

Ancestor Road Show, Continuing Success

By Cindy Hineman Davis

Some attendees at this year's Florida State Genealogical Society Conference in Maitland, Florida had a very special opportunity. 36 participants received a free private consultation with a professional genealogist. Members of the Florida Chapter of APG, (Association of Professional Genealogists) volunteered their time and expertise to answer questions and provide guidance.

Attendees had an opportunity to present their "brick-wall" problems and get recommendations for further research. They signed up for appointments on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning, and then met with a professional genealogist on Saturday at a pre-scheduled time. Many attendees brought family history documents with them so the professional genealogist could review them before or during the consultation. Although each consultation was short (approximately 15 minutes), attendees discovered that suggestions from professional genealogists were very helpful in researching their family history.

During the sessions, the attendee met at one of four tables set up in the meeting room to discuss their research problem. Researchers were asked to focus on one ancestor or one ancestor problem. Professional genealogists were available to review pedigree charts, source documents, and other family history information. At the end of the consultation,

suggestions for further research were discussed and the researcher was given a written list of suggestions.

Participants in the Ancestor Road Show were asked to provide feedback on survey forms after their consultation. Participant feedback was enormously positive. All indicated that they would like to take part in a future Ancestor Road Show. Some comments indicated that this was not the first time they had participated in the Road Show, such as "I look forward to this every year." On the other hand, a few comments mentioned that had they known about this opportunity in advance, they could have prepared better for the consultation. Not surprisingly, one comment read, "I would have liked to have visited a little more...15 minutes is just not enough time when you hit a 'brick-wall.'" Do we ever have enough time when we 'talk' genealogy?

The Florida Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG-FL) sponsored this event. Members conducted the free Ancestor Road Show. Members participating included: Jack Butler, Pamela Cooper, Alvie Davidson, CG; Cindy Hineman Davis, Amy Giroux, CG, CGL; Bonnie Kohler, Donna M. Moughty; Gladys Friedman Paulin, CG; and Richard Robinson, CG, and Ann Staley, CG.

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