

PMC 2026 Registration Opens 3 June



The schedule and registration for APG's 2026 Professional Management Conference (PMC) will be available starting 3 June 2026. The PMC (to be held virtually from 14–17 October 2026) is designed to provide in-depth perspectives and valuable information on the trends affecting your career now, whether you have been taking clients for years or are just creating your business.

Join us for sessions led by experienced genealogists and industry experts covering topics like marketing, business management, writing and publishing, technology, client relationships, legal and ethical issues, and niche careers in genealogy.

Beginning 3 June, visit <https://www.apgen.org/pmc2026.php> for program details and to register.

The PMC planning team has created two tracks of programming this year: one targeted to established business professionals and a second track targeted to genealogists in business five years or less.

TRACK 1: GROWING AND MANAGING YOUR BUSINESS

Scheduled sessions include:

- Practical Approaches to Building a Multi-faceted Genealogy Business
- Creating Systems for Your Genealogy Business
- SEO Strategies for Genealogists
- Using NotebookLM as a Research Assistant
- Client Information in the Age of AI
- Accessibility for Client Reports

TRACK 2: NEW PROFESSIONALS – STARTING STRONG

Scheduled sessions include:

- Building a Genealogy Workflow That Encourages Repeat Business
- Managing Client Projects and Contractors With Google Sheets & Airtable
- Writing Reports That Educate and Satisfy
- Become a Genealogical Speaker
- Printing and Publishing Paths
- Managing, Pricing, and Growing Your Lecturing Income Stream

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Association of Professional Genealogists

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APG MISSION STATEMENT

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

APG NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

The Association of Professional Genealogists 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.

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Take advantage of the early bird discount and register by 31 August 2026 for just USD \$175 (the price increases by USD \$25 from 1 September).

Returning this year are "Tip Talks," short, focused sessions providing practical advice on topics, including working with lineage applications for professionals and using business apps and software. There will also be dedicated times for socializing and networking.

The 2026 PMC will also feature four workshops on Saturday, 17 October. For an extra fee, PMC attendees can choose from two workshops in the morning and two in the afternoon sessions. Each workshop will be two and a half hours long, providing plenty of time for interactive and actionable learning.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn from experienced genealogists and to connect with old friends and new, no matter what kind of business experience you have. PMC is your chance to invest in yourself!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:



APG BOARD MEETING
22 July 2026
2:00 p.m. Eastern (US)

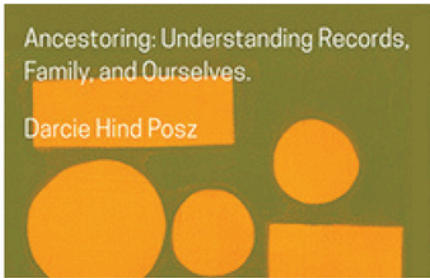
Observe the APG Board of Directors at work in 2026! Members are invited to attend meetings of the Board virtually via Zoom as the Board makes important decisions concerning association policy. We look forward to seeing you.

Register at apgen.org/events



Save 15% off the price of each of these exceptional new books!
Visit Genealogical.com and apply the code **APG16** during checkout.

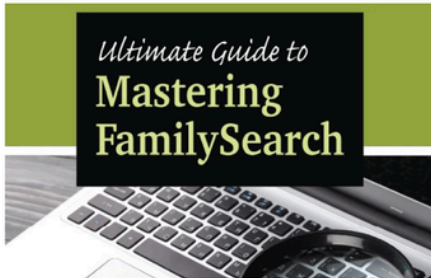
NEW RELEASES



ANCESTORING: Understanding Records, Family, and Ourselves
by Darcie Hind Posz

Ancestoring is divided into three parts. Understanding Records affirms the importance of placing records in their historical context. Understanding Family helps us to ask the question, "Why?" and to be objective when uncovering our ancestors' decisions and actions. Understanding Ourselves helps us to acknowledge our own biases in analyzing our ancestors' records and decisions.

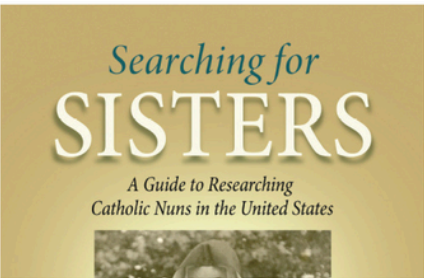
\$34.95



ULTIMATE GUIDE TO MASTERING FAMILYSEARCH
by Dana Ann Palmer

FamilySearch.com is a vast treasure trove of genealogical sources from North America and around the world, containing over 20 billion records. And, amazingly, it's FREE! Whether you are new to genealogy or an experienced genealogy professional, this guide is the best book to help you be successful finding ancestors on FamilySearch.

\$29.95-59.95



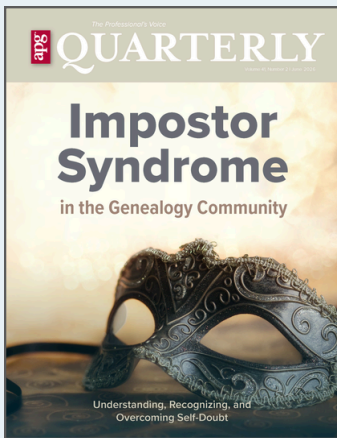
Searching for Sisters: Researching Catholic Nuns in the United States
by Sunny Jane Morton

An estimated 350,000 Catholic nuns and sisters have served people of all backgrounds in the United States—staffing schools, running hospitals, tending the wounded in war—yet they remain largely hidden in the historical record. This volume presents a step-by-step method for researching women religious through their archives, guiding readers to surviving records and revealing the impact of these remarkable women on families and local history.

\$29.95

Coming in the Next APG Quarterly

APG members and subscribers will receive the next issue of *APG Quarterly* on 10 June 2026.
In this issue:



- Impostor Syndrome in the Genealogy Community: Understanding, Recognizing, and Overcoming Self-Doubt by Suzanne Hoffman
- Working with Limitations: Navigating Professional Genealogy with a Disability by Bryna O'Sullivan
- Informed Consent: The Key to Ethical DNA Practices by Judy G. Russell, JD, CG, CGL, FUGA
- Today's LLMs: Where They Shine and Where They Fall Short by Natalie Webb
- Add Virtual Events to Your Marketing Toolkit by Joy Curtiss
- Workflow: Bug Fixes and Performance Improvements by Drew Smith, MS, MLIS
- Turn Education Overload into Intentional Growth by Rhonda Hoffman, MLS

Members can see the most recent issue of *APG Quarterly* and access the complete archive of back issues at apgen.org (login required).

Massachusetts Vital Records Access Is at Risk; APG Members Can Help

By Alec Ferretti, Advocacy Committee Chair

For nearly four centuries, Massachusetts has treated vital records as part of its public record tradition. That tradition is now at risk. Section 43 of **H.5377, a fiscal year 2026 supplemental budget bill**, would make a number of sweeping changes to Massachusetts vital records law. APG supports removing outdated and stigmatizing language from the statute, including terms such as “out of wedlock.” That reform is appropriate and overdue. But the same proposal would close public access to uncertified copies of birth and marriage records for 90 years and death records for 50 years, while also giving the Department of Public Health (DPH) broad authority to decide what information is “sensitive” and who has a “legitimate need” to see a record. The exact intention of that provision is unclear, but it likely means that the DPH could regulate access to certified copies as well, meaning that Massachusetts would become a “closed records” state. If enacted, Section 43 would replace Massachusetts’ long-standing presumption of openness with embargoes and discretionary agency control.

APG is fully committed to responsible stewardship of records. Privacy protections should be precise, evidence-based, and tailored to actual risk. Sensitive data elements, such as medical information, can be restricted, but the public should not lose access to everything simply because some information within a record may require limited redaction. A change of this magnitude should not move through a supplemental budget bill, where public debate is limited.



Massachusetts has long been one of the strongest examples of vital-record access in the United States. Undoing that tradition would set a troubling precedent for other jurisdictions and weaken the ability of APG members to serve clients, communities, and the broader historical record.

APG members can help. Massachusetts residents should contact their state representative and state senator immediately and ask them to oppose the vital record closure provisions in Section 43 of H.5377. If your own legislators serve on the Ways and Means Committees (the people who oversee the budget), your voice is especially important.

All APG members, even non-Bay Staters, can also write to the House and Senate Ways and Means chairs, Representative Aaron Michlewitz (aaron.M.Michlewitz@mahouse.gov) and Senator Michael J. Rodrigues (michael.Rodrigues@masenate.gov), as should Massachusetts residents too.

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ADVOCACY

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When writing, be specific. Explain that you oppose the proposed 90-year closure of birth and marriage records and the 50-year closure of death records. Ask legislators to preserve public access to informational, non-certified copies of vital records, protect only clearly defined sensitive data elements, and ensure that historical vital records in the State Archives remain free of restrictions.

Personal and professional examples are powerful: describe how vital records have helped you identify heirs, locate family members, support citizenship applications, document medical history, or solve long-standing research questions.

Members can also participate by educating colleagues and clients, sharing APG's concerns with Massachusetts contacts, and explaining why this proposal matters nationally. Access to records is central to APG's mission to serve genealogical and historical research communities through transparency, accessibility, and responsible preservation. You can read our letter that was submitted to the Legislature at https://www.apgen.org/docs/APG_Massachusetts_Budget_Letter_4_May_2026.pdf.

GET INVOLVED!

Advocacy Issue Report

Do you have an advocacy issue in your area or country that you would like APG to know about? Members may submit an Advocacy Issue Report at <https://www.apgen.org/advocacy.php>.

Advocacy Special Interest Group

APG members are welcome to join the Advocacy Special Interest Group (SIG), which provides support to those with an interest in advocacy issues impacting access to and preservation of historical records. The SIG convenes 2–4 times annually; there is no cost to join. Sign up at <https://members.apgen.org/members/form.php?orgcode=APG&fid=10276699>.

Advocacy Message Board

The Advocacy message board is the place to ask questions and offer insight into advocacy issues. Sign up for message boards at https://members.apgen.org/members/forum/board_list.php (login required).

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Thank you to all who helped make APG's presence at the NGS Family History Conference a success!

Our many booth volunteers (see below); President Tricia Seguine and Past President Suzanne Hoffman, kicking off our APG track speakers; APG track speakers: Lorie Cousin, Catherine Desmarais, Alec Ferretti, Hope Glidden, Chelsea Hanrahan, EvaAnne Johnson, Peggy Lauritzen, Kelvin L. Meyers and Michael Ramage; the Forensic SIG for their financial support of the track, and last but certainly not least, our booth coordinator, Jen Shaffer. We will miss her positivity and clever ideas, and wish her the best in her future business endeavors.

With every conference attendance, we generally see an uptick in enquiries and visits to the website. Unfortunately, that additional attention also can bring some unwanted guests - spammers and scammers. While newer members may not be aware of this, members who have been with us more than two years may recall that we have experienced a marked improvement in spam reduction with this web provider. My unofficial guesstimate is that spam activity has decreased by about 90%.

No system is fullproof, however. I wanted to offer a few tips when you get an inquiry that appears to be spam through an email that you know to be related to APG.

It may appear through the contact form, or perhaps someone has used the name of an APG person or chapter, but has an entirely different email. Please do not forward the message in its entirety back to the head office. Doing so risks spreading malicious code, or having another email provider mark your email as spam instead.

You can share the sender's email with us and the original message heading, which should be sufficient for us to warn other members. Speaking of notifying others, please feel free to use the message boards or chapter communication options directly to let other members know, following a similar process - just share the sender's email address and the message header.

Stay alert out there! Working together we can help each other, which is one of the best parts of belonging to APG. We are glad you are here.



Michelle Dwyer Cohen
admin@apgen.org

THANK YOU BOOTH VOLUNTEERS!

- Jenifer Kahn Bakkala
- Diana Bawn
- Tina A. Brown
- Catherine B.W. Desmarais
- Jennifer Dunn
- Theodore Georgas
- Hope Glidden
- Laura Hennessee
- Rhonda Hoffman
- Annette Burke Lyttle
- Deborah Maddox
- Candace Marx
- Jill Morelli
- Kaitlyn Pauley
- Terri Sellers
- Debbie Smyth
- Lillian Wingate

APG eNews

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2026 ICAPGen Study Groups

ICAPGen has announced deadlines for the 2026 ICAPGen Study Groups. Join them to get help preparing for the Accredited Genealogist® credentialing process. Study Group leaders are experienced AG® professionals.



Fall 2026 Test Prep Study Group

Application deadline: 1 September 2026

This group meets over Zoom every other week for a total of nine weeks. Applicants must have successfully passed the Four Generation Project OR completed a Four Generation Study Group AND submitted your project.

Winter 2027 Four Generation Study Group

Application deadline: 1 November 2026

This group meets over Zoom seven times over four months. Participants receive feedback and targeted help with their Four Generation Project. Applicants must have chosen an accreditation region and through their experience researching in the region, have most of their research completed for one generation of their Four Generation Project. Bring your most challenging generation to the group to receive feedback with the broadest relevance.

For more details or to apply, visit the Study Groups webpage at <https://icapgen.org/study-groups/> or email studygroup@ICAPGen.org.

Scenes from NGS 2026 in Fort Wayne, Indiana



Jeanette Weiden, Kate Townsend, and Megan Clark Young at the APG Member Meetup



Jenifer Kahn Bakkala, Michelle Dwyer Cohen, and Adrienne McQuillan enjoying the Member Meetup



Katie Goodwin, Terri Sellers, Hope Glidden, Jennifer Dunn, and Sarah Day at the Member Meetup



Members of the New England Chapter gather at the APG booth



Members Diana Bawn, Sally Hamblen, and Edward Dzialo socializing at the Meetup



Members Karen Kowallis and Bonnie Wade Mucia visit the APG booth in the Expo Hall

[For more pictures from NGS 2026, click here](#)

Gary Ball-Kilbourne • Gil Bardige • Blaine T. Bettinger • Katy Bodenhorn • Alice Childs • Shannon Combs-Bennett • David E. Rencher • Sarah Day • Catherine B.W. Desmarais • Sylvia Tracy Doolos • Jennifer Dunn • Nicole Elder Dyer • Diana Elder • Alec Ferretti • J.H. Fonkert • Hope Glidden • Colleen Robledo Greene • Debbie Gurtler • Laura Hedgecock • Suzanne L. Hoffman • Kate Penney Howard • EvaAnne Johnson • Ryan Johnson • Tom Jones • Claire Kluskens • Karen Kowallis • Carolyn Ladd • Peggy Lauritzen • Kelley Conner Lear • Barbara Vines Little • Steve Little • Cecelia McFadden • Angela Packer McGhie • Kelvin L. Meyers • Jill Morelli • Bonnie Wade Mucia • Judy Nimer Muhn • Shelley Viola Murphy • Amber Oldenburg • Cheri Hudson Passey • Michael Ramage • Mary Kircher Roddy • Judy G. Russell • Lori Samuelson • C. Ann Staley • Karen Stanbary • Michael L. Strauss • D. Joshua Taylor • Kate Townsend • Stewart Traidman • Robert Cameron Weir • Megan Clark Young • Jennifer Zinck

Speakers subject to change; check the official schedule for the most up-to-date information.

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. The Readiness Tool is open to all.

[Access the Readiness Tool at apgen.org](https://apgen.org)

It's Not Too Late to Attend the 2026 Professional Genealogy Symposium!

There are only a few weeks until the start of the one-day **APG Professional Genealogy Symposium** on 24 June 2026, offered in partnership with the Strathclyde Institute for Genealogical Studies (SIGS). Whether you plan to join us in person in Glasgow or attend virtually (most sessions will be available online), there is something for everyone. Visit [the event web page](#) to view the full schedule.

We designed this event as a unique opportunity to connect with peers from around the globe. Whether you are a newly established professional, a seasoned veteran of the genealogy world, or anywhere in between, there is a place for you here.

All participants will receive access to recordings about two weeks after the event and will be accessible for two months. Registration also includes access to bonus recordings, featuring sessions on UK accounting practices and professional genealogical writing.



Register today at apgen.org/pgs2026. Rates are:

- In-Person Attendance: £160
- Virtual Attendance: £110

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** on 25 and 26 June 2026.

THANK YOU TO OUR SYMPOSIUM SPONSORS

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Upcoming APG Webinars & Events

View the full calendar at apgen.org/events

Strategically Marketing Your Genealogy Business: Turning Your Passion into a Viable Business

18 June 2026

3:00–4:00 p.m. Eastern (US)

Presenter: Dr. Penny Walters

Building a successful genealogy business requires more than research expertise—it demands strategy, clarity, and a strong brand.



In this webinar, presenter Dr. Penny Walters (left) will explore how to assess readiness, define a niche, and position your services to stand out in a competitive market.

Learn how to develop a practical business plan and apply proven marketing principles, including the 4Ps and AIDA, using both digital and in-person strategies. With attention to cultural awareness, international markets, and meaningful specialization, this webinar will highlight how tailored services and consistent delivery build client trust. Gain practical tools to attract clients and support long-term, sustainable growth.

Creating a Personal Research Guide: A Professional Tool for Efficient Casework

30 July 2026

3:00–4:00 p.m. Eastern (US)

Presenter: Bonnie Wade Mucia, AG®, AGL™

Presentation underwritten by



Professional genealogists build deep expertise, but it often becomes scattered across files and notes. Join presenter Bonnie Wade Mucia (left) as she shows you how to create a digital personal research guide—a structured, reusable system that organizes locality and record-based knowledge in one place.

Learn what to include, how to structure it using tools like Excel and OneNote, and how to apply it in real time. This approach helps reduce duplicated effort, speed up research, improve consistency, and ensure key sources are not overlooked.

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

Exploring the Psychology of Genealogy with College Students

By Michael Traynor

This semester, Marist University's First Year Seminar program introduced a course called "The Psychology of Genealogy," designed and taught by Dr. Patrick O'Donnell. In the course, students were tasked with using principles of psychology to explore how connections to our past create a sense of belonging and identity. In order to engage with that question, students in Dr. O'Donnell's class learned how to build their family trees. Pretty cool, right?

I was deeply honored to have been invited by Dr. O'Donnell to teach two class sessions as a guest lecturer in the course this semester. The first lecture was on the Genealogical Proof Standard, during which I led students through a (gently challenging) case study so they could learn how to apply the five elements of the GPS and successfully prove the answer to a research question.

With the students having learned how to conduct effective research and ascertain proof like true genealogists, I was then invited back the following month to deliver my second guest lecture, this time on the subject of Genealogical Myths. Part of my aim was to introduce students to the myths that most commonly affect genealogical work, in order to strengthen their research skills (they were particularly surprised to learn the truth about Ellis Island name changes!).

But, given the psychological underpinnings of the course, I also encouraged them to consider the origins, endurance, and function of genealogical mythmaking. Hopefully by the end of class, I was able to help them better understand how and why these myths arise and inspire them to seek out the nuanced, compelling personal truths beneath those stubborn stories. It was an extremely rewarding experience, and I'm very grateful to have been asked to participate. I hope that Marist continues to offer opportunities for fledgling genealogists to explore their interests!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Michael Traynor of Pompton Plains, NJ, USA, is the owner of Moon & Yew Genealogy. A former English teacher, he researches primarily within northern New Jersey, New York City, and southern New York State, but he also has conducted extensive research on families from across the eastern and southern US, and Europe, with special focus on Jewish and Irish ancestry.

SHARE YOUR STORIES!

We would love to share your stories in a future issue of *APG eNews*!

Submit your short article to the editor at enews@apgen.org, and copy admin@apgen.org.

Call for Educators: Genealogy TV Academy

The Genealogy TV Academy is seeking educators and speakers interested in presenting genealogy and family history research topics to its membership community.

Founded in 2022, the Genealogy TV Academy grew out of the Genealogy TV YouTube channel, now the largest independent family history education channel on YouTube. The Academy focuses on helping genealogists strengthen their research skills through practical, evidence-based education and real-world research strategies.

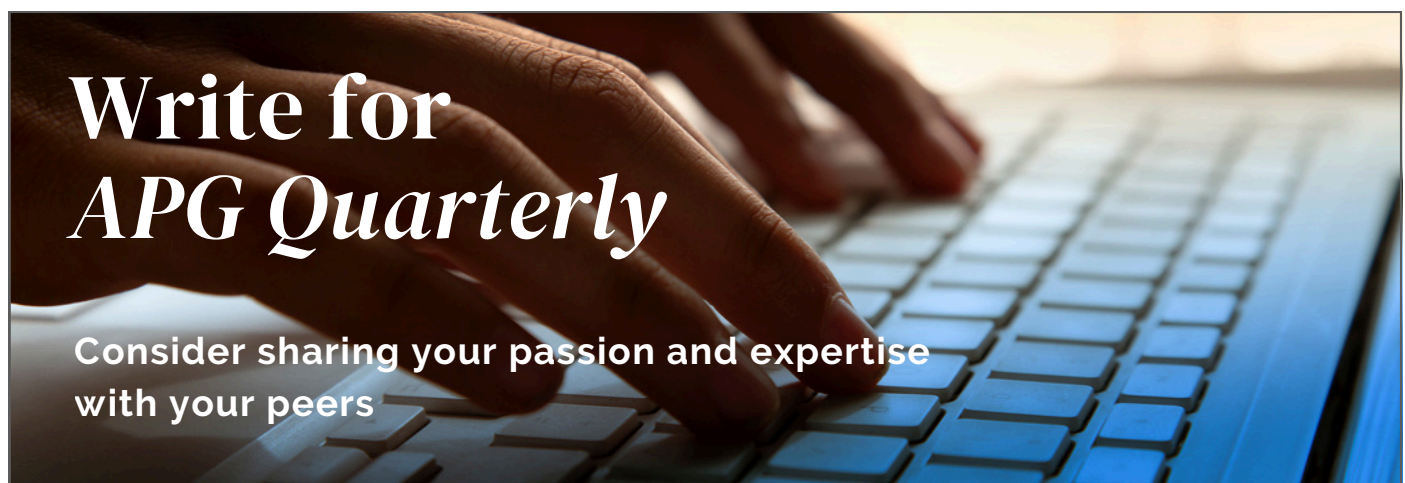
The Academy audience primarily consists of intermediate to advanced hobbyists seeking to improve their methodology, research strategy, records analysis, and overall genealogy skills. Sessions are conducted live via Zoom and include audience Q&A and downloadable handout materials. Presentations are recorded for ongoing member access within the Academy library.



The Academy is seeking presentations on a variety of genealogy-related topics including research methodology, records analysis, immigration research, DNA, military records, court and probate records, census strategies, artificial intelligence tools, international research, organization, and related family history subjects.

Speakers are compensated for their time and expertise. Preference may be given to educators who can provide examples of previous presentations or speaking experience.

Proposal submissions are currently being accepted through 31 July 2026. For additional information or to submit a proposal, visit <https://genealogytv.org/call-for-educators/>.



**Write for
APG Quarterly**

Consider sharing your passion and expertise
with your peers

SEND ARTICLE IDEAS TO:
JULIE CAHILL TARR, MANAGING EDITOR
EDITOR@APGEN.ORG

Gray Stabley and Amy Hesseldahl Named Winners of APG New Professional Scholarship

APG is pleased to announce **Gray Stabley** of South Portland, ME, USA, and **Amy Hesseldahl** of Hopewell Junction, NY, USA, as the winners of APG's 2026 New Professional Scholarship.

The **APG New Professional Scholarship** was established in 2008 to recognize and support new professionals who have a strong interest in developing a career in the genealogical field. Applicants must have five years or less of professional service in the field. Winners receive complimentary registration to APG's Virtual Professional Management Conference.



Gray Stabley grew up in Virginia but has been in Maine for the past 26 years. Following a career as an on-air meteorologist for 16 years, she earned her commercial driver's license

and drove a semi-truck cross country with her husband before starting her business, Gray Stabley Genealogy Services. Gray enjoys working on client projects of all types including finding brick wall ancestors, updating a family association book and most recently, organizing boxes of 1800s documents and scrapbooks. Gray has attended many institutes, courses, and webinars; this summer she will be attending Gen-Fed in Washington, D.C. A graduate of ProGen 61, Gray serves on the programming committee for APG's New England Chapter and is on the boards of the Maine Genealogical Society and Mount Pleasant Cemetery.



Amy Hesseldahl's path into genealogy began with a search for her father's biological parents, which revealed a profession she didn't know she was seeking. Born and raised in

Virginia, Amy now lives in the Hudson Valley of New York. Primary research is conducted in North Carolina, Virginia, and New York. She has completed the SLIG Advanced Methodologies course, Research Like a Pro Study Groups (RLP11 & DNA8), and holds a certificate from NYU in Instructional Design. Amy currently provides contract research services for a professional genealogist, with a focus on the Southern United States.

Before genealogy, Amy built a career as a professional opera singer, earning a Master of Music from the Manhattan School of Music and performing at venues such as Carnegie Hall.

Adrienne Fikes Named Recipient of 2026 Kenyatta D. Berry African American Research Scholarship



APG is pleased to announce that **Adrienne Fikes, M.Ed.** of Alexandria, VA, USA, has been selected as the winner of the organization's 2026 **Kenyatta D. Berry African American Research Scholarship.**

Adrienne has presented at RootsTech, William & Mary Lemon Project Symposium, the American Psychiatric Association Foundation, and the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture. She was selected as a BCG Paul Edward Sluby Sr. Scholar, and inducted to the Sons and Daughters of the United States Middle Passage.

The scholarship, which recognizes an aspiring professional with a significant interest in developing a career in African American genealogy, is named for former APG President Kenyatta D. Berry, in recognition of her extensive contributions to the field of genealogy, especially African American genealogy and enslaved ancestral research.

A descendant liaison with the Friends of Virginia's Central State Hospital, Adrienne is a facilitator for The Association of Black Psychologists Sawubona Healing Circles, the Vice President of Membership and Chapters for the Afro American Historical and Genealogical Society (AAHGS), and a member of the James Dent Walker DC and North Carolina Triangle Area Chapters of AAHGS.

A seventh-generation Virginian with deep roots in North Carolina, Adrienne is the creator of the **16Greats.com** Project, a TEDx speaker, and an advocate for mental health considerations in genealogy and descendant communities. Her Joy, Genealogy & Justice Framework is included in the American Association of State and Local History's Interpreting African American History and Culture Resource Kit.

The scholarship includes complimentary registration to APG's Virtual Professional Management Conference, to be held 14–17 October 2026.

DO YOU HAVE NEWS OR A RECENT PUBLICATION TO SHARE?

To share your professional news with APG colleagues, please drop a note to the editor at enews@apgen.org, and copy admin@apgen.org.

Submit Nominations for the 2026 APG Awards

Through our awards program, APG honors our members' outstanding contributions to the organization and to the field of genealogy. Members can now submit nominations on our website for several awards, as follows:

Laura G. Prescott Award for Exemplary Service to Professional Genealogy: This recognizes a career devoted to uplifting fellow genealogists and improving their career circumstances and opportunities, and dedicated service to professional genealogy.

Grahame T. Smallwood Jr. Award of Merit: The award is presented to a member who has demonstrated long-term personal commitment and outstanding service to the Association. Nominations are solicited from members of the APG Board of Directors, Chapters, and Special Interest Groups.

Kathleen W. Hinckley Professional Achievement Award: This award is given to highlight a record of exceptional professional achievement with contributions to the field of genealogy through individual excellence and ethical behavior.

Certificates of Appreciation: These certificates are awarded in recognition of outstanding, continual, or unusual contributions to APG, by a member or a non-member.



The deadline for award nominations is 1 October 2026. Honorees are selected from among the nominees by the APG Awards Committee and will be recognized at the APG Annual Meeting on 10 December 2026.

For more information about the awards including criteria, eligibility, selection process, past winners, and to access the nomination forms, please visit the Members' Area under Awards & Scholarships, or directly at

https://www.apgen.org/awards_scholarships.php (must be logged in to view).

To see a list of previous recipients, visit https://www.apgen.org/award_scholarship_recipients.php.



Kelly Renee Summers, AG®, AGL®, of Spanish Fork, UT, USA, will serve as President-Elect of the ICAPGen Board of Commissioners for 2026.



Laurianne Schell of Chestermere, Alberta, Canada, has been named the winner of the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy Laura G. Prescott Scholarship.

Members Honored by NYG&B for Advocacy Efforts

The New York Genealogical & Biographical Society (NYG&B) recently announced the winners of their Preservation in Action honor. This year's honorees included two APG members, **Alex Calzareth** and **Alec Ferretti**, both of New York, NY, USA.

Calzareth and Ferretti were selected for their efforts to champion "advocacy efforts on behalf of the family history community, particularly on record preservation and access issues." They were joined in this honor by Jan Alpert, Chair, Records Preservation and Access Coalition (RPAC). APG is a proud supporter of RPAC.



Alex (left) is a professional genealogist and CPA whose research is focused on New York City, Southwest Germany, the Czech Republic, and Southern Italy.

He is a director of **Reclaim The Records** and recently became president of the Jewish Genealogy Society of Long Island. Alex also serves as the Research Director for JewishGen's Germany Research Division.



Alec Ferretti (left) is a professional genealogist and a nationally recognized advocate for public access to historical vital records. After researching family histories for the Wells

Fargo Family & Business History Center, Alec's practice is centered on 20th-century immigrant families, and clients seeking dual citizenship. His work bridges policy and practice by working with legislators to craft legislation, leveraging freedom of information laws, and helping researchers and the public obtain records.

A frequent speaker on the law and logistics of records access, Alec is President of the New York Genealogy & Technology Group and serves on the APG Board as well as the Board of Reclaim the Records.

For more information on the Preservation in Action series, visit

<https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/preservation-in-action>.

Clemson Cemetery Hill Project Honored by NSDAR

Deborah M. Robinson of Edisto Island, SC, USA, and two colleagues from Clemson University were recently honored by the Nathanael Greene Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) with the Excellence in Historic Preservation Certificate and Medal for their work on historic preservation efforts at Cemetery Hill on the Clemson campus.

The Cemetery Hill project emerged from concerns raised by two Clemson students about the neglect of a one-acre part of the cemetery site then known as “The Fort Hill Slave and Convict Cemetery.” Following the use of ground-penetrating radar in 2020, researchers identified more than 500 unknown graves that likely hold the remains of African American enslaved persons, sharecroppers, domestic workers, tenant farmers, convicted laborers, as well as wage workers and their families.

The Cemetery Hill team includes genealogist Robinson, Professor Rhondda Thomas, Coordinator of Research and Community Engagement for the Cemetery Hill Project, and Rick Owens, Historic Preservation Officer.



From left: Rick Owens, Deborah Robinson, and Rhondda Thomas of the Cemetery Hill project accept the NSDAR Excellence in Historic Preservation Certificate and Medal in April 2026. (Photo courtesy of Clemson News)

The NSDAR honor highlighted the historic preservation efforts of the three honorees, saying they have “provided essential opportunities for students to discover their passion for historic preservation and their future pursuits, as well as involving descendants and the community through their efforts.”

Learn more about the ongoing research at Cemetery Hill, including efforts to identify those buried on the site and making connections with living descendants, at <https://www.clemson.edu/about/history/wodland-cemetery/index.html>.

Welcome New Members!

The members listed below have joined APG between 23 April 2026 and 23 May 2026; welcome to APG! Many of these new members joined as a result of taking the new **APG Professional Readiness Tool**. Share it with a friend today!

- Terri Ballard, Ball Ground, GA, USA
- Michael T. Black, Pinole, CA, USA
- Patrice Bourque, Salaberry-de-Valleyfield, QC, Canada
- Donna Susan Brandelli, North Stonington, CT, USA
- Pamelyn Bush, Bath, PA, USA
- Laura Nelson Davis, Loveland, CO, USA
- Kristy Edenfield, Cumming, GA, USA
- Martin Holland Felix, Kells, Ireland
- Ashley Marie Gallant Cote, Englewood, FL, USA
- Chris Gibson, Dringhouses, York, UK
- Katie Goodwin, Suwanee, GA, USA
- Brian Hallinan, Middletown, CT, USA
- Lesley Henderson, Plano, TX, USA
- Dawn Hutson, Runwell, Wickford, UK
- Melissa Knapp, Salem, UT, USA
- Kathie Kuruts, Round Rock, TX, USA
- Tomas Loebel, Prague, Czech Republic
- Charles Marek, Center, CO, USA
- Andrea McCarthy, Tulsa, OK, USA
- Ellen McGarrahan, Twickenham, UK
- Silke Mondon, Berlin, Germany
- Sally Niggli, Dundee, OR, USA
- Senri Ratliff, Waterloo, WI, USA
- Randy Redmond, Santa Monica, CA, USA
- Sharon Samples, Montgomery, AL, USA
- Nancy Scanlon, Bethany, CT, USA
- Daniel MacArthur Scott-Smith, Sacramento, CA, USA
- David H. Short, Sechelt, BC, Canada
- Frank Sliwinski, Luton, UK
- Shane D. Smith, Queen Creek, AZ, USA
- Dawn Stafford, Kerrville, TX, USA
- Patty Ann Taylor, Lenexa, KS, USA
- Todd Van Cantfort, Seaford, DE, USA
- Brenda Wolfe, Eagle River, WI, USA
- Ellery Wren, Plano, TX, USA



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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.



Membership is just USD \$120/year

Join at apgen.org

Reduced rates available for retired professionals.

New Way to Sign Up for Chapters and Special Interest Groups

We have simplified the signup process for members to join one or more of our Chapters and Special Interest Groups (SIGs). When you visit https://www.apgen.org/apg_sig_and_chapter_signup.php (also available on the member sign-in page), you will see a consolidated list of our 19 chapters and 6 special interest groups. You must be logged in to access this signup form.

You can then opt in to the Chapters or SIGs of your choice; please note that dues vary from group to group.

When joining a SIG, you will be redirected to a signup form or the SIG item in our online store. Some SIGs are free; for those that charge dues, after payment is received you will be added to the participant list in pending status for the Forensic or Writers' SIGs.

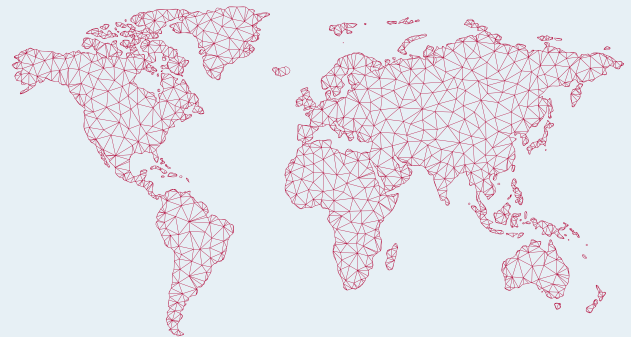
Your SIG membership will automatically appear on your membership profile and your next APG renewal statement. For full details, visit https://www.apgen.org/apg_sig_and_chapter_signup.php.

CHAPTERS

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

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

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



CHAPTERS AND SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS



The APG Heartland Chapter is celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2026! The chapter was an early adapter of online technologies in the early 2000s to accommodate members in a widespread area. Early activities included online "Litchman discussion group" sessions studying NGSQ articles, Professional Genealogy, and other articles of interest.

The Heartland Chapter sponsored two ProGen study groups, Heartland ProGen 1 and Heartland ProGen 2. The APG Golden Chapter Award was awarded to the chapter in 2008, 2011, and 2019, and the Golden Chapter Award Honorable Mention in 2017.

The Heartland Chapter provides networking and educational opportunities for APG members who reside or are researching in the states of Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska. The chapter continues to be active today with a monthly online discussion group, informal "Lunch-Bunch" activities, and local repository tours in conjunction with quarterly meetings.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **4 June 2026** - Zoom discussion group
- **18 July 2026 7:00 p.m. Central (US)** - Quarterly in-person meeting

Chapter dues are USD \$10 per calendar year. Questions? Contact APGHeartland@gmail.com.



UPCOMING MONTHLY PROGRAM

23 June 2026

2:00 p.m. EDT (US)

Part 1: Finding Your Way - Example Paths to Careers in Forensic Genealogy Panel Discussion

Panelists: Kecia G. Lifton, CG®, Wendy McLean, Alison Wilde, AIGG, and Angela J. Harris, CG®
Doors will open at 1:30 p.m. EDT (US) for networking.

The Forensic Genealogy Special Interest Group provides education, collaboration, networking, and support for those engaged in forensic genealogy business pursuits. The SIG also helps promote awareness of activities and/or laws which may affect genealogical and historical research.

CHAPTERS AND SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS



The APG Board has approved our new Writers SIG logo (above) and it's now on the SIG page of the APG website. Our APG Writers SIG Facebook page will soon feature the new logo.

RECENT PROGRAMS

Our 20 May 2025 program "Forty Years of Writing and Editing: You'd Think I'd Know What I Was Doing," was presented by Barbara Vines Little, CG®, FNGS, FUGA, FVGS. She offered great advice for our writing, particularly knowing what things we can control and what is beyond us when publishing articles and books.

UPCOMING WRITERS SIG PROGRAMS

17 June 2026

8:00 p.m. ET (US)

New York State Archives Guide—Your Turn

Join author Jane E. Wilcox, FGBS, for a Q&A session about the New York Genealogical & Biographical Society's recently published book, *New York State Archives Guide: For Family Historians, Biographers, and Historical Researchers*. Briefly learn the featured topics and highlights of the book and some insights about writing the book. Then it's your turn to ask Jane questions.

15 July 2026

A Not-So-Splendid Little Process: From Research to Publication

Presenter: Michael Strauss, AG®

19 August 2026

8:00 p.m. ET (US)

Indirect Evidence Overturns a Direct Evidence Conclusion: From Hypothesis to Published Article

Presenter: Julie Miller, CG®, CGL®

16 September 2026

8:00 p.m. ET (US)

Bringing Identities into Focus Using the Correlation Power of Airtable

Presenter: Amberly Beck, AG®

21 October 2026

8:00 p.m. ET (US)

Men of the Same Name: Research Tools & Methodology

Presenter: Rebecca Whitman Koford, CG®, CGL®

18 November 2026

8:00 p.m. ET (US)

Lessons from Locality Guides

Presenter: Jeff Damron

If any of the upcoming program topics interest you, join us on the third Wednesday of each month at 8:00 p.m. ET. SIG dues are USD \$20 annually for 11 excellent speaker presentations. Recordings of 22 past programs are available to current SIG members. Find more information on the Writers SIG at https://www.apgen.org/writers_sig.php.

CHAPTERS AND SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS



APG Colorado Chapter Annual In-person Meetup: Telecommunications History Group (THG) Museum and Archive Tour
Denver, Colorado
1 August 2026

Meet at 8:45 a.m.

Join the Colorado Chapter on Saturday, 1 August for our annual in-person meetup! This year's theme is "Filling in Between the Censuses" and we will visit the Telecommunications History Group (THG) Museum and Archive Tour. THG Archives holds phone directories from the 1890s to present for the states of Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

The tour will be followed by brunch and a meeting at Stout Street Social (nearby) at 11:00 a.m.

The tour will begin at 8:45 a.m. sharp at 931 14th St, downtown Denver. The group must start and finish the tour together. Valid photo ID required; registration details must match ID. \$10 cash donation required at the door

Sign up at <https://forms.gle/p5WoD6witutCVKXy9>
For security reasons, pre-registration is required by 20 July 2026. Sorry, we will not be able to accommodate late or last-minute registrations.



Telecommunications History Group Archive



Telecommunications History Group Museum

Continued on page 24

CHAPTERS AND SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

continued from page 23



Colorado APG member and past chapter president **Sylvia Tracy Doolos** (left) of Firestone, CO, USA, has been recognized with two distinguished honors in the genealogical

community during the past year: the 2025 Birdie Monk Holsclaw Volunteer of the Year Award and the 2026 National Genealogical Society (NGS) Award of Merit.

Awarded by the Colorado Council of Genealogical Societies (CCGS), the Birdie Monk Holsclaw Volunteer of the Year Award recognizes outstanding volunteer service and significant contributions to genealogy in Colorado. The National Genealogical Society Award of Merit honors individuals or organizations whose exceptional contributions over five or more years have significantly aided genealogical research or increased public interest in genealogy.

Sylvia's leadership and service have made a lasting impact on genealogical organizations at the local, state, and national levels. She currently serves as President of the Welsh-Irish-Scottish-English Family History Society.

In recent years, she has served as President of the Colorado APG chapter and Membership Chair for the International Society for British Genealogy and Family History.

In addition to organizational leadership, Sylvia volunteers with the Denver Public Library and Carbon Valley Regional Library, where she assists patrons, mentors new researchers, and supports welcoming genealogy communities. Through her presentations, mentorship, and volunteerism, she has strengthened genealogical education and inspired researchers throughout Colorado and beyond.

Please join us in congratulating Sylvia Tracy Doolos on these well-deserved honors and in thanking her for her continued leadership, service, and commitment to the genealogical community.

Look for a full list of members honored at NGS in the July 2026 issue of APG eNews

CHAPTERS AND SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS



On 5 May 2026, the Northern and Southern California Chapters of APG merged into the newly named Golden State Chapter. We voted on a logo (featuring the state flower, a California poppy), elected a treasurer (Tracey Povine-McMartin), and heard Darcie Posz speak about her new book, *Ancestroring: Understanding Records, Family, and Ourselves*.

The new chapter is open to any APG member in good standing. We do not take dues. We hold quarterly Zoom meetings, organize field trips to repositories, and are working on a county-based resource for the state.

Our **next chapter meeting will be via Zoom on 4 August 2026**. Upcoming field trips include a visit to Mendocino County in August and participation in the Sacramento Archives Crawl on 17 October 2026. For details on the Archives Crawl, visit www.sacramentoarchivescrawl.com.

For more information, contact Jamie Mayhew at jamie_mayhew@californiacousins.com.

Welcome to Our New Officers



President:
Linda Okazaki



Chapter Liaison:
Jamie Mayhew



Treasurer:
Tracey Provine-McMartin



**Facebook Manager &
Communications Assistant:**
Phil James



eNews Content:
Jennifer Dix

CHAPTERS AND SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS



Members of the Southeast Chapter gathered for a photo at NGS 2026

BODY DOUBLING SESSIONS

Fridays at 10:00 a.m. ET (US)

The Southeast Chapter is now hosting weekly, one-hour body doubling sessions every Friday at 10:00 a.m. ET (US). Need to find some accountability or motivation? Come once, come often! Register at

<https://members.apgen.org/Calendar/moreinfo.php?eventid=220665>.

These sessions are open to any APG member who needs the accountability or motivation to work on any research or writing projects. We'll take a few minutes to say what we are working on; cameras will remain on, and microphones off. The chat function can be used to ask questions.

Learn more about body doubling.

CHAPTER MEET-UPS

If you're interested in meeting up with us at any of these events, email apgsoutheast@apgen.org

- **South Carolina Genealogical Society Summer Workshop**, 17-18 July 2026
Columbia, SC
- **North Carolina Genealogical Society Conference**, 18-19 September 2026
Raleigh, NC

WEEKLY CHATS

All APG members welcome! Drop-in to our weekly chats to find a welcoming place for your professional (or personal) genealogy woes and triumphs.

Tuesday Weekly Chats at 7:30 p.m. EDT (US)

Register at

<https://members.apgen.org/Calendar/moreinfo.php?eventid=191159>

- 2 June 2026
- 16 June 2026
- 30 June 2026

Friday Weekly Chats at 1:00 p.m. EDT (US)

Register at

<https://members.apgen.org/Calendar/moreinfo.php?eventid=191158>

- 12 June 2026
- 26 June 2026



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review your input and make suggestions to
appropriate APG committees to make
changes and update systems as needed.

To have your say, contact
listening@apgen.org.