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APG eNEWS



Association of Professional
GENEALOGISTS

Vol. 13, No. 2, February 2025

APG Members Asked to Show Support for the U.S. National Archives

The Advocacy Committee's Rich Venezia makes an urgent plea to members



The Advocacy Committee wishes to repeat and amplify our plea for APG members to take action in regards to the additional funding necessary for the U. S. National Archives (NARA) to continue to function.

NARA has faced decades of near-stagnant funding, preventing the agency from keeping pace with the exponential growth of archival holdings and the government's transition to digital records. This funding shortfall has led to significant operational challenges, including inadequate staffing levels and delayed digitization efforts. NARA struggles to process the millions of cubic feet of records in its possession, and to meet the demand of serving the public. We also saw the closure of one of the regional branches (in New York City) this past year due to budget constraints.

Without additional congressional support, there is a major risk that NARA will need to take further steps to address their budget shortfall. Those steps could include reduced and restricted access to records, and in some cases, even complete closure.

Congress must plan to provide additional funding to NARA instead of passing the buck year to year from Continuing Resolution to Continuing Resolution. NARA needs this infusion of funding so that the agency can address critical challenges; expand its workforce; enhance agency record-keeping oversight; improve technological capabilities; and accelerate mass digitization efforts, ensuring that historical records are preserved and accessible for future generations. In other words, the agency would finally be able to accomplish its statutory mission-critical obligations.

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You might be interested to read NARA's transition paper provided to the new Presidential administration, in which they address their budget constraints and concerns over their future ability to conduct their work properly: https://assets.bwbx.io/documents/users/ijjWHBFdfxIU/r8QI_BSm9eyQ/v0.



We implore our US-based members to contact their elected officials to discuss the importance of additional funding to NARA. NARA is on life support and needs our help. Members of Congress almost never hear about the National Archives, so even a few phone calls can make a significant difference. Our elected officials only know about what's important to us if we tell them! You can read the formal letter from APG about NARA funding here: https://www.apgen.org/docs/24_May_2024_Congressional_Funding.pdf,

and you can find guidance on how to contact your representatives to express the importance of increasing NARA's funding here: <https://www.congress.gov/members/find-your-member>. Please also encourage your genealogical societies, clients, and colleagues to contact their Senators and Representative.

Another advocacy alert relates to New York State vital records. Anyone who has worked with NY records knows of the extremely long wait times for genealogical requests (going on five years when requested from the state!). The state is now proposing that genealogical records access be amended as follows—births from 75 years to 125 years (when the person is known to be deceased), marriages from 50 years to 100 years (when both spouses are known to be deceased), and deaths from 50 years to 75 years. They are also proposing an hourly fee for genealogical research, in addition to a 50% increase on how much the records cost now. **If this is passed, this would SEVERELY limit access to New York state vital records.** Most individuals are not eligible for certified records of their deceased parents without a court order, and so would have to request them when the genealogical timeframe had passed. Now that timeframe is set to increase by decades—**meaning someone with a parent born in New York State would NEVER be able to see their parent's birth record without a court order... unless that individual lived to 125.** The New York Genealogical & Biographical Society has put together a website with more information on how you can take action here: <https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/blog/call-action-regarding-access-new-york-state-vital-records>. You can also read APG's comments at https://www.apgen.org/docs/APG_Written_Testimony_Re_NY_Vital_Records_31_Jan_2025.pdf. We encourage all members to do so. The hearing for this proposed legislation is on 11 February, so don't delay!

Looking to get more involved with advocacy? Consider joining the APG Advocacy SIG, which provides support to members with an interest in advocacy issues impacting access to, and preservation of, historical records. There is no fee to join the Advocacy SIG. To join, please fill out the application here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1HFmtJwEsv8b6YYH8oT0O7r4ubZvNRJ1Yrez_q0A-xJA/.

Stay tuned for more ways to advocate, and be sure to let us know if you come across issues you would like us to be aware of and/or for which we can help advocate.

You can reach us at advocacy@apgen.org.

Proof that advocacy can work!

Some good news from the UK! After over 1500 people and groups sent in responses to the UK Ministry of Justice's will retention proposal, the UK Government decided that it will not institute any reforms or regulations in which original English and Welsh wills would be destroyed. A huge win!

Read more from the UK Government at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/storage-and-retention-of-original-will-documents>.

APG's statement is available at https://www.apgen.org/docs/British_wills.pdf.

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Attention APG members Attending Rootstech!

APG is thrilled to be returning to RootsTech in person again this year. Last year, our favorite part of the event was networking and meeting other APG members from around the world at our booth in the Expo Hall. Will you be there? If so, we would love to have you sign up for a volunteer shift at our booth. If happy to do so please email Jen Shaffer at theformidablegenealogist@gmail.com.

Don't miss a chance to mingle with your fellow APG members for an APG social hour on Friday, 6 March, at the FamilySearch Library. We will be in Meeting Rooms B and C from 6:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m. Grab a cookie or soda and do some networking!

Finally, if you're going to RootsTech, please let us and other members know on our Message Board! You can find this in the Members Area at https://members.apgen.org/members/forum/topic_list.php?bid=3952849 – and we will see you there!



New Leadership Announced for APG

The Association of Professional Genealogists (APG) has announced that its President, John Boeren, QG, has resigned from his position on the APG Board of Directors for personal reasons. "I am confident that the association will continue to thrive, and I look forward to seeing the great work it will accomplish in the future," said Boeren. "Thank you for your understanding and for the opportunity to contribute to such passionate and dedicated teams."

In such circumstances, APG's Bylaws (<https://www.apgen.org/bylaws.php>) note under Article VI, Section 2B, that "The Vice President shall ... Assume the office and duties of the President for the remaining term in the event of a vacancy in the office of President." As such, the organization's Vice President, Suzanne L. Hoffman, of Chicago, Illinois, USA, has now succeeded John to serve out his remaining term (through 2025).



Also known as "The Genealogy Maven," Suzanne has worked as a professional forensic genealogist for the past seven years, and is also a specialist in Eastern European research and immigration. She holds certificates of completion from the Boston University Genealogical Research program, ProGen, GenProof, GenFed, Forensic Genealogy I and II from the Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh (GRIP), and various other courses. Suzanne also volunteers at the Wilmette (Illinois) FamilySearch Center, is the current president of the APG Forensic Genealogy Special Interest Group, an APG representative to the Record Preservation and Access Coalition, Secretary of the Illinois State Genealogical Society, and Chair of its Advocacy Committee.

Commenting on the situation, Suzanne has paid tribute to outgoing president John Boeren's work whilst in office at the organization. "I want to thank John for all he has done to support APG over the past five years, as both a board member and as President. He has changed APG for the better."

Assuming the Vice President role is APG board member Karin Coppernoll of Washington, USA. Karin is a professional genealogist with a particular interest in DNA, land records, New York State, and the Northwest Region of the USA. She holds a Certificate in Genealogical Research from Boston University, a Professional Learning Certificate in Genealogical Studies from The National Institute for Genealogical Studies, and has completed in-person and virtual advanced courses through the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy. Currently the Chair of APG's On-Ramp Committee, Karin has served in leadership roles in APG's Puget Sound Chapter, the Washington State Genealogical Society, and the Monroe (Washington) Historical Society.



APG Announces Donations to Records Projects

Each year, as finances permit, APG donates to records preservation and access projects. We are delighted to announce that donations have been made this year to the Ten Million Names project (<https://10millionnames.org>), Veterans Bounty Land records with NGS, and the Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland (<https://virtualtreasury.ie>).

If you have suggestions for future worthy recipients, please send your ideas to admin@apgen.org. We welcome all suggestions for evaluation!

New Proofreader Hired for APG Quarterly

Ashley Sullivan, of Holyoke, Colorado, USA, has been announced as a new proofreader for the *APG Quarterly* (APGQ). In addition to her passion for genealogy, she has nearly fourteen years of experience working for a weekly newspaper where her responsibilities spanned all departments, including proofreading.

“My time spent poring over the newspaper archives and researching local history for special projects is really what ignited my passion for genealogy,” said Sullivan. “Most of my research is focused on the Western and Midwestern regions in the United States, but I also often find myself researching in the Northeastern United States, Ireland, and the United Kingdom.”

Julie Cahill Tarr, Managing Editor of *APGQ*, welcomed Sullivan by saying, “with Ashley’s amazing skills, she will make a great addition to our team.” The *APGQ* proofreader helps to ensure the final version of the journal is accurate, free from errors, and consistent in style and content.

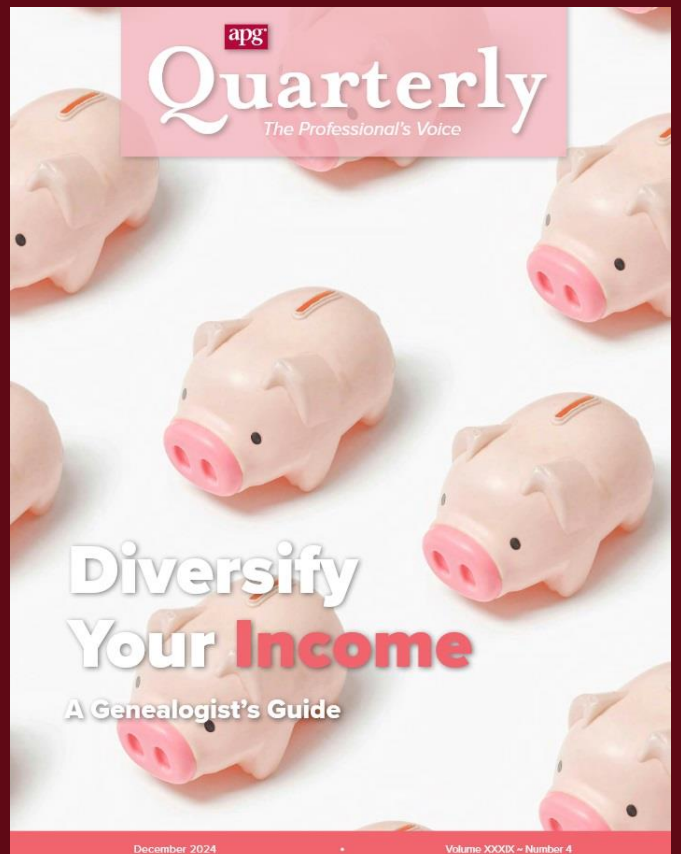


The Latest 2024 APGQ is now available!

The latest edition of the *APG Quarterly* is now available, and includes the following articles:

- “Diversify Your Income: A Genealogist’s Guide” by Carly Lane Morgan
- “From Passionate Dream to Joyful Reality: Building a Genealogy Business” by Anni Parsons
- “A Vision Realized: How I Became a Published Author” by Diana Elder
- “Just Say No?!?” by Sara Dawson
- “Tech Tips for Crafting Quality Documents” by Cyndi Ingle
- “Let’s Talk Business: A “Hire Me” Page That Produces Results” by Joy Curtiss
- “Weekly Reviews: A Newer Approach” by Drew Smith
- “Getting an Education: Genealogy and Related Fields” by Amanda E. Perrine

Access the issue at www.apgen.org by logging in and selecting **Members > Publications > APG Quarterly**.





FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Michelle Dwyer Cohen



APG's goals include engaging in and advocating for activities that preserve, improve access to, and facilitate research in records used in the fields of genealogy and local history, as well as promoting awareness of activities and laws that may affect our research. Across the globe, genealogists must always be aware of what's happening with their local records, and laws which might impact access to them.

In the past few years, we can claim some victories. The UK has just reversed its decision to destroy original English and Welsh wills (see p.2), while U.S. Citizen and Immigration Services has not only reversed course on proposed fee increases for historical records, it has reduced its fees to approximately where they were in 2008!

We can only be successful with these campaigns when 1) we are aware that there is a threat to existing records, or access to them, 2) we can combine forces with other genealogical organizations with similar concerns, and 3) when we can mobilize our constituents into action, by contacting elected officials, and/or by submitting public comments.

As governments struggle with so many financial priorities, we must remain vigilant. As such, APG operates both an Advocacy committee and an Advocacy Special Interest Group. In the United States, we also participate in the Records Preservation Access Coalition. On 9 April 2025, we plan on active participation in Hill Day, an opportunity for genealogists to work together to present our concerns to legislators. The main idea for this Hill Day is to focus on continued support and funding for the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).

For members outside the United States, APG would like to know more about when, where, and how we can provide support. And if you have an issue that you would wish to fight for, there are many ways to get involved. Contact your representatives. Share relevant posts on social media. Be an advocate for access and preservation at your local genealogical society—we need to make sure the public knows what can happen if we don't speak out.

I am explaining all this because when we ask members to contact their local representatives, it's important to do so. Please do take these requests seriously; and more importantly, please **take action!**



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Members Invited to a Global Gathering!

Join your genealogy colleagues from around the world for a special event with networking and discussion at the first-ever APG Global Gathering, open to all. The event will be held on Sunday, 23 February 2025, from 4:00–5:00 p.m. ET (please visit <https://www.timeanddate.com> for worldwide time equivalents). The event is free to attend.

The Global Gathering will feature regional and specialty breakout rooms for APG members (and those interested in becoming members) to socialize, exchange ideas, share research tips, or ask questions focused on the area represented by each room.

As the world’s largest association for professional genealogists, APG represents more than 2,000 members in forty countries, offering opportunities for connections across a wide variety of specialities. Tap into the wealth of experience that our membership has to offer!

The Global Gathering is open to all and will not be recorded. To register for the event please visit <https://members.apgen.org/Calendar/moreinfo.php?eventid=147804>.



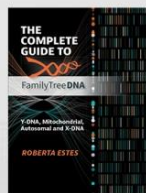
If you have news that you would like to share with APG colleagues, please drop a note to eNews Editor Chris Paton at enews@apgen.org, and copy Executive Director Michelle Dwyer Cohen at admin@apgen.org.



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by Elizabeth Shown Mills

744pp., indexed, hardcover.
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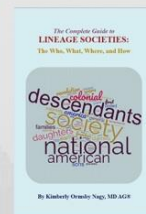
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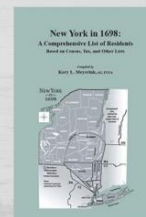
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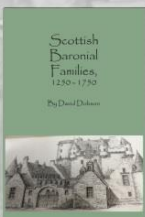
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New Voices Call for Presentations

Based upon the success of last summer's presentation, the Association of Professional Genealogists is pleased to announce two speaking opportunities for New Voices during 2025! There will be one presentation in May and another in November.

The basic premise for this call for presentations remains the same: "Do you have specialized knowledge about an indigenous, immigrant, international, or marginalized group that you would like to share with professionals in the genealogical community?"

The purpose of this opportunity is to diversify the narrative in genealogical research by providing a platform for emerging voices in the field, particularly those focusing on underrepresented communities. The goal is to create a series of educational webinars which aim to enrich the knowledge base of APG members, fostering a broader understanding of historical and cultural issues impacting genealogical research.

If you have submitted a proposal for last year's New Voices call for presentations and would like to resubmit it, please contact Melinda Kashuba at the email address listed at the end of this Call for Presentations. The DEI Committee has retained those submissions.

If you have submitted a proposal to the call for professional development speakers and it fits the goal of New Voices, please let Melinda Kashuba know you would like to have it considered for New Voices.

The deadline for submissions is 7 March 2025 at 11:45 p.m. ET (please visit <https://www.timeanddate.com> for worldwide time equivalents). Presenters will be compensated at the current APG rate for a professional development webinar. The proposed dates for presenting virtually to our members will be announced shortly.

Ready to submit? Please visit the following link to submit your proposal <https://apgen.wufoo.com/forms/r5zyyf0hjm220/>.

APG prefers new and original presentations tailored to professional genealogists. APG will prioritize member applications but will consider submissions from outside the organization. The DEI Committee offers its support to assist new speakers in presenting.

APG welcomes speakers from diverse backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives to participate in our event. Committed to creating an inclusive environment, we value and respect diversity, and we will strive to provide accommodations to ensure that every speaker can fully contribute their unique insights and experiences.

The DEI Committee will carefully review all submissions and select presentations based on their relevance, innovation, and potential impact on the professional genealogy community. We look forward to receiving your proposals and creating an enriching virtual experience. Please feel free to share this call with your contacts and others who may be interested.

For any questions, please contact Melinda Kashuba, DEI Committee Chair, at mekashuba@gmail.com.



Getting to Know the New APG Website

Trying to add a document to your APG Profile?

Go to the **Member's Area**, and click on the tab marked **Other Info**.

On that tab, you will see **Upload/Change My Documents**.

Click there, and then click **Add New Document**.

Upload your document and then choose Profile Documents from the Dropdown in the last box marked **Add Tags to Identify this Document**.

*FAQs can be found on the website in the **Members' Area** under **Navigating the Website**.*

APG Code of Ethics and Professional Practices

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

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

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

MEMBERS' NEWS

Taneya Koonce Re-elected as National Treasurer of AAHGS



Congratulations to Taneya Koonce, recently re-elected as National Treasurer of the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society (AAHGS) for a two-year term.

Taneya brings over 20 years of expertise in genealogy and a professional background in information science/knowledge management to her role, streamlining and standardizing AAHGS financial processes as well as enhancing the organization's fiscal transparency and operational efficiency. Tanya is also President of the Nashville Chapter of AAHGS.

For more on the AAHGS, please visit <https://www.aahgs.org>.

New ICAPGen Commissioners

Julie Cahill Tarr, Torhild Shirley, and Laurie Hermance-Moore have been elected to three-year terms on the Board of Commissioners of ICAPGen, the International Commission for the Accreditation of Professional Genealogists (<https://www.icapgen.org>).
Congratulations to all three.



First class!



Congratulations to APG Board member David Ryan on attaining a Master of Arts degree in Public History and Cultural heritage, with First Class Honors, at the University of Limerick in Ireland.

Shauna Hicks Honored in Australia

And a very belated congratulations also goes to Australian member Shauna Hicks OAM, who has been awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for her services to “community history”, through her lifelong work in Australia’s archives and for the country’s genealogy community. The award was made as part of the King’s Birthday Honors in the summer of 2024.

As an archivist Shauna has worked for the Public Record Office Victoria, the State Library of Queensland, and the National Archives of Australia, and she currently chairs Bribie Island Family History Association. A list of Shauna’s contributions over the years is [here](#).



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Newly Certified Genealogists

Congratulations to APG members Kristina Gow Clever, Sally D. Hamblen, Becky L. Stephens, Michael Sainsbury, Theodore Georgas, and APG board member Kelley Conner Lear, on being certified by the Board for Certification of Genealogists (<https://www.bcgcertification.org>), entitling them to use the CG post-nominal.

CHAPTER AND SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP (SIG) NEWS

Puget Sound Chapter



The following are details for the chapter's February talk, as part of our theme this year on building community:

Date: 24 February 2025
 Time: 7:00 p.m. PT (please visit <https://www.timeanddate.com> for worldwide time equivalents)
 What: "Building a Community: Accountability Groups and Mentorship", with Pam Anderson, CG
 Virtual: See the chapter website for sign up information at <https://psapg.wordpress.com/meetings/>.

A link for members to attend the session is available from Nancy Cordell at nancy.cordell@gmail.com.

Britain, Ireland and the Isles Chapter



Our chapter (https://www.apgen.org/britain_ireland_and_the_isles.php) will meet online on Thursday 13 March at 11:00 a.m. GMT (please visit <https://www.timeanddate.com> for worldwide time equivalents). A link to take part will be emailed to members who are signed up to the Chapter on the APG website.

Calling Southeastern USA based APG members!

Discussions are underway about the possibility of creating a Southeastern Chapter of APG in 2025. The proposed new chapter would cover the states of Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Arkansas, Mississippi. Please email southeastapg@gmail.com if you would like to be kept up to date on potential developments as they happen!

Sarah Fullem

Mid-Atlantic Chapter



February in the Mid-Atlantic region can be cold and isolating, but the Mid-Atlantic chapter is always warm and inviting!

Upcoming Events

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

Sunday, 2 February, at 6:00 p.m. ET

Tech Exchange: Using Excel to Enhance Genealogical Research

Presenters: Kris Jackson and Alaine Keisling

Register: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/RrV9aj46QZCfXvwCyZK-fw>

Excel is a powerful tool that can organize, analyze, and visualize genealogical data with ease. Whether you're tracking research, identifying patterns, or creating visual aids, Excel streamlines workflows and uncovers new insights. Join us as we explore practical ways genealogists can use Excel to elevate their research.



Based in Pasadena, Maryland, Kris Jackson (pictured right) is the owner of Lineage & Legacy LLC. She specializes in helping clients heal generational trauma by fostering meaningful ancestral connections.

Alaine Keisling owns Keisling Research and specializes in Mid-Atlantic genealogical research. She is based in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Tuesday, 11 February, at 12:00 p.m. ET

Second Tuesday: House Histories: Rural & Urban Case Studies

Presenters: Paul Campbell-Trimbur

Register: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/xBym0pBiSkG44sGx5Fd8-w>

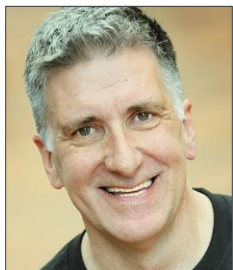
Have you thought about creating a house history, either for yourself or for clients? What's included? How do you get started? After purchasing a 1700s barn that was converted into a home in the 1970s, Paul Campbell-Trimbur ventured into the fascinating world of house histories.

Whether you're interested in uncovering the story behind your own home or adding house histories as a service for your clients, understanding the process of research, documentation, and storytelling is key.

Join Paul as he shares his journey, tips, and techniques for discovering the rich history hidden behind a home's walls.

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Paul Campbell-Trimbur, owner and researcher of Stone Barn Research, is a retired U.S. Postal Inspector. During his tenure as a federal law enforcement agent, he researched and conducted investigations on such topics as mail fraud, bombs, anthrax and narcotics. Paul has also worked with the FBI, ATF and DEA.

As a public information officer, Paul appeared on America's Most Wanted and the national broadcast of the CBS Morning News.

Sunday, 23 February, at 7:00 p.m. ET

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

Forensic Theory, a new monthly study group!

Register: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/CA0Xt9jwQiCPLi9nj2Bbvg>

The highly anticipated *Forensic Genealogy: Theory & Practice* book is arriving soon, and we're excited to dive in together! The Forensic Theory study group will offer a monthly forum to discuss the book's finer points, chapter by chapter. Open to all APG members, with a preference for those who plan to participate regularly. Register to attend; email midatlanticapg@gmail.com for more information.

Monday, 24 February, at 7:00 p.m. ET

Happy Hour with Hope!

Host: Hope Glidden

Register: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/cKfFbB25TsOisOJp23whFw>

A chance to unwind, connect, and explore fresh perspectives in genealogy over a virtual drink. Each session is an opportunity to delve into advanced tools, techniques, and expert insights on solving genealogical challenges. Grab your favorite beverage, and join us to connect, collaborate, and celebrate your passion for family history with a like-minded community!

Mid-Atlantic Chats

Thursday, 6 February and 20 February, at 12:00 p.m. ET

Register: https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/FnGNJz36SGy2FNlb1ue_Og

Membership for 2025

If you're interested in getting involved in the chapter, now's the time to join our growing community. There is no requirement to live in the Mid-Atlantic, but interest in the area is always a plus!

To join Mid-Atlantic, complete our membership form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfw0g8ezRG1M70Qpo4dM_2o3_TMwbTeb8k5CmboS99lIBdByQ/viwwform

Annual dues are US \$20. New and renewing members can pay their 2025 dues here:

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=6RPQDGS344LQE

Links for all events are available on the APG calendar.

Writers SIG



Our next meeting is on 19 February 2025 when Mark Lowe, FUGA will speak on **“Sharpening Our Digital Skills for Genealogical Writing and Presentations.”**



What’s new in digital production? Are you considering using an Avatar to present a concept or using AI for editing or templates? Have you stepped into the new world of online courses, webinars, or video presentations? Video and Audio production is a crucial component for students & educators to be up to date or “even marginally effective” for your writing and presentations. In this session, J. Mark Lowe Mark will look at a few important tools and learn to focus on techniques that enhance digital learning content as a quality component of your presentations.

J. Mark Lowe describes himself as “born to be curious.” He is a professional genealogist and educator who specializes in original records and manuscripts throughout the South. He coordinates “Research in the South” courses at IGHR, SLIG, and TIGR, worked on several TV series, hosts a YouTube channel, and does webinars.

Meetings are held monthly on the third Wednesday at 8:00 p.m. Eastern time. We begin to join at 7:30 p.m. for visiting in breakout rooms.

Save the dates for our future speakers:

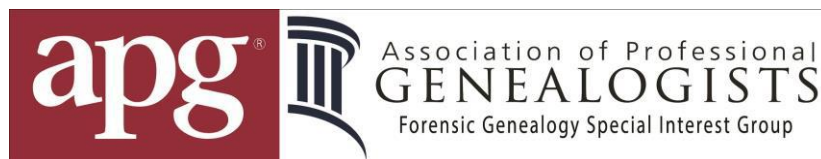
- 18 March 2025 – John Colletta, Ph.D., **“More Than Pretty Pictures: Sources for Visual Enhancement of Your Story”**
- 16 April – Wesley Pippenger, **“Reconstructing the Past: Three Case Studies”**
- 16 July – Ian Watson, **“Genealogical Writing and Publishing in the 2020s.”**

Writers SIG dues are US \$20 per calendar year. Membership benefits include access to a closed Facebook Group, recorded meetings, an optional Peer Review Group, and networking opportunities.

For more information on the Writers SIG, log into www.apgen.org, and visit Writers SIG under the “About” tab.



Forensic Genealogy SIG



Book Signing

"Forensic Genealogy: Theory and Practice" Book Signing!

Published 2025 by National Genealogical Society

RootsTech Salt Lake City, Utah, 6–8 March 2025 (Specific dates and time TBA)

Buy your book and/or bring your book, and chat with the authors!

Monthly Program

Update on the World of Investigative Genetic Genealogy, presented by David Gurney, J.D., Ph.D.

25 February 2025, 8:00 p.m. (For worldwide time equivalents visit <https://www.timeanddate.com>)

Doors will open at 7:30 p.m. for networking.

Mentorship Program

The APG Forensic Genealogy Special Interest Group (ForGen SIG) is pleased to offer members the opportunity to participate in its formal mentorship program. The mentorship program is offered twice a year. The next cohort runs from 21 February–21 May 2025.

The program matches mentors interested in contributing valuable knowledge and experience with mentees looking to hone their skills. Pairings will meet a minimum of three times, for 30 minutes, over three months on a mutually agreed-upon schedule. Mentees set the expectations by establishing and sharing their professional goals with their Mentor.

Mentees will be matched with a Mentor whose expertise aligns best with the Mentee's goals and interests. Some areas of interest include the following forensic specialties and business-related topics:

- Oil, gas, mineral rights heirs
- Adoption research with use of DNA evidence
- Probates and Estates
- Genetic genealogy-general
- Investigative genetic genealogy
- Military repatriation
- Search Angel, unknown parentage or children
- Dual citizenship and immigration
- Coroner's unclaimed human remains identification
- Unclaimed personal property (other than money)
- Native American citizenship
- Business
- Marketing
- Speaking and presentation skills

Watch your email for links to recommended requirements and the application form. There will also be a link for potential mentors to complete. Please contact the Mentorship Committee at ForensicMentoring@gmail.com with any questions about the program.

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Watch your email for links to recommended requirements and the application form. There will also be a link for potential mentors to complete. Please contact the Mentorship Committee at ForensicMentoring@gmail.com with any questions about the program.

Membership Meetings for 2025

The Program Committee has been hard at work securing speakers for 2025. Thank you for your diligence and hard work in securing such outstanding programs. Mark your calendars. Details will be announced later. At this time, those who have been confirmed are:

- 25 March 2025 **Ethics and Forensic Genealogy** – Michael Ramage, J.D., CG
- 22 April 2025 **Forensic Genealogy Volunteer Opportunities** – Several organization representatives
- 27 May 2025 **Law Enforcement and Forensic Investigative Genetic Genealogy** – Indiana State Police

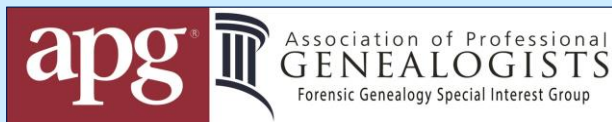
Dates for the remainder of 2025:

- June 24, 2025 - TBA
- Aug 26, 2025 - TBA
- September 16, 2025 - TBA
- October 28, 2025 - TBA
- December – TBA

Annual APG Forensic SIG Dues

APG Forensic SIG dues should be paid when you renew your APG membership. Dues are no longer collected on a calendar year basis. Everyone who paid in 2023 or 2024 for the calendar year 2024 is considered paid until their renewal, even if that renewal is in the first half of 2025.

Why not Join one of APG’s Special Interest Groups in 2025?



Further details at https://www.apgen.org/special_interest_groups.php

APG Welcomes New Members

The Association of Professional Genealogists is committed to fostering an inclusive community in which all participants are treated with dignity and respect, regardless of (but not limited to) ethnicity, sexual orientation, sex, gender, marital status, disability, age, religion, socioeconomic status, nationality, or political affiliation.

The following new members have joined APG between 20 December 2024 and 28 January 2025:



Gabriella Tsiprou, Kallangur, Queensland, Australia; **Viviane Pompeu**, Sorocaba, Brazil; **Mike Quackenbush**, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada; **Penny-J Samek**, Lanark, Ontario, Canada; **Enrique Garibay**, Guadalajara, Mexico; **Gail Tanner**, Oakura, Taranaki, New Zealand; **Grzegorz Bilos**, Warszawa, Poland; **Anthony Vela**, Portland, Michigan, USA; **Dana Poplees**, Wappingers Falls, New York, USA; **Gary Snyder**, Lehigh, Pennsylvania, USA; **Karen Isaacson**, San Luis Obispo, California, USA; **Kimberly Riehle**, Siloam Springs, Arkansas, USA; **Janelle Asselin**, Madison, Wisconsin, USA; **Kari Meyer**, Rigby, Idaho, USA; **Miriam Gan-Spalding**, Tallahassee, Florida, USA; **Sally Hamblen**, Lynnfield, Massachusetts, USA; **Doris Williams**, Salisbury, Maryland, USA; **Fawn Zarkov**, Westerville, Ohio, USA; **Jennifer Hadlock**, New York, New York, USA; **Peter Van Der Heijden**, White Plains, New York, USA; **Abby Peart**, Hinsdale, Illinois, USA; **David Mc Donald**, De Forest, Wisconsin, USA; and **Elizabeth Betsy Rogers**, Springfield, Missouri, USA.

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

APG is the world's largest association for the genealogical profession, with more than 2,000 professionals in more than forty countries. Our members include genealogists, librarians, writers, editors, historians, instructors, publishers, and others involved in genealogy-related careers.

- Grow Your Network in Our Community of Genealogy Professionals
- Increase Your Visibility with Potential Clients
- Access Professional Development and Business Resources
- Gain Knowledge with Education and Information Resources
- Advocate for the Interests of the Genealogy Community

Join today at apgen.org/join

Membership is just \$120 USD per year!

Reduced rates available for young professionals and retired professionals.