State Historical Society Periodicals
Treasures Beyond the Articles

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On the Three Rivers
Past, Present & Future
2018 FGS Conference - August 22-25 - Fort Wayne, IN
Spring cleaning isn’t just for our homes. It’s a process we, as not-for-profit leaders, should undertake in our organizations as well. Our organizations were founded on certain goals and principles with a particular audience in mind in the family history marketplace. Yet the world around us has changed dramatically since many of our organizations were first formed. In the 40-plus years the Federation has been around, mobile phones have gone from the size of a brick that only made calls to a handheld computer more powerful than most of our desktops. The Internet has expanded our reach, just as it has expanded individual access to all manner of family history resources. Social media connects us to our family and fellow researchers all across the globe at a moment’s notice. The genetic genealogy revolution is changing not only how we engage in family history ourselves, but also opens up a whole new audience to who we are and what we do.

As not-for-profits, as well as individual family historians, it is up to us to stay abreast of these changes and adjust accordingly. That is much easier to do as individual researchers than as volunteer organizations. Change happens around us far more quickly than it happens within our organizations. Change is relentless. We either do the hard work of keeping up with it or we fall behind until we can no longer support our organizations or meaningfully engage in our beloved hobby.

I am happy to share with you, our readers, that the Federation has been engaged over the last year in a deep look internally at who we are and how best we can serve the family history community for the next 40 years. There is still much work to do, but we are excited for the future. I look forward to sharing our progress in the months ahead.

Hope to see you in Fort Wayne!

Rorey Cathcart, FGS President
FGS PURPOSE

Founded in 1976, the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) is a not-for-profit organization comprised of hundreds of genealogical/historical societies and libraries.

The purpose of FGS is to organize into a federation those genealogical or historical societies, family associations, library or archival institutions, other organizations, and individuals with similar interests that: promote genealogy, family history, and family associations; collect, preserve, and disseminate genealogical knowledge and information; encourage public access to and preservation of records of genealogical value; and promote ethical standards in genealogical research and practices.

The Federation actively represents and protects societies, coordinates and facilitates their activities, and monitors events that are critical to the future of genealogy. The Federation aims to serve the needs of member societies, provide products and services to improve organizational management, and marshal the resources and national efforts of historical and genealogical organizations.

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Societies or organizations wishing information on membership should visit our website at http://fgs.org, e-mail us at info@fgs.org, call us at 888-347-1500, or write to us at:

Federation of Genealogical Societies
P.O. Box 200940
Austin, TX 78720-0940.

Membership is on a calendar basis from January to December.

FGS CONFERENCES & EVENTS

2018: August 22–25
FGS 2018 National Conference
Fort Wayne, Indiana

2019: August 21–24
FGS 2019 National Conference
Washington, DC

2020: September 2–5
FGS 2020 National Conference
Kansas City, Missouri

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As we dive in to 2018, we’re proud to unveil FORUM’s new look! We’re sticking with a simple and clean design, but we’re incorporating more color through our regular departments and columns for some flair and brightness. The biggest change is the page size. Since FORUM is strictly a digital magazine, we have reduced the page size to make it easier for screen reading on many different devices.

You might recall in the last issue that we were enlisting your help to kick off two new features. In this issue you will find the debut of those new departments—Inbox and Help Desk. Thank you to those who contributed and made this debut possible. Readers, please keep the letters and questions coming!

Curious about what the FGS 2018 conference has to offer this year? We’ve got a sneak peak of the program tracks and speakers, sure to get you excited about heading to Fort Wayne, Indiana, in August.

In Diane Dittgen’s article, “State Historical Society Periodicals: Treasures Beyond the Articles,” learn about various special features in these publications that could help you with your research. Society leaders looking for ways to tame that pesky policy and procedure manual will find an inspirational solution in Denise Barrett Olson’s article, “Take Your Society’s Policy and Procedure Manual Online.”

As always, a big “thank you” to the authors and our wonderful columnists for sharing their knowledge with our readers. If you would like an opportunity to write for FORUM, please contact me at forumeditor@fgs.org to discuss your ideas. If you’re looking for inspiration, please contact me—I have a long list of article ideas! For additional details, please refer to our Writer’s Guidelines (http://bit.ly/fgs-forumguidelines).

Enjoy!

Julie Cahill Tarr, FORUM Managing Editor

ABOUT FORUM
FORUM (ISSN 1531-720X) is a digital magazine published quarterly by the Federation of Genealogical Societies, P.O. Box 200940, Austin, TX 78720-0940. Opinions and statements expressed by individual authors are not necessarily those of FGS. Errors and omissions of fact are the sole responsibility of the author, although every attempt has been made to ensure the correctness of content. FGS assumes no responsibility for the quality or performance of products or services advertised or reviewed in FORUM.

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A New FORUM
In every field of study there is one book that rises above the rest in stature and authority and becomes the standard work in the field. In genealogy that book is Val Greenwood’s *The Researcher’s Guide to American Genealogy*. Arguably the best book ever written on American genealogy, it instructs the researcher in the timeless principles of genealogical research, while identifying the most current classes of records and research tools.

Research in family history has experienced unprecedented changes since 2000, when the 3rd edition of this book was published—changes surpassing anything that most of us even dreamed of at that time. These changes have come about because of the significant technological advances that have greatly facilitated genealogy research.

This new 4th edition has been completely updated, incorporating all the latest developments, principles, and resources relevant to family history research. There are now two chapters about technology as it relates to family history research—one dealing with significant concepts and definitions and the other with specific resources and applications, including major family history websites and Internet resources. In addition, virtually every chapter provides information on Internet websites pertinent to the subject discussed in that chapter.

*The Researcher’s Guide* is both a textbook and an all-purpose reference book, designed to help the present generation of family history researchers better understand and utilize all available resources. This new 4th edition provides a clear, comprehensive, and up-to-date account of American genealogy—no sound genealogical project is complete without it.

**xvi, 778 pp., profusely illustrated, indexed, paper. 2017.**


*Postage & handling:* One copy $5.50; each addl. copy $2.50. Maryland & Michigan residents add 6% sales tax.

**Reviews of previous editions**

“The bulk of the study covers superbly the use of primary sources: census schedules, probates, wills, and vital, court, military, and cemetery records. . . .” —Library Journal

“With this edition, Greenwood has reaffirmed his book’s position as the outstanding text in American genealogy and it remains the benchmark against which others will be judged.” —Library Journal

“There are many handbooks of genealogical methods . . . but few are as thoroughly done as Greenwood’s. It is a comprehensive textbook . . . which grew out of the author’s experience as an instructor. Recommended for all libraries.” —Choice

“This book can be a text for beginners, but also a reference work for the experienced researcher. Without question, this new edition can be recommended to all American genealogists and libraries.” —New York Genealogical and Biographical Record

“It is impossible to recommend this book too highly. It is indispensable for anyone interested in genealogical research.” —The Virginia Genealogist

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Contacting DNA Matches
Blaine Bettinger’s article “Communicating with Your DNA Matches” (Winter 2017) has great suggestions for contacting DNA matches. Matches often neglect to provide enough information to evaluate, or even find, the match. Providing the testing company name and kit number or user name is the minimum to share. I also suggest including a list of all the companies where the match has tested and noting if the raw DNA data has been uploaded to GEDmatch, and be sure to include kit numbers or user names for each. This way, if the match you are contacting also tested at other companies or is using GEDmatch, they can peruse the other databases and take advantage of different tools to better evaluate the potential relationship.

Carol Genung

Successful Writing Group
I was thrilled to see the article “Is Your Society Reaping the Benefits of a Writing Group,” in the Winter 2017 issue. The West Valley Genealogical Society (Yountown, Arizona) has had a very vibrant, active Writing Your Family History Special Interest Group (SIG) for many years. The group is led by Cathy Gallagher, a local writer and past president of the society. Gallagher brings her love of research, writing, and organization to the group, and makes the time spent in the SIG very special. She provides insight and organizational ideas for highlighting life experiences, and has developed a non-threatening atmosphere where people feel free to share their thoughts. The SIG covers all aspects of writing one’s family history. I hope societies are encouraged to consider such a group as a benefit to their members.

Linda Caldwell McCleary

We want to hear from you!

Select letters will appear in future issues. Here’s your chance to tell us how an article helped you with society management endeavors or your personal research. You also may provide your own advice or additional commentary on a recent article topic. Your feedback is important and we want to share your thoughts with other readers.

Send your letters to the editor at forumeditor@fgs.org.

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HELP DESK

Meet the Experts

Melissa Barker is a county archivist and professional genealogist.

Paula Stuart-Warren, CG, FMGS, FUGA, is a professional genealogist and lecturer.

Julie Cahill Tarr is a former state society webinar series coordinator.

NUCMC
What exactly is NUCMC and how would I use it for genealogy research?

NUCMC (pronounced nuckmuck; http://loc.gov/coll/nucmc) stands for National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections, which is a manuscript finding aid. It helps researchers find manuscript material no matter where it is located. These could be records of individuals, churches, schools, organizations, and businesses, and include justice of the peace papers, report cards, vital records, maps, photographs, traveling minister notebooks, plantation records, bibles, and personal letters. You might find the records of the community midwife, the local funeral home, or the last secretary of that hereditary group Grandma joined. Keep in mind that manuscript materials could be many miles away from ancestral locations.

More than 1,400 repositories have submitted manuscript descriptions to the Library of Congress since 1959, but today many do so on their own websites and/or on ArchiveGrid (http://bit.ly/2FZjqi8) and ArchivesUSA (http://bit.ly/2FuaZ1i). NUCMC and ArchiveGrid are accessible for free via your own computer. Read the details on these websites to see specifically what each includes.

For descriptions submitted from 1959–1993, annual published (and indexed) volumes were released. From 1986 forward, the descriptions are electronic via the NUCMC link above. Stuart-Warren

Webinar Advice
Our society is interested in best practices for hosting webinars. Does a step-by-step guide or list of best practices exist?

I’m not aware of a step-by-step guide, but I do have two suggestions that can help your society navigate the webinar waters. First, read the 2014 FORUM article “Implementing a Webinar Program for Your Society” (vol. 26, no. 3; can be accessed by member society leadership). While a little outdated, it should answer many of your questions and help you formulate a plan. Second, talk with webinar coordinators at various societies to get an idea of how they operate. This way, you get some current insight into what other societies do, and, more importantly, why they made certain decisions. Tarr

Preserving Photos
I recently inherited a box of family photos. What is the best way to preserve them so I can pass them on to the next generation?

Family photographs are some of the most precious records we own. So, first and foremost—wear gloves! The dirt and oils on our hands can damage photographs, especially if they are handled a lot.

Photographs should be placed in archival sleeves for protection. These sleeves should be made of Polypropylene or polyester and listed as acid free and/or lignin free. Sleeves are available through online archival stores and come in different sizes to accommodate just about any photograph.

Once your photographs are in sleeves, it is up to you whether or not you store them in archival boxes or archival file folders. Either way, it is important to store photographs in a dark, dry, and cool place, as sunlight and fluctuations in temperature and humidity can cause damage to photographs.

Using these easy steps to preserving your photographs with ensure they will be around for the next generation. Barker

You’ve got questions, we’ve got answers!

Select questions related to genealogy or society management will be answered by knowledgeable experts and presented in future issues. Whatever the question, we’d like to help!

Send your questions to the editor at forumeditor@fgs.org.

FGS FORUM 8 Vol. 30, No. 1 • Spring 2018
Several years ago I published an article in *Everton’s Genealogical Helper* that focused on state historical society periodicals. Specifically, it focused on the articles presented in these journals.

The goal of that article was to convince genealogists that state historical society periodicals could be beneficial to their research. The articles in these periodicals cover topics of local, state, and regional interest and, therefore, have the potential to be highly relevant to family history research.

While the articles in state historical society periodicals can be helpful and informative, this article will highlight other components that are of value to genealogists. Specifically, we’ll look at what, for lack of a better term, I call “special features.” Usually focusing on a specific type of information, state historical society periodicals often run themed features in every volume, often in every issue, for a period of years. These special features often contain obscure bits of information, any one of which might just hold the clue that genealogists need to help solve a genealogical dilemma. To give readers an idea of what features are out there and what treasures they hold for genealogists, the remainder of this article will discuss five different features found in state historical society periodicals.
South Carolina Gleanings in England

Of all the records that genealogists use, wills are perhaps one of the most useful in that they are free-form documents, meaning there is no required structure to them. This means that there is no limit to what genealogical information they might contain and can, therefore, send genealogists in many new and interesting directions with their research.

Genealogists who have colonial roots in South Carolina and know that their ancestors were originally from Britain can thank a man named Lothrop Withington for his tireless work in uncovering and abstracting hundreds of wills of people who had connections in both geographic areas. For seven years, from 1903 to 1910, The South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine published Withington’s findings as a special feature titled “South Carolina Gleanings in England.”

The will of George Seaman, an extremely wealthy Charleston merchant who emigrated from Leith, Scotland, is interesting and informative, containing a wealth of details about his heirs, vast property holdings, business associates, and personal assets—a definite boon for genealogists and family historians. Seaman’s will reveals that he maintained strong ties to his home country and the many relatives and friends who remained there. One of the more enlightening aspects of Seaman’s will is that it notes that, in addition to his occupation as a merchant, he owned three large plantations in eighteenth-century South Carolina, each of which employed dozens of slaves. In the distribution of his assets after his death, two of the plantations are specifically named—Walnut Hill at Combahee and Thorough Good at Goose Creek—and many of the slaves from all three plantations that he bequeathed to family, friends, and business associates are listed by name. His will was proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury on July 24, 1769.2

The will of Thomas Elder, who resided at one time in South Carolina and also in Petsworth, county Sussex, England, where he died, provides a lot of information about the decedent’s life. Elder’s will is also intriguing because it presents a few mysteries that genealogists of today might seek to solve.

In his will, Elder states that he inherited some property from his unnamed late wife. He also notes that he inherited some property from a man he calls his master—Charles, the Duke of Somerset. What is his specific connection to this member of the British royal family? Lastly, Elder willed many of his personal possessions to family members, typical belongings such as watches, rings, and sterling silver items. However, one of the personal possessions that he willed to a family member is rather unique. Described as “Gilt and Crystal Sleeve Buttons for shirts set in Gold with some Hair of my late wife,” one can’t help but be fascinated by this strange set of items, and wonder if they are still in existence and in the possession of a descendant. Elder’s will was proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury on July 22, 1776.3

Notes and Queries

One-of-a-kind documents, such as manuscripts, diaries, journals, correspondence, and the like, are the lifeblood of any historical society. Curators of these institutions are always looking for ways to showcase these unique resources, and oftentimes do so through their periodicals.

Under the unassuming title of “Notes and Queries,” the Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography published this special feature from its very first volume in 1877 through volume 59 in 1935. The “notes” part of this special feature offers a view to the many documents held in the collection of the Pennsylvania Historical Society. One of the most interesting has a rather long title: “List of Captives Taken by the Indians and Delivered to Colonel Bouquet by the Mingoes,
Delawares, Shawanese, Wyondots and Mohickons, at Tuscarawas and Muskingam in November, 1764.”

The list of captives this document refers to are white men, women, and children who lived in frontier settlements at the time of Pontiac’s Rebellion, which occurred from 1763 to 1764. Distraught that they had lost their staunchest ally after the French were defeated by the British in the French and Indian War (1754–1763), and fearing increasing white encroachment on their tribal lands, a charismatic Ottawa chieftain named Pontiac formed a coalition of 18 tribes who attacked and killed many white frontier settlers and took many more into captivity.

This document names over 200 captives. Among those named are John Burd, George Yokeham, Dorothy Rigar, and Margaret Sivers all from Virginia, and Felty Clemn, Hance Adams, Sarah Boyd, and Hannah Maria Sourback all from Pennsylvania.4

Long before the invention of the Internet, genealogical queries published in newspapers and magazines were the primary way genealogists sought further information about the families they were researching. The writers of the queries found in the “queries” portion of this feature have long since passed on, but they left behind valuable clues for genealogists of today to follow up on.

A case in point is a query published by Thomas H. Shoemaker of Germantown, Pennsylvania, in 1891. He seeks to connect the Price and Dickson families whose lives intersected in the town of Crescentville, which is just north of the city of Philadelphia, noting that there are several Price graves that can be found on the Dickson farm. Shoemaker’s primary interest is in the Price family, which he identifies in the query as being of Welsh origins. In one part of this query, Shoemaker gives some insight into the religious activities of the Price family he is researching. He notes that having previously been of the Quaker faith, they later identified as Keithian Baptists, a radical breakaway sect founded by former Quaker George Keith who defected because he believed that mainstream Quakers had lost sight of the tenets of orthodox Christianity.5

Confederate Necrology
All genealogists crave biographical details about their ancestors that go beyond basic information such as birth, marriage, and death dates. One very informative special feature called “Confederate Necrology” contains detailed, lengthy obituaries of Confederate soldiers who died either in battle...
or later as a result of wounds suffered in battle. This feature, which can be found in the *Georgia Historical Quarterly*, ran from 1928 to 1953. Here, the reader will find republished obituaries that appeared in six Georgia newspapers during the Civil War years.

In addition to giving basic vital statistics about the deceased, most of these obituaries contain a wealth of personal details about the soldier and his life. Many of these obituaries also include very specific details about how the soldier died. These details often came from letters written to the families of the soldier by his officer or by another soldier in his company or regiment who witnessed the death in battle. The obituary of Nathan Hoyt Hamilton contains such a letter, written by his commanding officer to Hamilton’s father. The officer wrote that Hamilton died valiantly in the Battle of Chancellorsville, being “pierced through the head with a minnie ball . . . [when] he zealously pressed forward to the enemy line.”

The obituary for Lt. Judson C. Sapp contains valuable information about his early life before he volunteered his services in defense of his beloved homeland. His obituary notes he was born into an affluent family, entered Mercer University at the age of 14, and became an attorney, having studied law in Savannah. His obituary also notes that he was not a large man physically, but was “frail in person,” a fact which family and friends believe may have hastened his death at age 26 after being grievously wounded at the Battle of Gettysburg.

**Articles of Interest to York Staters**

In covering the many diverse aspects of New York history through the centuries, no journal is better and more thorough than *New York History*, published by the New York State Historical Association. From 1942 to 1970, this journal published a special feature which, after several slight name changes, eventually came to be called “Articles of Interest to York Staters.” This feature

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**Finding Special Features Using JSTOR**

Intrigued by these special features and the potential treasures they might hold to help break down those stubborn brick walls? Here's one way to find them.

JSTOR ([http://jstor.org](http://jstor.org)) is an academic database that contains thousands of journals, many of which contain valuable historical facts and data. You can access JSTOR from many academic libraries throughout the country; limited access is available to individuals with a JPASS subscription.

All of the periodicals mentioned in this article can be found on JSTOR. Many other state historical society periodicals are also on JSTOR, so be sure to explore special features in those as well.

Because JSTOR is such a large database, you should do a narrow rather than broad search. In other words, before putting in any search terms, you should drill down to the specific journal you want to search.

To choose a specific journal, hover over the **Browse** button on the toolbar at the top of the page, then choose **Title** from the drop-down menu. After selecting a specific journal, use the search box at the top of the page to type in a relevant name or subject; click on the arrow and choose **In This Journal** to limit the results.
contains bibliographies of articles relevant to New York history, many of which are from rather esoteric, lesser-known journals and magazines.

This special feature led to an article titled “The Anti-Quit Rent War,” which appeared in Schoharie County Historical Review. Author Rex Mattice describes the unique characteristics of the quit-rent system that was adopted by the Dutch patroons, who were granted vast tracks of land in the Hudson River Valley in the early 1600s. Under this system, renters were forced to pay rent as well as taxes on the land they farmed, but could never get free and clear titles to these lands.

This arrangement, which had strong feudalistic overtones, lasted well into the nineteenth century. Growing tired of the inequity of this antiquated and oppressive system, renters began taking aggressive actions against their landlords in an effort to overthrow the system. Violent acts perpetrated between 1839 and 1846 included murder, arson, rioting, theft, and destruction of property. This article focuses on one specific incident that occurred in Schoharie County in 1844.

Although they took a violent approach to achieve their goals, the renters had a lot of sympathy and support from other settlers and even from many politicians. Their actions led to the eventual dismantling of the quit-rent system in the Catskill counties of New York State.

Another interesting article highlighted in this special feature in New York History is “The Kreutz Brothers: Craftsmen in Glass” by Robert Atkinson, which appeared in New York Folklore Quarterly. This article profiles the working life of four brothers who fled to America from Czechoslovakia in advance of Hitler’s invasion of their homeland. All were professional glassblowers, a trade that had been practiced by five generations of their family in the Old Country.

The author notes that the four brothers were traditional craftsmen who, even after settling in America, continued to use the skills they learned in what he calls “pre-mechanized Czechoslovakia.” After living several places in both North and South America, the brothers eventually settled on Long Island, New York, and founded the Silverworks Art Glassworks Company. Their works today are considered unique and beautiful and are highly valued by collectors.

Lincolniana

Sometimes there are facts that genealogists find about their ancestors that don’t advance their family tree from one generation to the next. But, these facts are, nevertheless, interesting, if not downright fascinating, and can help tell an ancestor’s story.

Perhaps an ancestor had a “brush with greatness”
in that they had an encounter with a famous or notable character in history. In a feature titled “Lincolniana” (also “Lincolniana Notes”) published by the Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society from 1948 to 1984, researchers might find that their ancestor was a neighbor of or had dealings with Abraham Lincoln when he resided in New Salem or Springfield, Illinois, in the 1830s, 1840s, and 1850s.

Obed Lewis, a Springfield carriage maker, had several encounters with Lincoln from 1852 to 1860. Lincoln purchased a carriage, a buggy, and a sleigh, and frequented Lewis’s shop for various repairs on these vehicles.12

Another encounter with Lincoln is described by Reverend G. W. W. Birch in a letter to his cousin. Birch, a visiting minister to a Presbyterian church in Springfield in early 1861, writes that he was present at Lincoln’s farewell speech, given just before he left for Washington, DC to begin his term as president of the United States. Birch tells his cousin that Lincoln’s speech was very emotional and that he spoke of his fondness for the time he spent in Springfield and the many friends he made there. Birch also noted that he got to shake hands with Lincoln on that memorable day.13

### Final Thoughts

One truth I have come to embrace in my long career as a genealogist and historian is that genealogists who are determined to break down the brick walls that have stymied them for years need to think outside the box if they are to have any chance of solving them. They must be willing to tap into new or unfamiliar resources and step outside their comfort zone if all other methods and traditional resources have failed. Hopefully this article has demonstrated the unique possibilities that state historical society periodicals can hold for those who are willing to go the extra mile to make use of them.

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**Notes**


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Diane Dittgen has a master’s degree in library and information science, which she earned from Florida State University in 1985. As a librarian, she served as the head of the Genealogy Department at the Manatee County, Florida Central Library for 14 years. She has been an active participant in the genealogy field for a little over 40 years. In that time, she has taught numerous genealogy classes, conducted workshops, given library tours, and spoken at genealogy seminars. She has written articles for Ancestry Magazine, Internet Genealogy, Genealogical Helper, Family Chronicle, and most recently, Going In-Depth, an online genealogy magazine.
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The Federation of Genealogical Societies is excited to return to Fort Wayne, Indiana, for the fourth time in our 38-year conference history. The conference will be held August 22–25, 2018 at the Grand Wayne Convention Center located within a block of the Allen County Public Library. Many nationally known speakers and a few that are new to FGS fill the four-day program, which has sessions for everyone from beginner to advanced researchers. Here’s a preview of what we have planned!

Wednesday, August 22
Focus on Societies Day will look different this year to longtime FGS conference attendees. The day has been restructured to a Leadership Summit featuring several in-depth sessions of interest to both society management and individual researchers. A management workshop presented by Ed Donakey and David E. Rencher, AG, CG, FUGA, FIGRS, will fill the morning. Everyone can benefit by improving their management skills whether applied to genealogical societies, businesses, or personal research.

Following the FGS luncheon headlined by FGS President Rorey Cathcart, attendees will choose between three, two-hour breakout sessions:

- leadership and conflict resolution workshop presented by Rorey Cathcart and D. Joshua Taylor, MA, MLS
- social media workshop presented by Amy Johnson Crow, MLIS, CG
- BCG certification seminar presented by Jeanne Larzalere Bloom, CG; Harold Henderson, CG; and Rick Sayre, CG, CGL, FUGA
Rounding out the daytime program, Judy G. Russell, JD, CG, CGL, will present a closing session entitled “Preserving the Past, Protecting the Future.” Activities continue into the evening with a reception, poster sessions for societies, and late night at The Genealogy Center at Allen County Public Library.

**Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, August 23–25**

Ten tracks fill the program Thursday through Saturday, covering a broad range of topics, ethnicities, and locations. The schedule, which includes specific session titles and descriptions, will be available soon on the FGS website. The following information outlines the tracks and the speakers who will be presenting in each.

**Methodology** - Methodology sessions are essential for any genealogy conference. Featured all three days, this track highlights research methods that will benefit researchers at every level showing how to get the most out of the records and information found. Speakers: Deborah Abbott, Daniel Horowitz, Thomas W. Jones, Michael D. Lacopo, Angela Packer McGhie, Judy G. Russell, Kris Rzepczynski, and Rick Sayre.

**DNA** - DNA testing has revolutionized genealogy research. Whether you are considering testing, trying to make sense of your results, or have already tested members of your family and solved several brick walls, we’ll have DNA sessions of interest to you across all three days. Speakers: Shannon Combs-Bennett, Blaine Bettinger, Angie Bush, Daniel Horowitz, Judy G. Russell, Pamela Boyer Sayre, Diahan Southard, and Anna Swayne.

**Records** - Records are the foundation of genealogical research and these sessions will dig deeper into using a variety of records. This track, spanning all three days, covers topics including migration, military, censuses, and vital records. Speakers: Deborah Abbott, Tina Beaird, Sydney Bjork, Tony Burroughs, Shannon Combs-Bennett, Janis Minor Forte, David Allen Lambert, Rhonda R. McClure, Juliana Szucs, Rich Venezia, and Ari Wilkins.

**Technology** - Sessions dedicated to the abundance of technology available will be represented all three days. There are sure to be sessions in this track to help you track and manage your genealogy research or learn about a new database or website. Speakers: Jen Baldwin, Rorey Cathcart, Lisa Louise Cooke, Amy Johnson Crow, Mike Mansfield, Paul Milner, Pamela Boyer Sayre, D. Joshua Taylor, and Maureen Taylor.

**African American** - Featured on Saturday, sessions in this track will highlight a variety of records and methods specific to African American research. Speakers: Deborah Abbott, Tony Burroughs, Janis Minor Forte, and Ari Wilkins.

**Midwest** - This track will be of interest to researchers in the region as well as those whose ancestors passed through the Midwest on the way to other locations. Represented across all three days, this track will cover states including Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Missouri, and Ohio. Speakers: Jan Alpert, Tina Beaird, Amy Johnson Crow, Michael D. Lacopo, Judy G. Russell, Kris Rzepczynski, Pamela Boyer Sayre, Juliana Szucs, and Melissa Tennant.

**German** - With a substantial portion of the population of Indiana and the Midwest self-identifying as having German ancestry, the German track will be popular. Featured on Thursday, sessions in this track will provide a wealth of information for helping you track your German roots. Speakers: Charlotte Noelle Champenois, Daniel R. Jones, and Michael D. Lacopo.

**Scandinavian** - Highlighted on Thursday, sessions in this track cover resources on both sides of the Atlantic to help you discover your Scandinavian ancestors. Speakers: Charlotte Noelle Champenois, Elaine Hasleton, and Mike Mansfield.

**Eastern Europe** - Researching in Eastern Europe can be tricky, but we’ve got you covered. Featured
on Friday, sessions in this track will focus on Polish and Czech research, as well as finding records in the former Soviet Union. Speakers: Daniel R. Jones and Greg Nelson.

**United Kingdom** - If you have English or Irish ancestors, you’ll want to check out this track, which is highlighted on Friday. Speakers: Jen Baldwin, Paul Milner, and Rich Venezia.

Check for the complete program and online registration coming soon at [http://fgs.org](http://fgs.org). Keep up with the latest news about the conference, including live videos, by following the FGS Facebook page at [http://facebook.com/FGSgenealogy](http://facebook.com/FGSgenealogy).

We look forward to seeing you this August in Fort Wayne!

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### Meet the Speakers

**Deborah Abbott**, PhD, is a genealogist specializing in African American research, genealogy methodology, and manuscript collections. She is an instructor at IGHR and SLIG, an FGS director, and a trustee for the Ohio Genealogical Society.

**Jan Alpert**, FNGS, is the RPAC chair and a previous president, board member, and conference chair for NGS.

**Jen Baldwin** writes, lectures, and consults on a variety of genealogy topics. She is the Data Acquisition manager, North America for Findmypast and serves as a volunteer for FGS.

**Tina Beaird**, MLIS, owner of Tamarack Genealogy, is the local history/genealogy librarian at the Plainfield (IL) Public Library. She lectures on genealogy topics including military records, Scottish resources, and archival preservation.

**Blaine Bettinger**, PhD (Biochemistry), JD, is an intellectual property attorney by day and a genetic genealogist by night. Author of the long-running blog *The Genetic Genealogist.*

**Sydney Bjork** is a genealogist with her own research company, Digging in the Dirt. She will graduate in April from BYU with a degree in genealogy, and is new to the genealogy speaking circuit.

**Tony Burroughs**, FUGA, is founder and CEO of The Center for Black Genealogy, author of *Black Roots,* and has appeared on PBS, CBS, ABC, Discovery Channel, History Channel and *Who Do You Think You Are?*

**Angie Bush, MS** (Biotechnology), is a professional genetic genealogist with AncestryProGenealogists and director of Region 1 for NGS.

**Rorey Cathcart** is president of FGS, owner of The Who Hunter LLC based in Charleston, South Carolina, and senior researcher for *Genealogy Roadshow* on PBS.

**Charlotte Noelle Champenois**, originally from Allerød, Denmark, now lives in Utah having also spent two years in Germany. She attends BYU and will be completing a family history internship in Vienna this fall.

**Shannon Combs-Bennett**, BS, is an award-winning author and lecturer currently working towards an MSc in genealogical, heraldic and paleographic studies from Strathclyde University.

**Lisa Louise Cooke** is the producer of the internationally popular *Genealogy Gems Podcast,* author of six books, video producer, online instructor, and genealogy magazine writer.

**Amy Johnson Crow**, MLIS, CG, OGSF, has been a genealogy professional for 20+ years. She is a frequent speaker at genealogy events across the US, writer, editor, and owner of AmyJohnsonCrow.com.

**Janis Minor Forte**, MS, is a researcher, writer, and lecturer who presents at NGS, OGS, RootsTech, FGS, and local conferences.

**Elaine Hasleton**, BA, AG, is deputy, chief genealogical officer for FamilySearch. She has been involved with numerous genealogical/historical organizations over the years. Her passion is Scandinavian and Scandinavian-American societies.

**Daniel Horowitz** is a genealogy expert at MyHeritage, liaising with genealogy societies, bloggers, and media, and lecturing around the world. He serves on the boards of IAJGS and IGRA.

**Daniel R. Jones**, MA, AG, is accredited for research in Switzerland and specializes in Dutch and German research. He is currently a research specialist at the Family History Library.
Meet the Speakers (con’t)

Thomas W. Jones, PhD, CG, CGL, FASG, FUGA, FNGS, is an award-winning author, educator, and researcher focusing on methods for difficult genealogical problems. He wrote Mastering Genealogical Proof and is co-editor of NGS Quarterly.

Michael D. Lacopo, DVM, is a retired small-animal veterinarian born and raised in northern Indiana. Researching since 1980, he has lectured internationally and written for numerous periodicals and journals.

David Allen Lambert is the chief genealogist of NEHGS in Boston and has been on the staff since 1993. He is an author and international speaker.

Rhonda R. McClure is a nationally recognized professional genealogist and lecturer specializing in New England and celebrity research. She is also a noted author.

Angela Packer McGhie, CG, teaches at IGHR, SLIG, GRIP, and Gen-Fed, with specialties in federal land records, research, and methodology.

Mike Mansfield is the director of Content Operations at MyHeritage and an experienced Scandinavian researcher.

Paul Milner, FUGA, a native of northern England, is an international lecturer and author of how-to books for English and Scottish research.

Greg Nelson, MA, is the content strategy specialist for Eastern Europe and Central Asia in the Records Division of FamilySearch.

Judy G. Russell, JD, CG, CGL, is The Legal Genealogist and provides expert guidance through the murky territory where law, history, and genealogy come together.

Kris Rzepczynski, MLIS, is a senior archivist at the Archives of Michigan, former VP of membership for FGS, and past president of the Mid-Michigan Genealogical Society.

Pamela Boyer Sayer, CG, FUGA, is a former NGS director of education and publications. She has coordinated/taught in courses at IGHR, SLIG, and GRIP.

Rick Sayre, CG, CGL, FUGA, is president of BCG and a lecturer and a course coordinator at SLIG and GRIP. His expertise includes NARA records, maps, land research, Irish research, military records, technology, and urban research.

Diahan Southard, with 17 years in the genetic genealogy industry, instructs at all levels of interest. She has a passion for genetic genealogy and a gift for making the technical understandable.

Anna Swayne has 11 years of experience in DNA genealogy, with 5 of those at AncestryDNA. Her focus is educating on the power of DNA and the story it can unlock.

Juliana Szucs has worked at Ancestry for 20+ years. She is a regular blogger on the Ancestry blog and is a social community manager and staff genealogist on the research team.

D. Joshua Taylor, MA, MLS, is president of the New York Genealogical & Biographical Society, past president of FGS, and host of Genealogy Roadshow on PBS.

Maureen Taylor, MA, The Photo Detective, is an internationally recognized expert on photo identification and photo preservation.

Melissa Tennant, MLS, is the assistant manager at The Genealogy Center at Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana. She is a former director of FGS and has presented nationally.

Rich Venezia researched for Genealogy Roadshow and spoke at TEDxPittsburgh 2017. He specializes in twentieth-century immigrant research and records, and Italian and Irish research and dual citizenship.

Ari Wilkins, a staff member at Dallas Public Library, specializes in African American genealogy. She has served as adjunct faculty at IGHR since 2014.

On the Three Rivers
Past, Present & Future
2018 FGS Conference - August 22-25 - Fort Wayne, IN
The society policy and procedure manual is an important tool to ensure society operations are managed in a timely and coordinated manner. It can save everyone a lot of time and headache when your board and committee members have an easily accessible manual documenting step-by-step instructions for each of the tasks needed to keep the society operating smoothly.

That’s the good news. The bad news is the time, effort, and costs needed to keep your policy and procedures updated. Making changes, distributing review copies, and printing copies of the changed pages can be both time-consuming and expensive.

Fortunately we now have another option—take your policy and procedures online. This option has a number of advantages:

- Information is available to all board and committee members at any time and from any place.
- Collaboration and document reviews can be handled online without the need to print and reprint drafts.
- Board and committee members don’t have to drag around large notebooks.
- Information is now accessible with a quick search.
• Copies of useful paper documents like tax exempt certificates, staff photos, or speaker information can also be posted so they are easily accessible when needed.
• Templates for welcome letters, speaker contracts, or meeting agendas are always available.
• Costs are reduced by replacing the paper and notebooks with online services.

Societies have a number of options in choosing a platform that can manage your policies, procedures, and checklists, regardless of the computer/device/operating system your staff uses. Here are some of those options.

**Evernote**

Evernote (http://evernote.com) has become an important tool for many genealogy researchers. If your society is already using Evernote, you know how useful its collaborative tools can be. Evernote can be used with Windows, Mac, iPhone, iPad, and Android devices. There also is a web-based option for everyone else. Evernote also offers free apps such as Scannable (iOS only) that can scan documents, receipts, business cards, and photos right into Evernote.

Evernote offers Free, Plus, and Premium accounts. The Plus account costs $35 per year, while the Premium is $70 per year. Each account level supports an unlimited number of notes in your account. Evernote does limit the number of uploads per month for each account. A Free account can only upload 60MB of new uploads per month. The Plus account can upload 1GB of new uploads per month, and Premium gets 10GB of new uploads. Providing shared access of a notebook to someone with a lower level account does not impact their account limits.

A “society” account would be needed to serve as the hub. It would contain notebooks for board and committee documents, forms, checklists, and notes. Notebooks are shared with those who need access and will be visible/accessible from inside their Evernote account. When a leadership change occurs, just remove the “share” from the departing member and replace it with the incoming member.

**Google Drive**

Google is a mainstay for many researchers so it is likely that your leadership members are already familiar with Google Drive (http://drive.google.com) and the apps that support it. If your society has federal 501(c)(3) nonprofit status, you can take advantage of these services at no cost. Even without nonprofit status, their services are very affordable for the apps suite (available for Windows, Mac, Android, and iOS) and Google Keep:

- 15GB of storage, free
- 100GB of storage, $2 per month
- 1TB of storage, $10 per month

For more information on Google options for societies, see “Google for Nonprofits” in the Summer 2017 issue of FORUM.

**Dropbox Paper**

Dropbox (http://dropbox.com) is another well-known cloud storage service. They recently added an app called Dropbox Paper,
that allows Dropbox users to write, share, and edit documents, notes, agendas, and other publications easily. Dropbox Paper is a simple web-based editor with collaborative features. It also supports Android and iOS devices making it accessible just about anywhere. It is primarily a collaborative tool allowing users to manage projects as well as working on updates.

Societies would need to create a “society” account, which is $99 per year and includes 1TB of storage. Board and committee members can use their personal account to connect with the society’s folders and files.

**OneNote**

If most of your board and committee members are Windows users, OneNote (http://onenote.com) may be a good option for you. It also offers collaboration tools. OneNote apps are also available for Mac, iOS and Android users.

- Requires an Office 365 subscription.
- $99 per year for five computers, or $69 per year for one computer.
- Includes Skype, which can help make collaboration easier.

**Zoho Notebook**

Zoho (http://zoho.com/notebook) offers a broad range of apps for business use. Most can be used at no cost by nonprofits and small groups (less than 25 people). Their Notebook app is an impressive competitor to OneNote and Evernote, and is available for desktop, mobile devices, and web. The app is free and supports multiple notebooks as well as sharing notes via e-mail.

**Simplenote**

If your society is tight on money, you still have a very viable option to manage your policy and procedure manual and other documents needed to manage your society. Simplenote (http://simplenote.com) is an online notes management platform built by Automattic (the company that also built WordPress). It costs nothing to use, while supporting most of a society’s needs, including collaboration, e-mail distribution, and publishing. Simplenote also supports Markdown, and can be used on Windows, Mac, and Linux desktops as well as iOS and Android mobile devices. The one thing missing with Simplenote is support for attaching documents and images.

These aren’t your only options. There are a number of free or low-priced note-taking apps with various levels of collaboration features. Look at the devices your board and committee members use and their skill levels to help determine which platform will best suit your needs.

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Denise Barrett Olson is a native Floridian with family ties from Texas to Virginia. She is an Air Force veteran and Army wife, now retired after working more than 40 years in the information technology field. Today her focus is on her family’s history. She teaches genealogy workshops, speaks at area societies, and shares her family stories at *Moultrie Creek* (http://moultriecreek.us), her personal blog.
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A Lecture on Lectures: Copyright & Ethics

It’s pretty much a guaranteed thing for genealogical lecturers. Sooner or later, a local genealogical or historical society will contact the speaker and say, “We can’t afford to pay much, but . . .”

There are times when that’s the truth. The society is just getting started, or has had a string of emergencies that’s depleted its operating budget, or it’s had to spring for a big capital improvement all of a sudden. In that case, the speaker can certainly choose whether to contribute to the cause with a free or reduced-cost presentation.

There’s nothing wrong with a society politely asking, and nothing wrong if a speaker politely, but firmly, says no.

But in this day and age of digital access to webinars and recordings, it’s also pretty much a guaranteed thing for genealogical lecturers that sooner or later they will find a local society getting ready to show a recorded presentation to the society membership—without ever having asked for permission to do so.

And that can get a society into a world of trouble, both legally and ethically.

Under copyright law, the speaker automatically has copyright protection covering any presentation the minute the lecture is prepared. The text, the slides, and any handout prepared by the speaker all get that automatic protection.1 The protection begins the instant that presentation is “fixed” in a tangible form. That includes a digital file solely on the speaker’s computer (e.g., a Word file or Powerpoint), every bit as much as a recording on CD or DVD or in MP4 format.2
It’s not necessary for the speaker to register the copyright in the US Copyright Office. The speaker doesn’t have to make an announcement that the lecture is copyright-protected or include a copyright statement (or that little © symbol) on the slides or on the handout.

In general, the speaker keeps the copyright even if the presentation is recorded and shown as a webinar. Rarely, if ever, does the speaker give up the copyright, and even then only to a company that buys the rights. The presentation itself won’t become public domain—free of copyright protections—until 70 years after the speaker’s death.

Copyright protection means that the copyright owner, and only the copyright owner, has the right to say when and where a lecture or lecture handout can be used. The law gives specific rights exclusively to the copyright owner, including the exclusive right:

- “to reproduce the copyrighted work in copies,”
- “to distribute copies . . . of the copyrighted work,”
- “in the case of . . . audiovisual works, to perform the copyrighted work publicly, and”
- “in the case of . . . audiovisual work, to display the copyrighted work publicly.”

So every single time that work is to be copied, distributed, performed, displayed, shown, or otherwise reproduced, the copyright owner—the speaker—has to be asked for permission and has to affirmatively agree to allow (“license,” in the language of the law) that specific use.

Making a copy, sharing it with others, or showing the recording of a webinar at a society meeting without the necessary permissions exposes the society to substantial legal penalties. Copyright law provides for what are called statutory damages: up to $150,000 for a single violation if a court were to find that the violation was willful and up to $30,000 otherwise.

It isn’t enough that a member of the society owns a subscription to a webinar series or owns an individual copy of an MP4 or CD or DVD recording of a speaker’s presentation. The Copyright Office makes it crystal clear that “mere ownership of a copy or phonorecord that embodies a work does not give the owner of that copy or phonorecord the ownership of the copyright in the work.” Just as buying the book doesn’t give us the right to copy it and give copies to our friends, buying a lecture in audio or video format doesn’t give us the right to copy it and share it with fellow society members either.
A society that wants to show a recorded webinar at a meeting or conference needs to double-check and make sure that it has all the necessary permissions. Contacting the speaker is the essential first step, since the speaker usually owns the copyright. But it may also be necessary to get permission from any group or company that contributed to making the recording, and the speaker may be contractually obligated not to allow the recording to be shown without that additional permission.

Permission should be requested in writing—e-mail will do—and copies of both the request and the permission should be kept in the society’s files in case there’s ever a dispute. The permission should be specific: how many times the program can be shown, to how many people, on what occasions. To be fully protected from any copyright claims, the society then needs to carefully adhere to any conditions set in the permission.

At the same time, a society that offers webinars as part of its programs should work with its speakers to protect the interests of both the society and the speakers. Owning the license for the webinar software and making and hosting the recordings is expensive, and the host society should take steps to protect its investment of money and the speakers’ investment of time and effort. The contract should spell out the ownership of the copyright, state exactly what the society can and can’t do with the recording, and indicate whether its permission must be secured, at least for some time, before it’s shown to anyone else.

Taking these steps will protect the speaker and the society under the law. But there’s an ethical part to this as well: as genealogists, we’re all ethically bound to respect the work—and the copyrights—of others. We are to “observe meticulously the legal rights of copyright owners, copying or distributing any part of their works only with their permission, or to the limited extent specifically allowed under the law’s ‘fair use’ exceptions.”10 This ethical norm, from the National Genealogical Society, is echoed in the codes of the Board for Certification of Genealogists,11 the International Commission for the Accreditation of Professional Genealogists,12 the Association of Professional Genealogists,13 the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies,14 and more.

Asking rather than taking, getting permission instead of hoping for forgiveness, writing down what’s allowed and staying with its terms—these are all elements of copyright law and part and parcel of ethical conduct by individual genealogists and genealogical societies.

Notes
2. Ibid. See also 17 U.S.C. § 101 (“Definitions: fixed”).
4. Ibid., 6 (“Using a copyright notice is optional for unpublished works, foreign works, and works published on or after March 1, 1989”).
5. Ibid., 2 (“The copyright in a work initially belongs to the author(s) who created that work”).
6. Ibid., 4 (“the term of copyright is the life of the author plus seventy years after the author’s death”).
Over the past two years in this column, I have written about all different things concerning young genealogists. Then it hit me the other day. I have a lab in my home for testing different ideas out on younger genealogists. Now, some of you may think experimenting on your children should be a no-no, but it’s for the betterment of genealogy!

In all seriousness, if we want to know how to reach up-and-coming genealogists, why are we not asking them? There are a few societies who seem to excel in recruiting, encouraging, and promoting all levels of young genealogists. We should really corner them and ask them to share their secrets. I bet I can tell you what it is. They ask questions and they listen.

My oldest is a junior in high school and a budding historian. He realizes that genealogy is a field that will help him as a historian. Plus, he thinks the family finds are “pretty cool” when I share them with the family. So, I sat down and asked him about his views on genealogy and if he ever thought of doing more in the field. I thought I knew what he was going to say, but I really didn’t.

One thing that hit me was his thought that we have the wrong kind of tech. Okay, shocker number one. He had ideas about ways we should be connecting with other fields. In his opinion, we have isolated ourselves too much and should interact more with people in related fields. That’s a good point. While we have lots of librarians in genealogy, in addition to historians, are we using their knowledge?

The web platform Omeka (http://omeka.org) came up. While primarily used by institutions, Omeka is a web publishing platform designed to share digital collections or create online exhibits. How many of you have a digital or need-to-digitize collection of family items sitting around? I know I sure did. My high school student walked me through how this could change the way we present information (he
even said better cousin bait) to the outside world. Wow, my mind was blown.

As I looked at this site, I realized what my child did. A friend of ours, who is earning her PhD from George Mason University, is very involved with this project. She had answered his questions on the program at some point and he took the initiative to learn more about the site. Granted, he wants to be a historian, so talking to a historian further in their education made sense. We even encouraged it! When was the last time you encouraged a young person to speak to a genealogist in the same way? As a way to gain knowledge and lead them into new ways of thinking and possible employment opportunities in the future.

Makes you think. What else are we missing by not listening? My challenge to you is to open your ears and your eyes to possibilities that are everywhere. You never know when you will stumble on a new way of thinking that will help you with your genealogical journey.

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Records Preservation and Access Committee (RPAC)

Late last year, the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYC DOHMH) suggested a proposed extension of embargo dates to 125 years for access to birth records, and 75 years for access to death records. D. Joshua Taylor, former FGS president and RPAC member and now president of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society (NYG&B), requested that individuals and genealogical and historical organizations write to the NYC DOHMH sharing concerns for such long embargos.

Using guidelines from NYG&B and consulting with Taylor, RPAC Chair Jan Alpert penned a letter of support for lowering the embargos on vital records. The three key points were:

1. Access to birth records after 75 years if the individual's death can be verified, or 105 years if their death cannot be verified.

2. Access to death records after 50 years, or after 25 years to a registered member of a New York genealogical society.

3. Access to the index of death records after 25 years providing the name, date of death, place of death, date of birth, and burial/cremation information.
Over 60 genealogists attended the NYC DOHMH meeting. RPAC, International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies, FGS, FamilySearch representatives, and the FGS legal advisor Fred Moss sent written statements. Over 300 e-mail comments were posted to the NYC DOHMH website, and NYG&B obtained more than 3,800 signatures on their official statement. There were signatures from all fifty US states and from many other countries. In addition to the 60-plus in attendance, 350 individuals sent their statements in letter form or as comments. The board was overwhelmed with the outpouring from the genealogical community. From the NYG&B website: “It was inspiring to see so many different organizations in the community come together in support of reasonable access to historical documents.” For an excellent report on the October 24, 2017, public hearing see the NYG&B blog post “Genealogy Groups & Community Members Unite to Preserve Access to Records” at http://bit.ly/2FW4dzu.

Moss continues dialogue with Shawna Webster, executive director of NAPHSIS (National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems), regarding the proposed new version of the 2011 Model Vital Statistics Act. Moss is also actively involved in trying to encourage the use of NAPHSIS’s Electronic Verification of Vital Events (EVVE) as an alternative to the Commerce Department’s Death Master File, which is currently under a three year embargo due to perceived identity theft threats.

As the taking of the 2020 US federal census is less than two years away, the Census Bureau is in a state of flux since their director recently retired. Several new ideas are being discussed: whether or not a new ethnicity (Middle Eastern-North African) will be added; whether the census bureau will conduct periodic surveys, which samples

information similar to the long form census, rather than using the long form as part of the 2020 census; using calendar years versus last twelve months for the reporting of income levels; and using postal workers/carriers as census takers. Comments were supposed to have been received and reviewed by early December 2017, but as of this writing, no information has been forthcoming.

**National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)**

The National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) is actively seeking nonprofit organizations or institutions; colleges, universities, and other academic institutions; state or local government agencies; and federally acknowledged or state-recognized Native American tribes or groups to apply for NHPRC grants ranging from $100,000 to $350,000. Collaboration with other entities is highly desired for bringing together related records from multiple institutions resulting in improving public discovery and use of major historical records collections. NHPRC grants provide needed funding to make records available online, which will increase the usage of historical records.

With much anticipation and fanfare, the National Archives released the John Fitzgerald Kennedy Assassination Records in October 2017. The files and folders can be accessed through NARA’s website at http://bit.ly/2CYfrjT. Additional records that have been cleared will be available on a rolling basis.

**States**

**Georgia:** The Digital Library of Georgia granted $5,000 to the Athens-Clarke County Library to digitize the *Image Magazine*, 1977–1980. The magazine covered the social life of the local African American community. Access to the collection is

Illinois: The Rock Island County Clerk’s office has added indexes of births, marriages, and deaths to their website. Indexes include birth records from 1872 through 1941, marriage records from 1832 through 1966, and death certificates from 1878 through 1996. The actual documents will have to be obtained at the County Clerk’s office in person. Access to the vital records index at http://bit.ly/2CYR8lN.

Indiana: Governor Eric Holcomb vetoed 2017 House Bill 1523 that would have permitted the state to charge an hourly fee for record searches that exceed two hours with that charge being $20 per hour or the hourly rate of the person doing the search. Gov. Holcomb expressed his position that providing access to public records is a key part of the work that state employees perform, and this should not be a monetary burden for the person requesting the record.

New Jersey: Thanks to the Reclaim the Records organization, New Jersey marriage indexes for 1901 to 2016 are now available for free online at Internet Archive. The easiest way to access these index files is through the “New Jersey Marriage Index” collection page at http://bit.ly/2oSBWRY.

New York: In like manner, Reclaim the Records obtained and published the death indexes for Buffalo, New York, for 1852 to 1944. They are available for free online at Internet Archive. Buffalo was one of the top fifteen most populous American cities in the mid-nineteenth century because of close proximity to the Erie Canal, and on major trading routes that helped open up the Midwestern states. Previously, the records were only located at the Buffalo Inactive Records Center. The easiest way to access these index files is through the “Buffalo (New York) Death Index” collection page at http://bit.ly/2I2wnJF.

Pennsylvania: The Philadelphia City Archives is presently closed and will open to the public on September 1, 2018 at a new address, 456 N. 5th Street in Philadelphia. During the closure, staff will continue to pull copies of deeds, but will not be open for historical or academic research purposes.

Tennessee: A new 165,000 square foot Tennessee State Library and Archives Building broke ground in December 2017. The plans include a climate-controlled chamber for storing historical documents, a state-of-the-art robotic retrieval system, classrooms, and meeting rooms for staff training. The building will be completed in the fall of 2019.

Other Item of Interest
OCLC and Internet Archive will collaborate to make Internet Archive's collection of 2.5 million digitized books more accessible online and through local libraries. WorldCat, a product of OCLC, is a union catalog that contains listings for items held by thousands of libraries worldwide. With this collaboration, if a book is digitized and available through Internet Archive, the WorldCat listing will provide a link to the online version. Internet Archive will also provide a link to WorldCat's listing helping researchers when they need to find a hard copy of the book.
Forensic Genealogy and the Genealogical Proof Standard

Forensic genealogists, like many traditional genealogists, are faced with clients who aren’t interested in a report, citations, or documentation that are part of the Genealogical Proof Standard (GPS). Often, forensic genealogists are asked to submit only a list of names and contact information or bottom-line results. Clients frequently balk at the hours needed to produce a work product that is the standard of our profession. Genealogists can certainly find it tempting to accept the client and give them what they want. So, what is the GPS and why does it matter?

What is the GPS?
The first chapter in *Genealogy Standards* is entitled, “The Genealogical Proof Standard,” where the first paragraph states: “The standard addresses the completed research, not the research in progress. Overarching all of this manual’s documentation, research, and writing standards, it has five interdependent components:”

- Reasonably exhaustive research
- Complete and accurate source citations
- Critical tests of relevant evidence through analysis and correlation
- Resolution of conflicting evidence
- Soundly reasoned, coherently written conclusion

The Council for the Advancement of Forensic Genealogy’s (CAFG), definition states: “Forensic genealogy is applying the...
highest genealogical standards to research, analysis, and reporting in cases with legal implications, usually involving living individuals.” The organization’s “Standards and Practice of Conduct” require that members “provide factual reports supported by documentation and complete source citations in accordance with currently accepted standards of the profession” and “present opinions that are reasonably based on the proper types of evidence, reached through sound deductive processes, and presented in rational form.”

Written reports are also among the International Commission for the Accreditation of Professional Genealogists’ professional standards.

Why is the Genealogical Proof Standard important for forensic genealogists, even if they are not credentialed by the Board for Certification of Genealogists, the International Commission for the Accreditation of Professional Genealogists, or the Council for the Advancement of Forensic Genealogists? Simply put, these are the bodies that issue credentials in the industry.

Aside from credentialing bodies, the Association of Professional Genealogists requires members to agree to its Code of Ethics and Professional Practices, which includes: “Report appropriately qualified genealogical conclusions in writing based on the weight of the evidence with fully and accurately cited sources.” The National Genealogical Society published Thomas W. Jones’s textbook *Mastering Genealogical Proof* which expands on each GPS component and provides exercises to further challenge the genealogist’s understanding and use of the GPS in their work.

Why should the GPS matter, especially to forensic genealogists? Forensic genealogists work on cases in which the client has some type of legal matter that they feel a genealogist may be useful to their purpose. CAFG’s website lists the types of cases on which forensic genealogists may find themselves working:

- “Probate and estate cases—known heirs, unknown heirs, missing heirs.
- Heirs and beneficiaries of trust and insurance accounts.
- Due diligence affidavits.
- Next of kin in guardianship cases, youth transitioning from foster care, adoption.
FORENSIC GENEALOGY

- Capital mitigation in death sentence cases.
- Immigration and citizenship cases.
- Civil pension, Social Security, and veteran’s benefits.
- Land issues involving title, adverse possession, rights of way, lis pendens, or muniment of title.
- Oil, gas, and mineral royalties.

Identification and location of next of kin or DNA donors in matters involving unclaimed decedents or POW/MIA personnel repatriation.

Identification of next of kin prior to a coroner’s release of body or cemetery removals.

Provenance, class action claimants, intellectual property-rights.\(^7\)

Often the client just wants a list of names with contact information to move on with their work; however, many times, the client hasn’t really thought through what genealogists do except they know they can connect people to each other. Be prepared to address this with clients, as it is not uncommon for clients to want the minimum hours it will take to get the results they seek. They may say the work will never be seen by others, challenged, or go to court, and often that is the case.

However, a seemingly straightforward matter of identifying beneficiaries or heirs can be challenged or even end up in court years later, requiring you to appear as an expert witness. How can a genealogist defend their work if they haven’t written a report? How do you represent your work if challenged on industry standards of written reports, citations, and documentation of your conclusions? Sure, your client didn’t want to pay for the time to produce that, but now it is your work and reputation being brought to the forefront. How many hours of review, research, organizing, writing citations, and compiling documentation will be required to defend your work? Probably more than if it had been done at the time.

For example, in the past year, a highly regarded colleague experienced this with two cases completed several years ago. She got a call that she would need to appear in court as an expert witness, each with only a few weeks’ notice. Of course, as is often true, she was busy with other clients, but she was able to appear in court when needed. Fortunately, she had her research report, citations, and documents ready, so she was able to quickly and efficiently review her work and prepare the information she would be testifying to and the documents the client needed for court.

How do we address this with clients? First, remember that the client is usually a professional who is being paid for their service or employed because of their qualifications; they are hiring you as a professional as well. After all, they called a professional, not their aunt who does genealogy as a hobby. Next, take this opportunity to exhibit your professionalism by educating the client on the genealogical standards and how following them benefits the client. This is also an opportunity to discuss the number of hours and budget for acquiring records.

What are the benefits to the client? In the situation of the previously mentioned colleague, she was able to appear in court on short notice with work that met genealogical standards. This leads to another important benefit to the client—the genealogist’s credibility. Credibility is critical to be an expert witness, especially if opposing counsel challenges the methodology or conclusions of the genealogist. Credentials certainly lend to credibility, but quite a few non-credentialed forensic genealogists appear in court. Following the Genealogical Proof Standard
is the foundation of establishing credibility—the genealogists’ methodology, ethics, and conclusions are based on industry standards.

In one case, I was contracted by an attorney to find the next of kin of a man who died intestate, never married, and had no children. An individual filed with the court that they were the sole next of kin, which was partially true; the person was the only living next of kin of the deceased’s mother. In this case, I was asked to be prepared to appear as an expert witness at trial to show that there were next of kin through the deceased’s father.

In another case, I was hired by a court appointed ad litem to find next of kin for a person who died intestate leaving a sizable estate. This situation exemplifies a case that may later involve a court appearance brought about by someone claiming to be a next of kin that was not identified in my report.

In both types of cases, a forensic genealogist’s credibility can be defended by following the Genealogical Proof Standard and client contract. Some common types of questions the forensic genealogist may be asked in court: Are there industry standards? Do you follow the industry standards? What evidence do you have that my client, Jane Doe, is not the only living next of kin of John Smith? Did you find all the descendants of John Smith? Why did you not find my client, Jane Smith?

The report prepared for the client or court should specify the scope of the project, number of authorized hours, and budget for obtaining documents. Any other limitations also should appear in the report. Common limitations are privacy laws that prohibit genealogists from acquiring certain records, the client’s deadline precludes ordering records, or the client is obtaining records.

So, while clients may seem to prefer expediency, it is in-depth, completely documented research and reporting that better serve the interests of both the client and genealogist in the long run. The client has the assurance of fully professional work covering all contingencies; the genealogist’s reputation and professional accomplishment build for the individual and as an industry representative. Fully adhering to the Genealogical Proof Standard ensures this outcome.

Notes
Everyone has a story. . .what's yours?
Discover your DNA story today.

familytreedna.com
This excellent guide illustrates and identifies the different uniforms of the numbered regiments of cavalry and infantry within the British Army during 1751, 1768 and the end of the War of Independence in 1783. It is important, especially for American researchers, to understand what is not included—named but un-numbered regiments or foreign regiments in British pay and the regiments recruited especially for service in the colonies, loyalist regiments, or the veteran or Garrison battalions.

At the end of the Seven Years’ War (French and Indian War) in 1763, the army was reduced to three regiments of Foot Guards, 70 infantry regiments, and 18 cavalry regiments. During the American War of Independence, the numbers increased markedly, peaking in 1783 with 19 numbered regiments of heavy cavalry and 12 of light cavalry, 105 regiments of infantry, though many of the higher numbered regiments survived only for a short period. In 1782, most of the infantry regiments were issued with a county or area title, ostensibly being the area from which the regiment drew recruits, although this was not always the case.

The 1751 army uniforms are taken from the Morier paintings in the Royal Collection. There were no official dress regulations published before 1833, just a random series of orders and individual regulations published by the Horse Guards, most of which exist in The National Archives (UK). There are numerous contemporary illustrations that have been used along with the documentation, especially some regulations from 1768.

The provision of uniforms was the responsibility of the colonel of the regiment, and they arranged for manufacture and supply according to their design. Each regiment was issued a facing color; this rarely changed,
but if it did it is shown in the plates. The facings were used for the coat collar, cuffs, and lapels, and commonly for the lining of the coat before 1751. The long coat was typically used through the period, except for jacket variations introduced by the Light Dragoons, Highland regiments, and later by the light companies of 1770. The reader is advised the officers would often make modifications based on what they thought the colonel would allow, and that both men and officers were often slow in catching up with changes in guidelines or regulations.

The book is divided into four parts. Parts 1 and 3 address the commonalities for cavalry and infantry respectively. Addressed are: headgear; coats and jackets; buttons and lace; stocks, gloves and shirts; netherwear; accoutrements; weapons; horse furniture (cavalry) or tartans of the highland regiments (infantry).

Parts 2 and 4 examine, in detail, the cavalry and infantry regiments. It is the illustrations for each unit or regiment that are truly phenomenal, showing the front and back of jackets/coats demonstrating how facings changed over time. All uniforms are for a man of nominal stature and five feet nine inches tall so direct comparisons between uniforms are easy to make.

This is a superb reference work, full of clearly researched details. The color illustrations for every numbered regiment along with the explanatory text for regimental changes, plus the descriptions of how and why the equipment and uniforms were changing overall make this a go-to reference. For anyone interested in the British Army during the period from 1751 to 1783, this is a reference book worth owning. One look at this book shows how it leaves all other uniform books in the dust. Use this book to understand how a British military ancestor would have been dressed and equipped. As a reference resource it will be of value to family and military historians, re-enactors, figure painters, and wargamers.

Bibb County, Georgia, Superior Court Trial Records 1822–1842

Author: Michael A. Ports
Publisher: Genealogical Publishing Company
http://genealogical.com
Publication Year: 2017
Pages: 358
ISBN: 9780806358505
Price: $38.50

Reviewed by Melissa Barker of Tennessee Ridge, Tennessee

Bibb County, Georgia, Superior Court Trial Records 1822–1842 contains a transcription of the records found in the original Bibb County minute book for 1822 to 1842. Interestingly, the original minute book only contains the records of criminal cases heard by the court.

The short introduction is an essential read. It begins with a brief history of the establishment of Bibb County, Georgia, from parts of Jones, Monroe, and Twiggs counties. Then Ports provides detailed information to help researchers understand these superior court trial records and how they were recorded and arranged. In regards to the transcription, Ports notes: “[it] does not correct any grammar or spelling, no matter how obvious the errors, but does add a few commas, semicolons, and periods for clarity.”
The book contains an every-name index, which is a truly vital element of this book because the original volume is not indexed. Ports includes the original page numbers in brackets after the transcription, and notes any imperfections such as ink blots, stains, or faint print found in the original. The book is put together very well with transcriptions that don’t crowd the page. It is very easy to read and know where one case stops and the next one starts.

After looking through the index of surnames, I actually found a reference for a distant relative of my husband. His case is transcribed on page 92 as “The State vs. Elijah Stringfield.”

This book would be a great resource for anyone with ties to Bibb County, Georgia.
about how to trace the military, or even civilian, career of a Boer War soldier. There is one short nine-page chapter on suggestions of resources to use for tracing your ancestor, but no explanation of how to use them or what you will find there; some of them are also a little speculative.

This is a good social history for those wondering what life was like for the soldier who went off to war, or their families who remained behind, and the effect of their death or disability. But this is not a how-to book for tracing your Boer War soldier, so in that sense it was a disappointment.

If I were asked what in my opinion is the most difficult book topic to write about for the Civil War, I would respond that it is any topic below the regimental level. To write at a company or individual level requires a great deal of pertinent material to make the effort worthwhile since, unlike other types of topics, the reader is expecting to hear about people, not battles or politics. For the author of this work, Ronald Quinn Pettus, to write about a company of a regiment that provides the reader with valuable information, while holding their attention, is quite an accomplishment.

Pettus’s work is impressive on multiple levels. He does a fine job of describing the men and experiences of this one company, while presenting it in a manner that is not chronological from the start of the book to its finish. In many ways, that unique approach greatly assists in making the book a wonderful resource.

Within its covers, The Story of Company I tells of the experiences of almost 180 men, from not only a battle perspective but also a personal one. The first three chapters set the stage for the raising of the Calhoun Guards, a body of men from Lauderdale County, Alabama, and follow them on their journey to the Eastern Theatre of the war. In this section, the sentimental leaving of the home state, along with the excitement of seeing new places and finally ending up at Richmond, Virginia, is well told.

At this point, the book deviates from the history of the company to focus on the men. Chapter 4 details the 9th Alabama Regiment’s first colonel, Cadmus Wilcox, while chapter 5 describes the field and staff officers of the regiment. By chapter 6, the commissioned and non-commissioned officers of Company I is well documented, and by chapter 7 there are 89 pages of detail on the soldiers who made up the company. Chapters 6 and 7, telling the background and experiences of the men, including postwar facts when possible, are a delightful and valuable part of this work.

In the following two chapters, the author returns to the narrative of the company leading to the surrender at Appomattox. The book does not end at this point. It continues for 13
more chapters with subjects such as slaves in the company, galvanized Yankees, prison camps, and desertion to name a few. These topics are well covered and thoughtful in content. For example, while there is only one well-documented servant who went to war with his owner in Company I, other slaves who went to war as servants with Alabama connections are described and, in all cases, shown to be servants, not soldiers in their wartime service. Two men of Company I, when captured, decided to join the Union army to escape prisoner of war camps. Their history and the rationale of this policy in the federal forces are covered in good detail. On all topics in these ancillary chapters, the reader is introduced to facets of the life the men of the company experienced during or after the war to more fully explain how the Civil War impacted them.

Through the copious use of photos, letters, and official documentation regarding the soldiers of this one company, and the scarcity often of such material, Pettus has done an exceptional job of painting a picture of these soldiers from Alabama. He is clear in his introduction that in some cases he needed to lean on information from other companies’ soldiers or sources related to, but not specific to, the company he is documenting. He uses those sources to illuminate topics which, due to absent information relative to Company I, would otherwise leave a gap for the reader and the substituted material is always well linked to the men of this company. Likewise, a review of the bibliography shows the depth of research the author did to do justice to his subject.

For those interested in Alabama or the 9th Infantry, or those just wanting to explore a microscopic view one company and its men, this is a book to add to your library.

Mastering Genealogical Documentation is a workbook-style guide that assists family historians with the citation-writing process. Many genealogists are familiar with Evidence Explained, by Elizabeth Shown Mills, and might question the need for Mastering Genealogical Documentation. As Dr. Jones explains in his preface: “[Mastering Genealogical Documentation] is not a reference book providing models for citing kinds of sources. It does not discuss guidelines for myriad source types” (xvi). Instead, Mastering Genealogical Documentation provides an in-depth look into crafting source citations that meet genealogical standards. In other words, this book gives researchers the logic behind what goes into a citation, thereby assisting the researcher with sequencing elements and allowing the researcher to decide what elements to include in certain situations, such as working notes or works ready for publication. Exercises at the end of each chapter help
readers practice the discussed techniques and apply what they learned.

Understanding a source’s purpose and the information it contains is key to properly analyzing it and using it as evidence in a genealogical conclusion. This same understanding is what helps craft an accurate source citation. While the book discusses reference-list citations, the main focus is on reference-note citations. Each has its own style and purpose, but both answer four basic questions about a source: who, what, when, and where is. Because a reference note cites a specific element, it answers an additional question: wherein. When researchers can effectively answer the five questions, they can appropriately craft a reference-note citation and thereby demonstrate their understanding of the source.

The majority of the book addresses the five questions, providing various options and examples. Readers will learn the logic behind certain long-standing conventions, which is essential to understanding how to properly write a source citation. For example, a source’s publication status will dictate how a citation is crafted, based on those established conventions. Whether a source is online or offline also can impact citation elements. All of these considerations, and more, are thoroughly covered in this book.

In addition to the nitty-gritty logic behind crafting source citations, this book discusses other relevant points such as formatting conventions, which includes a discussion on punctuation and style. One chapter thoroughly explains the difference between reference lists and reference notes, which are often confused, providing examples and discussing instances when each would be used. Another chapter offers advice for the placement of reference notes (footnotes, endnotes, etc.) and placement of note numbers within a narrative.

The chapter exercises are thought-provoking and challenging, many utilizing an article published by the author (reprinted in appendix A). The answers, provided in a section at the end of the book, help further explain a concept.

Readers will no doubt gain a better understanding of the “how” and “why” behind source citations after reading this book. With that knowledge, readers will be able to appropriately evaluate and cite any source, including those that are unusual or obscure, where no model exists.

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How Our Ancestors Died: A Guide for Family Historians

**Author:** Simon Wills

**Publisher (UK):** Pen & Sword Family History

[http://pen-sword.co.uk](http://pen-sword.co.uk)

**Distributor (US):** Casemate IPM

[http://casemateipm.com](http://casemateipm.com)

**Publication Year:** 2013

**Pages:** 214

**ISBN:** 9781781590386

**Price:** £14.99 / $29.95

Reviewed by Paul Milner of Park Ridge, Illinois

Simon Wills is a genealogist, journalist, and regular contributor to genealogy magazines. Professionally, he works as an information specialist, writer, and advisor to the National Health Service and healthcare organizations. That experience in the healthcare industry clearly shows in this
excellent guide to how our ancestors died.

The book is divided into 27 chapters with the opening chapters addressing the causes, diagnosis, and treatment of illness, and how that has evolved over time. For the family historian, the places where a cause of death might be found is helpful to get you thinking of where to look—death certificates; registers of deaths abroad and at sea; obituaries; coroner’s inquests and legal proceedings; registers of parish burials; memorials and gravestones; newspapers; hospitals, workhouses, and asylums; military records; employment records; specific medical problems; and epidemic statistics. Attention is given to records of accidents and disasters.

The remaining chapters in the book examine, in alphabetical order, major causes of death, such as alcoholism, cancer, chest conditions, cholera, dysentery and bowel infections, execution and murder, influenza, plague, pregnancy and childbirth, scurvy, smallpox, tuberculosis, typhoid, venereal diseases, and more. For each medical problem there is a description of the symptoms and how it was treated over time, bloodletting and purgatives being common for all sorts of ailments. The true cause of a medical problem might take years to discover, or it may be discovered and the medical profession, because of vested interests or disbelief, may ignore the cure (e.g., scurvy, cholera).

If there are specific locations or time periods when deaths occurred in significant numbers these are noted, so we learn about famines, plagues, and epidemics. This is helpful if you want to know, for example, if your ancestor’s cholera death was an isolated incident or part of a larger outbreak. The book also helpfully highlights some geographical-specific medical issues such as: Devonshire colic, resulting from drinking cider made in lead containers, or “Derbyshire Neck” in which a lack of iodine in the soil, and thereby diet, prevents the thyroid gland from working properly, causing a large swelling under the chin (goiter), and results in adults often being slow in movement and thought.

This is an excellent resource for putting your ancestor’s ailments into perspective. You can gain an understanding of a condition’s symptoms, how it was treated, whether it was contagious (thus creating fear in the family and community), and when and how it was eventually treatable or cured through modern medicines. This is a guide you will use, rather than doing online searches that usually only provide the modern treatments for an ancestor’s ailment.

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**Marcel’s Letters: A Font and the Search for One Man’s Fate**

**Author:** Carolyn Porter

**Publisher:** Skyhorse Publishing

[http://skyhorsepublishing.com](http://skyhorsepublishing.com)

**Publication Year:** 2017

**Pages:** 344

**ISBN:** 9781510719330

**Price:** $24.99

Reviewed by Mary Kircher Roddy of Seattle, Washington

In *Marcel’s Letters*, Carolyn Porter weaves a compelling mystery based on a handful of letters, written in French, that she bought in an antique store. A graphic designer, Porter
originally purchased the letters because of the beauty of the handwriting, from which she intended to create a font. But when her curiosity as to the contents of the correspondence overwhelmed her, she had one of the letters translated, and the mystery of the writer began to take hold. Who was he? When were the letters written? To whom? And why?

Porter’s page-turner pulls the reader into World War II France and Germany. Love letters from a husband, conscripted under the Vichy regime to work in a forced-labor camp in Berlin, contain details about his life and work in the tank factory and his love for his wife and daughters. Porter takes us along for the ride as she attempts to discover who Marcel was and most perplexing—did he make it through the war?

Intertwined with Marcel’s story is Porter’s struggle to turn the expressive handwriting found in the letters into a useable font. Fellow geeks (her husband’s word) from her “Type Tuesday” monthly group of font designers supported, encouraged, and inspired her efforts. Readers unfamiliar with typography will learn much of the hows and whys of type development.

Genealogists will enjoy Porter’s approach to research, contemplating the path she took in her investigation and where another’s route might differ. She eventually connected with a local genealogist whose efforts to find more about Marcel pay off.

The page-turning aspect of the writing works . . . to a point. Near the end, some passages may appear overly hyped—a few too many interjections inserted before the contents of an e-mail are revealed—but this is only a small criticism. The writing is good and flows well, though the regular use of the f-bomb seems unnecessary and out of place.

Marcel’s Letters contains photographs of Marcel and his family. Fourteen pages of
endnotes provide background and avenues for further research.

World War II buffs, mystery fans, and genealogists who find themselves obsessively investigating random people they run across in their research will all enjoy Marcel’s Letters.

Even though this book is designed for the newcomer to British and Irish research, there are some gems in here for everyone. The first chapter addresses getting started, looking at what you know, and charting the family, and then goes on to explain the jurisdictions you will encounter and where you will find records.

The next two short chapters look at the traditional building blocks—civil registrations, censuses, parish registers (baptisms, marriages, and burials), and the parish chest.

The biggest chapter, which is nearly half the book, suggests resources for going further. It covers: nonconformity; wills and probate; migration; military; working lives; and secrets, scandals, and hard times.

The section on working lives is particularly good, looking at different occupations and suggesting where to look for both records and background information, much of which is online. The section covers: trade directories; apprentices; trade unions; agricultural laborers, smiths, millers, and rural craftsmen; mining; policing; rail; maritime; textiles; medicine; engineering and manufacturing; banking; lawyers; clergymen; retail; brewers and publicans; entertainers; and others. The goal is not to answer all the questions about any occupation you may have, but rather to point you in the direction of where you might find some answers.

The final short chapter of further resources addresses websites and a miscellaneous catchall.

In all sections, the records are described, but at the end of the section you will often find one to three boxes addressing key facts about that subject or resource, online resources, and further reading. The key facts are nice summarization of what you need to know, while the online resources are up to date, making suggestions even experienced researchers may not be aware of.

The emphasis in the book is on English resources, but Scottish and Irish are covered as well, better than some introductory texts to British and Irish research. You are not going to find the answers to all your British and Irish questions in this book, but it will introduce the topics and point you in the right direction.

This is a good, up-to-date book for someone new to British and Irish research. It is an ideal introductory text for library collections.
Announcing the FGS 2018 Conference Tracks

There is a lot to learn at the Federation of Genealogical Societies’ 2018 Conference. (There are more than 90 sessions and workshops to choose from!) Here’s a sneak peak at the tracks that will be on the program.

**Technology**
Learn how to use a variety of websites and apps to learn more about your ancestors. No matter your technology expertise, there’s a session to help you.

**Records**
Explore a vast variety of records for your genealogy research, including military records, church records, and Freemason records. (Yes, Masons!) So many records...

**Methodology**
Learn how to use the records you’ve found with experts such as Judy Russell, Tom Jones, and Michael Lacopo.

**DNA**
Whether you’re just considering taking a DNA test or you geek out analyzing the data, you’ll find a DNA session to meet your needs.

**Midwest**
Learn about resources for finding your Buckeye, Hoosier, Illini, “Show Me,” and Wolverine ancestors.

**African American**
Experts including Tony Burroughs, Ari Wilkins, and Deborah Abbott will highlight using a variety of records and methods for African American genealogy.

**Scandinavian**
Got Viking ancestors? You’ll want to check out the sessions on Scandinavian resources on both sides of the Atlantic.

**German**
Millions of Americans have German ancestry. Learn about German records and how to identify your German ancestor’s origins.

**United Kingdom**
Those with English or Irish ancestors need to look at the sessions from Paul Milner, Jen Baldwin, and Rich Venezia.

**Eastern Europe**
The Eastern Europe track features sessions on Polish and Czech research, as well as finding records in the former Soviet Union.

**Society Management**
Not just a track — it’s a whole day! Wednesday, 22 August is devoted to helping your genealogy society improve. Join us for sessions on leadership, management, and social media.

In addition to these tracks, there will also be workshops on genetic genealogy, oral histories, maps, and certification. There will also be a day just for librarians!

Book Your Hotel Now!  www.VisitFortWayne.com/FGS2018
Genealogical research in the Midwestern states can be frustrating. However, if your ancestors hailed from the South Dakota area, you will want to visit the State Archives of the South Dakota State Historical Society.

Navigation of this site is not particularly intuitive, and it takes a few clicks to get to the genealogy sections. From the homepage, click the Archives link in the top navigation bar. There are four sections that are of particular interest to genealogists: Collections Indexes, Digital Archives, Newspapers Online, and Library Catalog. They can be accessed using the menu at the right on the Archives page.

**Collections Indexes:** Several databases including a naturalization record index, a newspaper surname index (2000 to the present), a cemetery record search, and the 1905 South Dakota state census index.

**Digital Archives:** A collection of more than 70,000 items including photographs, manuscripts, land survey records, and finding aids to government collections. Also available are digitized versions of *The Wi-Iyohi*, a monthly news bulletin published by the SDSHS from April 1947 to November 1970. The newsletters are indexed and browsable and contain various items of historical interest.

**Newspapers Online:** A list of newspapers digitized as part of a project to digitize nearly 100 rolls of South Dakota newspapers pre-dating 1922. The newspapers listed are currently available on the Library of Congress’s *Chronicling America* website.

**Library Catalog:** The library maintains published materials about the history of South Dakota and the surrounding Northern Great Plains region. Included are: family, city, county, and church histories; county atlases; city directories; maps; and cemetery indexes. These materials are not available for checkout or inter-library loan, so you will need to contact a librarian for assistance.

—Elizabeth O’Neal