brown [From the SKP Genies Newsletter Winter 2014]

The genealogy community has been blessed for over a century with scholarly journals and quarterlies published by both historical and genealogical societies. Because of the changes in the research and recording source standards these organizations currently follow, these journals have made major advances in the last 40 years. For this article I will refer to all journals and quarterlies as journals.

I became a member of the National Genealogical Society (NGS) in January 1980 and have read every issue of the *NGS Quarterly* cover-to-cover since then. Most people read journals to see if they can find information concerning their own family. In the beginning, I read them for that reason also, but soon learned that it doesn't matter if anyone in my ancestry was mentioned within its pages. By reading every article presented in each issue, I was learning how to research my own ancestry better. Once I accepted the *NGS Quarterly* as a training tool, my knowledge of genealogy research expanded to such an extent that I was making major advances in my own genealogical research.

Each organization has their own guidelines for their genealogy journal or quarterly articles. Some guidelines apply to the type of articles they will accept, while others base the acceptance of articles on the format and scholarly content. All of these journals are worth the time spent reading them.

LOCATING THEM

You may find them on the website of the publishing organization, or housed on the shelves of many genealogical societies and public libraries. Back issues of some of the out-of-print journals can be located on other websites.

USING THEM

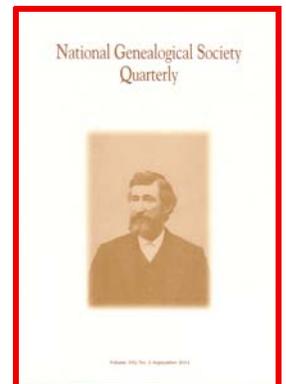
Some genealogical societies use these journals in study groups to help their members advance in genealogical studies. See the article "Genealogy Study Groups" on page 6.

To get the most out of the articles, study the footnoted sources. You may find the mention of a resource you never knew existed. This is especially true when the article is based in the states and counties where your ancestors lived.

As an example, in the *NGS Quarterly* # 91 (June 2013) page 103, the following source citation directs you to the ledgers of the *Colchester Store* in Fairfax County, Virginia:

45. James Edwards cash account, Records of John Glassford and company, 1743-1886, Colchester Store, 1758-69, liber, E (1765), folio 20; microfilm edition, 71 rolls (Washington: Library of Congress Photoduplication Service, 1984), roll 59, frame 30.

If you are researching your ancestors in Fairfax County, Virginia, in the 1700s, wouldn't you appreciate knowing that the records for the *Colchester Store* still exist and where to find them? You probably would never have found this information if it wasn't for someone else who used the records and fully documented the sources so you can easily access them for your own research. Wouldn't you like to know what is buried in the other *NGS Quarterlies* which have been published in the past 102 years?



SCHOLARLY JOURNALS

There are many documents which fall into the scholarly journal category. Following is a short list of the most popular scholarly journals and the organizations which publish them:

California Historical Journal—California Historical Society

Connections—Indiana Historical Society

NGS Quarterly—National Genealogical Society

The American Genealogists—privately published

The Genealogists—American Society of Genealogists

The New York Genealogical & Biological Record and *The Record*—The New York Genealogical & Biological Society

CONCLUSION

Genealogical journals are one more tool to add to your genealogy tool box. If you haven't read any of these fabulous materials, pick up one and see what you can find to advance your research. ❁

YES, GENIES, THERE IS A SANTA CLAUS

By Barbara A. H. Nuehring [From the SKP Genies Newsletter Winter 2014]

Since the actual date was unknown, in the fourth century Pope Julius I established the 25th of December for observing the birth of Jesus. Historians believe the date was chosen because it coincided with existing Winter Solstice celebrations in Europe—making it easier to convince polytheists to convert to Christianity while allowing them to retain elements of their indigenous traditions.

The evolution of a mythical figure who delivers gifts at Christmas time can be traced back to two sources: the pagan winter festivals where individuals surreptitiously distributed gifts; and to St. Nicholas who helped the poor by secretly giving money and other gifts.

Our ancestors knew the gift-giver by various names. For instance, German and Swiss children receive presents from the Christkind or Kris Kringle; in Scandinavia a jolly elf named Jultomten delivers gifts via a sleigh drawn by goats; England's Father Christmas visits on Christmas Eve to fill children's stockings with treats; France's Pere Noel fills children's shoes with gifts on Christmas Eve; the Dutch Sinter Klass rides a white horse when delivering gifts on St Nicholas Eve (the night of 5 December); and in Italy La Befana, an old lady covered in soot, rides a broomstick down the chimneys to deliver toys on the eve of the Epiphany (the night of 5 January). But the most famous persona is that of the American Santa Claus.

His modern character came about in 1822 when Clement Clarke MOORE wrote a Christmas poem for his daughters entitled *An Account of a Visit from St. Nicholas*. More popularly known as *The Night Before Christmas*, it is primarily responsible for the image of Santa as a right jolly old elf who flies from house to house in a miniature sleigh pulled by eight tiny reindeer. Sixty years later, *Harper's Weekly* published an illustration by Thomas NAST depicting "Merry Old Santa" as a rotund, cheerful man with a full, white beard in a bright red suit trimmed with white fur and holding a sack full of toys. It is NAST who also gave Santa his North Pole workshop, elves, and his wife, Mrs. Claus. Today Santa Claus' looks are mainly because of Norman ROCKWELL's drawings and Coca Cola ads first painted by Haddon SUNDBLOM.

So, yes, Genies—there is a Santa Claus. The evidence is irrefutable. History and pictures prove it. There are many source documents. Besides, Francis P. CHURCH and *The Sun* newspaper wouldn't lie to Virginia O'HANLON: "He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus." ❁



SANTA - 1881
BY THOMAS NAST



SANTA CLAUS - 1921
BY NORMAN ROCKWELL

Best of all, Christmas means a spirit of love, a time when the love of God and love of our fellow men should prevail over all hatred and bitterness, a time when our thoughts and deeds and the spirit of our lives manifest the presence of God.

- George F. McDougall

RESEARCH LIKE A PROFESSIONAL GENEALOGIST

By Carolyn H. Brown [From the SKP Genies Newsletter Winter 2014]

In this newsletter our focus is on self-improvement, and how better to continue our improvement in genealogy research than to learn how to research and record our findings like a professional. Have you ever wondered what process a professional genealogist has to follow to be so good at what he/she does? Now you can study what they study, and apply what you learn to your own research.

WHAT IS A PROFESSIONAL GENEALOGIST?

A professional genealogist is **not** necessarily a person who has applied for and received accreditation—Accredited Genealogist (AG)—by the International Commission for the Accreditation of Professional Genealogists (ICAPGen), or certification—Certified Genealogist (CG)—by the Board of Certified Genealogists (BCG).

A professional genealogist is a person who faithfully follows the skills, standards, practices, and codes of ethics set forth by ICAPGen and BCG. The professional genealogist continues their study process to insure they keep up-to-date on new standards, techniques, and knowledge relating to technology and research advancements affecting the genealogy community.

You don't have to join either ICAPGen or BCG to gain access to the standards and procedures they apply everyday to their research and documentation.

BCG GENEALOGY STANDARDS

The BCG has established a set of standards covering all areas of genealogy research and documentation. They recently published a major update to *The BCG Genealogical Standards Manual* written by the Board of Certified Genealogists. It is available at <<http://www.bcgcertification.org/>>. Even if certification isn't in your future, it will help you advance your self-study by reading this book and applying the standards set forth therein. The new manual consists of 83 standards which are divided into nine major categories:

- Standards for Documenting
- Standards for Researching: Planning Research
- Standards for Researching: Collecting Data
- Standards for Researching: Reasoning from Evidence
- Standards for Writing: Genealogical Proof
- Standards for Writing: Assembled Research Results
- Standards for Writing: Special-Use Genealogical Products
- Standards for Genealogical Educators: Lecturers and Instructions
- Standards for Continuing Education

The manual discusses every aspect of each standard in detail. It also provides multiple appendixes showing samples of the document formats the BCG deems acceptable.

The BCG website also provides open access to:

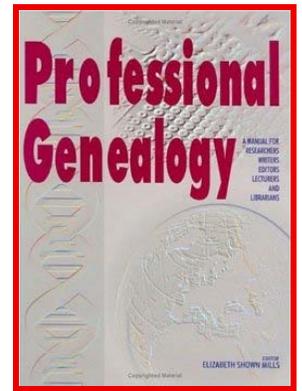
ARTICLES ON GENEALOGY SKILL BUILDING: These are articles which have appeared in their *OnBoard* educational newsletter.

SAMPLE WORK PRODUCTS: Includes samples of: short, medium and moderately long models of Case Studies and Proof Arguments; and Compiled Genealogies—Register Style, Narrative Genealogies—NGS Quarterly Style, and Narrative Lineage.

DOCUMENT SAMPLES: Provides copies of original documents for an Agreement, Will, and Deed which you can use for practicing; Transcription; Abstraction; Brief Statement; Brief Analysis; and a Compiled Research Plan.

GENEALOGY STANDARDS COMPARISON CHARTS: If you have access to the 2000 issue of the standards manual, you can compare it with the new 2014 Manual.

The BCG website provides many references for: formal educational opportunities—which include academic programs, independent study courses, institutes, seminars and major conferences; and self instruction using



items such as major journals and study guides.

Browse the BCG Certification FAQs, and read about the problems prospective applicants have encountered.

ICAPGEN ACCREDITATION

ICAPGen accreditation is based on the ability of the applicant to conduct genealogy research with special focus on using the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah. They have a new publication *Becoming an Excellent Genealogist: Essays on Professional Research Skills*, which is available on their website <<http://www.icapgen.org/icapgen/>>. The Accreditation Application Form instructions are also available on their website. Another book directed toward becoming a professional genealogist is *Becoming an Accredited Genealogist: Plus 100 Tips to Ensure Your Success* by Karen Clifford, AG. This book is an excellent training manual because it not only discusses the skills required, but also offers sample test questions and sample documents. As you work the problems you can see how well you did in relation to the samples.

PROFESSIONAL GENEALOGY - THE BOOK

Elizabeth Shown Mills has edited the most comprehensive document on the market today on becoming a professional genealogist. This tome *Professional Genealogy: A Manual for Researchers, Writers, Editors, Lecturers and Librarians* has 654 pages and weighs in at four pounds. You don't need to be studying to become a professional genealogist to gain from the many aspects of genealogy covered within its pages.

There are several chapters directed at making a business of genealogy research, but there is more for those of us who want to learn how the professionals find all of those elusive ancestors of the people who hire them. Many of us are involved in genealogy in a volunteer, non-professional environment where we edit newsletters, teach classes, give lectures, write our own family history, and work with genealogy societies on special projects. If you are involved in any of these activities this book is for you.

CONCLUSION

As you advance in your personal knowledge of genealogy research, you will probably become proficient in a specific area of study (i.e.: Virginia Research; German Research; DNA) or one of the many other focused genealogy studies. The more you study, the more advanced you will become. By studying and putting into effect the information provided in the books and documents presented above, you will advance to become professional in your area of study.

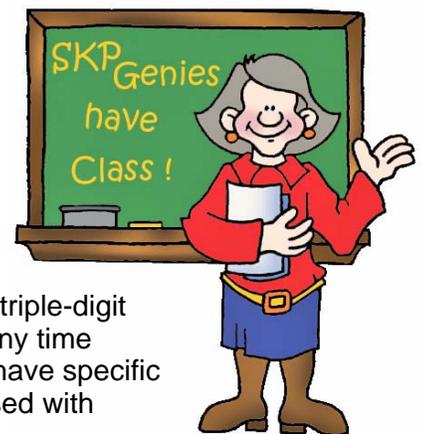
Are you ready to share your knowledge with others by teaching classes, writing articles, and/or publishing books? We would love to have you share your knowledge with us through articles in this newsletter—contact Carol Brown at GenieCarol@gmail.com, or giving a presentation at a SKP Genies Magic Rally—contact Norm and Mary Scherer at nsche@earthlink.net. ✨

YOU ARE NEVER TOO OLD—GO BACK TO SCHOOL

By Barbara A. H. Nuehring [From the SKP Genies Newsletter Winter 2014]

In “What’s Happening” I list national and local conferences and seminars scheduled for the next few months with the hope that if you are in the area you will be able to take advantage of them. However, there are also formal educational opportunities that will help you advance your research skills.

These “schools” fall into two major categories. Resident institutions offer a variety of specialized curriculums, require far-in-advance registration and have triple-digit tuition fees. Structured independent study programs may allow you to start at any time and work at your own pace to complete a required number of courses, or may have specific start/completion dates. Some schools offer certificate programs—not be confused with certification by BCG or accreditation by ICAPGen.



RESIDENT SCHOOLS

Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy (SLIG) is held each January. Curriculum choices, which change each year, are intended for the genealogist with intermediate and advanced research experience. Each of the 12 tracks provides 20 hours of in-depth instruction. The format allows instructors to build on the knowledge gained from progressive lectures in the chosen track. Registration opens in June, and since class size is limited, the most

popular tracks fill fast. Tuition ranges from \$375 to \$475 depending on how early you register and if you are a member of the sponsoring Utah Genealogy Association <www.infouga.org>.

Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research (IGHR) is a five-day program held each June on the Samford University campus in Birmingham, Alabama. Students choose one of the ten academic-oriented tracks which range from a general course for beginners to courses on specialized topics and geographic locations. Tuition is \$460. Registration opens in January and is very competitive. The curriculum for the next three years can be found on <http://ighr.samford.edu/IGHR_future.html>.

National Institute on Genealogical Research (NIGR) is held in mid-summer at the National Archives in Washington, DC. The week-long program of lectures and hands-on workshops is designed for the experienced family history researcher. Class size is limited and the tuition has been \$350.00. Registration begins mid-winter. For information e-mail NIGR at <natinsgen@juno.com>.

SCHOOLS WITH INDEPENDENT STUDY PROGRAMS

National Genealogical Society's *American Genealogical Studies* is a home study series progressing from basic information to complex material. Originally on three CDs, the curriculum is being revised and moved to the Cloud, so you will need a computer/tablet with an internet connection. For course descriptions, free syllabuses, and tuition fees, start at <www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/educational_courses/american_genealogical_studies>.

National Institute for Genealogical Studies is structured much like a university, but classes are taken at home. You can take individual courses or enroll in a Certificate in Genealogical Studies. The latter requires a specific number of graded compulsory and elective credits. Course lengths vary between four and ten weeks. Tuition is \$89.00 per course, but package discounts are available. Course material and assignments are posted weekly and private consultations and public chat sessions are periodically scheduled. If you are working towards the school's certificate, homework and assignments must be submitted as directed. Information on the institute's offerings is at <www.genealogicalstudies.com/eng/courses.asp>.

Brigham Young University (BYU) in Provo, Utah, has a variety of academic genealogy classes. They offer free online courses at <<http://is.byu.edu/site/courses/free.cfm>> and a Certificate in Family History-Genealogy. The certificate program can be taken on-campus or as an independent study. BYU also has a conventional on-campus Bachelor of Arts in Family History degree program.

Boston University offers two online courses: a five-module, four-month *Certificate Program in Genealogical Research*; and a four-week course in *Genealogical Essentials*. Tuition is expensive, but members of NGS, NEHGS and APG get a 10% discount. Course descriptions, tuition fees and additional information are at <<http://onlinecourselearning.com/bu/genealogyonline>>.

Pharos is a British-based online learning center for those who are researching their ancestors who lived in England, Scotland, Wales, and/or Ireland. Course levels range from beginners to expert and cover an extensive range of subjects from methodology to specific record types. Courses last from two to six weeks. Fees are charged in pound sterling with most costing between £33.00 and £55.00. Pharos also offers an intermediate-level "Family History Skills and Strategies" certificate program consisting of 10 online courses you can take over a period of three years if necessary. Start by going to <www.pharostutors.com>.

THE TIME IS RIGHT

With all these wonderful structured curriculums available to advance your expertise in family history, isn't it time you consider going back to school? You are never too old to make self-improvements. ❁

**Somehow, not only for Christmas, but all the long year through.
The joy that you give to others, is the joy that comes back to you.**

- John Greenleaf Whittier

BOUSE GENIES NEWS

By Carolyn H. Brown

BOUSE PUBLIC LIBRARY COMPUTER ISSUES

We have received word that the Internet problem in the Bouse Public Library should be resolved before the end of December. We will start meeting every other meeting in the library the end of January.

GENEALOGY STUDY GROUP

The Genealogy Study Group (GSG) will meet in the library the third Monday of the month from 10am-12 noon. If you wish to join the group, please contact us at the Bouse Genies e-mail address: <BouseGenies@gmail.com> and we will e-mail you a copy of the article to be discussed at the next meeting.

GENEALOGY BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY

At the first meeting in October, Carol delivered to the Bouse Genies five volumes (volumes 3-8) of the recent publication "Cavaliers and Pioneers" which was purchased for the society at the 2014 NGS Conference in Virginia last May. These books were to be placed on the Genealogy shelf, however, volume 5 is missing. If you have any knowledge of where this volume may be, please let us know. It is possible that the book was re-shelved incorrectly, so, if you happened to be in the library and notice it is not on the right shelf, please re-shelve it to the Genealogy shelf.

SPECIAL SPEAKERS

We are planning on three special speakers for January meetings. Each January meeting will be held in a different location. Please take note of this as you are planning to attend.

2 January 2015 - Norman Cutchell will show the Webinar "Researching Your: New York Ancestors." He will also talk about his experiences while researching in New York. This meeting will be held in the Booster Building. The second half of this meeting will be the Legacy Users Group monthly meeting. We will start on page 58 at "Wording Options Tab." Bring your computer so you can follow along. If you need power for your computer, please bring a long cord.

16 January 2015 - Barbara Neuhring, a member of our Newsletter Editorial staff, will give a presentation on "Researching Your European Ancestor without Crossing the Pond". Barbara is a professional speaker and you are sure to learn something from her class. This meeting will be held at the La Paz County Park in North Parker.

30 January 2015 - Colleen Clyde will speak to us about "Using FamilySearch". We will meet in the Bouse Public Library, so bring your computers for this session. ❄

*May your Holidays be Merry and Bright
and
the New Year see your Family Tree Grow*



From the Editor's Desk

By Carolyn H. Brown



With this issue I have completed my 7th year as your editor. My editorial staff, Barbara Nuehring, Jeanette Fisher, and I will be here next year continuing to share our experiences with you. My special thanks to Barbara and Jeanette for taking such care while helping me make this quarterly publication available to you.

The theme of this issue focuses on learning the techniques of researching your family history. In the next issue we will introduce you to various methods for organizing your paper and digital files. We will also share some of the other programs we use to maintain control of all of the information we have gathered.

If you have a unique method for organizing your records or special forms you use to keep track of what you have found during your research, we would love to have you share them with us. Please put your pen to the paper or fingers to keyboard and forward your story to me at <GenieCarol@gmail.com>.

Following are the scheduled edition themes for the first two issues of 2015:

SPRING 2015 EDITION: *Organizing Your Work & Research.* Using forms; charts; database generated reports; research reports; to-do-lists; and organizing your paper and digital files. (Deadline is 1 March 2015.)

SUMMER 2015 EDITION: *On Site Research vs Online Research.* What can and can't be found online. Articles about online library catalogues; published family histories; indexes and databases; digital reproductions of various source documents. What brick-n-mortar repositories are putting online. Finding onsite sources by using online resources. (Deadline is 1 June 2015.) ❀



I wonder if a "Missing Persons Bulletin" would locate my 2x great-grandpa?

Hi Ho! Hi Ho! Now where did my ancestors go?

How can one ancestor cause so much trouble?

I finally got it all together. Now where did I put it?

Genealogy—will I ever find time to mow the lawn again?

Is your family tree evergreen or deciduous?

Isn't genealogy fun? The answer to one problem leads to two more!

My family coat of arms ties at the back... is that normal?

Okay, so I don't descend from anyone... now what?

What do you mean my grandparents didn't have any kids?

Who's in charge of washing the Family Group Sheets?

What do you mean my birth certificate expired?

You said you wanted dinner—when?

What have you done with my ancestors' papers? ❀

"There is only one corner of the universe you can be certain of improving, and that's your own self."

— Aldous Huxley

BOUSE GENIES ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

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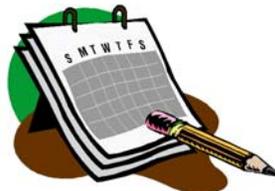
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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

A list of National Conferences begins on Page 7. Registration has already begun for a few of them. Below are some great local one-day seminars that will surely chase away those winter blues.

Genealogical Society of Palm Beach County
 17 January in West Palm Beach, Florida
 Info: www.gensocofpbc.org/eventListings.php?nm=89

Whittier Area Genealogical Society
 31 January in Whittier, California
 Info: www.cagenweb.com/kr/wags/seminar.html

Green Valley Genealogy Society
 21 February in Green Valley, Arizona
 Info:
www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~azgvgs/programs.htm

Sacramento Genealogical Society
 21 March in Citrus Heights, California
 Info: www.rootcellar.org/cpage.php?pt=42

North Florida Genealogy Conference
 21 March in Orange Park, Florida
 Info: www.nfgenealogyconference.com

Hill Country Family History Seminar
 28 March in Boerne, Texas
 Info: www.gskctx.org/eventListings.php?nm=38 ❀

WHAT IS GENEALOGY TO ME?

It is listening to old stories told by our elders and passing those precious stories down. It is writing down those stories and facts for our children and their children.

It is finding cousins I had not seen or heard from in fifty years. It is finding new cousins and new friends; people who have come to mean so very much to me.

It is the realization of how important family is. It is the realization of how important it is to honor those ancestors who came before us.

But most of all, it is the sharing of information with others, who like me, love the research. It is not just dusty records or words.

It is not only sharing the excitement of finding a new ancestor, but also sharing the frustrations of not being able to find what you are looking for. ❀

- Author Unknown ❀

BOUSE GENIES NEWSLETTERS 2007-2013

All 7 volumes on one CD and Indexed ~ Order Yours Today for \$8.00 including shipping
 Send Your Order with Check Payable to:

Bouse Genealogical Society, PO Box 624, Bouse, Arizona 85325-0624
 Please be sure to include the address where you want the CD to be sent.