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APG eNEWS



Association of Professional
GENEALOGISTS

Vol. 14, No. 2, February 2026

A Farewell from Our Editor

Since January 2022 I have had the great privilege to edit the APG eNews, working with a wonderful team to bring you the latest genealogy profession news each month. I've worked with four APG presidents, two executive directors, and an untold number of chapter and special interest group heads, committee members, as well as fellow APG team members. With a new president and board in place for 2026, and an increasing growth in membership (particularly internationally), the APG has never been in better health.

It has been wonderful to help play a small part in the APG team over the last four years, and to work full-time as a genealogist over the last twenty years (twenty years this month!), but it's time for me to shake things up a little and pursue some new challenges.



Chris Paton with his wife Claire in Sydney, Australia, December 2024, getting ready to board *Celebrity Edge* for the 18th Unlock the Past genealogy cruise; he was the main speaker at both events. Photo: Chris Paton.

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For some time, I have been juggling my genealogy work with attempts to achieve a level of fluency with Scotland's indigenous Scottish Gaelic language, which is under a serious threat of extinction thanks to decades and centuries of discrimination. The 2022 census has for the first time since 1891 shown a turnaround in the language's fortunes, thanks to recent revival efforts following the reconvening of the Scottish Parliament in 1999, and I am hoping to try to get more involved in this. As such, I have just applied to do a Gaelic medium primary school teaching course, which if successful, will mean lots of hoops to get through this year in preparation, but as my auld ma' used to say, "God loves a trier"!

I have now stepped down as editor of the *eNews*, although I will continue as a member of APG and keep working as a genealogist for the foreseeable future, and I am especially looking forward to meeting a few of you in Glasgow in a few months' time at the APG Professional Genealogical Symposium!

As the outgoing editor I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your contributions over the last four years, to wish APG Communications Manager Allison Beard well in her new role as incoming editor, and to wish you all the very best with your own endeavours and challenges to come.

I'll leave you with one of my favourite Scottish Gaelic sayings: *Thig crìoch air an t-saoghal, ach mairidh gaol is ceòl*—The world will end, but love and music will endure.

Tioraidh an-dràsta / Bye for now!

Chris



Chris Paton (at left) with APG Australia and New Zealand chapter members Marie Croot, Maggie Gaffney, Gail Tanner, Fiona Brooker, Nicola Sherrock, and Zoe Pullman, in Auckland, New Zealand, in August 2025. Photo: Chris Paton.

Stephanie O'Connell Named Recipient of 2026 APG Fellowship

Stephanie O'Connell, CG® of Seattle, Washington, USA (pictured below) has been selected as the recipient of the 2026 Association of Professional Genealogists (APG) Fellowship with her proposal “Recovering Irish Women in the Records.”



A researcher, writer, and educator, O'Connell is a frequent speaker at genealogy conferences in the United States. She serves as Director of Education for the Seattle Genealogical Society and is a ProGen Study Group Mentor.

O'Connell's professional work centers on Irish research, women's history, and advanced evidence analysis. Her proposal for the APG Fellowship aims to complete the development of an innovative methodological framework for reconstructing the lives of Irish women, the HER® method (Historicize, Expand, Reconstruct). O'Connell plans to apply the method to two case studies via a wide range of sources at local and national repositories in Ireland, visiting Dublin, Cork City, and Limerick in September and October 2026.

“Throughout my research, I have been drawn to reconstructing women's lives—especially in Ireland, where archival losses compound women's historical underrepresentation,” said O'Connell. “This fellowship will allow me to further develop a methodological framework that helps genealogists recover not only women's identities, but their lived experiences.”

Following the completion of the Fellowship, O'Connell intends to share her findings through presentations, publishing an article with APG, and a practitioner's guide.

For more information on the APG Fellowship, visit https://www.apgen.org/apg_awards_and_scholarships.php. Don't miss 2025 Fellowship winner Lisa Vogeles article in the upcoming March 2026 issue of *APG Quarterly*, “Fellowship In Action: A Practical Guide for Success.”



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APG Activities at RootsTech 2026

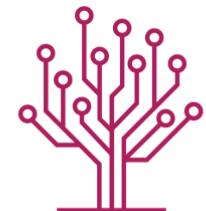
APG is thrilled to be returning to RootsTech in person again this year as a society sponsor and is working hard to make this the best RootsTech yet! We always enjoy networking and meeting other APG members from around the world at our booth in the Expo Hall.

We have some brand new things planned for our booth at the Expo Hall, including an expanded booth space with an APG classroom space! Join us for exciting offerings, including answering your questions about the new APG Readiness Toolkit. We can't wait to tell you more about what's in store.

Will you be attending in-person from 5-7 March? If so, we want to see you! Take a look at the class schedule and then find a time to volunteer at the APG booth in the Expo Hall. Spending time in the booth is a fantastic way to learn more about APG, understand what clients are seeking, and network with your colleagues. Here is the link to select your shift(s): <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054FADAE2BA5FDC16-61685105-rootstech>.

Come mingle with your fellow APG members for an APG member Meet Up after the close of the Expo Hall on Thursday, 5 March 2026. Location details will be available soon!

Finally, don't miss APG President **Tricia Seguine** and Board member **Sarah Day, AG**, at our sponsored session "From Client to Colleague: Understanding the World of Professional Genealogy" on Thursday, 5 March 2026, at 9:30 a.m. MST. They will take a closer look at the process of hiring a professional genealogist and will share practical insight into becoming a professional.



rootstech

Are You Ready to Grow as a Genealogy Professional?

Get started with the new APG Professional Genealogist Readiness Tool



APG's Professional Genealogist Readiness Tool helps you understand where you are in your professional journey and provides ideas for where you might want to go next.

Whether you're just starting out, expanding your business, or stepping into a leadership role, this self-assessment is designed to help you reflect on your progress, identify your strengths, and discover areas for growth.

Now available at apgen.org

Indiana State Archives Seeking Input

The Indiana State Archives is trying to determine what days and hours they should be open when they move into their new downtown building later this year. After years of being located in a warehouse on the east side of the city, they are moving just across from the Indiana State Library and the Indiana Historical Society, creating a convenient "research corridor." Please take this four-minute survey to advise them on improving access for genealogists and researchers.

Link: <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=ur-ZIQmkE0-wxBi0WTPYjcpbvNfcoVCq3Cy5FHRinNUMUxHTzY2NE1aWIFTzJLV1VYODkyRkVHQi4u>



New Peer-Reviewed Journal of Jewish Genealogy Announced

In early February 2026, the International Institute for Jewish Genealogy will launch *Jewish Genealogy*, a free, online, peer-reviewed journal. Edited by Sallyann Amdur Sack, former editor of *Avotaynu*, the journal will feature innovative research, newly discovered resources, and fresh methodologies from scholars worldwide. Sign up to receive the journal when published at <https://www.iijg.org/journal-registration/>.

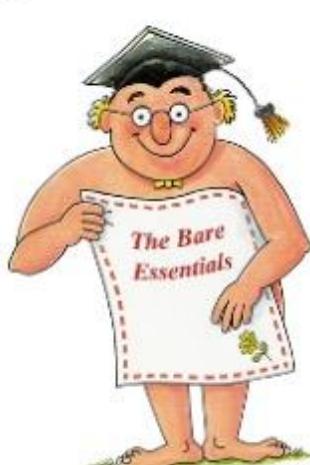
Your

Stripped Bare Guide

to

Citing & Using History Sources

By Elizabeth Shown Mills



- Do you love research but hate *source citations*?
- Do you cringe at the word *evidence*, because the dreaded citation police, somewhere, sometime, said your sources were not good enough?
- Do you doubt yourself when you think you have *proof*—especially when you have to build a case because there's no one document that cleanly answers your research question?

If so, this guide is *your* guide—stripped down to the bare essentials you need to know to do reliable history research. Thirteen guidelines for evidence analysis will help you select reliable sources and evaluate your findings. Thirteen guidelines for documentation will teach you the basic principles for identifying those sources. Then fourteen easy-to-follow templates provide you with patterns for citing any kind of history source, online, from any corner of the globe. Your angst is over!

142 pp., illus., paper. 2025. ISBN 9780806321523. Item #3889. \$27.50

Genealogical Publishing Co.
Baltimore, Maryland
www.genealogical.com

Advertising and Sponsorship Update

Pamela Israel, APG's Advertising Sales Manager, has announced her departure from the role she has held since 2023. She has accepted an exciting full-time position combining her previous corporate and entrepreneurial experience, an opportunity that she couldn't resist. APG wishes Pam all the best in her new role.

Pam says that genealogy will never be far away from her, as she remains on the board of the Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society and continues to help people with translating German genealogical documents.



All advertising and sponsorship questions can be sent to APG's new Advertising Sales Manager Amber Oldenburg at admgr@apgen.org.

Dialogues on Mental Health Records Presentation Series: Massachusetts' Special Commission on State Institution

The Dialogues on Mental Health Records (DMHR) project is a platform to address the challenges of managing historical public mental health records through a series of nationwide convenings. Operated by The University of Texas at Austin and supported by the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health, DMHR has launched a new monthly virtual series highlighting the work of state hospital preservation throughout the country. These presentations will include projects on state policy, community collaboratives and archives, state hospital museums and other preservation efforts.

The first of the series will be held on **18 February 2026 at 1:00 p.m. CT (US)** and will feature a presentation by Alex Green and Kate Benson on Massachusetts' Special Commission on State Institutions. The Special Commission on State Institutions was responsible for studying and reporting on the history of state institutions for people with intellectual or developmental disabilities or mental health conditions in the Commonwealth.

Register for the presentation at https://utexas.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_82eGoabqWtmVzn0.



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Michelle Dwyer Cohen



What's happening in APG's head office this month? A little bit of everything!

The Board is settling into their committee roles, meeting committee members, and discussing priorities for the coming year. They will produce a workplan that will be shared with the membership in the spring, as we have done for the past two years.

The Professional Development Committee has started off with a bang, hosting the Global Gathering on January 29th—I hope you were there to network with members, and show our non-member guests what makes APG such a great place to be. Mark your calendars now for upcoming webinars in the next few months as seen on our website calendar and on page 8 in this newsletter.

Our diligent Continuing Education committee has worked hard to help members meet the reporting deadline. If you have not reported, please hurry. Public-facing member profiles will be turned to members-only profiles if we don't see your report in the database. Maintaining this standard is a requirement of membership and is an important part of the public's faith in the APG brand.

Event and conference preparations are underway. APG will be at RootsTech in March (see page 4), **Register of Qualified Genealogists** in April, **National Genealogical Society** in May, and will host our first-ever **joint event with the University of Strathclyde** in June. We will need volunteers both virtually and in person for all of these—let us know if you would like to help by contacting me at admin@apgen.org. Our own Professional Management Conference (PMC) will be held virtually from 14-17 October 2026.

Our biggest change this month is documented in our headline stories—two of our contract team members are off to their next adventure and we will miss them both so very much. It has been such a pleasure to work with Chris Paton as *eNews* editor and with Pamela Israel as advertising sales manager. They have both contributed so much to APG's success in these last few years. Please welcome Allison Beard and Amber Oldenburg as they step into those roles respectively.

Committee Vacancies

Do you want to help develop content to support new members joining APG or those transitioning into the professional genealogy field from other careers? APG's On-Ramp Committee currently has a vacancy! If you wish to be considered for a role on this committee, please submit your application [here](#).

Upcoming APG Professional Development Webinars

The first quarter of APG's 2026 professional development webinar series has several presentations you don't want to miss. Members can access recordings of these webinars and others in the APG Webinar Library. For all events, please visit <https://www.timeanddate.com> for worldwide time equivalents.

Polishing Your APG Member Profile

26 February 2026

4:00–5:00 p.m. ET

Presenter: **Fiona Brooker**

Ensure your profile on the APG website highlights the skills and experiences that meet potential client needs. Fiona Brooker (at right), chair of APG's Website Committee will start with an overview of how the directory reads your profile, and then we'll break into groups where we can work on individual profiles for members who are willing to share. Let us guide you through the process of perfecting your profile!



Register at <https://members.apgen.org/Calendar/moreinfo.php?eventid=191814>.

The Ethical Genealogist: Seeking Truth with Care, Context, and Compassion

26 March 2026

4:00–5:00 p.m. ET

Presenter: **Gary L. Ball-Kilbourne, PhD, CG, CGL**

Professional genealogists sometimes face situations requiring their discernment of what is right and ethical as they interact with clients and colleagues. Presenter Gary Ball-Kilbourne (at right) will provide principles and guidance for acting within such situations during this webinar. Participants can also submit questions in advance concerning ethical quandaries encountered in their genealogical work.



Register at

<https://members.apgen.org/Calendar/moreinfo.php?eventid=191215>.

For further details on these and other APG events, and to register, please visit <https://apgen.org/events>.

Have you any news to share?

If you have news to share with APG colleagues, please drop a note to the editor at enews@apgen.org, and copy Executive Director Michelle Dwyer Cohen at admin@apgen.org.



APG Professional Management Conference 2026 Update

APG will hold its annual Professional Management Conference (PMC) virtually from 14–17 October 2026. Since 1998, the PMC has provided excellence in business education for career genealogists and this year's conference will be no different.

When you attend APG's PMC, you can expect several information-packed days of sessions with experienced genealogists, industry experts, and other leaders in the genealogy community. Join us for in-depth explorations of topics like marketing, business management, speaker training, writing and publishing, client relationships, time management, DNA analysis, forensic genealogy, and technology.

Pricing information and registration will be available soon. Check www.apgen.org for the latest information.

The Call for Presentations will be opening shortly! The PMC Committee will be looking for diverse and creative presentations geared towards helping members stay informed about trends within the world of professional genealogy and helping them to grow their business.

Looking to reach genealogy professionals with your company's products and services? Contact Sponsorship Manager Amber Oldenburg at admgr@apgen.org for more information.

2026 PMC Committee Members

- **Pamela Moore** (Chair)
- **Sara E. Butson**
- **Regina Roberts**
- **Torhild Shirley, AG®**
- **Lisa Weaver**
- **Paula Williams**

MEMBERS' NEWS

New Accredited Genealogist Lecturers

Congratulations to APG members **Bonnie Wade Mucia, AG®**, of Bluffton, SC, USA, and **Jennifer Zinck, CG®, AG®**, of North Granby, Connecticut, USA, on receiving their Accredited Genealogist Lecturer credential (AGL™) from the International Commission for the Accreditation of Professional Genealogists (ICAPGen) (<https://icapgen.org>).



New Appointee to the ICAPGen Board of Commissioners



Dr. Kimberly Nagy, AG®, AGL™, of Downers Grove, IL, USA, was recently appointed Commissioner to the ICAPGen Board.

Georgia Genealogical Society Elects New Officers

Several APG members have been elected to the leadership of the Georgia Genealogical Society with terms running from 2026–2028. Congratulations to: President: **Lillian Wingate**, Meigs, GA; Vice President: **Angie Mottern Shumway**, Leesburg, GA (not pictured); Director of Publications: **Amy C. Pittman, MS**, Birmingham, AL; and Director of Policies & Procedures: **Laura W. Carter**, Athens, GA (not pictured).



Lillian Wingate



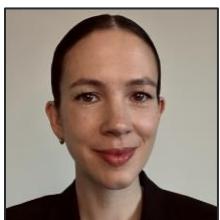
Amy C. Pittman

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Newly Certified Genealogists

Congratulations to the following APG members on being certified by the Board for Certification of Genealogists (<https://bcgcertification.org>), entitling them to use the CG post-nominal: **Lorraine Blanton**, Oxnard, CA, USA (not pictured); **Kaelyn Deeter**, Los Angeles, CA, USA; **Anna Schnell**, Uppsala, Sweden; **Cynthia L. Heidorn**, Glen Ellen, IL, USA (not pictured); and **Risa Daitzman Heywood**, Lisbon, Portugal.



Kaelyn Deeter



Anna Schnell



Risa Daitzman Heywood

In Memoriam

Jeanne Larzalere Bloom, CG



APG is sorry to report the passing of longtime member **Jeanne Larzalere Bloom, CG**, on 4 January 2026 in Chicago, IL, USA. An author, lecturer, and mentor to many, Jeanne was well-known in the Chicago genealogy community and beyond. She served as President of the Board for Certification of Genealogists from 2014-2018.

Jeanne's areas of expertise included forensic genealogy and multigenerational family histories, and she spent much of her time searching for and identifying family members of unaccounted-for servicemen. She worked for the Repatriation and Family Affairs Division of the Army Casualty and Memorial Affairs Operation to aid in the possible identification of soldiers from World Wars I and II,

the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. As a former trained and certified Confidential Intermediary for the State of Illinois, Jeanne was court appointed to locate sought-after relatives for adoptees, adoptive parents, birth parents, and other birth relatives.

APG PROFESSIONAL GENEALOGY SYMPOSIUM

24 JUNE 2026



GLASGOW, SCOTLAND & VIRTUAL

Join your colleagues on 24 June 2026 for the first-ever **APG Professional Genealogy Symposium**, held in partnership with the Strathclyde Institute for Genealogical Studies (SIGS). The event is open to all, with no requirement to be an APG member. Attend either virtually or in-person.

Sessions include:

- Cross-Border Marketing Your Business
- Ethical and Legal Considerations for Professional Genealogists: AI, Copyright, DNA
- Challenges and Options: Accepting Payments
- Increase Productivity with Free Technology Tools
- Beyond Research: Build Your Business
- Practical AI Tools for Professional Genealogists
- Effective Client Communication
- Speaking Without Borders: The Business of Genealogical Education
- Client Work Products: Styles and Options

The Symposium will be followed by the SIGS' two-day conference **Beyond the Family Tree: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on AI, DNA, Education and Community in Genealogy** from 25–26 June 2026.

Registration is now open at apgen.org/pgs2026.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS:

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CHAPTER AND SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP (SIG) NEWS

For worldwide time equivalents for all webinars and events, please visit <https://www.timeanddate.com>.

Colorado Chapter



Staying Out of Trouble—The Rights and Responsibilities of Today's Genealogists

Presenter: Judy G. Russell, JD, CG®, CGLSM

7 February 2026, 10:00 a.m. MT (US)

The Colorado Chapter is excited to host Judy Russell at our next meeting for her presentation "Staying Out of Trouble—The Rights and Responsibilities of Today's Genealogists." As genealogists and researchers, we must understand today's laws as much as yesterday's. Modern law impacts our rights as researchers—rights of access to vital records, to information, and to places where information can be found. And it impacts our responsibilities, as well, particularly the need to respect another's copyright. This presentation is open to the public. To register go to <https://coloradoapg.org/events/quarterly-meeting-feb-7-26/>.

Southeast Chapter



Want to network? Problem solve? Commiserate? Ask a business question? Learn more about our various committees? Drop in to the Southeast Chapter's weekly chats to find a welcoming place for your professional (or personal) genealogy woes and triumphs. We meet on Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. ET (US) and Fridays at 1:00 p.m. ET (US)

Tuesday Weekly Chats

7:30 p.m. ET (US)

Register at <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/4Yjy4MsvSFmKBVnnvvSI0g>

10 February 2026

24 February 2026

Friday Weekly Chats

1:00 p.m. ET (US)

Register at <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/JH4CkGZeQ9alsW2ocnpYZg>

6 February 2026

20 February 2026

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Britain, Ireland and the Isles Chapter



Join the Britain, Ireland and the Isles Chapter for our next informal chat on 11 March 2026 at 11:00 a.m. GMT. A link will be emailed to members who are signed up to the Chapter on the APG website. For further details about the chapter, please visit https://www.apgen.org/britain_irland_and_the_isles.php.

Mid-Atlantic Chapter



Congratulations to the new officers of the Mid-Atlantic Chapter! **Aldona Dye** of Madison, VA, was elected to a two-year term as chapter secretary and **Alaine Keisling** of Drexel Hill, PA, was reelected as vice president. **Dawn Vanderwolf** of Valley Township, PA, was elected to complete a one-year term as treasurer.

Recently, the Mid-Atlantic Chapter was honored to present **Michael S. Ramage** with our Chapter Award for Outstanding Contribution to Genealogical Education. The award recognizes Michael's sustained generosity and guidance to our fifteen-month Mid-Atlantic Chapter's FORGEN study group, and his significant impact on forensic genealogy education.

Upcoming Chapter Events

Accreditation Station: A bi-monthly support group for members pursuing accreditation.

2 February 2026 and 16 February 2026 at 7:00 p.m. ET (US)

Please email MidAtlanticAPG@gmail.com.

Mid-Atlantic Chat: Join us for our weekly genealogy chat on Thursdays. All APG members are welcome.

5, 12, 19, and 26 February 2026, 12:00 p.m. ET (US)

To register please visit: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/2KLrd7YFTj-84Bavr-VRQ>

Tech Exchange: Exploring BanyanDNA

8 February 2026, 7:00 p.m. ET (US)

A guided exploration of BanyanDNA's clustering and hypothesis-testing tools, with discussion focused on real-world applications and limitations. To register please visit:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/Y4FCUmn3QTWOSHZJa6QzPQ>

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Second Tuesday: Creating a Dynamic Education Plan

10 February 2026, 12:00 p.m. ET (US)

Professional genealogists face constantly shifting tools, standards, and expectations. The discussion will focus on building a flexible, intentional education plan that balances skill gaps, professional goals, and learning opportunities while remaining adaptable over time. To register please visit:

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/Q1Itx_EcQqS-Dknkr9QXVQ

Mid-Atlantic FORGEN Study Group

Chapter 7: Dual Citizenship

22 February, 7:00 p.m. ET (US)

Check the Mid-Atlantic FORGEN Facebook group for the link.

Happy Hour with Hope! Chat

23 February 2026, 7:00 p.m. ET (US)

Come chat about all things genealogical! To register visit:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tcXRLt0nROG9F9r3UQDKEQ>

Australia & New Zealand/Mid-Atlantic Meet-Up

25 February 2026, 7:00 p.m. ET (US)/26 February, 10:00 a.m. AEST

From British and Irish origins to colonial and post-colonial records, many professional genealogists encounter the same source types in different contexts and continents. Join us for an international meetup focused on shared heritage and how it shapes our research on opposite sides of the world.

To register visit: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/ZJ80uUG9TEqEj8si81pgng>

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS: APG BOARD MEETINGS



Observe the APG Board of Directors at work in 2026! Members are invited to attend meetings of the Board virtually via Zoom as they make important decisions concerning association policy. We look forward to seeing you.

All meetings held at 2:00 PM Eastern Time

- **6 May 2026**
- **22 July 2026**
- **4 November 2026**

Register at apgen.org/events

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Writers SIG



The 2026 Writers SIG calendar of speakers is complete and has been sent out to SIG members. If any of the upcoming topics interest you, join us on the third Wednesday of each month at 8:00 p.m. ET (US). SIG dues are \$20 a year for 11 excellent speaker presentations. For more information on the Writers SIG, visit https://www.apgen.org/writers_sig.php.

Feedback is a Gift

Presenter: Jennifer Zinck CG®, AG®, AGL™

18 February 2026, 8:00 p.m. ET (US)

Organize Complex Writing Projects for Success

Presenter: Rhonda Lauritzen

18 March 2026, 8:00 p.m. ET (US)

Beyond the Obvious: Uncovering Stories in Probate Records

Presenter: Jill Nock, AG®

15 April 2026, 8:00 p.m. ET (US)

Forty Years of Writing and Editing: You'd Think I'd Know What I Was Doing

Presenter: Barbara Vines Little, CG®, FNGS, FUGA, FVGS

20 May 2026, 8:00 p.m. ET (US)

New York State Archives Guide--Your Turn

Presenter: Jane E. Wilcox, FGBS

17 June 2026, 8:00 p.m. ET (US)

Writers SIG Member Accomplishments

- **Trish Hackett Nicola**'s book, *The Chinese in Washington: A Legacy of the Chinese Exclusion Act*, was recently published by Arcadia Press.
- **Denise Cross**'s article transcribing mortgage deeds for the town of Newport, Rhode Island, was published in the December 2025 issue of *Rhode Island Roots*.
- **Jill Morelli** received the Laura G. Prescott Award from APG.
- **Pam Anderson** won the 2025 *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* Family History Writing Contest with her article "It's a Family Affair: Tracking James P. Walters of New York, South Dakota, Pennsylvania, and Oregon" which was published in the December issue of the *NGSQ*.

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Forensic SIG



APG Forensic SIG dues should be paid when you renew your APG membership. Dues are no longer collected on a calendar year basis. Everyone who paid in 2024 or 2025 for the calendar year 2025 is considered paid until their renewal, even if that renewal is in the first half of 2026.

Upcoming Webinar

Modern Forensic Genetic Genealogy: Tools, Challenges, and the Future of Professional Practice

Presenter: Carla Davis

24 February 2026, 8:00 p.m. ET (Doors open at 7:30 p.m. for networking)

Forensic genetic genealogy continues to evolve rapidly, requiring professional genealogists to adapt new tools, analytical methods, and investigative standards. In this session, Carla Davis will explore modern forensic genealogy workflows, real-world casework challenges, and emerging trends shaping professional practice. Participants will gain insight into how genetic data and documentary research are integrated to generate investigative leads, with discussion centered on common challenges such as low-match environments, endogamy and pedigree collapse, underrepresented population, and complex pedigree reconstruction. The session will conclude with a forward-looking discussion of trends and professional expectations shaping the future of forensic genetic genealogy.

Upcoming Forensic SIG Membership Meetings

Tips and Tricks in Microsoft Word for Forensic Genealogists

Presenter: Eva Holmes

24 March 2026, 8:00 p.m. ET (Doors open at 7:30 p.m. for networking)

Spring 2026 Mentorship Opportunities – Mentee Deadline Approaching

The APG Forensic SIG is pleased to announce the Spring 2026 mentoring program, with a new cohort running from 21 February through 29 May 2026. This program is open to both mentors and mentees and is designed to support professional growth, skill development, and connection within the Forensic Genealogy community.

While mentor applications have closed, mentee applications are being accepted through 3 February 2026. Whether you are looking to share your experience or deepen your knowledge, participation as either a mentor or a mentee is encouraged. The Mentor Program Committee Chair is Laura Hennessee, MLIS.

Welcome New Members!

APG is committed to fostering an inclusive community in which all participants are treated with dignity and respect, regardless of (but not limited to) ethnicity, sexual orientation, sex, gender, marital status, disability, age, religion, socioeconomic status, nationality, or political affiliation.

The following new members have joined between 20 December 2025 and 15 January 2026:

Nikolina Antonic, Zagreb, Croatia; **Dawn Beebe**, Sauk City, WI, USA; **Jeremy Berry-Cahn**, Hudson, MA, USA; **Lora Butterfield**, Buckley, WA, USA; **Aaron Card**, Grand Ledge, MI, USA; **Carol Carman**, Annapolis, MD, USA; **Ella Cathcart**, Vancouver, BC, Canada; **Lana Cooper**, Waterville, OH, USA; **Shelbie Drake**, Layton, UT, USA; **Sherrie Dux-Ideus**, Amherst, NE, USA; **Jon Edens**, Conroe, TX, USA; **Emily Fisher**, Kenmore, WA, USA; **Payton Gallagher**, Burnaby, BC, Canada; **Anita Valentina**, Gentile, Siracusa, Italy; **Claudia Haessler**, Berlin, Germany; **Amy Hesseldahl**, Hopewell Junction, NY, USA; **Carter James**, Salt Lake City, UT, USA; **Yuya Kinoshita**, Nasushiobara, Japan; **Anne Lukkarial**, Belle Plaine, MN, USA; **Shanna Lund**, Burbank, CA, USA; **Marina Martello**, Terre D'Adige, Italy; **Kirsten Max-Douglas**, Blue Ash, OH, USA; **Bella McKenzie**, Vancouver, BC, Canada; **Anita Phillips**, Albuquerque, NM, USA; **Mauri Pratt**, Edmond, OK, USA; **Julia Riley**, Kingston, United Kingdom; **Trae Sealey**, Derry, NH, USA; **Terri Sellers**, Jacksonville, FL, USA; **Susan Weinberg**, St. Louis Park, MN, USA

A huge welcome to all!



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