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APG eNews is published monthly © 2026 Association of Professional Genealogists. All rights reserved. The words Certified Genealogist and letters CG are registered certification marks, and the designations CGL, Certified Genealogical Lecturer, CGG, and Certified Genetic Genealogist are service marks of the Board for Certification of Genealogists. Accredited Genealogist and AG are registered certification marks, and the designations AGL and Accredited Genealogical Lecturer are service marks of the International Commission for Accreditation of Professional Genealogists. Qualified Genealogist & QG are designations of the Register of Qualified Genealogists. Individuals are allowed to use these designations after meeting the competency standards of those organizations.

# APG eNEWS




Association of Professional  
GENEALOGISTS

Vol. 14, No. 1, January 2026

## APG Launches Professional Genealogist Readiness Tool for Members

The APG On-Ramp Committee set a 2025 goal to produce a readiness tool for members to assess their professional journey. During the Annual Members' Meeting on 16 December that goal was achieved!

The 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. The Readiness Tool offers a chance to pause, take stock of your skills, and think about your goals with a little more clarity.


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### Professional Genealogist Readiness Tool

**Are You Ready to Grow as a Genealogy Professional?**

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.

Professional genealogists do more than research family history—they commit to ongoing learning, ethical standards, accurate methods, and high-quality service. True professionalism means applying your skills with care, protecting client privacy, and sharing your expertise to support both clients and the broader community.



#### How to Use This Tool

- **Rate your skills:** For each key competency, choose the score that best reflects how confidently and consistently you apply that skill. Definitions and examples are provided in the appendix.
- **Standards alignment:** Each competency is informed by principles found in an industry-recognized set of standards for genealogical research and reporting. While no single global standard exists, professional genealogists are expected to align their work with a clearly defined set of standards appropriate to their region, specialty, or certifying body.
- **Review and plan:** Once you've completed your ratings, use the readiness levels to shape your development path.
- **Keep growing:** Explore the reflection questions and action steps in the Next Steps section to continue building your professional toolkit.

Scoring	Level of Competence
1.	Beginning/Developing: You have not practiced this skill or may have started practicing it, but use is inconsistent and limited. You have had no or minimal exposure with no real application; or you may have applied it in a learning setting but not independently.
2.	Progressing: You have actively applied this skill in a

Karin Coppernoll, PLCGS, APG On-Ramp Committee Chair, says, “the Professional Genealogist Readiness Tool recognizes that there is no single path into genealogy. It empowers hobbyists, aspiring professionals, and practicing professionals to reflect honestly, identify next steps, and engage with standards in ways that elevate their work and the profession as a whole.”

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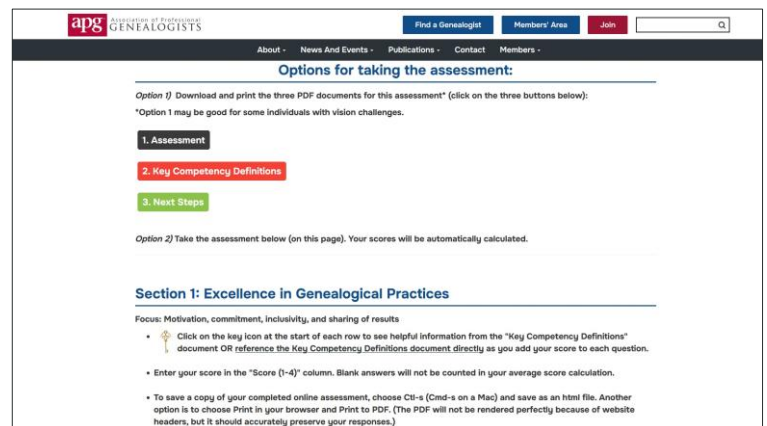
This tool walks you through five main areas of professional genealogy:

- **Your dedication to genealogy**—how you approach research, work with different types of stories, and communicate your findings.
- **Education and growth**—your training, continuing education, and your willingness to try new methods and tools.
- **Standards and evidence**—how you apply recognized standards, analyze conflicting information, and document your work.
- **Business and client work**—how you handle communication, contracts, confidentiality, and basic business practices.
- **Ethics and privacy**—your care with sensitive information, record stewardship, and managing potential conflicts of interest.

Rate yourself on a 1–4 scale to receive an honest reflection on how often and how confidently you use each skill.

Both a detailed definition and representative examples are available for each competency area. These are helpful because they show what different levels look like in real-world genealogy. After you total your scores, the tool gives you a readiness level—from “Building Your Foundation” to “Advanced Professional Readiness.” But, that’s only part of the story.

The companion document, “Take the Next Step,” turns this into a real professional growth plan. The professional growth plan consists of reflection questions, concrete action steps, and a curated list of books, webinars, and *APG Quarterly* articles matched to your readiness level. If you’re building skills, you’ll see beginner-friendly resources. If you’re stepping into professional practice, you’ll find tools focused on reports, ethics, and contracts. If you’re more advanced, you’ll see ideas related to mentoring, presenting, writing, and leadership.



Together, these three pieces form a full toolkit for your development. The Professional Genealogist Readiness Tool is available online in the Members’ Area of the APG website. You can complete it interactively or you can download it to complete at your own pace. Use this link to get to the Readiness Tool:

[https://www.apgen.org/professional\\_readiness\\_tool.php](https://www.apgen.org/professional_readiness_tool.php) (you must be logged in as a member). At this time, the tool is for APG members only.

A conscious effort was considered to create a tool that supports our global APG community—with fifty of your colleagues participating in testing to help us refine it. Many of the examples and resources still very much reflect a United States perspective. We welcome your recommendations for international resources so we can strengthen the tool for genealogists working in all regions.

The On-Ramp Committee looks forward to more progress on this tool next year! For any questions or suggestions, please contact On-Ramp Committee Chair, Karin Coppernoll, at [vicepresident@apgen.org](mailto:vicepresident@apgen.org).

## Introducing our New President Tricia Seguine

*Tricia Seguine, MAcc, MLIS, from Florida, USA, has been elected by members for a two-year term to serve as the next APG president.*

Happy New Year! As we welcome 2026 and new members of the Board and Executive Committee, we also bid a fond farewell to our outgoing officers. Their dedicated work and important contributions will have lasting impacts on our organization. As my role shifts from Treasurer to President, I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself.



I fell in love with genealogy as a teenager. During my high school years, my family lived in England. We had the opportunity to participate in the transcription of the 1881 England & Wales census. It was a double-keyed data entry project where we were given pages of the census and transcribed them by hand. Our handwritten pages were keyed into a computer, where the entries were compared with data from someone else who had done the exact same thing. It felt great being part of something bigger than myself. Coupled with that experience, my family traveled often to the Yorkshire archives where we found our ancestors by poring through books much older than my native country. I loved it all.

My practical nature led me to major in accounting at Brigham Young University, where I earned both bachelor's and master's degrees. Later, my interest in books and archives motivated me to earn a master's degree in library and information science from Rutgers University. But I eventually found myself returning to my original love by completing the family history program at Brigham Young University-Idaho. Shortly before graduation, a teacher (and fellow APG member) encouraged us to join APG. That changed my life.

I never anticipated that just a few years later, I would serve as the APG Treasurer, and now as the President. I have been in a unique position to see how our board members, employees, contractors, committees, chapters, and SIGs are working together to provide quality resources and programs that benefit our members, the genealogical community at large, and potential clients. I hope to build on the tremendous work done by my predecessors. I am impressed by the strength, diversity, and potential of our community.

I am excited to lead continued efforts to expand educational opportunities for new and existing members and to advocate for record access while ensuring responsible fiscal management. With 20% of our membership residing outside the United States, I plan to strengthen our international connections and global networking opportunities. I also welcome the participation of those with fresh perspectives that will help to enhance the public perception of our profession. I believe in the mission of this organization and hope to build on what has been accomplished to best serve our members.

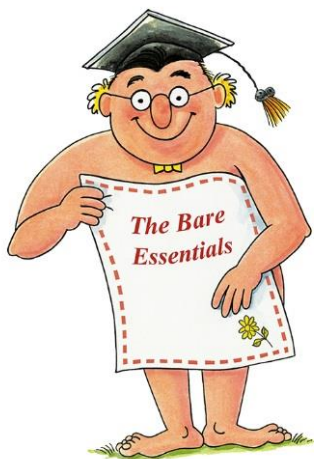
Many of you may recall when you fell in love with genealogy too. We are fortunate as professional genealogists to do work that is fueled by things we are passionate about. I welcome your participation in support of APG's mission to grow and enhance the genealogy profession. Our chosen work changes lives, answers questions of the heart, and adds meaning to the past and present.

Best of luck to each of you in the New Year in your professional and personal endeavors. I look forward to working and serving with you. Reach out with questions and comments at [president@apgen.org](mailto:president@apgen.org).

# 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

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**apg**  
**Quarterly**  
The Professional's Voice

## A VALUABLE MEMBER BENEFIT

APG's recent membership survey showed that the **APG Quarterly** (APGQ) is one of our most valued member benefits; have you checked it out lately?

The APGQ features articles relevant to professionals within the genealogy community, as well as those interested in going pro. If you're looking for ways to build and maintain your genealogy career, we've got you covered.

Explore the APGQ web pages at **apgen.org**, where you will find:

- **Full issues** of APGQ in PDF format (from 1979-2025)
- **APGQ Index** – Updated searchable index of articles in the APGQ from 1979 to 2023
- **NEW! APGQ Table of Contents Pages 2020-present** – A visual, searchable PDF with covers and tables of contents



**Check out APGQ today at [apgen.org](http://apgen.org)!**    **Members > Publications > APG Quarterly**



## Members Celebrated for Outstanding Contributions to APG and the Genealogy Profession

APG has honored several members for their outstanding professional achievements, service to the association, and the genealogy profession. President Suzanne L. Hoffman announced the award winners at the organization's Annual Members' Meeting on 16 December 2025. Congratulations to this year's recipients:

### Grahame T. Smallwood Jr. Award of Merit – Annette Burke Lyttle, CG (Florida, USA)



This award recognizes an APG member for their personal commitment and outstanding service to the Association. Annette exemplifies this commitment, serving as president from 2022-2023 and finishing a term as past president this month. She previously served as an at-large board member and was coordinator of APG's Professional Management Conference from 2017-2019. Annette speaks on a variety of topics at the national, state, and local levels, and is editor of *The Florida Genealogist*. During her tenure as president, Annette oversaw the rebuilding or reimagining of many aspects of APG operations with decisive, calm, and well-measured leadership. She helped the association navigate the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic, updated antiquated bylaws, began the process of building a new website, and established the Listening and On-Ramp Committees.

### Laura G. Prescott Award for Exemplary Service to Professional Genealogy – Jill Morelli, CG, CGL (Washington, USA)



This award recognizes service to the field of professional genealogy, exemplary professionalism, and continuing encouragement to other professional genealogists. Jill is a writer, lecturer and genealogical researcher, who after receiving her BCG certification in 2017, began the Certification Discussion Group (CDG) to help demystify the process of the certification journey. Since its inception, more than 600 attendees have participated, with the program's mentorship program for alumni also pairing more than 200 people with a one-on-one mentor. Jill is a past president of the Seattle Genealogical Society, program director for the Puget Sound chapter, and a member of many genealogical societies.

### Kathleen W. Hinckley Professional Achievement Award – LaBrenda Garrett-Nelson, CG, CGL (Washington, DC, USA)



LaBrenda Garrett-Nelson, CG, CGL, exemplifies this award's criteria of exceptional professional achievement with contributions to the field of genealogy through individual excellence and ethical behavior. LaBrenda became a Board-Certified Genealogist in 2015, and for the Board for Certification of Genealogists (BCG) has served as Treasurer and Trustee, as well as President from 2019-2022. She is on the editorial board of both the *Journal of the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society* and the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*, and in 2021 was elected a Fellow of the American Society of

Genealogists. Recently, she served as the Registrar General of the Sons and Daughters of the United States Middle Passage, a lineage society that honors ancestors who were enslaved in the United States. She is also a well-known speaker at genealogical institutes and conferences.

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### APG Quarterly Excellence Award – Jenny Hawran (Connecticut, USA)



Jenny Hawran is being honored with the *APG Quarterly Excellence Award* for her September 2025 article, “When the Tree Shakes the Roots: Navigating Misattributed Paternity Discoveries with Compassion and Care.” This thoughtfully written article provides helpful strategies for professional genealogists to better understand the importance of compassionately delivering news about unexpected DNA results to clients. The current president of the Connecticut Society of Genealogists, Jenny specializes in Connecticut research and record retrieval, web design, and social media content creation for genealogy groups. She thrives on mentoring budding genealogists and volunteers in the genealogy community.

### Certificates of Appreciation

These recognize outstanding, continual, or unusual contributions to APG by a member or non-member. This year APG has awarded certificates to the following members of the Professional Management Conference Committee: **Sara E. Butson, Pamela Moore, Regina Roberts, Torhild Shirley, Lisa Weaver, Paula Williams, and Jennifer Zinck.** We also acknowledge the extraordinary efforts of our APG contract team to support the event: Allison Beard, Pamela Israel, Amber Oldenburg, and Sandra Roberts.

With a severely abbreviated schedule, the 2025 PMC Conference Committee selected presentations, prepared documentation for all events, and worked with the website committee and the APG contractor/staff team to get this year's conference live and make it a great success.



## Connect with Other Genealogy Professionals

### JOIN A CHAPTER OR SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

Make the most of your APG membership by joining a Chapter or Special Interest Group (SIG) and connecting with your peers. Sign up today at [apgen.org](https://apgen.org).

#### CHAPTERS

- Australia & New Zealand
- Britain, Ireland & the Isles
- Canada
- Chicago Area
- Colorado
- Great Lakes
- Great Plains
- Heartland
- Mid-Atlantic
- New England
- New Jersey
- New York Metro
- Northern California
- Northland
- Oregon
- Puget Sound
- South Central
- Southeast
- Southern California
- Utah

#### SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

- Advocacy
- EL SIG En Español
- Forensic Genealogy
- Jewish Research
- Writers
- Young Professionals



## APG's Continuing Education Reporting Form is Now Available

APG's Continuing Education Reporting Form is now live and will be available through 31 January 2026. APG members are required to report at least 12 hours of 2025 Continuing Education. Please click [here](#) to access the CE Reporting form, or [here](#) to request an exemption.

Conferences, institutes, courses, webinars, and self-directed education are just some of the items that qualify for inclusion as reportable Continuing Education hours for 2025. Those who have been members of APG for less than one year are exempt from the requirement.



Although only twelve hours are required, the online form allows for the description of additional hours for those who wish to offer an expanded account of their experience. Members will be asked to describe several of their educational experiences in 2025, indicate which activities were most helpful to them, and describe any opportunities that they sought out but could not find.

If extenuating circumstances prevented the completion of the requirement for 2025, the form offers an opportunity to ask for an exemption.



To learn more about APG's Continuing Education policy, visit:  
[https://www.apgen.org/continuing\\_education\\_requireme.php](https://www.apgen.org/continuing_education_requireme.php)

For frequently asked questions and a short video on Continuing Education, visit:  
[https://www.apgen.org/continuing\\_education\\_faq.php](https://www.apgen.org/continuing_education_faq.php)

### Get Answers to Your Questions at Our Free Drop-in CE Session

A live drop-in session will take place on Saturday, 17 January from 2:00–2:30 pm ET (USA) and from 2:00 –2:30 pm AEST (Australia). For worldwide equivalent times, please visit <https://www.timeanddate.com>.

Drop in anytime during either 30-minute session to ask questions about the Continuing Education requirement, get help in filling out the online form, or talk to members of the Continuing Education Committee about education planning for 2026.

To attend the USA session, register here:  
<https://members.apgen.org/Calendar/moreinfo.php?eventid=186611>

To attend the Australia session, register here:  
<https://members.apgen.org/Calendar/moreinfo.php?eventid=186619>

We look forward to helping you!



## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### Michelle Dwyer Cohen



Happy New Year! If you are brand new to APG, welcome, and welcome back to all renewing members.

2025 was an action-packed adventure, and I expect no less for APG in 2026. We will publish four issues of the *APG Quarterly*, and twelve issues of the *APG eNews*, jam-packed with information that you can use to improve your productivity, find new opportunities, and build your skills. We will host eleven professional development events to help you meet continuing education goals, and at least three welcome events for new members. We will attend or support many major genealogical conferences this year, either through head office involvement, chapter/SIG involvement, or supporting sponsorships and advertising.

For the first time ever, APG will cohost an event with an international partner – the University of Strathclyde, in Glasgow, Scotland, in June. We will host another wonderful virtual APG Professional Management Conference (PMC) in October, which focuses on the business needs of our members. For all events, ones that we attend, and ones that we host, we work hard to promote the organization and all its members, drawing clients for everyone.

If you have not already, please visit our website, using the members dropdown menu, for the latest members-only benefits, including member discounts, sample marketing materials, sample business forms, and our fantastic webinar library. You still have time to buy the recordings from our 2025 PMC – the recordings are available until 31 January 2026 for your review.

New this year—as you saw on page one—the OnRamp Committee has just launched a new readiness tool to help you on your professional journey, and we are very excited about its potential.

Wow! When I look at that list, I'd say an APG membership is a very good value for the money. What underlies all of these activities, though, is the most valuable part of APG: the efforts of our members. What each person brings to the association, and how they share their experiences and talents, whether volunteering with us, or networking with other members, is what makes this organization a wonderful place to be. Wishing you all a successful year!

#### Committee Vacancies

Several of APG's committees currently have vacancies. If you wish to be considered for any of the positions, please submit your application [here](#).

#### 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](mailto:enews@apgen.org), and copy Executive Director Michelle Dwyer Cohen at [admin@apgen.org](mailto:admin@apgen.org)



## Forthcoming APG Webinars

The first quarter of APG's 2026 professional development webinar series has three 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.

### 2026 Global Gathering

29 January 2026, 3:30–4:30 p.m. ET

Join us for the latest Global Gathering featuring topical breakout rooms including Revolutionary War Research, Jewish Research, British Research, African American Research, Patchwork/Unknown Parentage, and Italian Research. Come connect with fellow professionals and swap strategies for shared research interests.

### 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, 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!



### 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 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.



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



## Member Discounts

Members can receive a variety of discounts via our Member Discounts page (login required) at [apgen.org](https://apgen.org), then **Members > Discounts**. Learn about the many other discounts and services that our vendors offer!

## Ohio Genealogical Society Issues Call for Lecture Proposals

The Ohio Genealogical Society (OGS) seeks lecture proposals for its 2027 conference, **Finding Your Family's Heroes**, to be held 28 April—1 May 2027, at Sharonville Convention Center in Sharonville, Ohio, USA.

Topics being considered include but are not limited to the following: immigration, census records, religious groups, migration, origins of early Ohio settlers, the Old Northwest Territory, “movers and shakers” of early Ohio, early Ohio River settlements, utilizing land records, military records, technology (including usage of mobile devices, apps, social media), AI for genealogy, DNA, organization, society management and development, methodology, analysis, and problem solving in genealogical research, Ohio history and its records, and archives and repositories.

The program committee is specifically seeking new, unusual, and dynamic proposals, inviting applicants to “think outside of the box.” Interested speakers are strongly encouraged to submit multiple proposals for either one-hour general sessions, or two-hour workshops. There is no limit to the number of proposals a speaker may submit. The deadline for submission of lecture proposals is 31 May 2026.

Proposals should be submitted in PDF format, and must include the following to be considered:

- Speaker's name, address, telephone, and e-mail address
- Lecture title, not to exceed ten words, and a brief, but comprehensive outline
- Lecture summary, not to exceed twenty-five words to be used in the conference booklet
- Identification of the audience level: beginner, intermediate, advanced, or all
- Speaker biography, not to exceed twenty-five words
- Resume of prior speaking experience

All proposals should be sent via e-mail to [ogsconference@ogs.org](mailto:ogsconference@ogs.org) by no later than Midnight, 31 May 2026 ET (please visit <https://www.timeanddate.com> for worldwide time equivalents). Multiple proposals may be sent in one email, but applicants should limit their submissions to no more than two emails. Speakers will be required to use an electronic presentation program, with projectors provided by Sharonville Convention Center.

### Compensation

Selected speakers will receive an honorarium, travel compensation, conference registration, hotel, and per diem rate based on the number of days lectures are presented. Sponsored speakers will only receive conference registration and syllabus materials.

### Sponsors

Societies and businesses are encouraged to submit proposals for sponsored talks. The sponsoring organization will cover speaker's lecture(s) honorarium. Sponsored speakers will abide by all speaker deadlines. Sponsored speakers will receive complimentary OGS conference registration and electronic syllabus materials. The deadline to submit sponsored lectures is also 31 May 2026.

Should you require further information, please email [ogsconference@ogs.org](mailto:ogsconference@ogs.org).

## APG Charitable Donations for 2025

APG is strongly committed to ensuring genealogical records worldwide remain open and accessible to its members and the public. To that end, the association has made donations to the following non-profit organizations to support their important work:

- **Fields of Honor Foundation** (<https://fieldsofhonorfoundation.com/>), honoring about 39,000 American WWII soldiers buried or memorialized in war cemeteries in Belgium, France, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands.
- **Matricula Online** (<https://data.matricula-online.eu/en/>), a free online repository for images of Central and Eastern European church registers, including countries such as Austria, Germany, Poland, and Slovenia.
- **The United States Colored Troops Pension Digitization Project** (<https://iaam-cfh.learnworlds.com/course/community-digitizer-project>), located at the Center for Family History at the International African American Museum. This project is digitizing key African American genealogical & historical records.
- **The Veteran Bounty Land Records Project** (<https://www.ngsgenealogy.org/veteran-bounty-land-records-project/>), preserving and digitizing the Bounty Land Warrant Application files from veterans of early American wars. APG has supported this project for three years. Led by the National Genealogical Society and NARA.

APG also continues to support **The Records Preservation & Access Coalition** (<http://recordsadvocate.org>).

## New APG Policy for 2026

APG's Board of Directors approved a new anti-harassment policy to be added to our Association-level policies. The head office will roll out the policy and share more details and training with chapters and SIGs in early 2026.

# 2026

## 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*

- 21 January 2026
- 22 July 2026
- 6 May 2026
- 4 November 2026

Register at  
[apgen.org/events](https://apgen.org/events)

## MEMBERS' NEWS

### APG Members Complete ProGen course

The following APG members have recently completed the ProGen 69 course: Jill M. Belarmino, Marla Boren, Candace Frits, Dan Hamilton, Shaun Klee, Amy C. Pittman, Linda Reece-Wahl, Linda A. Rogers, Thomas Simonds, and Wendy Winstead. The course was led by mentor Kelley Conner Lear, CG, and coordinator Trish Bube. Congratulations to all. For further information on the ProGen study programs, please visit <https://progenstudygroups.com>.

### APG Members Elected to ICAPGen Commission

Congratulations also to APG members Kelly Renee Summers, AG, AGL (bottom left), and Geri Auerbach, AG (bottom right), on being elected to serve a three-year term on the Board of Commissioners of the International Commission for the Accreditation of Professional Genealogists (<https://icapgen.org>).



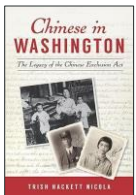
### APG Member Elected President of Virginia Genealogical Society

Congratulations to former APG Board member Kelley Conner Lear, CG (right) who began her term as President of the Virginia Genealogical Society ([www.vgs.org](http://www.vgs.org)) in August 2025.



## MEMBERS' PUBLICATIONS

*If you have had a new book published within the last six months, we will happily let your colleagues know. Email details of your publication to [enews@apgen.org](mailto:enews@apgen.org) and copy [admin@apgen.org](mailto:admin@apgen.org).*



**Chinese in Washington: The Legacy of the Chinese Exclusion Act**, by Trish Hackett Nicola (History Press, 2026).

This 192-page book explains how the Chinese Exclusion Act (1882–1943) shaped Chinese lives for generations by limiting immigration, barring laborers, and denying citizenship.



## Recording of Irish Virtual Record Treasury Webinar Now Available

APG's December 2025 member webinar, **Finding Your Irish Roots: The Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland**, is now available in the apgen.org webinar library, amongst other informative webinars.

Presented by Dr. Brian Gurrin and Dr. Ciarán Wallace, the talk explained the tragedy of the loss of the Public Record Office in Dublin in 1922, and its subsequent virtual reconstruction, demonstrating the many genealogical resources available on the free research Virtual Records Treasury platform.



To access the recording in the members area, visit [https://members.apgen.org/members/learn/course.php?attempt\\_id=36257641](https://members.apgen.org/members/learn/course.php?attempt_id=36257641).

### APG Code of Ethics and Professional Practices



One of the principal objectives of the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG) is to encourage high standards of ethical conduct and professional practice in dealings with clients and other members of the public. To further that objective, all members of APG agree to adhere to the *APG Code of Ethics and Professional Practices* (hereinafter, *Code of Ethics*).

The *Code of Ethics* serves to promote

- (1) a truthful approach to genealogy, family history, and local history;
- (2) the trust and security of genealogical consumers;
- (3) careful and respectful treatment of records, repositories and their staffs, other professionals, and genealogical organizations and associations.

For further details on the code please visit [https://www.apgen.org/code\\_of\\_ethics.php](https://www.apgen.org/code_of_ethics.php)

## CHAPTER AND SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP (SIG) NEWS

### Britain, Ireland and the Isles Chapter



We will hold our next informal chat on Tuesday, 20 January 2026 at 7:00 p.m. GMT. A link to join will be emailed to members who are signed up to the Chapter on the APG website.

Subsequent chat sessions will be held on the following dates:

- Tuesday, 20 January, 7:00 p.m. GMT
- Wednesday, 11 March, 11:00 a.m. GMT
- Friday, 15 May, 3:00 p.m. BST
- Tuesday, 21 July, 7:00 p.m. BST
- Thursday, 17 September, 11:00 a.m. BST
- Friday, 20 November, 3:00 p.m. GMT

For further details about the chapter, please visit [www.apgen.org/britain\\_ireland\\_and\\_the\\_isles.php](http://www.apgen.org/britain_ireland_and_the_isles.php).

### Southeast Chapter



The Southeast Chapter's next board meeting will take place on 8 January 2026 at 2:00 p.m. ET, with registration available via <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/3B-kUNF-TiGyUQAfU3s97A>. (Please visit <https://www.timeanddate.com> for worldwide time equivalents).

The next Chapter General Meeting will take place on 22 January 2026 at 7:30 p.m. ET. After the business portion of the meeting, we will have an open floor to discuss goals and plans for 2026. To register, please visit [https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/l8dpwwe0SciJk\\_j5xy8M9g](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/l8dpwwe0SciJk_j5xy8M9g).

The chapter also hosts weekly chat sessions on alternate Tuesdays and Fridays, where all APG members are welcome to drop in to network, problem solve, commiserate, ask business questions, and/or learn more about the chapter's various committees, as well as share professional (or personal) genealogy woes and triumphs:

Fridays at 1:00 p.m. ET - 9 January and 23 January - Register at <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/JH4CkGZeQ9alsW2ocnpYZg>

Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. ET - 13 January and 27 January - Register at <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/4Yjy4MsvSFmKBVnnvvSI0g>

For more about the chapter, please visit [https://www.apgen.org/southeast\\_chapter.php](https://www.apgen.org/southeast_chapter.php).

## Mid-Atlantic Chapter



You can join or renew your Mid-Atlantic Chapter membership for next year by completing our membership form at <https://bit.ly/3JSseNI>. Annual dues are US \$20, payable via <https://bit.ly/47YA6Gb>.

**January activities:** Please visit <https://www.timeanddate.com> for worldwide time equivalents.



### **Tech Exchange: Planning for Social Media Success**

Sunday, 4 January, 7:00 p.m. ET. To register please visit: <https://bit.ly/3MDFyGp>  
Join Katie Garner Merkley (left) for a practical Tech Exchange focused on social media marketing shortcuts.

### **Accreditation Station**

Monday, 5 and 19 January, 7:00 p.m. ET

A bi-monthly support group for members pursuing accreditation. Email [MidAtlanticAPG@gmail.com](mailto:MidAtlanticAPG@gmail.com) for details.

### **Mid-Atlantic Chat**

Join us for our weekly genealogy chats on Thursdays, 8, 15, 22 and 29 January, 12:00 p.m. ET. To register please visit <https://bit.ly/45cZCWb>.



### **Second Tuesday: Thinking About Gen-Fed 2026?**

Tuesday, 13 January, 12:00 p.m. ET. To register please visit <https://bit.ly/3MITG0Z>.  
Join Director Rebecca Whitman Koford (left) for an inside look at the week-long Genealogical Institute on Federal Records at the National Archives in Washington, D.C., and College Park.

### **Mid-Atlantic Board Meeting**

Wednesday, 14 January, 7:00 p.m. ET. Open to all Mid-Atlantic members—please check your email for the link.

### **Mid-Atlantic FORGEN study group**

Sunday, 25 January, at 7:00 p.m. ET

Topic: Chapter 8: Other Specializations

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

### **Happy Hour with Hope! chat**

Monday, 26 January, 7:00 p.m. ET. Register: <https://bit.ly/3L4aOxl>

Come chat about all things genealogical.

### **Mid-Atlantic Annual Meeting**

Wednesday, 28 January, 7:00 p.m. ET. To register please visit <https://bit.ly/4s7uEZz>.

Join us for our Annual Meeting as we celebrate Mid-Atlantic's accomplishments in 2025, look ahead to plans and priorities for 2026, and welcome our newly elected officers and board members. This is an opportunity to reflect on the year behind us, hear what's coming next, and connect with colleagues.

You can connect with Mid-Atlantic Chapter via LinkedIn:  
<http://bit.ly/3KYs47j>,  
Facebook: <http://bit.ly/4noi18Z>  
or Instagram  
<http://bit.ly/43BK4um>.

## Forensic SIG



**Estate and Probate Research: What to Expect** presented by Katharine O'Connell.

Tuesday, 27 January 2026, 8:00 p.m. ET (Please visit <https://www.timeanddate.com> for worldwide time equivalents). Doors will open at 7:30 p.m. for networking.

What kind of work does a probate and estate genealogist do? How do you find clients, and what kind of interaction is expected with them? How fast do you need to have cases completed? What work product do attorneys expect? The answers vary for everyone, but Katharine will discuss the work she and her team do, and what has worked well for her for more than eight years. This discussion will cover all parts of the probate and estate business, from first contact with a client to the delivery of the final report and exhibit file for the court.



An experienced forensic genealogist, Katharine assists attorneys, major banks, and title companies in locating missing and unknown heirs, and has worked on more than 250 probate cases throughout the USA and internationally, as well as pro bono research for the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland. She and her team help attorneys determine who inherits in court cases with complex family situations, and locate documents that constitute legal proof of relationships for the court. She has also written several articles for the *Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Journal*. Katharine has also served as a mentor and is the past Mentoring Program Director for the Association of Professional Genealogists' Forensic SIG.

Katharine has also taught sessions on complex parentage research at the Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh, and often presents on the subject of forensic genealogy at area libraries and professional organizations. She is a professional affiliate member of the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association, and a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists' Great Lakes Chapter, and several local genealogy groups in the Cleveland, Ohio area.

### Membership meetings for 2026

Please visit <https://www.timeanddate.com> for worldwide time equivalents

**Modern Forensic Genetic Genealogy: Tools, Challenges, and the Future of Professional Practice** presented by Carla Davis. Tuesday, 24 February 2026, 8:00 p.m. ET. Doors will open at 7:30 p.m. for networking.

**Tips and Tricks in Microsoft Word for Forensic Genealogists** presented by Eva Holmes. Tuesday, 24 March 2026, 8:00 p.m. ET. Doors will open at 7:30 p.m. for networking.

### Mentorship Opportunity – Spring 2026

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.

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Full program details and application information will be distributed by 6 January 2026 with mentor applications due 27 January and mentees on 3 February. Whether you are looking to share your experience or deepen your knowledge, participation as either a mentor or a mentee is encouraged.

Please watch for the January 2026 announcement, and consider taking part in this valuable opportunity. The Mentor Program Committee Chair is Laura Hennessee, MLIS.

### **Welcome New Board Members for 2026-2028**

*A message from Suzanne L. Hoffman, President, APG Forensic Genealogy SIG*



As many of you know, we offset the elections two years ago to allow for replacing only half the Board at the end of their term. This year, we elected a new Vice President, a new Treasurer, and a new Board Member-at-Large. We welcome Alaine Keisling as the Vice President in charge of our programming. Shannon Wood Byers has moved from the VP role to the Treasurer, and Dr. Tamiqia T. Simon to our Member-at-Large position.

We'd like to thank Andy Hochreiter, and Marissa Gardner, AG for their support and leadership over the past two years and look forward to their continued membership.

The continuing Board members, serving from 2024-2026 are Angela J. Harris, Secretary; Kathleen Carter, Chapter Representative; and Amy Urman, Member-at-Large.

The Nominations Committee for 2025 is now dissolved, and we thank Eva Holmes, Hope Glidden, and Michelle Chubenko for their conscientious efforts in recommending our slate. Once again, congratulations.

This is a great time to think about joining the Forensic SIG. A new cohort of our mentoring program will start up this Spring and we have wonderful programming planned for 2026. Our APG-sponsored "Day in the Life of a Professional" Track at NGS 2026 will feature many of our members and highlights Forensic specializations. With new initiatives this year, we will remain in the spotlight of genealogy.

### **Annual APG Forensic SIG dues:**

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.

## **APG Board of Directors Meeting**

The next APG Board of Directors meeting will be held 21 January 2026 at 2:00 p.m. ET via Zoom (please visit <https://www.timeanddate.com> for worldwide time equivalents).

All current APG members are welcome to attend. Closed Captioning will be available.

Members must register in advance to attend. To do so, please visit <https://bit.ly/3MRvAB6>.

## Writers SIG



In 2025, the APG Writers SIG had another excellent group of eleven speakers who shared valuable tips, techniques, and tools to make us better writers. The 2026 schedule of speakers and presentations will be released in early January, and we look forward to another exciting year.

The 2026 Writers SIG officers are Jamie Mayhew, President; Craig Scott, Vice President; Jill Nock, Treasurer and Membership; and Dawn Carlile, Secretary.

### Member Accomplishments for Fall 2025:

- Denise Cross, CG – “The Massachusetts Origin of Jonas Brooks of Sudbury, Vermont, and Malone, New York,” *New York Genealogical and Biographical Record* 156:4 (Oct 2025), 295.
- Jeff Damron will have a group of his photographs published in a book of poetry in 2026.
- Ted Georges – “The Midnight Raid” was published in the *Illinois State Genealogical Society Quarterly*. He is also working on a book on the subject.
- Lisa Gorrell – “Using AI to Translate Handwritten German Documents” is being published in *Der Blumenbaum* by Sacramento German Genealogy Society.
- Trish Hackett has written a book, **Chinese in Washington State**, which should be published in January.
- Katie Merkley had three articles published. “A Genealogist’s Guide to Homesteading Records and Research” was published in the US based *Family Tree Magazine* and two articles on GenealogyBank.com, “Our Ancestors’ Independence Day Celebrations in 1825,” and “Our Ancestors’ Independence Day Celebrations in 1925.”
- Craig R. Scott, CG – Formatting has been completed on his book, **The Revolutionary War Day-by-Day**, being published by Heritage Books.
- Beckett Soule – His book, **Mayflower Day by Day**, has been published by Heritage Books.
- Rhett Whinnery-Shawn had an article accepted for publication in *The New Hampshire Record* proving her third great-grandmother’s birthplace in Ireland, using the siblings who went to Australia.

Writers SIG meetings are normally held on the third Wednesday of each month at 8:00 p.m. Eastern time. We open Zoom at 7:30 p.m. to give members 30 minutes to visit and network in breakout rooms.

The Writers SIG dues are US \$20 per your membership year. Membership benefits include access to a closed Facebook Group, recorded meetings, an optional Peer Review Group, and networking opportunities. You can find more information on the Writers SIG at [https://www.apgen.org/writers\\_sig.php](https://www.apgen.org/writers_sig.php).

### APG Mission Statement

To support those engaged in the business of genealogy through advocacy, collaboration, education, and the promotion of high ethical standards.

## APG Welcomes 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 25 November and 19 December 2025:

**Bence Erdős**, Ecser, Hungary; **Éva Feldmann**, Rishon LeTsiyon, Israel; **Mireia Nieto**, Barcelona, Spain; **Emma Maxwell**, Glasgow, Scotland; **Philip Jennings**, Newport, Wales; **Catherine Cowell**, Easley, South Carolina, USA; **Suzanne Harmon**, Bentonville, Arizona, USA; **Susan McKee**, Seattle, Washington, USA; **Bradley Marchant**, Anderson, Indiana, USA; **Jeannette Pieczynski**, Liverpool, Texas, USA; **Jennifer Haughey**, Staatsburg, New York, USA; **Carter James**, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA; and **Shelbie Drake**, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA.

A huge welcome to all!

## Join the world's largest association for the genealogical profession!

With more than 2,000 professionals in 40+ countries, APG's members include genealogists, librarians, writers, editors, historians, instructors, publishers, and others involved in genealogy-related careers. Join today to access:

- Networking opportunities with other genealogy professionals
- Increased visibility with potential clients with a listing in our directory
- Professional development & business resources
- Educational resources for all experience levels
- And much more



**Membership is just USD \$120/year**

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*Reduced rates available for retired professionals.*