

In this issue...

- APG 2026 Fellowship Applications are Open
- Strathclyde Institute for Genealogical Studies to Host APG Professional Genealogy Symposium in 2026
- It's Time to Submit Nominations for the Annual APG Awards!

Association of Professional Genealogists
apgen.org

Executive Director
Michelle Dwyer Cohen
admin@apgen.org

President
Suzanne L. Hoffman
president@apgen.org

Vice President
Karin Coppernoll

Secretary
Peggy Clemens Lauritzen, AG

Treasurer
Tricia Seguire

Board of Directors
apgen.org/team

APG eNews Editor
Chris Paton
enews@apgen.org

Contact us:
P.O. Box 2369, Poulsbo, WA 98370, USA

Find us online:
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APG eNEWS



Association of Professional
GENEALOGISTS

Vol. 13, No. 9, September 2025

APG 2026 Fellowship Applications are Open

Applications are now open for the APG Fellowship, a funded, short-term opportunity for a professional genealogist to undertake a program focused on professional, academic, and/or personal development related to their practice. The Fellowship must be undertaken outside of the recipient's country of legal residence. Apply today!

The Fellowship program is designed to:

- Provide opportunities for cultural immersion, expanding both professional and personal networks, experiential learning, and professional development.
- Support professional genealogists with demonstrated capacity for high-quality research and leadership.
- Promote APG as an organization of international scope that values contributions developed abroad.
- Demonstrate APG's commitment to the growth and expansion of members' experience, knowledge, and professional potential.

The winner of the 2025 Fellowship was Lisa M. Vogele, who planned to research passport collections between 1850–1950 in the Genoa, Livorno, Savona, Treviso, and Turin State Archives. Her plans also included digitally documenting the condition and scope of the records, and to develop a field guide to Italian passports.



For further details on requirements and eligibility for the fellowship, as well as the application, please visit https://www.apgen.org/apg_fellowship.php. The deadline to apply is 15 November 2025.

The International Affairs Committee (IAC) reviews all applications and makes recommendations to the Executive Committee about the selected recipient. The IAC is chaired by David Ryan and members include Cinda Baxter, AG, CG, QG, Andre A.M. Carneiro, Rose Lerer Cohen, PhD, Lene Draeby Kottal, CG, and Cathie Sherwood.

Still Time to Register for the 2025 Professional Management Conference!

There are only a few short weeks until the 2025 Virtual Professional Management Conference.

BUILD YOUR SKILLS ↔ **GROW YOUR BUSINESS**

PMC 2025

VIRTUAL PROFESSIONAL MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

Don't miss your chance to attend this enriching and educational event from 18–20 September, packed with valuable sessions, renowned speakers, and networking opportunities.

- **Expert Speakers:** Gain insights from leading experts who will share their latest findings and techniques.
- **Networking Opportunities:** Connect with fellow genealogists and researchers from around the world, expanding your professional network and fostering collaboration.
- **Diverse Sessions:** Attend sessions covering various topics and skill levels, ensuring you find content that matches your interests and experience.

View the full program and register today at <https://www.apgen.org/pmc2025.php>. If you have any questions, please email assistance@apgen.org.

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International Council of Association of Professional Genealogists





Family Matters - This turnkey solution combines archive-quality scanning, recording, and story creation—trusted by SLAMs (Societies, Libraries, Archives, and Museums) across America—with education in photo organization, storytelling, Photo Reminiscence Therapy (pRT), and photography skills. Vivid-Pix.com/FamilyMatters



In addition to providing meaningful activities in home, for residents, and for patrons, centered on their treasured memories, the **Family Matters Program** can also help increase facility visits and sales by offering family activity, community services and assisting with downsizing.



Uniting Experts to Preserve History & Promote Aging Well

We're leading an Aging Well / Family History / Genealogy initiative in collaboration with the National Genealogical Society, FamilySearch, and respected leaders in the aging community—including Dr. Charlotte Yeh, former Chief Medical Officer at AARP—as well as trusted individuals and organizations in the family history field who are committed to engaging the aging community. Vivid-Pix.com/NGS-symposium



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! **Members > Publications > APG Quarterly**

Strathclyde Institute for Genealogical Studies to host APG Professional Genealogy Symposium in 2026

Join us in Glasgow, Scotland, UK for the one-day **APG Professional Genealogy Symposium on 24 June 2026** in partnership with the Strathclyde Institute for Genealogical Studies (SIGS), based at the University of Strathclyde (right). Sessions will be led by industry experts and will cover topics such as the expansion of your genealogy business, client deliverables, financial considerations, productivity tools, cross-border marketing, ethical and legal issues, and much more.

There will be two options for attending:

- Join us in person and experience the energy of Glasgow, a vibrant and welcoming city full of culture and creativity.
- Tune in from the comfort of your home worldwide.



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. Join both events and enjoy an immersive genealogy experience!



Register to receive further information on pricing, sessions, and speakers, as it becomes available, at <https://members.apgen.org/members/form.php?orgcode=APG&fid=9048589>.

For further information on the Strathclyde Institute for Genealogical Studies visit <https://www.strath.ac.uk/studywithus/centreforlifelonglearning/genealogy/>.

APG Mission Statement

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

It's Time to Submit Nominations for the Annual 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.
- **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 15 October 2025. Honorees are selected from among the nominees by the APG Awards Committee and will be recognized at the APG Annual Meeting on 16 December 2025 at 2:00 p.m. ET. (Visit <https://www.timeanddate.com> for worldwide time equivalents.)

For more information about the awards including criteria, eligibility, selection process, and to access the nomination forms, please visit the Members' Area under **Awards & Scholarships**, or directly at https://www.apgen.org/awards_scholarships.php.

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;

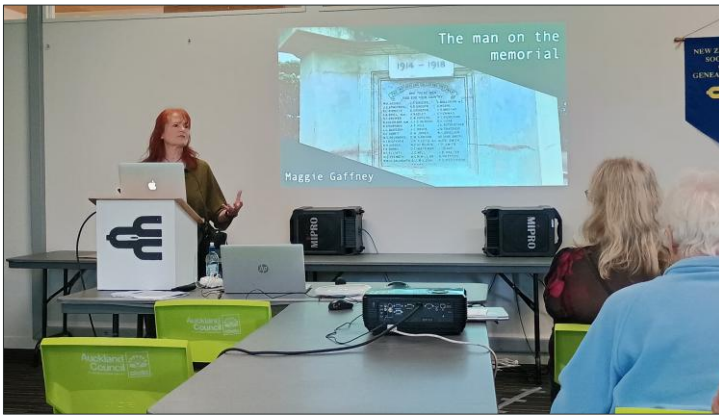
(3) careful and respectful treatment of records, repositories and their staffs, other professionals, and genealogical organizations and associations.

For details on the code please visit https://www.apgen.org/code_of_ethics.php

APG Members Participate at New Zealand Expos

In August, APG members participated at two major family history conferences in Christchurch and Auckland, both in person and virtually via Zoom. At the Christchurch Family History Expo, held at the city library from 2-3 August, Fiona Brooker, Chris Paton and Dr. Sophie Kay gave presentations. The following weekend, at the Auckland Family History Expo from 8-10 August, held at the Fickling Centre in Three Kings, Fiona Brooker, Maggie Gaffney, Helen Smith, Shauna Hicks OAM, Dr. Leah Larkin, Chris Paton, and Dr. Sophie Kay participated. Both events were a resounding success and provided another useful opportunity for members of the Australia and New Zealand Chapter to meet.

Are you speaking at an upcoming event or have recently presented? If so, please send an email with the details to communications@apgen.org and we will include it in a future issue of *eNews*.



Top left: Maggie Gaffney speaking in Auckland. Top right: Fiona Brooker speaking at the Christchurch event.
Bottom: (L-R) APG eNews editor Chris Paton, and APG Australia and New Zealand branch members Marie Croot, Maggie Gaffney, Gail Tanner, Fiona Brooker, Nicola Sherrock, and Zoe Pullman.
Photos courtesy Chris Paton.



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Michelle Dwyer Cohen



What's happening at the head office this month? It certainly feels like everything, everywhere, all at once!

The PMC committee is working hard to put the final touches on our event, scheduled for 18-20 September. This year, we are not using the Whova platform for the event, so registrants, please check your inbox for an instructional email to make sure you are ready to go on the morning of Thursday 18 September. Don't worry, it's easy!

Everyone is excited about our first partnership event with the University of Strathclyde in 2026, and there's a lot to do to get that ready for registrants. APG will invite speakers for our symposium this year; the University plans to open a call for proposals for their event. You can read more about this on p.4.

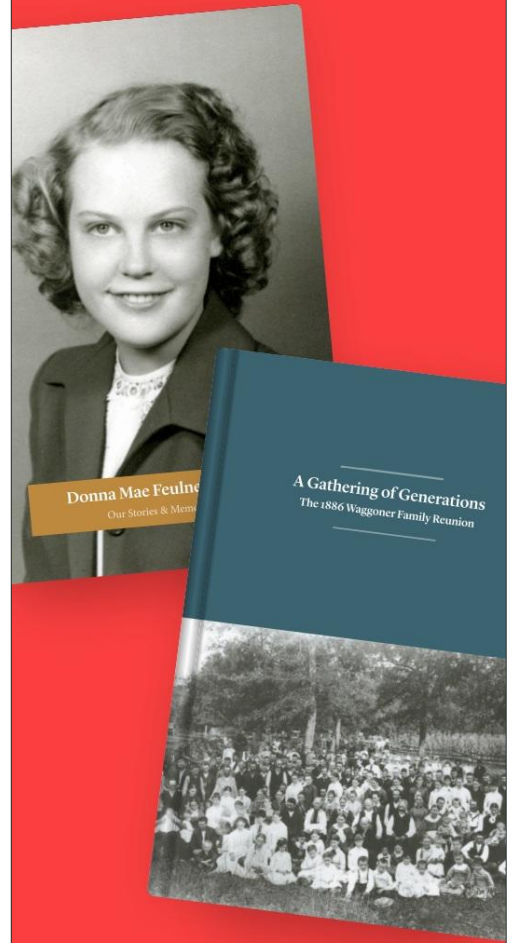
The 2026 Fellowship application is open, and I know the International Affairs Committee cannot wait to see what members will submit. If you are attending the PMC, and want to ask questions about the Fellowship, you will be able to do that during a session on Friday afternoon. If you are not attending, please send questions to Kaye Ford at assistance@apgen.org and she will make sure we get you the information that you need.

It's also time to be thinking about how you would like to volunteer for APG. We are an organization that runs on the power of volunteers. The time to apply for a Board or Nominations committee position has passed, but soon a new slate of officers and board members will need to fill seats on committees for 2026, and we would love to hear from you! Tell us what you like to do and what your interests are [here](#).

Finally, please take a moment to think about the members you know who work hard all the time for APG and for the genealogy community as a whole. This is the time of year that we open our award nominations, and the awards committee is looking forward to your submissions for this year's winners.

Until next month!

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- Global searching of all our eBooks – what a time saver!
- Set Book marks, make Notes, and find Citations in every book!
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Connect with Other Genealogy Professionals

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.

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
- Second Life
- South Central
- Southeast
- Southern California
- Utah

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

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



APG Members at the IAJGS Conference in Indiana

APG had a wonderful time at the 45th International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) conference in Fort Wayne, Indiana, 10-14 August 2025. Twenty-four APG members were speakers, and our presence was managed by APG president Suzanne Hoffman, also one of the speakers.

Welcome to all the new members who joined us during the event, and a big thank you to all the volunteers who helped staff a very busy booth.



Top (L-R): APG members and speakers Nancy Levin, Adina Newman, and Drew Smith. Bottom: Booth volunteers (L-R), Kate Penney Howard, Lori Samuelson, and Kaye Ford. Photos courtesy Suzanne Hoffman.

Forthcoming Professional Development Events

The following public webinar events will take place online in September and October. Please visit <https://www.timeanddate.com> for worldwide time equivalents.

Beyond Research Reports: Diversifying and Thriving as a Professional Genealogist

10 September 2025 at 4:00–5:30 p.m. ET

Presenter: Jennifer Dunn

This presentation is underwritten by **Storied**



This webinar will explore creative ways professional genealogists are diversifying their services, from house histories and Centennial Farm applications to family reunion videos and heirloom books. The talk will also include candid lessons from the speaker's own journey, including business pitfalls to avoid and strategies to build a sustainable, rewarding genealogy practice.

To register for this event please visit <http://bit.ly/41jHgRM>.

From Research to Reach: Marketing Your Genealogy Business Using Social Media

23 October 2025, 4:00–5:30 p.m. ET

Presenter: Amber Oldenburg



Discover how to harness the power of social media to grow your genealogy business and personal brand. This webinar will offer strategies tailored for professional genealogists to connect with clients and showcase expertise. Learn what platforms work best, content strategies, practical tips, and how to stay consistent without burnout.

To register for this event please visit <http://bit.ly/3ViR0rM>.

APG Board Meeting in October

The next APG Board meeting will be held 22 October 2025 at 2:00 p.m. ET via Zoom (for worldwide time equivalents please visit <https://www.timeanddate.com>). All current APG members are welcome to attend. Closed Captioning will be available. Register for the event [here](#).

APG is now on



Bluesky

Follow us [@apgenealogists.bsky.social](https://apgenealogists.bsky.social)

APG Committees

APG has sixteen committees currently serving the organization. You can find details on their members and work at

<https://apgen.org/committees.php>

New in the APG Webinar Library: Navigating the Genealogical Business Landscape in Latin America

This panel discussion featured APG members based in Latin America who talked about the day-to-day reality of running a genealogy business in Brazil, Panama, and Mexico, as well as a discussion on the overall genealogy scene in Latin America. The panelists were André Ablá (Brazil), Adrienne McQuillan (Panama) and Virgilio Garza Zambrano (Mexico), with the discussion facilitated by Luis Ariel Rivera of New York.

To access the recording, visit the Members Area at <http://bit.ly/3Jyc2QE>.



Left to right: André Ablá Monteiro Carneiro; Adrienne McQuillan; Virgilio Garza Zambrano; and Luis Ariel Rivera

VIRTUAL

British Institute

October 6-10, 2025

English Research: The Fundamentals and Beyond

with Paul Milner, M.Div., FUGA

ISBGFH.COM/BI

MEMBERS' NEWS

Congratulations to History Maker Ricki King

Congratulations to former APG Board member Ricki King, who will be recognized as a 'History Maker' by the African American Museum of Iowa at its History Makers Gala on 2 October 2025 (<https://blackiowa.org/events/gala/>). The museum defines a History Maker as someone who "by their actions, modifies the course of history, imparting knowledge and impacting the communities in which we live," fulfilling the roles of Trailblazer, Change Agent, Legacy Maker, and Role Model within the African American community in Iowa.

Ricki is a certificate holder in Boston University's Genealogical Research program and holds a history degree. She has written for the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*, and has presented for the Iowa History 101 Series, Iowa Genealogical Society Conference, and at local public libraries. In Spring/Summer 2021, Ricki worked with the Forever Free Pilot Mentoring Program, mentoring students researching twenty-two people buried at Woodland Cemetery in Des Moines, Iowa, and helped Woodland Cemetery become part of the National Park Service's National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom on 30 September 2021. In addition, she worked with History Quest, recording videos containing the Forever Free program's Underground Railroad research. Ricki's efforts also contributed to the opening of all Iowa death records after fifty years.



Newly Accredited Genealogist

Congratulations also to Sarah Day, AG, on receiving her Accredited Genealogist (AG) credential from the International Commission for the Accreditation of Professional Genealogists (<https://icapgen.org>).

Changes at GenProof Study Groups

Congratulations to members Eva Holmes (left), who has taken over as Program Administrator of GenProof Study Groups, and Hope Glidden (right), now serving as Program Coordinator. APG members Patricia Reed, who served as Administrator since 2022, and Jenny Grinell, Coordinator since 2023, both retired after a successful Spring 2025 session.



GenProof Study Groups is a volunteer-driven program under the ProGen Study Group umbrella, which offers genealogists a guided eight-week exploration of *Mastering Genealogical Proof* by Thomas W. Jones. Participants engage in small-group, mentor-led discussions on Zoom, working through weekly readings and homework assignments designed to provide hands-on experience with the Genealogical Proof Standard.

APG members interested in mentoring a study group in the future are asked to contact Eva via eva@blindhopes.com to discuss.

CHAPTER AND SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP (SIG) NEWS

Mid-Atlantic Chapter



We have many events this month – please visit <https://www.timeanddate.com> for worldwide time equivalents.

Exploring archives is always an adventure! On 20 August, Mid-Atlantic APG hosted a behind-the-scenes tour of the **Philadelphia City Archives** for nine APG members, followed by lunch at **Yards Brewing Co.** Highlights included deeds dating from 1683, mortgages from 1736, almshouse and court records starting in the 1750s, vital records beginning in 1860, and even the 1929 arrest record of Al Capone! Our next behind-the-scenes tour, co-hosted with the **New Jersey Chapter**, will take place at the **New Jersey State Archives and State Library** on 21 October. Details and sign-up information coming soon.



APG members at Philadelphia City Archives. Front row (L-R): Susan Evans and Alaine Keisling. Second row: Randi Koenig, Sarah Fullem, Joanna Tiger, Deborah Hoskins, Milissa Boyer Kafes, Erin Pittman, and Marlise Gross. Image: Theresa Condon.

Forthcoming events:

ICAPGen Accreditation: Elevate Your Mid-Atlantic Expertise

Wednesday, 24 September, 7 p.m. ET

Register: <http://bit.ly/4fSu8c7>

Join us for a focused look at ICAPGen accreditation—what it is, why it matters, and how it applies to your professional work.

continued on p. 14

continued from p. 13

Many Mid-Atlantic-area genealogists already have the deep knowledge and research experience that ICAPGen requires—yet only a small number have pursued the Mid-Atlantic credential. This session will demystify the process and show how accreditation can validate and strengthen the skills you’ve been developing for years.

Our panel includes:

- Michelle Tucker Chubenko, AG, AGL, a New Jersey-based professional accredited in the U.S. Mid-Atlantic region
- Eva Holmes, CG, AG, accredited in the U.S. New England region and based in Maine
- Karen Kowallis, AG, ICAPGen Commissioner, accredited in England, and based in New York
- Laurel Haas, of Greene Roots LLC, based in Rhode Island and pursuing accreditation in the U.S. Upper South



Left to right: Michelle Tucker Chubenko, AG, AGL, Eva Holmes, CG, AG, Karen Kowallis, AG, and Laurel Haas

Whether you’re curious about the process, actively working toward a credential, or just want to better understand how ICAPGen fits into the professional genealogy landscape, this session is for you.

Other September Activities from the Mid-Atlantic Chapter:

Mid-Atlantic Chat

Thursday, 4, 11, and 25 September, 12:00 noon ET. Register: <http://bit.ly/475QO6t>

A weekly opportunity to talk genealogy. (Please note: no chat on 18 September during PMC.)

Tech Exchange: Formatting Fixes for Polished Writing

Sunday, 7 September, 7:00 p.m. ET

Register: <http://bit.ly/3VhnVgk>

Tired of fighting with formatting in your reports? This session will cover styles, non-breaking spaces, line breaks, tables, tab stops, cross-references, and other quick fixes to make your reports look professional and save time. Bring your favorite shortcuts too—this will be a practical, tip-sharing session for all levels.

Second Tuesday: Reconstructing Communities Through Records

Tuesday, 9 September, 12:00 noon ET.

Register: <http://bit.ly/3JMArBX>

Explore the extensive genealogical resources available at the Genealogy Center of the Allen County Public

continued on p. 15

continued from p. 14

Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana—home to the nation's second-largest genealogy collection. The librarian-led discussion will include navigating the Center's print materials, microfilm holdings, and online databases, with guidance on how to use these resources most effectively. Special emphasis will be placed on the Center's collections related to the Mid-Atlantic region.

Mid-Atlantic Board Meeting

Wednesday, 10 September at 7:00 p.m. ET

Open to all Mid-Atlantic members, check your email for the link.

Mid-Atlantic FORGEN study group

Sunday, 28 September, at 7:00 p.m. ET

Topic: Chapter 7: Dual Citizenship, with special guest Rich Venezia

Check the FORGEN Facebook group for the link.

Happy Hour with Hope! chat

Monday, 29 September, 7:00 p.m. ET

Register: <http://bit.ly/3Ulc0bm>

Come chat about all things genealogical.

Mid-Atlantic PMC Special

Join or renew your Mid-Atlantic membership during PMC, and it will run through December 2026! To do so, please complete our membership form, available at <http://bit.ly/41NAhR6>. Annual dues are USD \$20. To pay dues, please visit <http://bit.ly/4INfeW7>.



Southeast Chapter



Chapter members: want to network? Problem-solve? Commiserate? Ask a business question? Drop in to our weekly chats to find a welcoming place for your professional (or personal) genealogy woes and triumphs. And to the wider APG membership, if you have run into a Southeastern genealogy problem, we know that research in our rascally little region can be difficult, so do please drop in and ask questions anytime!

Members Chat: afternoon edition 1:00 p.m. ET, on Friday 5 September and Friday 19 September.

Members Chat: evening edition 7:30 p.m. ET, on Tuesday 9 September and Tuesday 23 September.

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

For the Tuesday events, register at <http://bit.ly/41APBYh>. For our Friday sessions, visit <http://bit.ly/41jWRk6>.

Puget Sound Chapter



We will be holding the following virtual sessions in the coming months, with our theme for 2025 focused on building community (please visit <https://www.timeanddate.com> for worldwide time equivalents):

Understanding Copyright & Plagiarism, with Drew Smith

22 September 2025, 7:00 p.m. PT. Register [here](#).

Drew Smith is an internationally-recognized genealogy educator, known for speaking, writing, podcasting, and graduate-level teaching. He holds a BS in Electrical and Computer Engineering, an MS in Industrial Management, and an MA in Library and Information Science. Drew is best known for being the co-host of The Genealogy Guys Podcast, the host of the Genealogy Connection podcast, the productivity columnist for the *Association of Professional Genealogists Quarterly (APGQ)*, and one of the founders/admins for The Genealogy Squad Facebook group. He is vice-president of Aha! Seminars, Inc.

Building Community: Accountability Groups, Mentorship and Facebook, Pam Pracser Anderson, CG

27 October 2025, 7:00 pm PT. Register [here](#).



Pam Pracser Anderson created and manages the award winning (NGS 2024) Certification Discussion Group's Accountability Group, and Mentorship program, supporting BCG portfolio writers.

Pam will describe the program and how this builds community in a virtual world.

My CGG Journey, with Mary Kircher Roddy, CG, CGG

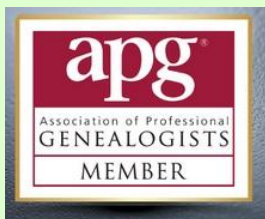
24 November 2025, 7:00 pm PT. Register [here](#).



Mary Kircher Roddy, CG, CGG and member of PS-APG, will explain her journey to acquiring the relatively new offering of the Certified Genetic Genealogist (CGG) credential from the Board for Certification of Genealogists.

Please note that there will be no meeting in December.

For further details on the chapter, and how to join, visit our website at <https://psapg.wordpress.com>.



*You can purchase an **APG Membership Pin** via our website's Store, located in the Members' Area. The pin is 1 by 1 1/4 inches, and the image is vinyl on brass and covered with an epoxy dome coating. It features an anti-rotational spur to keep the logo straight. The price is US \$10, plus shipping.*

South Central Chapter



South Central Chapter has a lot of exciting things planned for this fall! For all events listed, please visit <https://www.timeanddate.com> for worldwide time equivalents.

15 September Meeting at 7:00 p.m. CT

Join members as we discuss continuing education and professional development opportunities.

29 September *Stirpes* Study Group at 6:30 p.m. CT

We will be discussing the 2025 article, *Mysteries Solved! Case Studies in Cracking Death and Burial Puzzles*.

Stirpes Study Group

In collaboration with the Texas State Society of Genealogists, South Central Chapter is offering a 'study group' where members get special access to articles in the TXSGS publication, *Stirpes*.

20 October at 7:00 p.m. CT Project Infant – Ireland

A conversation with a genealogical activist.

27 October at 6:30 p.m. CT *Stirpes* Study Group

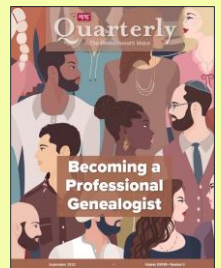
We will be discussing the 2025 article, *Quest for a True Death Location: Newspapers Prove to be a Valuable Resource*

To register for any or all of our events, visit tinyurl.com/sccapgmmeetings.

For further information on our chapter please visit our dedicated webpage at <https://southcentralapg.org>.

Past editions of APGQ

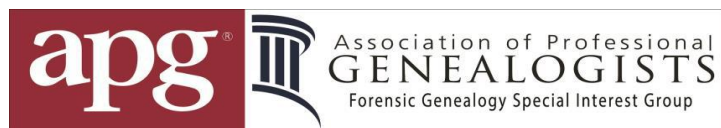
Looking for *APG Quarterly* articles on specific topics or by title? The [APGQ Index](#) is a searchable PDF file organized by general topic, and then by article title, for all editions up to 2023. The Index can be accessed on the *APG Quarterly* archive page.



Do you have news to share?

If you have news that you would like to share with APG colleagues, please drop a note to eNews Editor Chris Paton at enews@apgen.org, and copy Executive Director Michelle Dwyer Cohen at admin@apgen.org

Forensic SIG



“Contingency Fees in Europe” presented by Markus Schönherr and Hector Birchwood.

Tuesday, 16 September 2025 2:00 p.m. ET. **Please note the date and time change.**

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

Doors will open at 1:30 p.m. for networking.

In this session, Markus and Hector will compare different points of view on contingency-fee work, to aid members in understanding when it might not be uncommon, and under which circumstances it could be considered ethical.



Markus Schönherr has worked as a professional genealogist since 2010, based in Vienna, Austria. He focuses on probate genealogy, i.e., finding living relatives of deceased persons, as potential heirs for an estate. Apart from his native German, and English, he is fluent in Romanian and Hungarian. He specializes in research in Vienna, the rest of Austria, Germany, and neighboring countries Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovenia, Slovakia, and parts of Romania, Poland, Croatia, and Serbia, mainly from the 19th century to the present.



Hector Birchwood is the co-founder and owner of Celtic Research; an investigative company engaged in the business of locating missing heirs. They have been in business for nearly 23 years and have an enviable track record recovering unclaimed assets for individuals worldwide. Celtic Research provides services to solicitors, trustees and private individuals acting as Estate Administrators/ Executors who require their skills and contacts to identify, locate and document legal heirs, as well as facilitate estate administration and prevent fraud.

Forensic SIG Membership Meeting Dates for 2025

- 16 September 2025 – “Contingency Fees in Europe” – Marcus Schönherr & Hector Birchwood
- 28 October 2025 – “Forensic Investigations – Case Study” – Robert Taft from Moxxy
- 9 December 2025 – “Dual Citizenship: Italian, Polish, Irish” – Franchesca Werden, Michal Petrus, David Ryan. **Please note the date and time change.**

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. For further details visit https://www.apgen.org/special_interest_groups.php.

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 19 July and 18 August 2025:

Ranielle Macedo, Natal, Brazil; **Brian Nash**, Middleton, Prince Edward Island, Canada; **Mike Hamilton**, Surrey, British Columbia, Canada; **Daniele Sedda**, Milano, Italy; **Maria Madero Cacep**, Ciudad de Mexico, Mexico; **Ester de Lau**, Hilversum, Netherlands; **Zoe Pullman**, North Shore, Auckland, New Zealand; **Dean Kirby**, Manchester, England; **Andrea Flores**, Buda, Texas, USA; **Susan Morris**, Ventura, Colorado, USA; **Brenda Williams**, Roselle Park, New Jersey, USA; **Mauricio Navarro Asperó**, Coppell, Texas, USA; **Jensen Cordon**, Statesville, North Carolina, USA; **John Danielson**, Bowling Green, Kentucky, USA; **Patricia Nieshoff**, Lexington, Massachusetts, USA; **Barbara Caudill**, Louisville, Kentucky, USA; **Tiffanie Cortazzo**, State College, Pennsylvania, USA; **Tracy Neely**, Mobile, Alabama, USA; **Charles D. Bury**, Greenbelt, Maryland, USA; **Anthony Delgado**, Adkins, Texas, USA; **Barbara Pedersen**, Goldsboro, North Carolina, USA; **Travis Franklin**, New Albany, Indiana, USA; **J. P. Marthia**, East Aurora, New York, USA; **Tony Sines**, Wichita, Kansas, USA; **Pamela Jansury**, Fort Collins, Colorado, USA; **Jeffrey Paull**, Clayton, California, USA; **Patty Hankins**, Bethesda, Maryland, USA; **Shaun Klee**, Grand Island, Nevada, USA; **Jeanie Watts**, Frederick, Maryland, USA; **Beri Kaplan Schwitzer**, Dallas, Texas, USA; **Vickie Chupurdia**, Duluth, Minnesota, USA; **Jeffrey Corkery**, Brighton, Massachusetts, USA; **Chris Twing**, Leander, Texas, USA; **April Goldenberg**, Kensington, Maryland, USA; **Janice Smithers**, Coloma, Wisconsin, USA; **Marion Werle**, North Hills, California, USA; **Greg Gadren**, Washington, D.C., USA; **Meredith Hodge**, Marietta, Georgia, USA; **Traci Austin**, Huntsville, Texas, USA; and **Jenny Rappaport**, Marlboro, New Jersey, USA.

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