11 Tips to Get Organized in 2016

» FGS Celebrates 40 Years
» The Ethics of Kindness
» Delicious Deals for Your Genealogical Society
» Flickr for Societies
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Immigrants to New England, 1620–1640

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From the Editors

It’s a brand new year and the FORUM cover has a new look. This is just one of the many changes we have in store for 2016. In the Spring issue, we’ll debut a new column and unveil the new reviews editor who’s waiting in the wings to get started. And, since 2016 marks FGS’s 40th anniversary, we’re kicking off a year-long series of special articles to commemorate the occasion.

We have an exciting and inspiring issue to mark the new year and help you and your society start off on the right foot. You’ll find tips for getting organized, saving your society money on technology products, and using the photo-sharing website Flickr. In addition, we have some news on the upcoming FGS 2016 conference, along with a list of repositories in and around Springfield, Illinois, the location of the conference.

Many thanks to the wonderful people who contributed to this issue; we couldn’t put out a quality magazine without you. Anyone who would like an opportunity to write for FORUM should contact the managing editor at forumeditor@fgs.org to discuss your ideas. If you’re looking for inspiration, see our recent blog post “Looking for a Few Good Writers for FORUM.”

Wishing you a happy and successful new year!
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.

FGS MEMBERSHIP

Societies or organizations wishing information on membership should visit our website at http://fgs.org, email FGS at info@fgs.org, call 888-347-1500, or write to FGS, P.O. Box 200940, Austin, TX 78720-0940.

Membership is on a calendar basis from January to December.
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As a community, genealogists are indebted to volunteers. From those who assist with a lookup, to others who dedicate countless hours to their local genealogical societies, our community thrives on the spirit of volunteerism. As society leaders and fellow genealogists it is important that we take a few moments to say “thank you,” as often as we can.

The Federation owes a tremendous debt of gratitude to many individuals who have supported and served the organization for many years. As we look forward to celebrating our 40th Anniversary in 2016, we will strive to highlight those who have given so much to the community and FGS over the years. Like many other organizations, FGS volunteers often wear multiple hats—and spend hours to produce issues of FORUM, develop new membership benefits, and pull together our national conferences.

Our genealogical societies would cease to function without those who volunteer to lead committees, serve on boards, and willingly offer their incredible skillsets. As society leaders, please ensure you take a few moments to say “thank you” to each and every member of your board and committees. Consider hosting a regular volunteer appreciation event, in the form of a dinner, luncheon, or gathering. Members of the community can also “give back” by nominating volunteers for FGS Awards (http://fgs.org/cpage.php?pt=56) throughout the year.

As a non-profit organization, FGS is also indebted to our various sponsors, who allow us to continue providing resources for the national family history community. Many of our sponsors have supported FGS for more than 20 years, including FamilySearch and Ancestry. While we might gripe from time to time over changes in products and features, we do owe a tremendous thanks to organizations that regularly place millions of new records online for us to access and have done so much to preserve our records and support the hobby we love.

Earlier this year FGS reached the halfway point on the War of 1812 Preserve the Pensions project (http://preservethepensions.org). This unique project embodies the spirit of volunteerism and generosity of our entire community. One of the first major fundraising efforts organized for genealogists—by genealogists—the project will preserve and deliver millions of pages for free, forever, to the community. My sincere thanks to those who have donated and supported the project since the beginning; I am looking forward to completing the project in the upcoming months.

To all those society members, volunteers, and leaders—thank you for everything you do to support family history.

Until next time,

Joshua
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For some genealogy researchers, getting and staying organized can feel like a laborious, uphill battle. I’m lucky. I’m a professional organizer—I make my living helping people create and maintain order in their homes—so I actually love organizing my genealogy research. It’s my idea of fun!

But I realize I’m a little weird. If you, like many people, find organizing your research a challenge (or drudgery), perhaps 2016 will be your year to finally get it together. In ten years as a professional organizer, I’ve learned some universal truths about organizing. In this article, I’ve combined my organizing expertise with my experience as a genealogy enthusiast to put together these tips that could help 2016 be the year you get your research organized.

**11 Tips to Get Organized in 2016**

**1. Store things near where you use them.** The easier it is to put something away, the more likely you are to actually put it away, rather than leaving it out on your desk (or floor!). If you have a dedicated genealogy research space, store the files, binders, reference materials, or any other items you use in the space where you actually do the work. If you store your binders in another room, they may languish awhile until you get around to putting them away. Be selective about what actually gets stored on your desk, though. That high-value real estate should be reserved for items that you use every session.
Label the heck out of everything. I think labels are perhaps the least appreciated organizing aids. You'd be surprised how many clients I've worked with whose file folders didn't sport any labels! Having good labels on files, binders, containers, even shelves (so you know what belongs there when it's empty) can really make it easier for you to stay organized. And labels have another important function: They require you to think about how you're categorizing a group of items. If you can't name the category in a word or two, it might not be a great category. Here's a pro tip from the trenches: “Miscellaneous” is not an acceptable label—neither is “Stuff.” Take a few minutes to create categories specific enough to avoid those tempting generalities. (But don't get too specific!)

Use broad categories. Though I hate “Miscellaneous” as a category, I think, in general, it's better to have broader categories than very narrow. For example, I organize my paper and electronic documents by surname. On my hard drive, I have a folder for each surname and a subfolder for each person with that surname. (In my paper files, which I'm phasing out, I have a folder for each couple.) I put all the documents related to that person into his or her folder. I don't have subfolders for census documents, birth certificates, death certificates, pension records, etc. Broad categories make it easier to file. If you're using paper, that's especially critical because unfixed paper is messy. If your files are electronic, it's easy to sort or search, making multiple layers of subfolders unnecessary.

Let go of duplicates. Without diligent effort, it's really easy to let duplicates of documents accumulate. They might be in piles. They might be on your hard drive. They might even be filed nicely in file folders. Keep an eye out for duplicates (especially paper ones) and let them go. That's one easy way to thin out the paper!

Be selective about what actually gets stored on your desk.

Ditch paper. For some people this might sound radical. And if you're not comfortable with it, that's fine. But if you've been toying with going paperless, let me give you wholehearted encouragement. It's much easier to stay organized if your documents are stored electronically. It takes a lot less effort to name and file a document on your hard drive than it does to print and file a paper document. Here's one thing I know to be true: When things are easier to do, you're more likely to do them. A bonus to electronic filing is that it's easier to find a misfiled electronic file than a it is to find a misfiled piece of paper.

Declare a backlog. If you're overwhelmed by piles of papers you have to file or scan, you have my permission to put them all into one big pile and put them in a box or other container. Then work on whittling that pile down, little by little until it's gone. An important caveat: Anything that comes in after you've declared a backlog should be handled properly, not added to the backlog box. File new documents
appropriately the day they come in. (This applies to electronic files as well.) Otherwise your backlog will never be gone.

This technique works whether you’re working with an existing organizing system or trying to implement a new one. It’s also great if you have decided to go paperless: Scan or download all your new documents coming in, and then schedule time to work through your backlog of documents that need to be scanned 15 or 30 minutes at a time.

**Create some great habits.**

Maintaining order is all about good habits. Genealogy is too. You probably already have some great genealogy habits, like documenting all your sources. If you can create some great habits around organizing your genealogy, your research life will be easier. Such habits include filing documents properly (paper or electronic) the day you create them, tagging photos and documents, and keeping a research log and to-do list. If you can do those things as you go, you’re golden. Once your backlog is gone and all you have to do is organize and put away one session’s worth of research information and resources, it shouldn’t take you much time. Creating that habit will pay off many times over in terms of being able to find information and avoid duplicating effort. And, in my opinion, an uncluttered, organized research space is much easier to work in!

**Carve out time for organizing.**

Once you’ve developed great organizing habits, you won’t need to schedule time for organizing. But while you’re working on that and until your backlog is gone, it’s a good idea to actually schedule time during your genealogy research session to organize your findings and put away anything you got out—activities that will become automatic once they’re established habits. Stay on top of organizing the new documents and then chip away at the backlog. You’ll want to schedule time for handling the backlog as well. If you work 15 minutes a day, filing, tossing, and renaming the documents in your backlog, you’ll get through it faster than you probably expect.

**Use a timer.** I love a timer for helping me get through tedious tasks. Let’s say you’re working through a backlog of papers to file (or scan). Set your timer for 15 minutes and file as many as you can in that time, staying focused on the task at hand. When your timer goes off, you can stop filing for the day. Or take a (timed) break and start again.

Another great use for timers is keeping you on task. If you’re researching a fact, it’s so easy to lose track of time as you’re
chasing down leads. If you set a timer, you can remind yourself to check in with yourself periodically to make sure you’re not wandering off task. I also use a timer for breaks. If I want to take a breather and play a little Words with Friends, for example, I’ll set my timer for ten minutes so that I don’t end up getting lost on Facebook or clicking my way around the internet.

Timers are all around us. The timer I use most frequently is on my Apple Watch. I also use the one on my iPhone. If you have a computer handy, you have a timer. Did you know you can type “Set a timer for 15 minutes” into the Google search engine and it will time you? Just be sure your speakers aren’t muted on your computer.

Keep it simple. I think we all have a tendency to overcomplicate things. Many people think that if an organizing system is complex, it must be good. And it can be—if you respond well to it, as some people do. But for many, including me, a complicated system is destined for failure. So I try to embrace a “Let it be easy” philosophy.

Let’s take research logs as an example. I’ve seen (and tried to use) complex templates for research log spreadsheets. They’re appealing because they capture so much information. But I found them tedious to fill in and a bit overwhelming to even contemplate using. So after a few attempts, I just stopped using them. A research log that isn’t used is no good to anyone. My solution was to create a simple template I use in Evernote that captures some essential information without being overwhelming. (You’re welcome to e-mail me at janine@organizeyourfamilyhistory.com and I’ll send it to you.) A less-than-perfect research log that is actually used is better than a perfect log that is empty.

Be kind to yourself. We all think differently; what works for me may not work for you. There is no one right way to organize. In my opinion, the very best organizing system is the one that you can maintain. Everyone, even the most organized person, should expect to backslide. Try as you might, life gets in the way of staying on top of organizing tasks. If you end up with a backlog after working your organizing system for awhile, cut yourself some slack. Just set your timer and start eliminating the backlog. Don’t beat yourself up or think you’ll never be organized. You’re human.

Embrace a ‘Let it be easy’ philosophy.

I imagine you do genealogy research because you enjoy it. Organizing your research can help you enjoy doing genealogy even more. I’m not saying you’ll find organizing as fun as I do. But, once you get rid of your backlog, if keep your organizing system simple, and do it regularly, it really can be easy.

Janine Adams is a Certified Professional Organizer® and owner of Peace of Mind Organizing® in St. Louis, Missouri. She’s been researching her family history for a decade and in 2012 started the blog Organize Your Family History. She is the author of the Orderly Roots genealogy guides available for purchase on her blog.
forty years later, FGS is a thriving organization serving the needs of its members and the greater genealogical community—a testament to their hard work and that of many who followed them. More than 160 people have served FGS as officers and board members since that day, and countless others have worked on committees and projects, but without the vision and sacrifice of those early leaders, this organization would not exist. And so we begin this year of celebrating the accomplishments of the past 40 years and looking forward to the future with a special thanks to all those who have given their time and energy to guide, support, and grow the Federation of Genealogical Societies.

The Colorado Genealogical Society was the first of 54 charter members to join. Hundreds of others followed as FGS grew quickly. The first annual conference was held in 1981 with 130 people attending. By the second year the conference drew 502 attendees, and year three saw attendance top 800.

FGS soon became involved in legislative issues related to records preservation and access, including the operation of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).

The timeline on the following pages outlines some of FGS’s accomplishments and some highlights of the past 40 years. A more thorough history of the first 25 years written by Loretto D. Szucs and Sandra H. Luebking is available at the FGS website (http://fgs.org/cpage.php?pt=10). The last 15 years will be added to that during the year.

In future FORUM articles during 2016, we will spotlight the 54 charter members, look back at past conferences and award winners, meet the current FGS board, and more. The FGS Voice blog (http://voice.fgs.org) and social media accounts will also feature posts celebrating this anniversary throughout the year, and the celebration will culminate at the 2016 FGS conference in Springfield, Illinois, August 31–September 3.
1976:
- Articles of Incorporation signed on January 23. Chartering officers ran the organization until the first election in September.
- Delegates from several member societies elected the first set of officers at the Bicentennial Conference on American Genealogy & Family History in Cleveland in August.

1979:
- Developed the Genealogists’ Code of Ethics as a commitment that genealogical societies could use in asking legislatures to open vital records to genealogists.
- Sponsored “The Organization & Management of the Genealogical Society: A Symposium” along with the annual meeting in Omaha, Nebraska.

1980:
- Established the George E. Williams award for service to FGS in honor of this former president.

1981:
- Held first annual FGS conference October 22–24 in Decatur, Illinois, with 130 attending.

1982:
- Genealogical Coordinating Committee (made up of representatives from six organizations) appointed FGS as treasurer for the National Archives Gift Fund, which was established to finance genealogical finding aids at NARA and its branches.

1983:

1984:
- Joined forces with the historical community in a successful effort to support Senate Bill 905, a bill to restore independence to NARA by separating it from the General Service Administration.

1985:
- Began naming a Delegate of the Day and Delegate of the Conference at the conference held in Salt Lake City.
1986:
• Rabbi Malcolm Stern appeared before the Senate Committee on Government Affairs at hearings regarding the nomination of the Archivist of the United States.
• Adopted an annual budget.

1987:
• Formed an Advisory Committee to assist the FGS board in legal or controversial issues.

1989:
• Renamed the FGS Newsletter, which had been published since the formation in 1976, FORUM.

1990:
• Held first “get acquainted” session for FGS delegates at conference in Salt Lake City.
• Established the David S. Vogels, Jr. Award for career service to FGS in honor of this past president.

1991:
• Became national volunteer coordinator to index the Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System, a joint effort with National Park Service, Genealogical Society of Utah, NARA, and FGS.
• Implemented sliding scale for dues based on membership numbers.
• Conducted first FGS delegate survey.

1992:
• Began publication of the Society Strategy Series papers.

1993:
• Joined forces with NGS to create the Records Preservation and Access Committee (RPAC).
• Published first issue of Delegate Digest.

1994:
• Spearheaded efforts to stop NARA destruction of the Railroad Retirement Board pension files leading to a stop-order on further destruction of those records and agreement to solicit input from the genealogical community in formulating new federal records retention schedules.

1995:
• Assumed responsibility for the Stern-NARA Gift Fund when the Genealogical Coordinating Committee disbanded.
• Published and distributed first FGS Membership Directory.
1996:
- Published *Bylaws Workbook: A Handbook for New and Established Societies* by Marcia Struthers Lindley.
- Created first FGS website.
- Joined with Ohio Genealogical Society to offer four televised programs at remote locations via satellite.

1999:
- Added Society Hall, a one-stop online directory for visitors to easily locate genealogical and historical societies throughout the country, to the FGS website.

2000:
- Debuted Society Hall “Live” (later renamed Society Showcase) at the conference in Salt Lake City.
- Redesigned and updated the FGS website.

2001:
- Updated the website to include conference activities, vendor listings, and maps.
- Held conference in the aftermath of 9/11.
- Changed *FORUM* subscriptions from calendar year to four issues starting with the next issue following payment.

2002:
- Changed *Delegate Digest* from print to digital and bimonthly to monthly.
- Launched new RPAC website.
- RPAC assumed vital role in efforts to impact vital records legislation in California and the threatened closing of the Florida State Archives.

2003:
- Updated FGS website to accept online submissions for conference lecture proposals.

2004:
- Established Bylaws Review Committee to conduct bylaws reviews as a membership benefit.
- Completed Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System.

2005
2006:
• Contracted with a commercial conference registration provider to process conference registrations online.
• NARA requested FGS submit input for their long-range planning.

2009:
• Renamed Delegate Digest, published since 1993, the Voice Newsletter.
• Moved FORUM from print to digital.

2010:
• Began fundraising efforts to digitize War of 1812 pension records.
• Started the FGS Voice blog.
• Added members-only area and electronic balloting to the FGS website.

2011:
• Added website and newsletter reviews as member benefits.
• Launched webinar series to provide society management education online.

2015:
• Teamed up with RootsTech for a one-time special genealogy event—two conferences under one roof sharing one exhibit hall and some sessions.
• Sponsored a genealogy cruise to Alaska.
Every genealogical society has its own recipe for success, and for most societies, technology is an important ingredient. Webinars, websites, desktop publishing, and accounting tools—all of these require some sort of technology to implement. But technology can be expensive, and most societies have tight budgets. So how can your society find the ingredients it needs without breaking the piggy bank?

**Take Your Shopping List to TechSoup**

Launched in 2002 by San Francisco-based nonprofit TechSoup Global, TechSoup (http://techsoup.org) is a website focused on connecting nonprofits with the technology products and services they need at the most affordable prices. From their website:

> Perhaps the largest technology philanthropy program in the world, TechSoup.org connects nonprofit organizations and libraries to the resources and knowledge they need to operate at full potential. Visited by more than 193,000 individuals monthly, this online community is a place to build capacity, make connections, and share solutions.

Qualified organizations can access donated and discounted products from companies such as Microsoft, Intuit, Adobe, and Citrix, to name a few. More than 180,000 organizations have already benefited from TechSoup’s services, and your genealogical society could be next.

**How Do You Get Qualified?**

If your genealogical society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, qualification is easy. Get started by clicking the orange “Join Now” button on the homepage, or the “Join” circle at the top of every page.

Completing the registration form takes about 15–20 minutes. Before you begin, you will need to gather some information, such as your society’s legal name, contact information, EIN, and annual budget. You can always click the “Save to complete later” link if you need to stop and get more information. For step-by-step instructions, watch the “Getting Started” video by hovering your mouse over the “Get Products and Services” link, and selecting “Overview.”

Qualification takes up to ten business days to process. In the meantime, you can browse the TechSoup catalog to start planning your first order.
What Can You Buy?
Once your society is qualified, you are ready to go shopping. Here are a few products you can expect to find at TechSoup:

- Microsoft Office 2016 Professional Plus (9 products): $40.00 admin fee*
- Adobe Acrobat XI Pro Win ESD: $55.00 admin fee
- QuickBooks Premier Editions 2016, 1 User License (includes Nonprofit Edition): $50.00 admin fee
- Citrix GoToWebinar, 1-Year Initial Subscription: $12.00 admin fee + 50% discount

*TechSoup charges an administrative fee, or “admin fee,” to cover the cost of processing each donated or discounted product, and to support its other programs for nonprofits. Admin fees are subject to periodic changes.

Before making a purchase, you will want to read the product details and descriptions carefully. Some products, such as the Citrix GoToWebinar listed above, may have additional costs beyond the admin fees. Other products may have quantity and/or budget restrictions, so be sure to read the “Rules, Eligibility and Restrictions” tab before placing your order.

What Else Does TechSoup Do?
More than just discounted hardware and software products, TechSoup offers free resources to help your genealogical society reach its full potential:

- Under the “Community” tab you will find Forums, which are a great place to get and offer advice about website building, hardware, software, and many other subjects. If you cannot find what you are looking for in the TechSoup catalog, you can post your request in the Technology Wish List forum. There is even a forum where members can post their favorite soup recipes!
- Click the “Resources” tab for how-tos and articles such as, “Keeping Old Computers Alive,” and “QuickBooks and Accounting Resources.” The TechSoup Blog covers a variety of topics ranging from, “10 Tips for Protecting Your Online Privacy and Identity,” to “3 Cool Things to Try in Excel 2016.”
- Educational webinars are offered on a weekly basis. Sign up to watch, “How to Select the Right Computer Hardware for Your Organization,” or “Do You Need the New Microsoft Office 2016 for Windows?” presented by Microsoft. Missed a live presentation?
Check out the vast Webinar Archives, where you can find topics such as Accounting, Fundraising, Web and Graphic Design, and Databases and Analytics. While non-free presentations are offered by other organizations, all webinars offered by TechSoup are free for everyone, not just qualified nonprofits.

Ready to Get Started?

If technology is an important ingredient in your recipe for success, you don’t need to break the bank to buy it. Many nonprofits take advantage of TechSoup’s discounted and donated products each month, and your society can too. Visit TechSoup’s website to find out how you can get qualified and save those precious pennies.

Elizabeth Swanay-O’Neal is a genealogist, writer, and web developer who has been tracking her ancestors for nearly three decades. When not hunting ancestors, she enjoys testing new software and social media platforms, and is one of the creative forces behind the Second Life Genealogy Group. A former school teacher, Elizabeth was an avid promoter of technology in the classroom, and now teaches others how to use technology to enhance their research. She began writing the blog Little Bytes of Life in 2007 as a means of “communicating with humans over the age of 1,” though now her writing is mainly focused on genealogy and technology.
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Valid until January 31, 2016
The role of today’s genealogical society is changing. It’s not just about research. Members also want help writing their family’s history and protecting their family heirlooms. Technology has made those efforts easier and more affordable, but we all need help learning how to take advantage of the opportunities they provide.

One area where technology shines is photographs. Digital photography allows us to take all the pictures we want without worrying about processing costs. Heirloom photos can be scanned and stored on computers for easy access and sharing. Once scanned, the digital copy can be used in family history projects without worrying about damaging the original. Scanning isn’t just for photos either. Heirloom records and documents can be scanned too.

Helping your membership learn how to scan their precious photos and documents can also help your society. How? Once an item is digitized, it can easily be copied. In fact, good archival practices recommend that multiple copies are maintained to protect those collections from disaster. At least one copy should be stored off-site. Although there are a number of online platforms offering free and affordable photo storage, the Flickr platform also includes some impressive features to display and share your collection.

Flickr (http://flickr.com) has been a force in online photo storage and sharing for more than 11 years. Its archive contains billions of photos from around the world. In 2005, Flickr opened a section called The Commons where archives, museums, and libraries from around the world share all or parts of their photo collections.

What makes Flickr so impressive? Here are a few features:

- Flickr accounts are free and provide 1,000GB of storage for each user.
- Flickr provides tools to organize photos into albums and collections.
- Flickr imports the metadata embedded in digital photographs and provides tools to add your own tags, descriptions, etc.
• Flickr is very search-friendly. It is not unusual for research cousins to make connections through their photo collections at Flickr.

• Flickr users control access to their photos. Users choose licensing and privacy settings on a photo-by-photo basis.

• Flickr offers easy uploading. Uploading is a breeze through the browser-based uploader, and many photo-editing apps have Flickr bulk upload capabilities built in. There are also mobile apps that allow you to take photos and upload them in a couple of easy steps.

• Flickr is social. Users can comment on photos and there is an in-house messaging system for members. Users can join groups and share selected photos with a group without giving up control of them. Groups also have discussion boards, which can also be put to good use.

• Flickr users can use their Roku box, Apple TV or other set-top devices to display photo slideshows on their large-screen televisions.

• Flickr integrates with a number of other services and platforms giving users even more functionality.

First and foremost, Flickr provides your society’s members with an easy-to-use and very affordable (as in free) platform for secure off-site storage. It protects their photos from man-made and natural disasters. That's the priority, but that's also just the beginning. With support and guidance, your members can use their Flickr collections to help their research efforts and even connect with distant relatives.

Getting Started
First, your society will need someone to serve as your digital archivist. This person should have experience using social networks—Flickr experience is a definite plus. If you already have a “groupmaster”—an individual maintaining

The author’s Family Archive album contains photos and scanned ephemera.
and monitoring your society’s social networks—he/she could be the perfect choice. Another option could be your communications/publicity director. Since that is often the person taking all the photographs of society events, it makes good sense. Check to see if you have members who are already using Flickr and recruit them to serve as coaches and cheerleaders.

Since Flickr is a Yahoo property, creating a Flickr account will also create a Yahoo account, which includes a Yahoo e-mail account. Try to include your society’s name in the user name you select. For example, an account for the fictitious Moultrie Creek Genealogical Society could become MCGSarchive or something similar. By keeping the account as a position rather than a person, you make transferring control to another volunteer much easier. All the incoming person will need to do is change the password and update the profile information.

Once the society account is created, wander around a bit and see how others are using Flickr. You might start at The Commons, a section where archives, libraries, and museums from around the world share images from their collections. Internet Archive is the newest addition to The Commons with more than two million images from books. Other institutions include the National Archives (US and UK), Library of Congress, and NASA. Explore their collections to see how they are organized and what metadata (titles, descriptions, tags, etc.) they have included. Visit some of the other archives and libraries to see how they organize and display their collections. These can be very useful to help you develop organizational and metadata schemes for your collections.

Take a look at Flickr’s social features too. This is where Flickr shines, and these features will allow the society and your members to enjoy the fruits of your collective archival efforts. Once the society’s site is up and running, look around to see if any of your members are already using Flickr. Make connections by friending them.

In addition to uploading society photos, you can take advantage of Flickr’s Groups and Galleries features to begin building resources that can help your members. Galleries are albums of other people’s photos. Anyone can create a gallery and collect up to 50 photos from all over Flickr to present. Any photo marked as public and safe can be added to a gallery. You might create a gallery of local historic buildings or historic figures. The Commons is a great place to start looking.

Groups are more structured. Anyone can create a group. Groups can be public or private, by invitation only. Groups contain two sections—photos and discussions. Members of a group can share photos with the group. You’ll find groups already exist for just about every topic imaginable. Genealogical societies should find the many existing cemetery groups quite interesting, along with local area and historic photo groups.

The beauty of groups is it allows individuals to share their photos without giving away their rights to them. Your society
can use them to build topic-based groups so members can share their related images. Groups can also support events like conferences, reunions, and socials, where many attendees are taking pictures. Just remind them to share their photos to the event's photo group. Existing groups—like the cemetery and local area groups mentioned earlier—can also be great research resources allowing members to connect with people who have knowledge of an area, event, or topic.

### Putting Flickr to Work

Here are a few ideas for using Flickr and Flickr Groups to support digitizing and sharing photos:

- Create a Photos 411 group where members can share photos they want to learn more about. If the group is open to all Flickr users, it may even attract research cousins.
- Display online slideshows of member/society photos before your monthly meeting begins. All you need is an Internet connection for the laptop/mobile device connected to the projector. Navigate to the album or group you want to spotlight, then click the slideshow icon. Flickr takes care of the rest.
- Create short-term groups for special topics like funny hats or unusual activities.
- Create subject-specific galleries and spotlight them to your membership. Topics could be cemeteries, special events, holiday photos, or local disasters.

As you can see, Flickr offers a lot more than free off-site storage. It will take some time and effort to develop a strategy and build your society's presence, but that effort will be returned with dividends in the protection, research, and collaboration opportunities you and your members will enjoy.

**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](http://moultriecreek.us)), her personal blog. *Her Moultrie Creek Gazette ([http://moultriecreek.us/gazette](http://moultriecreek.us/gazette)) blog is focused on research technology and digital storytelling.*
Now is the time to mark your 2016 calendar for the FGS Conference, which will be held in Springfield, Illinois, August 31 to September 3, 2016. The conference local host is the Illinois State Genealogical Society. The state of Illinois is very important to many family history researchers since so many ancestors came through the Prairie State especially as they migrated westward. Join us for *Time Travel: Centuries of Memories*, which will be held at the Prairie Capital Convention Center in Springfield, Illinois.

**Hotel Reservations Are Now Open!**

**Wyndham Springfield City Centre (Main Conference Hotel)**
700 E. Adams Street, Springfield, IL 62701
+1 (217) 789-1530

The conference rate is $129/night, available from August 27 to September 6, 2016. Reserve your room by August 6, 2016 to receive the discounted rate. The Wyndham is located across the street from the Prairie Capital Convention Center. There is a courtesy shuttle provided to and from the Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport or Amtrak station. To reserve your room online visit Wyndham Group Events: FGS or visit the FGS Conference website.

**SOLD OUT! President Abraham Lincoln Springfield (a DoubleTree hotel by Hilton)**
701 E. Adams Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701
+1 (217) 544-8800

The conference rate is $129/night, available from August 30 to September 4, 2016. Reserve your room by August 3, 2016 to receive the discounted rate. There is a connected walkway from this hotel to the Prairie Capital Convention Center. In addition, there is a courtesy shuttle provided to and from the Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport or Amtrak station. To reserve your room online visit Doubletree Hilton Group Events: FGS or visit the FGS Conference website.

**Area Repositories**

Are you one of the many genealogists who enjoy combining a little research with a conference trip? Illinois and surrounding states have many facilities where you can discover more about persons who lived in those areas. While attending *Time Travel: Centuries of Memories* there will be opportunities to research your ancestors who may have passed through the Prairie State on their way to points West or perhaps even settled in Illinois.
While some of the archives and repositories listed are in Springfield and even within walking distance of the conference venue and hotel, there are other superb research facilities in surrounding states that you might want to visit as you drive to the conference or on your way home.

**Springfield**

**Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library**
112 N. Sixth Street
Springfield, IL 62701
+1 (217) 558-8844
Hours: Monday–Friday 9:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
http://illinois.gov/alplm/library

The library houses a collection of more than 12 million items of Illinois history. One amazing resource is the Illinois newspaper holdings available on microfilm. Visit “Newspapers on Microfilm” to search available titles. Bonus: Across the street from the library is the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum that combines scholarship and showmanship to communicate the amazing life and times of Abraham Lincoln.

**Illinois State Archives**
Margaret Cross Norton Building
Capitol Complex
Springfield, IL 62756
+1 (217) 782-4682
Hours: Monday–Friday 8:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
http://cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives

The archives building contains more than 53,000 cubic feet of state governmental records including records relating to the Illinois territory, military service records, vital records, and land sale records.

**Illinois Regional Archives Depository (IRAD) – University of Illinois Springfield**
Brookens Library, Room 144
University of Illinois at Springfield
One University Plaza, MS BRK 140
Springfield, IL 62703-5407
+ 1 (217) 206-6520
Hours: Monday–Friday 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
http://library.uis.edu/archives/index.html
County and municipal records dating from 1817 onward, collected from 14 central Illinois counties: Bond, Cass, Christian, Fayette, Greene, Jersey, Macon, Macoupin, Mason, Menard, Montgomery, Morgan, Sangamon and Scott. Some of these historic records include:

- Circuit and chancery court record books, dockets, and case files
- Wills, estate inventory and probate case files
- Poll books and election returns
- Deed records
- Tax records
- Birth, death, marriage, and divorce records
- County commissioners’ minutes
- Naturalization papers
- Cemetery records
- School records

**Sangamon Valley Collection**
Lincoln Library, Public Library of Springfield
326 S. 7th Street
Springfield, IL 62701
+1 (217) 753-4900
Hours: Monday–Wednesday 10:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m., Thursday 10:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m., Friday 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m., Saturday 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
http://lincolnlibrary.info/research/sangamonValley.html

The Sangamon Valley Collection (SVC) provides in-depth resources for the study of Springfield, Illinois; Sangamon County; and the eleven adjacent counties. The collection, established in 1970, contains materials from the past and present. Examples of items to be found here are: photographs, city and county directories, high school yearbooks, city and county documents, long-range planning reports and surveys, histories and maps. SVC is a favorite haunt of genealogists who use the extensive Sangamon County Obituary File. Genealogical materials are not limited to the local area. For example, family histories from Virginia and German immigrant passenger lists can be found.

**Chicago-Area Repositories**
For those of you visiting Chicago—a 3½ hour trip by car or train—there are numerous research facilities available.

**Newberry Library**
60 W. Walton Street
Chicago, IL 60610
+1 (312) 943-9090
Hours: Tuesday–Friday 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Saturday 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
http://newberry.org

The library collection includes:

- **Genealogies**: The Newberry Library has over 17,000 published genealogies.
- **Local Histories**: The local history collection includes county, city, town, church, and other local histories from all regions of the United States, as well as from Canada and the British Isles.
- **Census**: The Newberry’s federal census microfilm holdings are complete for the entire country from 1790–1850, and for all Midwestern states through 1880. The library holds census indexes for all states through 1850, with indexes for most states in 1860. State census holdings include 1855 and 1865 Illinois, 1905 Wisconsin, and substantial but incomplete New York census for 1855, 1875, 1905, and 1925. Canadian census holdings are complete for Quebec 1831–1891 and Ontario 1851–1871.
- **Genealogical Source Material**: Published indexes, abstracts, or transcriptions of pre-twentieth century records of birth, death, and marriage, as well as probate, deed, court, tax, and cemetery records form an important segment of the Newberry’s genealogy collection.
**Military Records:** The Newberry collects roster and pension reference works covering the colonial wars through the Civil War. Some materials on the Spanish American War and World War I are also available. The Newberry’s collection of Civil War unit histories is one of the country’s best.

**Periodicals:** The library has complete runs of many state and county historical and genealogical publications, as well as important regional and national journals such as *The New England Genealogical and Historical Register*, *The American Genealogist*, and *The National Genealogical Society Quarterly*.

**National Archives at Chicago**
7358 S. Pulaski Road
Chicago, IL 60629-5898
+1 (773) 581-7816
Hours: Monday–Friday & 2nd Saturday 8:00 a.m.–4:15 p.m.
http://archives.gov/chicago

The National Archives at Chicago has more than 85,000 cubic feet of historical records dating from 1800 to the 1990s, including textual records and non-textual records such as maps and photographs from federal courts and some 85 federal agencies in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin.

**Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center**
Augustana College
Denkmann Memorial Hall
3520 7th Avenue
Rock Island, IL 61201
+1 (309) 794-7204
Hours: Monday–Friday 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m.–4:30 p.m.
http://augustana.edu/general-information/swenson-center

The Swenson Center, located at Augustana College, is a national archives and research institute providing resources for the study of Swedish immigration to North America, the communities the immigrants established, and the role the immigrants and their descendants have played in American life. This is achieved by promoting and initiating academic research in the field and by collecting and cataloging Swedish-American archival and library materials. Another major role for the Center is to assist people researching their Swedish-American family history.

**St. Louis, Missouri Repositories**

Only a 90-minute drive away, many conference attendees may decide to fly into St. Louis's Lambert Field or drive through St. Louis on the way to Springfield.

**Missouri History Museum Library & Research Center**
225 S. Skinker Road
St. Louis, MO 63105
+1 (314) 746-4599
Hours: Tuesday–Friday 12:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m., Saturday 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
http://mohistory.org/lrc-home

The library holds over 90,000 books, periodicals, newspapers, maps, and microfilms, including: St. Louis-area newspapers; fire insurance maps for St. Louis, 1870–1941; many other maps and atlases; business and trade catalogs; and St. Louis city directories, 1821–1980. Subject strengths include:

- St. Louis people, places and events, neighborhood history, urban development, ethnic culture, politics, architecture, business, religion, art, and education
- Western fur trade, travel and exploration, river transportation
- Missouri history to 1900

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- St. Louis people, places and events, neighborhood history, urban development, ethnic culture, politics, architecture, business, religion, art, and education
- Western fur trade, travel and exploration, river transportation
- Missouri history to 1900
• Native American history and culture
• Louisiana Purchase Exposition (1904 St. Louis World’s Fair)

National Personnel Records Center
1 Archives Drive
St. Louis, MO 63138
+1 (314) 801-0800
Hours: Monday–Friday 7:30 a.m.–3:45 p.m.
http://archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel

The National Personnel Records Center, Military Personnel Records (NPRC-MPR) is the repository of millions of military personnel, health, and medical records of discharged and deceased veterans of all services during the 20th century. (Records prior to WWI are in Washington, DC.) NPRC-MPR also stores medical treatment records of retirees from all services, as well as records for dependent and other persons treated at naval medical facilities. Information from the records is made available upon written request (with signature and date) to the extent allowed by law.

Indiana Repositories
For attendees arriving from the east, don’t forget about one of the country’s best genealogical collections located in the Midwest at Allen County Public Library.

Allen County Public Library
900 Library Plaza
Fort Wayne, IN 46802
+1 (260) 421-1200
Hours: Monday–Thursday 9:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m., Friday–Saturday 9:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m., Sunday 12:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.
http://genealogycenter.org

Wisconsin Repositories
For those arriving from the north, consider stopping off at the Wisconsin Historical Society for a day or two of genealogy research.

Wisconsin Historical Society
816 State Street
Madison, WI 53706
+1 (608) 264-6535
Hours: Monday–Thursday 8:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m., Friday–Saturday 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
http://wisconsinhistory.org

This renowned collection includes more than 350,000 printed volumes and 513,000 items of microfilm and microfiche. As a cooperating partner with the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, the department can provide access to more than 2.4 million rolls of microfilmed genealogical and historical records for a small handling fee per roll of film requested.

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Wisconsin Historical Society
816 State Street
Madison, WI 53706
+1 (608) 264-6535
Hours: Monday–Thursday 8:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m., Friday–Saturday 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
http://wisconsinhistory.org

The society was founded in 1846, two years before Wisconsin became the 30th state, and it ranks as one of the largest, most active, and most diversified state historical societies in the nation. The databases and collections include:

• American Journeys
• Civil War Roster of Volunteers
• Civil War Veterans, 1885, 1895, 1905
• McCormick-International Harvester Digital Collection
• Oral Histories: Wisconsin Survivors of the Holocaust
• Register of Historic Places
• Turning Points in Wisconsin History
• Wisconsin Architecture & History Inventory
• Wisconsin Corporations Index
Wisconsin County Histories
Wisconsin Genealogy Index
Wisconsin Historical Collections
Wisconsin Historical Images
Wisconsin Local History & Biography Articles

Stay Informed
Between now and August 2016, FGS will make certain that FGS members and conference attendees have the most up-to-date information about the conference available through various channels:

- More details will be available in future issues of FORUM as well as at the conference website.
- The FGS Voice blog covers a wide range of conference news and updates including details on special events, speakers, lectures, vendors and exhibitors, luncheons, banquet, parking, travel, and research.

After a twenty-five year career in the information technology field, genealogy professional Thomas MacEntee started his own business, High Definition Genealogy (http://hidefgen.com) and created an online community of over 3,000 family history bloggers known as GeneaBloggers (http://geneabloggers.com). Thomas is the national publicity chair for the FGS 2016 Conference.

Connect

Visit the FGS conference website in the Spring for the complete conference program or to register. You will not want to miss the FGS 2016 Conference as we explore Time Travel: Centuries of Memories!

WHO WILL PRESERVE HIS STORY?

www.PreserveThePensions.org

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Links Mentioned in This Article

- FGS 2016 Conference Website
  http://fgsconference.org
- Illinois State Genealogical Society
  http://ilgensoc.org
- Prairie Capital Convention Center
  http://springfieldpccc.com
- Wyndham Group Events: FGS
  http://www wyndham.com/groupevents2016/49084_FEDERATIONGENEALOGICALSOCieties/main.wnt
- Doubletree Hilton Group Events: FGS
- “Newspapers on Microfilm” (ALPL)
  http://www.illinois.gov/alplm/library/collections/newspaper/Pages/default.aspx
- Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum
  http://www.illinois.gov/alplm/Pages/default.aspx
- FGS Voice Blog
  http://voice.fgs.org
Societies survive and thrive on the work of volunteers. During the past 40 years, the Federation of Genealogical Societies has been supported by over 160 board members who gave their time and energy to serve this organization. This alphabetical list identifies positions held, years in each position, and the state(s) where individuals lived during their service to FGS.

**A**
- Abell, J. Richard (Ohio)
  - Director 1987–1991
- *Adams, Leland (Kansas)*
  - Director 1980–1981
  - Treasurer 1982–1984
  - Vice President-Membership 1985
- Alzo, Lisa (New York)
  - Director 2012–2013
- Anderson, Robert Charles, FASG (Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Utah)
- Anderson, Robert D. (Nebraska)
  - Board Member 1978
  - President 1980–1981
  - Vice President-Membership 1979
- Aprill, Jane Gardner (Louisiana)
  - Director 2001–2003
- Arnold, Vicki Frazer (Ohio)
  - Director 1986–1989

**B**
- *Barekman, June B. (Illinois)*
  - Director 1980–1985
  - Regional Vice President 1977
- Beidler, James M. (Pennsylvania)
  - Vice President of Development 2005–2009
- Blevins, Scharlott Goetsch (Iowa)
  - Corresponding Secretary 1982–1984
  - Past President 1989
  - President 1986–1988
  - Vice President-Administration 1985

Bowers, Doris (Illinois)
- Director 1980–1981
Bowman, Mary L. (Ohio)
- Director 1994–1996
Brickey, Joe Roop (North Carolina)
- Director 2005–2007
  - Recording Secretary 1999–2000
Broglin, Jana Sloan, CG (Ohio)  
Vice President-Membership 2004–2009  

Bunce, Peter (Illinois)  
Director 1992–1995  

Burck, Kenny R. (Ohio)  
Director 2001–2002  
Vice President-Membership 2003–2004  

Burroughs, Tony (Illinois)  
Director 1991–1993  

Bush, Cherie (Utah)  
Director 2015–present  
Vice President-Administration 2013–2014  

Buzbee, Bruce (Utah)  
Director 2010–2013  

*Callard, Carole C. (Michigan)  
Corresponding Secretary 1987–1988  
Vice President-Regional Affairs 1989–1991  

Campbell, Starr Hailey (Utah)  
Director 2003–2007  

*Carter, James B., MD (Texas)  
Director 1991–1992  

Cassell, Richard L. (Washington)  
Director 2016–present  

Cathcart, Rorey (South Carolina)  
Director 2014–present  

Clark, Mildred S. (West Virginia)  
Board Member 1978  

*Clark, Ruth Keys (Kansas)  
Corresponding Secretary 1989–1991  
Vice President-Membership 1992–1994  

*Clarke, Jane Adams (Pennsylvania)  
Director 1994–1996  

Clegg, Michael Barren (Indiana)  
Director 1987–1989  

Clifford, Karen, AG (California)  
Director 1996, 1999–2004  
Vice President-Membership 1997–1998  

Crandall, Ralph James (Massachusetts)  
Director 1984–1986  

*Dalby, Barbara M. (Utah)  
Chartering President 1976  

*Dancy, Joan A. (Michigan)  
Corresponding Secretary 1992  
Director 1991  

Davenport, Jan Hearn (Arkansas)  
Director 2007–2008  
Vice President-Administration 2009  

Dearborn, David C., FASG (Massachusetts)  
Director 1987–1990  

DeGiorges, Mary L. (Massachusetts)  
Board Member 1978–1979  

*Delaney, Phyllis Brown Miller (Ohio)  
Director 1995–2000  

Donakey, Ed (Utah)  
Vice President-Development 2014–present
Board Members Across the Years

Four of the first six FGS presidents: David S. Vogels, Arthur F. Sniffin, Barbara Dalby, and Ronald A. Stratton.

E

Eakle, Arlene (Utah)
Director 1985
Registrar 1983–1984

Edwards, James M. (Georgia)
Regional Vice President 1977

Edwards, W. Thomas (Virginia)
Vice President-Administration 1978
Vice President-External Affairs 1979

Eldred, Thomas G. (New York)
Regional Vice President 1977

Elliott, Wendy Bebout, PhD, FUGA (California)
Past President 2009–2012
President 2005–2008
Recording Secretary 1991–1994
Vice President-Administration 2003–2004
Vice President-Development 2001–2002

Emmert, Nancy J. (Wisconsin)
Director 1997–1998
Treasurer 1999–2002

Erickson, Gordon L. (Virginia)
Director 2007–2012

Everhart, Bonnie Jean (Pennsylvania)
Director 1988

F

Fitzgerald, Daniel C. (Kansas)
Director 1994–1995

Flack, Teri (Texas)
Director 2009, 2015–present

*Fortin, Richard L. (New Hampshire)
Director 1982–1985

Freilich, Kay Haviland, CG, CGL (Pennsylvania)
Director 1998–2002
Recording Secretary 2003–2004

Fritsch, Janice A., PLCGS (Illinois)
Director 2010–present

G

Goldizen, Dorothy (Iowa)
Board Member 1978–1979
Regional Vice President 1977

H

Hall, Michael J. (Utah)
Director 2009–2012

Hall, Pamela J. (Florida)
Director 1996–1998
Board Members Across the Years

Hammons, Jamesetta Glosson (California)
   Director 1989, 1992
Harrison, Kim S. (Michigan)
   Director 2005–2010
   *Harriss, Helen L. (Pennsylvania)
   Vice President 1976

1st Elected Board

President:
Barbara Dalby

Vice President:
Helen L. Harriss

Corresponding Secretary:
Loretto “Lou” Dennis Szucs

Recording Secretary:
Margaret Kern

Treasurer
Herbert A. Hotchkiss

Editor:
John Megaris

Regional Vice Presidents:
Colin James
Thelma M. Kohlberg
George E. Williams

40th Anniversary

Helm, Matthew L. (Illinois)
   Director 2004–2006
Henderson, Cherel Bolin (Tennessee)
   Director 2008–2010
Henderson, Martha L. (Missouri)
   Director 2002–2004
   Secretary 2005–2008

*Hensen, Joyce B. (Missouri)
   Director 1981
   Editor 1982–1985
   Vice President-External Affairs 1989
   Vice President-Regional Affairs 1987–1988

Hinckley, Kathleen W., CG (Colorado)
   Director 1986–1988

*Hotchkiss, Herbert A. (Connecticut)
   Director 1980–1981
   Treasurer 1976–1979

Hunter, Dean J., FUGA (Utah)
   Director 1997–2000
   Past President 2005–2008
   President 2001–2004

I

Inman, Maxine P. (Washington)
   Director 1980–1981
   Vice President-Membership 1982–1984

J

*James, Colin (Colorado)
   Regional Vice President 1976
Jensen, Ceil (Michigan)
   Director 2014–2015
Jones, Karen Mauer, CG (New York, Texas)
   Vice President-Administration 1995–1996

K

*Karns, Kermit B. (Missouri)
   Board Member 1978–1979
   Director 1982
   Recording Secretary 1980–1981

*Kasprzyk, Kim (Illinois)
   Director 2011
   Treasurer 2012

Kaufman, Betty R. (Colorado)
   Recording Secretary 1986–1988
Kaufman, Susan (Indiana, Texas)
   Director 2003–2011
Kemp, Thomas Jay (Massachusetts, Utah)
   Director 1999–2001
Board Members Across the Years

*Kern, Margaret (Illinois)
Chartering Recording Secretary 1976
Vice President 1977

Kimmitt, Polly FitzGerald, CG (Massachusetts)
Director 2012–2014

King, Helen L. (Kansas)
Corresponding Secretary 1985–1986
Recording Secretary 1989–1990

King, Roberta "Bobbi" (Colorado)
Director 2004–2008
Secretary 2009
Vice President-Administration 2009–2010

*Knuthson, Chuck (California)
Treasurer 2005–2006
Vice President-Administration 2007

Kohlberg, Thelma M. (Illinois)
Chartering Treasurer 1976
Regional Vice President 1976

Leclerc, Michael J., CG (Massachusetts)
Director 2002–2004
Vice President-Administration 2005–2006

Leptich, Anne (Oregon)
Director 2001–2003
Vice President-Development 2004

Lines, Jack (Washington)
Regional Vice President 1977

Lowe, J. Mark, CG, FUGA (Tennessee)
Director 2008
Recording Secretary 2001–2002
Vice President-Development 2003

*Lower, Dorothy M. (Indiana)
Director 1982–1986

*Luebking, Sandra H. (Illinois)
Director 1989–1990

MacEntee, Thomas (Illinois)
Director 2011–2013

Madison, Barbara (Michigan)
Board Member 1979
Director 1980–1984

Martin, Dorothy L. (Ontario)
Director 1991–1993

McCauley, Linda (Kentucky)
Director 2014
Secretary 2015–present

McCleary, Linda Caldwell (Arizona)

McClure, Rhonda (Florida)
Director 2004–2006

McCoulf, Kelly (Massachusetts)
Vice President-Administration 2015–present

McDonnell, Anne (Kentucky)
Board Member 1978
Director 1982–1984
Regional Vice President 1977

McNaughton, Darlene (Texas)
Director 1989–1991

Megaris, John (Alabama)
Chartering Editor 1976
Editor 1977

Merriman, Brenda Dougall, CG (Ontario)
Director 1989–1990

Miller, Mark Russell (California)
Director 1996–1997

Miller, William E. Jr. (Maryland)
Director 1982–1985
Vice President-Administration 1986–1988

Milner, Paul (Illinois)
Director 1997–2002

Mitchell, Joan Kichman, PhD (Alabama)
Director 1993–1996
Vice President-Administration 1997–2000

Mokotoff, Gary (New Jersey)
Treasurer 1995–1998
Vice President-Development 1999–2000
Vice President-External Affairs 1991–1992

Molyneaux, Myrtelle W. (California)
Board Member 1978–1979
Vice President 1980–1981
Vice President-Administration 1983–1984, 1992
Vice President-External Affairs 1985
Vice President-Membership 1986

*Moran, Ruth (Oklahoma)
Regional Vice President 1977

Morehead, Shellee, Ph.D., CG (Rhode Island)
Treasurer 2016–present
Morgan, Dawn W. (Michigan)
Director 1980–1981
Vice President-Administration 1979
Vice President-Membership 1978

Morgan, George G. (Florida)
Vice President-Membership 2010–2013

Morris, Wayne T. (Utah)
Vice President-External Affairs 1982–1984

Myers, Steven W. (Indiana)
Director 1992–1993

*Neal, William B. (Delaware)
Director 1982–1986

Neill, Michael John (Illinois)
Director 2005–2007

Nelson, Glade I. (Utah)
Past President 1993–1996
President 1991–1992
Treasurer 1988–1990

Novak, Ray (South Dakota)
Director 1985–1988

Olsen, Mark (Utah)
Director 2016–present

Oxley, Pat, (Texas, Virginia)
Director 2005–2007
Past President 2013–present
President 2009–2012
Vice President-Administration 2008

Parke, David L. (Pennsylvania)
Director 1991

Patton, Kirk Woosley (Colorado)
Director 2013

Pierre-Louis, Marian (Massachusetts)
Director 2014

Pinnick, Timothy (Illinois)
Director 2010–2011

Pointer, Caroline (Texas)
Director 2014–2015
Vice President-Membership 2015–present

*Pramaggiore, Jeanne Lacy (Ohio)
Director 1991
Vice President-Regional Affairs 1992

Rand, Patricia W. (Florida)
Treasurer 2012–2015

Rencher, David E., AG, CG, FUGA, FIGRS (Utah)
Past President 2001–2004
President 1997–2000
Secretary 2009–2014
Treasurer 1991–1993
Vice President-Membership 1995–1996

Rice, Velma Hash (Washington)
Director 1986
Past President 1990
President 1989
Vice President-Membership 1987–1988

Richardson, Dorothy Ray (Florida)
Director 1987–1988

Riley, Raymond (Kansas)
Director 1985

*Rising, Marsha Hoffman (Missouri)
Director 1987–1988
Past President 1991–1992
President 1990
Vice President-Administration 1989

Robb, Ruth (Illinois)
Board Member 1978–1979

Rose, Christine, CG, CGL, FASG (California)
Director 1986–1990

Rushforth, James E. (Utah)
Director 2002
Treasurer 2003–2004

Rzepczynski, Kris W. (Michigan)
Director 2013
Vice President-Membership 2014–2015

Salyer, Barbara Baldwin (Arizona)
Recording Secretary 1995–1998
Sayre, Pamela Boyer, CG, CGL, FUGA (Missouri)
   Director 2001–2003
Schoeffler, William H. (Massachusetts)
   Director 1991–1993
   Vice President-Administration 1990
Sholes-Higgins, Marjorie (California)
   Director 2003–2009
Slater, Dawne, CG (Indiana)
   Director 1996–2000
Sloane, L. Ted (Iowa)
   Director 1998–2001
Smith, Drew (Florida)
   Director 2005–2013
Smith, Judy Merritt (California)
   Director 1997
Smith, McKelden (New York)
   Director 2013
Sniffin, Arthur F. (New York)
   Director 1982–1984
   Past President 1986–1988
   President 1985
   Recording Secretary 1979
   Treasurer 1980–1981
   Vice President-External Affairs 1978
   Vice President-Membership 1984
Staley, C. Ann, CG, CGL (Florida)
   Director 2007–2009
*Stern, Rabbi Malcolm (New York)
   Recording Secretary 1982–1985
   Vice President-External Affairs 1986–1988
Stiles, Nellie (Colorado)
   Regional Vice President 1977
Stoddard, John (Illinois)
   Board Member 1978
*Stratton, Ronald A. (Pennsylvania)
   President 1979
   Vice President 1977
Stuart-Warren, Paula, CG, FUGA, FMGS (Minnesota)
   Director 2009–present
Szucs, Loretto “Lou” Dennis (Illinois)
   Chartering Corresponding Secretary 1976
   Editor 1986
   Secretary 1977–1978
   Vice President-External Affairs 1990
   Vice President-Membership 1999–2002
Taplin, Cari, CG (Texas)
   Director 2016–present
*Tarte, Robert J. (Massachusetts)
   Chartering Vice President
Taylor, D. Joshua, MA, MLS (Massachusetts, California)
   Director 2008–2010
   President 2013–present
   Vice President Administration 2011–2012
*Taylor, Ryan (Ontario)
   Director 1993–1995
Tennant, Melissa (Indiana)  
Director 2013–2014  
Vice President-Administration 2015

Tolbert, Sue (Oklahoma)  
Director 2011–2012

Toms, Gary R. (Missouri)  
Director 1985–1988

Trindel, Cath Madden (California)  
Treasurer 2007–2011

Vogels, David S. (Colorado)  
President 1982–1984

Weber, Eldon (Ontario)  
Board Member 1978–1979  
Director 1980–1985  
Regional Vice President 1977

Whited, Randy (Texas)  
Director 2011–present

*Williams, George E. (Connecticut)  
Executive Secretary 1980–1981  
President 1977–1979  
Recording Secretary 1977–1978  
Regional Vice President 1976–1977  
Secretary 1979

*Willis, Eileen B. (Florida)  
Board Member 1978–1979  
Director 1980–1988

Witcher, Curt B., MA, FUGA, IGSF (Indiana)  
Past President 1997–2000  
President 1993–1996  
Vice President-Administration 1991–1992  
Vice President-Development 2010–2013

*Deceased

Abbreviations

AG - Accredited Genealogist
CG - Certified Genealogist
CGL - Certified Genealogical Lecturer
FASG - Fellow, American Society of Genealogists
FIGRS - Fellow, Irish Genealogical Research Society
FMGS - Fellow, Minnesota Genealogical Society
FUGA - Fellow, Utah Genealogical Association
IGSF - Indiana Genealogical Society Fellow
PLCGS - Professional Learning Certificate in Genealogical Studies

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- George G. Morgan  President, Aha! Seminars, Inc.

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- Maryland Genealogical Society

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Spotlight on Member Projects

Writing Opportunities, Transcription Projects & More

By Caroline Pointer

A genealogist and businesswoman for over ten years, Caroline Pointer presently serves as the vice-president of membership for FGS and chairs the Membership, Marketing, and Reviews Committees. Caroline lives in Texas, where she also serves as the director for communications for Texas State Genealogical Society and is managing editor of the TSGS quarterly publication STIRPES. Caroline also created and maintains the popular blog 4YourFamilyStory.com, where she brings technology and genealogy together for her readers.

Member societies, if you have a records preservation project you are currently working on, new databases you have added to your website, new member benefits you are offering, or any recent collaborations that you would like to see listed here, please send all information to membership@fgs.org. Member societies can also submit their upcoming events, including webinars, to calendar@fgs.org for inclusion in the FGS Upcoming Events Calendar.

A new year brings new opportunities and FGS member societies are bustling with activity to help preserve local history and to help genealogists everywhere learn how to preserve their own family's history. Discover what societies are up to, learn of opportunities to give back to the genealogy community, grab project ideas for your own society, and learn of family history writing opportunities. Don't forget to visit the FGS Upcoming Events Calendar to find FGS member society learning opportunities near you.

In honor of their 35th anniversary, the Chippewa County (WI) Genealogical Society (CCGS) detailed their organization's history in their recent quarterly. Since their formation, their past projects have included indexing naturalization records, newspaper obituaries and items of interest, federal censuses, civil court records from 1921–1965, memorial cards, marriage records, tax records, cemeteries, probate records, plat books, maps, city directories, historical books, family histories, and newsletters from other county and state societies. Additionally, they indexed 50,000 names for their County Cemetery Index. In February of 2015, they completed their Master Index and 470,000 names can now be searched to find the item in the Chippewa County Area History Center. In keeping with their long history of projects, CCGS is seeking volunteers for their ongoing preservation projects: the 1888 Plat Book Index, the Ermalinger letters, land records, and the Cemetery Index projects. Contact CCGS for more information at ccgswi@gmail.com.

Abandoned in 1976, the former home of African American journalist and activist T. Thomas Fortune in Red Bank, New Jersey, has been vandalized and is in a desperate state of disrepair. The Monmouth County (NJ) Genealogy Society (MCGS) has joined the fundraising efforts of the Thomas Fortune House Preservation Committee and is now seeking donations for the purchase and renovation of the home as a museum and cultural center. MCGS is also seeking descendants of T. Thomas Fortune. For more information, contact MCGS at lpattersonmcgs@gmail.com.

Have roots in or around Boone County or Central Missouri? The Genealogical Society of Boone County and Central Missouri conducts brief research requests using their library holdings for a nominal fee. Access their instructional Research Requests PDF for all the details on how to make the requests.
Spotlight on Member Projects

Sometimes we get caught up in the researching of our ancestors and forget to record those family stories for our family members, descendants, and other researchers. Writing contests can be a great way to share your family stories near and far. Currently, the Dallas (TX) Genealogical Society (DGS) is seeking original material by members, non-members, hobbyists, and professionals for its 2016 Writing Contest. Winners are eligible for publication in DGS's journal, *Pegasus*. Access their 2016 Writing Contest PDF for more information.

Likewise, the Western Michigan Genealogical Society is seeking entries for its annual writing contest, “Event in History & How It Affected Your Family.” Entries will be received through March 30, 2016, winners will be announced in May, and prize-winning articles will be published in future issues of WMGS's journal, *Michigana*. Access their 2016 Writing Contest PDF for all the contest details.

Another great way to share your family stories near and far is by submitting them to society journals, especially in the areas your ancestors lived. Presently, the Utah Genealogical Association is looking for feature articles between 1,500–5,000 words for its journal, *Crossroads*. Contact Gena Philibert-Ortega at genaortega@gmail.com for more information about article submission.

Moreover, the journal editor for the Immigrant Genealogical Society (IGS) is seeking articles for their spring issue, which will be dedicated to German or Slavic peoples of Eastern Europe. Send inquiries to IGS at lural@juno.com. Also, check out the research services their library provides including the First Immigrants List Database that includes over 3,500 persons and over 100 volumes of German genealogies.

The North Carolina Genealogical Society (NCGS) is asking for journal submissions of unpublished transcriptions and abstracts of original documents, especially of sources of statewide or broad regional interest of areas that have been neglected in past journals. For more information on contributing to the journal, visit the NCGS website.

The North Carolina Genealogical Society (NCGS) is looking for local and long-distance volunteers for their current preservation projects: Keeping and Valuing Ontario’s Heritage, the Ontario Name Index (TONI), the Cemetery Projects, the Places of Worship Records Inventory Index, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) Insurance Records, Strays Project, and the Ontario Genealogical Society Provincial Index (OGSPI). If you are interested in volunteering, contact the Provincial Office at provoffice@ogs.on.ca.

Further, the Alberta Genealogical Society is looking for preservation project volunteers to transcribe, complete database entries, proofread, and take photos of grave markers. If interested, contact Heather at projects@afhs.ab.ca.

The Southern California Genealogical Society (SCGS) has ongoing volunteer opportunities to fit many varied skill sets. They are also in need of volunteers for their ongoing projects including their 1890
Project and the Genealogy Resources Online (GRO) Database. Read over the descriptions of what the jobs entail and contact the appropriate person to volunteer or to obtain more information. SCGS provides their databases to the public for those researching their southern California roots.

The Wake County (NC) Genealogical Society (WCGS) is currently working on transcribing and abstracting various records: Raleigh Register of Deaths (1887–1904), Register of Births in the City of Raleigh (1890–1904), Moore & Gatling Law Book (c.1844+), Poor House Records (1872+), Deed Book R Abstracts (1800–1903), Wake County Court Minutes Pleas & Quarter Sessions Vol. 1 (1816–1819), Freedmens Bureau Records, UNC Material - Records of Ernest Haywood (Raleigh Physician), Insolvent Debtors (c.1819), Civil Action Papers Concerning Land (1801–1820), and Petitions. They have conveniently divided them based on skill level—easy, medium, and hard—for potential volunteers. To volunteer, contact the WCGS volunteer coordinator at Volunteers@WakeCoGen.org.

The Metro Atlanta Chapter of the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society also has a need for volunteers for their African American Funeral Program Project. Learn more about what kind of help they need in order to reach their goal of 3,000 funeral programs.

We love hearing about and sharing your society’s activities like digitization projects, indexing projects, cemetery projects, workshops, classes, fundraising activities, anniversaries, and so on. Have volunteer needs? Send those along too! Member societies can send updates of society activities to membership@fgs.org. Not an FGS Member? Join today to start taking advantage of all of the benefits of an FGS membership.
### Links (continued)

- West Valley Genealogical Society - Tidbits  
  [http://azwvgs.org/tidbits.asp](http://azwvgs.org/tidbits.asp)
- West Valley Genealogical Society - Obituaries Project  
  [http://azwvgs.org/obits.asp](http://azwvgs.org/obits.asp)
- Ontario Genealogical Society  
  [http://ogs.on.ca](http://ogs.on.ca)
- Ontario Genealogical Society - Preservation Projects  
  [http://ogs.on.ca/projects.php](http://ogs.on.ca/projects.php)
- Alberta Genealogical Society  
  [http://afhs.ab.ca](http://afhs.ab.ca)
- Southern California Genealogical Society  
  [http://scgsgenealogy.com](http://scgsgenealogy.com)
- Southern California Genealogical Society - Volunteer  
- Southern California Genealogical Society - Databases  
- Wake County (NC) Genealogical Society  
  [http://wakecogen.org](http://wakecogen.org)
- Wake County (NC) Genealogical Society - Transcribing and Abstracting Projects  
- Metro Atlanta Chapter of the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society  
  [http://aahgsatl.org](http://aahgsatl.org)
- African American Funeral Program Project  
  [http://sites.google.com/site/aafpatl](http://sites.google.com/site/aafpatl)
- African American Funeral Program Project - Ways to Help  
  [http://sites.google.com/site/aafpatl/forms](http://sites.google.com/site/aafpatl/forms)
- Join FGS  
  [http://fgs.org/cstm_JoinFGS.php](http://fgs.org/cstm_JoinFGS.php)
The Ethics of Kindness

By Judy G. Russell, JD, CG℠, CGL℠

The Legal Genealogist Judy G. Russell is a genealogist with a law degree who writes and lectures on topics ranging from using court records in family history to understanding DNA testing. On the faculty of IGHR, SLIG, and GRIP, she is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Board for Certification of Genealogists, from which she holds credentials as a Certified Genealogist℠ and Certified Genealogical Lecturer℠. Her award-winning blog is at http://legalgenealogist.com.

We all heard them as we were growing up, no matter when or where we spent our childhood days. All the sayings about being nice, being kind.

- “No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.”
- “Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a harder battle.”
- “Kindness is a language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see.”
- “Wherever there is a human being, there is an opportunity for a kindness.”

So...what could this possibly have to do with genealogical ethics and standards? In a word: everything.

Because what we do, on a day-to-day basis, so often crosses the line from history to today’s headlines—because we are dealing with living, breathing people—because being kind to those living, breathing people is at the heart of ethical genealogy.

Genealogical ethics require us to keep in mind, always, two imperatives when we’re dealing with living people: 1) the rights of those living people to personal privacy, and 2) the need to treat records custodians and fellow researchers with courtesy and, yes, kindness.

Every ethics code and every set of standards in the genealogical community makes these points and makes them clearly—both for professional genealogists and for those in our community who research only for themselves and their families.

When it comes to kindness to records custodians, for example, the Code of Ethics of the Association of Professional Genealogists requires that we:

[b]e courteous to research facility personnel and treat records with care and respect; support efforts to locate, collect, and preserve the records by compiling, cataloging, reproducing, and indexing documents; refrain from mutilating, rearranging, or removing from their proper

custodians printed, original, microfilmed, or electronic records.

For non-professionals, the rules are exactly the same, as stated in the National Genealogical Society’s Guidelines For Using Records Repositories and Libraries:

[F]amily history researchers habitually—

- are courteous to research facility personnel and other researchers, and respect the staff’s other daily tasks, not expecting the records custodian to listen to their family histories nor provide constant or immediate attention. . . .
• treat original records at all times with great respect and work with only a few records at a time, recognizing that they are irreplaceable and that each user must help preserve them for future use . . .

• never mark, mutilate, rearrange, relocate, or remove from the repository any original, printed, microform, or electronic document or artifact . . .

• before departure, thank the records custodians for their courtesy in making the materials available.

These are commonsense rules, driven by the fact that these are the people who can say yes or no to a request for access to a particular document or record set, who can help or hinder our research. We don’t want to be the genealogist who annoys the custodian of the one document that could break down our brick wall—and we don’t want to be the first genealogist in the door after another researcher has annoyed that custodian.

Being kind to record custodians is simply good sense.

When it comes to kindness to fellow researchers, that same good-sense concept comes into play. Being impolite or rude to another researcher may mean we never get to see what only that researcher has: a photograph, a document, even just a clue. So, as the National Genealogical Society teaches in its Standards for Sound Genealogical Research, we “recognize the collegial nature of genealogical research” and, in its Guidelines for Genealogical Self-Improvement and Growth, we “interact with other genealogists and historians . . . , and through the shared experience contribute to the genealogical growth of all concerned.”

When it comes to kindness to living people whose actions are recorded in our research, the codes of ethics uniformly require us to keep their rights to personal privacy in the forefront of our minds.

The code of ethics of the Board for Certification of Genealogists provides that a genealogist will “keep confidential any personal or genealogical information given to [the genealogist], unless [he or she has] written consent to the contrary.” The ethics code of the Association of Professional Genealogists requires its members to “refrain from knowingly violating or encouraging others to violate laws and regulations concerning . . . [the] right to privacy.” And the National Genealogical Society speaks powerfully to this issue for non-professionals in its Standards for Sharing Information With Others:

[R]esponsible family historians consistently—

• respect the restrictions on sharing information that arise from the rights of another . . . as a living private person . . .

• inform people who provide information about their families as to the ways it may be used, observing any conditions they impose and respecting any reservations they may express regarding the use of particular items . . .

• convey personal identifying information about living people—like age, home address, occupation or activities—only in ways that those concerned have expressly agreed to.

• recognize that legal rights of privacy may limit the extent to which information from publicly available sources may be further used, disseminated or published . . .

• are sensitive to the hurt that revelations of criminal, immoral, bizarre or irresponsible behavior may bring to family members.

This doesn’t mean, for one minute, that we close our eyes to the realities of the past. It is, for example, my ethical obligation as the descendant of slave owners to acknowledge the truth of what that meant, both for enslaver and enslaved, and not to simply accept the “feel-good” stories about the “good kind Massa” so often passed down.

And it doesn’t mean that we don’t record the facts, even about living people, in our private records or databases, so that our own research is complete and documented.

What it does mean is that we think twice about sharing or publishing what we have learned when we’re talking about the recent past, where the event involved a person living today or disclosure would negatively impact a person living today.

It means that we keep in mind that there is so much truth in—and an ethical imperative to—one more of those sayings we all grew up with: “The kindest word in all the world is the unkind word, unsaid.”

To be ethical genealogists, we must be kind.

It really is as simple as that.

This new edition is the definitive guide to the citation and analysis of historical sources. Like previous editions it explains citation principles for both traditional and nontraditional sources; includes more than 1,000 citation models for virtually every source type; and shows readers where to go to find their sources and how to describe and evaluate them. It contains many new citation models, updates to websites, and descriptions and evaluations of numerous contemporary materials not included in earlier editions. In particular, researchers can make use of a new QuickStart Guide, expanded coverage for genetic citations (the hottest new topic in genealogical research), expanded coverage of layered citations, the latest concepts in evidence analysis, coverage of the latest media and delivery systems, and an expanded glossary.


Since the publication of the original Polish Roots in 1993, the Internet has made the task of locating Polish ancestors much easier, as more information and images are made available online. In addition, there has been a marked rise in interest in genealogy in Poland, resulting in a great increase in the number of Polish genealogical societies available and the amount of helpful information disseminated. This second edition addresses these exciting developments, with a new Introduction, four new chapters, several new maps and charts, and numerous updates throughout the original text.


This guide is designed to help you trace your German ancestry, not only in Germany but in all the German-speaking areas of Europe, from the Baltic to the Crimea, from the Czech Republic to Belgium. It shows you how to conduct your research from your computer, using a variety of online resources, and also points you to the most useful repositories of records abroad. This fifth edition highlights all of the recent developments—new facilities, new websites, newly available records—that have made German family history research immeasurably easier.


Most of the newspapers cited here are from Germany and the former Austro-Hungarian Empire, though there are papers cited here from as far afield as China and Oklahoma. A single site hosted by the Austrian National Library, for example, has digitized millions of pages in hundreds of titles from Austro-Hungary. Hundreds of other websites are hosted by libraries, universities, museums, and institutions, many with English language interfaces.

The genealogical information you can find in these newspapers is almost limitless. It includes notices of births, marriages and deaths from civil registrations, baptisms and wedding announcements from churches, intentions to emigrate, trade news, lists of pupils, appointments to office, promotions, transfers, retirements, deaths, estate sales, lists of hotel guests, and a multitude of everyday notices. You’ll be amazed at the range of information available to you online in German-language newspapers.


This is a completely up-to-date exposition of Lori Carangelo’s mastery in finding adopted children, missing relatives, runaway children, and others that she has cultivated over her adult lifetime. The director of the organization Americans for Open Records, Carangelo explains (1) just how search experts get past the wall of secrecy and roadblocks to their loved ones; (2) how, in the case of adoptees, they find someone without a prior knowledge of the name; and (3) the trade secrets of both professional investigators and amateur sleuths for legally circumventing roadblocks to accessing information. She discusses numerous record categories that figure in the discovery process, including court dockets, adoption decrees, hospital records, baptismal certificates, DMV records, Social Security records, DNA testing, voter registrations, telephone records, military records, divorces, tax records, and much more.


This work explains how to avoid the traps many family historians can fall into. Whether it’s a proud family legend, a venerable publication, or the claims of an Internet family tree, the unsubstantiated genealogical source won’t stand up. Taking “heed of the cautions cited and putting into practice the lessons learned in this book will make you all much better family historians and ensure that your genealogical legacy will be one to be trusted.”

Postage & handling: One book $5.50; each additional book $2.50. Maryland and Michigan residents please add 6% sales tax.

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It's been said that great leaders are born. They seem to come into the world fully formed like Athena springing from Zeus, meaning either you are a leader or you are not. What if I told you it is far from it. Especially in our world where young genealogists among us are the future. Those fresh faces are out there hungry and eager to do more. Would you be interested in learning how to sharpen those leadership traits and why it is important to our community of volunteers?

If you don’t think you are a born leader, those skills can be developed. The best way is through volunteering. For the genealogy community volunteering comes in many forms from in-person to virtual. Trying your hand at a variety of tasks for different groups is a great way to learn your strengths and weaknesses. From that knowledge you can zero in on the skills you need to develop in order to further the mission of your group and your ability to be a great leader.

For example, if you are a whiz at marketing maybe you take on the advertising and publicity for your group. Your panache and way with words could be a great boon to a group that needs to attract new membership. Or, if you are an approachable person, take the lead for those in-person communications for seminars, conferences, or group outings.

Successfully leading committees like these can help show your community that your society is thriving!

So, what qualities should you develop and nurture to become a successful leader? I bet you already have many inside of you but you just didn’t know what to do with them!

**Respect**

Not given blindly, respect is earned by both parties. As a leader you will need to learn how to show people simple courtesy at times no matter what your personal feelings are. This may be one of the more difficult things to do, pulling yourself above a fray, but it is a trait that will set you apart from others.

**Confidence**

While not a trait many come to easily, confidence comes with experience and can even be faked. A good leader is like a duck on water. Cool and calm above water but paddling frantically below. You need to be confident with your group on your decisions, ideas, and thoughts. If something happens in the group you are leading, people will look to you for reassurance.
Focus
As the head of a team you need to keep the group on track and focused on the objective in front of them. While it may feel like herding cats at times, being the one who can set, and stick to, an agenda is an art in itself. Keep that focus together for organizational tasks (meetings, presentations, events) that need to be tackled. Through focus and clarity you also can break large projects down into manageable goals, which is the best way to tackle large problems.

Communication
The fastest way to strife and turmoil in a group is poor communication. Develop your communication skills in two ways: in-person and online. Each are very different but true leaders know when a phone call trumps an e-mail. Being known as someone who is open to communication and interested in others' feedback will be an asset to you as a leader. Communication keeps everyone in the loop, projects on track, special interest groups flowing, and chaos from poor interpersonal interactions at bay.

Delegation
No one can do everything, not even you. This skill can be the hardest to grasp and takes the longest to use. Sure, you might be the fastest at doing an item, but you also have a life. Keeping a good life/work/volunteer balance is a struggle, but by simply dividing up the tasks you can keep a handle on it. Plus, you are allowing others to contribute and hone their skills too.

Creativity/Intuition
While this may not seem like a skill a leader should have, many of the greatest will tell you that often they use their gut and out-of-the-box thinking to solve problems or bring new ideas to fruition. As a leader you involve your team in the thinking process to choose the best way or develop new ways to do things. Contrary to popular belief, just because you ALWAYS do something one way does not mean it ALWAYS has to be done that way. Change can be very good.
Records Access & Preservation

Digitization Initiatives & More

By Linda McCleary, MLS

Linda Caldwell McCleary, MLS, held the position of Arizona State Genealogy Librarian for fifteen years before her retirement. She holds a Certificate in Genealogical Research (professional) from Brigham Young University, is a member of the Records Preservation and Access Committee, and is a past director of the Federation.

This column aims to keep you up to date on preservation efforts, as well as issues affecting access to records. To submit or examine current information about record availability, visit the Records Preservation and Access Committee (RPAC) website.

Records Preservation and Access Committee (RPAC)

Many RPAC members either visited or contacted their Congressional representatives during Congress’s recess about Section 203 of the 2013 Bipartisan Budget Agreement. Passed in 2013, Section 203 restricted public access to the Social Security Death Master File (DMF) for at least three years. Since this DMF is the only public national death database, many companies, individuals, and professional genealogists, as well as family historians, have lost access to this valuable resource. RPAC has led the charge to amend Section 203 so that the Social Security number is redacted, allowing users to gain access to the remainder of the information so critical for genealogical research.

Jan Alpert, RPAC chair, sent a letter of concern to the Kansas Supreme Court opposing changes to Rule 106, which will redact a mother’s maiden name and state and date of birth from Kansas marriage records, and Rule 108, which will destroy the confidential cover sheet after one year so that the information will be lost forever.

Nearly 10,000 signatures have been received for the Genealogists’ Declaration of Rights petition. If you have not signed the petition yet, please read Jan Alpert’s June 4, 2015 RPAC blog post “Genealogists’ Declaration of Rights—We Need Your Support!,” which has the links to the information regarding the petition, the PDF version of the petition, and an online version of the petition.

National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)

In October 2015, NARA announced the priorities for digitizing its amazing collection of original documents. NARA requested input and feedback from its users, and that information was taken into consideration for prioritizing the digitization process. The table on the next page reflects the top priorities to be digitized; however, it does not indicate the order in which the items will be digitized. Many of these documents will be of great interest to family historians.

States

Arizona: Mohave Museum and Mohave County have received a series of grants that have enabled them to digitize and preserve the museum’s extensive map collection. Maps include downtown building drawings to surveyor maps of the county. After being encapsulated, the maps will be digitized and be available for public use.

Illinois: The American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) sent a letter of concern to Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner about closing the Illinois State Museum in Springfield and the four satellite institutions. Because of budgetary concerns, this drastic move was made. AASLH is encouraging everyone to contact Governor Rauner about the closure of the Illinois State Museum via the governor’s online “Voice an Opinion” page at the State of Illinois website.
# NARA’s Digitization Priorities

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<tr>
<th>RG/Coll.</th>
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<td>Microfilm Publications</td>
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<td>Records from Anchorage, Alaska Facility</td>
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<td>Records of the U.S House of Representatives and U.S. Senate, 1789–1817 (records from the first 14 Congresses)</td>
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<td>Bureau of Naval Personnel Casualty Case Cards, 1964–1977</td>
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<td>80</td>
<td>General Photographic File of the Department of Navy, 1943–1958</td>
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Massachusetts: The State Library of Massachusetts was awarded a $1.2 million grant from capital bond that will digitize the most highly used Massachusetts publications. These collections include Legislative Documents dating from 1780–1869, 1870–1904, and 1996–2008; House and Senate Journals dating from 1780–1865 (manuscript), 1866–1939, and 1997–2008; Agency Annual Reports in Public Document Series and other High Priority Massachusetts Room Items; and Selected Town Reports.

New York: In October, a broken pipe sent water into The New York Times historical photo morgue in the sub-subbasement of the former New York Herald Tribune building on 41st Street. Newspaper clippings, microfilm records, books, and other archival material were involved in addition to the photos. It is not known how many valuable items were lost at this writing; however, it is believed that 90 percent of the materials were salvaged.

Visit the RPAC website to keep up with the latest news!

Links Mentioned in This Article

- Records Preservation and Access Committee (RPAC)
  http://fgs.org/rpac
- “Genealogists’ Declaration of Rights—We Need Your Support!”
  http://fgs.org/rpac/2015/06/04/genealogists-declaration-of-rights-we-need-your-support-2
- “Voice an Opinion”
  http://illinois.gov/gov/contactus/Pages/VoiceAnOpinion.aspx
Many people are curious about the experiences of their ancestors during the Civil War. Reading military histories can provide valuable information to help in that endeavor. Uzal W. Ent has compiled a detailed history of a group of Pennsylvania units in *The Pennsylvania Reserves in the Civil War*. The Reserves were created by Pennsylvania and later sworn into federal service. Just over 18,000 men served in the Reserves during the Civil War (p. 338), which is about 5 percent of men who served from Pennsylvania.

The first chapter of the book covers the organization of the Pennsylvania Reserves in 1861, including defining the size of a regiment. This is helpful because over time the number of men in a regiment changes. The next fifteen chapters cover the movements of the troops during their service, which was mostly spent in Maryland and Virginia. The verbal descriptions of how the regiments and companies were positioned can be a bit confusing, especially if the reader is not accustomed to military terminology. The last chapter discusses the mustering out of many of the men when their terms of service ended in 1864. Two appendices provide short biographies of the main officers and an overview of the initial organization of the regiments. The latter is helpful when searching for additional information about particular soldiers since the original regimental numbers used when the Reserves were formed are different than the numbers used once the regiments were sworn into federal service.

The book contains a variety of sketches, maps, and photographs. The maps are especially useful when reading about individual battles. The index includes an indication of whether there is a photograph of a particular person or place. That is the only way to determine if there is an illustration of interest to a reader. Including a list of illustrations at the beginning of the book would have been helpful.

Ent used a variety of sources in writing this book. Two sources genealogists expect to use—compiled military service records (CMSRs) and Civil War pension records—are not listed in the endnotes, nor the bibliography. These records are held by the National Archives in Washington, DC, as part of record groups 94 and 15 respectively. Consulting these records would have strengthened some statements in the book. For instance, Lieutenant James B. Harding was honorably discharged sometime after December 1861. The text says: “Available records do not indicate the date or year” (p. 30). The endnote for this statement lists the source as the Annual Report of the Adjutant General of Pennsylvania for the year 1863. Examining Harding’s CMSR should yield the exact date of his discharge.

If you are researching a man who served in the Pennsylvania Reserves, this book is a valuable resource you can use to learn about his war-time activities. Be certain to check the man’s compiled military service record to make sure he was not absent from his unit during particular campaigns and battles.

Amy E. K. Arner
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
A few weeks ago, I went on the hunt once again for the parents of my great-great-grandmother Nellie Coyne. Pulling out my research binder, I thumbed through the few sources I had for her and came across a newspaper article that I had used as evidence of her marriage. Right there, in the middle of the article, was the name of her half-brother. Clearly, I had neglected to “listen” to everything this source was trying to tell me.

Why had I done this? Because at the time, I had nowhere to put that information in my genealogy database. I recorded the information for her marriage, and then filed the source away until I could find her family and attach it to somebody. Had I properly used the information when I found it, I might have shaved years off of solving my research question.

So how can we be sure to hear everything our sources are telling us?

Evidentia offers a solution. Now in version 2.4, Evidentia is a software program designed to help you organize and analyze your sources in a manner that supports the Genealogical Proof Standard (GPS). Evidentia is not a genealogy database, but instead is meant to enhance your database, as well as your research. And while most genealogy databases are “subject focused,” Evidentia is “source focused.” From the website: “Evidentia is fundamentally different because it starts with a source. It then helps you turn that source into information, and then takes you the short step to real evidence.”

In other words, you start with a source, create an inventory of information, and then attach that information to specific individuals. Not the other way around.

Evidentia is available for purchase at http://evidentiasoftware.com, and is compatible with Windows, MacOS, and Linux operating systems. The retail price is $29.99, but occasional promotions are offered, and you can download a 14-day trial copy if you would like to try before you buy. You can download your purchase directly from the website or request a CD-ROM be mailed for a $5.00 shipping fee.

If you plan to use Evidentia on multiple computers, you have the option of storing your database in Dropbox. If you are not sure, you can always store the initial database on your hard drive, and then change the storage setting later. Evidentia will also store digital copies of your sources, if you so choose.

Now, I am by no means an Evidentia expert, as I have only been using the software for a short time. But let me be honest—there is a bit of a learning curve. Thankfully, the website has an excellent Training and Support area where you can find videos and helpful guides for just about any user level. If you are new to Evidentia, I highly recommend that you invest some time in watching a few of the videos. Trust me, it will be time well-spent.

If you have questions that are not answered in the videos or support articles, fear not. There are active user communities on Google+ and Facebook, and Evidentia creator Ed Thompson answers questions himself in a timely manner. Several videos from Google Hangouts on Air, as well as additional tutorial videos, are available on Ed Thompson’s YouTube channel. So there are plenty of support opportunities for new users, and you will not be alone, I promise.

Evidentia’s interface is simple and distraction-free. To get started, click “Document a Source” from the left menu and give your source a title. Next comes the requisite source citation, which you can either type in manually, or enter using one of the Evidence Explained-based templates. You can also create your own templates, if needed. The benefit of using a template is that it will transfer your citation to the other menus, thus creating less work for you later.
Once your source is entered, you can start attaching “claims” to it. A claim is the information that you extract from your source. Classify your claim as primary, secondary, or indeterminable information, and then attach it to a subject, which is the person(s) to whom it pertains. For each source, you may enter as many claims for as many subjects as you wish.

The next step is to analyze your evidence. The first time you click the “Analyze Evidence” menu, you will select a subject and pick a claim type. The “Proof” menu will automatically populate. Sources pertaining to your claim will then appear in the “Assertions” column below. Classify each one as either direct, indirect, or negative, then describe the quality of each claim in the “Analysis” box. Doing this will unlock the “Summary Conclusion” box where you will document your evidence-based conclusion and summarize your analysis.

You have extracted information from your source, attached claims to your subjects, analyzed your evidence, and reached a summary conclusion. What should you do next? If your conclusion shows that your evidence meets the requirements of the GPS, you will most likely want to compile a Proof Report. This is done by clicking the “Reports” menu and selecting the “Proof Report” tab. Choose your subject and claim type, enter the preparer’s name and select a report format, then click the “Proof Report” button to export your report.

Your completed proof report can be manually attached to specific subjects and events in your genealogy database, or exported via a GEDCOM and imported into your database. I have not tried this yet; however, user Russ Worthington has written about the process of importing a GEDCOM into his Family Tree Maker database (see Evidentia Reviews).
Resources), and there is a training video on the Evidentia website about importing a GEDCOM into RootsMagic. This is next on my list of things to learn about using Evidentia!

Evidentia supports the five components of the GPS by focusing on the source, and by helping you “listen” to all that your source has to say. Some patience may be necessary in learning to use the software, but plenty of training and a supportive user community is available to help you along.

Evidentia creator Ed Thompson is currently working on version 3 of the software, but it will not be available for purchase until mid-2016. He is also in the process of writing a companion book to help new users get the most out of using Evidentia. In the meantime, look for updated video tutorials reflecting version 2 to be posted soon on the Evidentia website.

Elizabeth Swanay-O’Neal
Lompoc, California

Evidentia Resources

Evidentia Training & Support
http://evidentiasoftware.com/training-and-support

Evidentia on Google+
http://plus.google.com/communities/106988778354258259988

Evidentia on Facebook
http://facebook.com/EvidentiaGenealogySoftware

Evidentia on YouTube
http://youtube.com/channel/UCYKbwE4VYrXm--D2FF7hZ7Q

“Evidentia Export to Family Tree Maker by a GEDCOM File” by Russ Worthington
http://ftmuser.blogspot.com/2013/05/evidentia-export-to-family-tree-maker.html

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### Annual Membership Fees

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