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Association of Professional Genealogists  
[apgen.org](http://apgen.org)

Executive Director  
Michelle Dwyer Cohen  
[admin@apgen.org](mailto:admin@apgen.org)

President  
Suzanne L. Hoffman  
[president@apgen.org](mailto:president@apgen.org)

Vice President  
[Karin Coppernoll](#)

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[Peggy Clemens Lauritzen, AG](#)

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[Tricia Seguire](#)

Board of Directors  
[apgen.org/team](http://apgen.org/team)

APG eNews Editor  
Chris Paton  
[enews@apgen.org](mailto:enews@apgen.org)

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

Find us online:  
[X \(Twitter\)](#) - [Bluesky](#) - [Facebook](#)  
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# APG eNEWS



Association of Professional  
**GENEALOGISTS**

Vol. 13, No. 3, March 2025

## APG Calls on Congress to Fund the U.S. National Archives

*The Advocacy Committee's Alec Ferretti highlights how members can get involved with the campaign to save a vital national resource*



The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) is the cornerstone of government transparency, historical preservation, and public access to records.

From genealogists tracing family histories to veterans seeking service records, from journalists investigating government accountability to everyday citizens looking for historical documents,

NARA provides invaluable services to the American public, and is a fundamental institution required for genealogists to run their businesses.

Yet, despite its critical role, NARA has suffered from decades of underfunding, severely limiting its ability to fulfill its mission. The agency is struggling to preserve fragile historical materials, process record requests in a timely manner, and digitize millions of documents to ensure accessibility for future generations. Without urgent intervention, access to public records—records that belong to the people—will continue to deteriorate. APG fears that Congress may attempt to cut NARA's budget in the incoming year, at a time when they can already barely keep the lights on.

NARA's budget has remained stagnant for years, even as the volume of federal records has expanded exponentially. Millions of cubic feet of historic records remain with other agencies, waiting for the day NARA has the bandwidth to properly accession them. Today, only 3% of the agency's textual records have been digitized. The agency faces years-long backlogs in screening records that require FOIA review, and the onslaught of records will only get worse every year.

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Additionally, ongoing staffing shortages and outdated infrastructure mean that crucial records remain in peril, vulnerable to deterioration or even permanent loss. Without substantial funding increases, NARA cannot meet the demands of a modern digital age, nor can it keep up with records management responsibilities for federal agencies. Without proper funding, the backlog of record requests will worsen, access to government documents will be delayed, and vital historical records may be lost forever.

APG advocates for Congress to maintain funding levels for NARA at US \$427.3 million. This is necessary to:

- Expand digitization efforts to make records available online
- Hire additional staff to reduce processing backlogs
- Improve infrastructure to better preserve fragile historical materials
- Modernize records management systems to keep up with growing demand

## How You Can Help

We need your voice to make a difference. Here's what you can do:

### Engage with FundNARA:

Stay updated on advocacy efforts by following FundNARA (<https://fundnara.com>), a volunteer, non-partisan project coordinated by an ad hoc group of genealogists, historians, and records access advocates.

### Contact Congress: (if you are a US resident)

Tell your representatives that full funding for NARA is essential. Ask them to support the proposed \$427.3 million budget. FundNARA has comment starters and links to aid in reaching out to your elected officials.

### Spread Awareness: (no matter where you are)

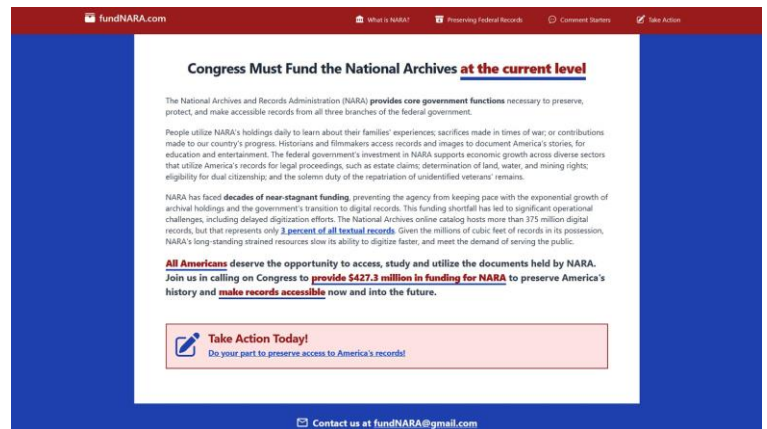
Share this website with fellow genealogists, and encourage them to advocate for proper funding to their own legislators.

The records held by NARA belong to all of us. They tell the story of America and ensure transparency in government. We cannot allow decades of underfunding to continue jeopardizing our access to these vital materials.

Your voice matters. Let's work together to ensure that NARA receives the funding it needs to preserve our shared history for generations to come.

For more information or to get involved, contact [fundNARA@gmail.com](mailto:fundNARA@gmail.com).

*\* 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](mailto:advocacy@apgen.org).*



## Strathclyde Institute for Genealogical Studies launches new “Papal Dispensations for Marriage” database

The Glasgow based Strathclyde Institute for Genealogical Studies (<https://www.strath.ac.uk/studywithus/centreforlifelonglearning/genealogy/>) has developed an online database of papal dispensations for marriage, intended for use in genealogical investigation.

Until recently, the papal dispensations granted for marriages in Britain and Ireland between those related within the prohibited degrees and covering the period 1198 to 1534 were not available in a single place online.

The ‘Papal Dispensations for Marriage Project’ funded by the Foundation for Medieval Genealogy, has been focusing on creating a database that will initially cover volumes 1 to 20 and volume 23 part 1, by extracting entries relating to marriage – specifically papal dispensations for marriage – from the published calendars of papal registers/letters in a consistent format, to develop a searchable online database.

The aim of the project is the ongoing development of an easily accessible online relational database that will be useful for academic and genealogical research by medieval historians and medieval genealogical researchers.

The papal dispensations database can be viewed and searched by visiting <https://papaldispensations.org.uk>.



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[Vivid-Pix.com/RT2025](https://Vivid-Pix.com/RT2025)

## APG Hires New IT Administrator and Social Media Specialist Contractors

APG is pleased to announce the hiring of two new contractors to help support the organization's website and social media activities.

Sandra Roberts of Broomfield, Colorado, USA, has been named as the new Information Technology (IT) Administrator for the organization. She is the owner of GenMetadata, offering technology and publication services to clients, specializing in education, history, and genealogy. Her clients include groups such as the International Society for British Genealogy and Family History and the Wales-Ireland-Scotland-England Family History Society.



An experienced information technology professional, Roberts has decades of knowledge working in a variety of technical and writing environments—large and small businesses, nonprofit organizations, and higher education. She has an M.S. in Computer Information Systems from Regis University and an M.A. in English from Mercy College.



Amber Oldenburg of Brownsburg, Indiana, USA, has been named as Social Media Specialist for the Association. An experienced social media manager, speaker, and professional genealogist, Oldenburg oversees social media accounts for several genealogy-focused organizations, creating engaging, audience-specific content.

The owner of One Branch at a Time, Oldenburg has been an online instructor in the Family History Research program at Brigham Young University-Idaho since 2020. She specializes in United States Midwest research and is currently working toward professional accreditation with the International Commission for the Accreditation of Professional Genealogists in the North Central United States region. She received a B.S. from BYU-Idaho.

Commenting on the appointments, APG Executive Director Michelle Dwyer Cohen said, “I am delighted to have Sandra and Amber join our team of high-performing professionals who support our membership every day.”

APG's IT Administrator contract position supports both the public face of the APG website and the association management platform that handles all member interactions. The Social Media Specialist contract position works closely with the APG Communications Manager to monitor APG's social media channels and engage with members and followers.

**The Listening Committee wants to hear from APG members!**

Please contact [listening@apgen.org](mailto:listening@apgen.org) with your compliments, questions, concerns, and recommendations.

## Look Ahead to 2025 Opportunities for Continuing Education Hours

*Some suggestions for the present year from Jenifer Kahn Bakkala, chair of the Continuing Education Committee*



APG members were actively involved in a wide variety of Continuing Education endeavors last year, according to 2024 submissions of APG's CE Reporting form.

Reporting for 2024, which took place in January, showed that members engaged in numerous hours of genealogical and business education in the form of college courses, institutes, conferences, discussion groups, lectures, webinars, and online courses.

In addition, one of the largest categories was self-directed study, whereby members moved their careers forward through dedicated reading, listening to podcasts, mentoring, being mentored, preparing teaching materials, and learning new aspects of their field.

As 2025 is already under way, now is the time to think about educational opportunities for the coming year, and how to keep track of them as part of your professional routine. A few things to keep in mind:

- Education can take a wide variety of formats. Courses, institutes, and webinars are not the only experiences that count. Consider self-directed study in the year ahead: a mentoring relationship, dedicated reading, learning a new skill.
- Not all education needs to be "genealogical." Learning how to keep better business records, finding out about new tax laws in your area, or taking a class on marketing your business, are all acceptable forms of education to report. If you work as a librarian, a publisher, or in another related career, education in those areas is eligible to submit for the requirement.
- Keeping track makes reporting easy. A spreadsheet or a simple list can help you remember your educational experiences in 2025 so that reporting will only take a few minutes in January 2026.

Education is one of the tenets of APG's mission statement, its Code of Ethics and Professional Practices, and its definition of a Professional Genealogist. The CE requirement encourages further career development for our members and strengthens the integrity of our organization to the public.

Annual reporting of at least 12 hours of Continuing Education is required for APG members to remain in good standing. Honorary Lifetime Members and retired members have an exempt status. New members are exempt from the reporting requirement only during their first year of membership.



To learn more about APG's CE Requirement, visit: [https://www.apgen.org/continuing\\_education.php](https://www.apgen.org/continuing_education.php).

**FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Michelle Dwyer Cohen



Spring is a time frequently associated with both change and growth. Our APG contractor team is growing this year, welcoming Sandra Roberts and Amber Oldenburg (see p. 4), and we expect two more people to join us by April.

Also, the makeup of APG itself changes each year – in these past twelve months, we had over 300 new members join us, with 26 percent residing outside of the United States. With that in mind, I may sometimes provide information that is more familiar to those who have been members for a long time, but is also important that our new members learn.

APG runs on the power of member volunteers. All the members of our committees, and our Board of Directors, are volunteers. They share their time and talents to help improve APG. They are frequently seen as the “face of APG” at public events.

But Board members are not our only representatives. EVERY APG member is the face of APG anytime they volunteer at a booth, put the APG logo on their website, present a lecture, or wear our membership ribbons at a conference, to give just a few examples.

Please remember that marketing is a cooperative effort – APG advertises for our collective membership, and we need members to advertise APG. Many of you already display the member logo on your website, and share our posts, which is great – keep it up! Please identify yourself as an APG member when you present or publish - your membership should be part of your standard bio provided to an event or a publication. When we work as a team, all APG members will do better.

APG will shortly be at RootsTech, held in Salt Lake City, Utah, (<https://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/>) and at the Connections 2025 conference (<https://www.connections2025.org.au>) in Brisbane, Australia. These events are wonderful opportunities to introduce potential clients to our members, and to demonstrate the value that the Association brings to members and clients.

We hope to see you there!



University of  
**Strathclyde**  
Glasgow

## Strathclyde Institute for Genealogical Studies

**Ken Your Kin  
Summer  
School!**

**4 - 11 June 2025  
Glasgow, UK**



## Getting to Know the New APG Website

### Letting Folks Know Where You Are Based:

The "Based In" field in the member profile is designed for you to indicate **your place of residence or the location of your business**. If you are instead using that field to list locations where you conduct research, it will impact the search results for potential clients, and *impact their confidence in our search results*. Please include your research speciality in the "Researches in" field instead.

[Click here](#)

to add/change/remove **Based In** locations. These will help searchers find you in the directory. (opens in new window)

### Geographic Location Selection: Based In

Start typing in the box below to search for a location, and click on the location to add it to your list. Make sure to save your changes once you're done!  
**Please limit your selections to three.**

Location Search

UNITED KINGDOM, Scotland ✕

Save Changes

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

### Proposals for New Voices

A reminder that proposals for presentations for the New Voices are still being accepted until 7 March. There will be two speaking opportunities during 2025, with the first in May and another in November.

Please submit your applications via the following link:

<https://apgen.wufoo.com/forms/r5zyyf0hjm220/>

Good luck!

### American Society of Genealogists Grants

The society is offering four grants of US \$2500 in 2025, in support of important continuing genealogical research projects.

For an application please email [awcrane@aol.com](mailto:awcrane@aol.com). The deadline is 1 April.

For further details please visit <https://fasg.org/continuing-genealogy-research-grants-2025-grant-cycle-now-open/>



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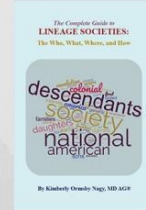
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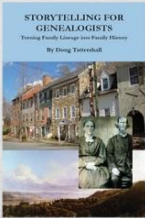
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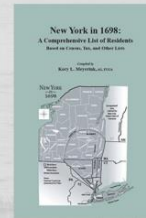
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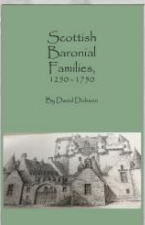
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## APG Code of Ethics and Professional Practices

One of the principal objectives of the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG) is to encourage high standards of ethical conduct and professional practice in dealings with clients and other members of the public.

To further that objective, all members of APG agree to adhere to the *APG Code of Ethics and Professional Practices* (hereinafter, *Code of Ethics*).

The *Code of Ethics* serves to promote:

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

For details on the code please visit [https://www.apgen.org/code\\_of\\_ethics.php](https://www.apgen.org/code_of_ethics.php)



## Attention APG Members Attending RootsTech!

APG is thrilled to return 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'd love to have you sign up for a volunteer shift at our booth. Please email Jen Shaffer at [theformidablegenealogist@gmail.com](mailto:theformidablegenealogist@gmail.com) to sign up.

Don't miss a chance to mingle with your fellow APG members for an APG social hour on Friday, 7 March at the FamilySearch Library. We will be in Meeting Rooms B and C from 6:00 p.m. to 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 at [https://members.apgen.org/members/forum/topic\\_list.php?bid=3952849](https://members.apgen.org/members/forum/topic_list.php?bid=3952849).



### Chapters and Special Interest Group reports

Chapter and SIG representatives: Annual Reports for 2024 were due 1 March 2025 to the Chapter/SIG liaison. If you have not done so already, please send them to [admin@apgen.org](mailto:admin@apgen.org) today!

## APG at Connections 2025: Australia's Premier Family History Conference

The APG community will be well represented at Connections 2025, taking place in Brisbane, Australia, from 21-24 March 2025.

Hosted by the Genealogical Society of Queensland (GSQ) in collaboration with the Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations (AFFHO), this Congress is the leading event for genealogists, local historians, and ancestry researchers across Australasia.

With 48 presentations spanning three key themes—*Diaspora and Migration*, *Looking Ahead*, and *Local History's Impact*—attendees will explore past and present connections while embracing future opportunities in research. APG members featured in the program include keynote speaker **Judy G. Russell**, alongside **John Boeren**, **Fiona Brooker**, **Maggie Gaffney**, **Shauna Hicks**, **Jenny Joyce**, **David Ryan**, **Cathie Sherwood**, and **Helen V. Smith**.

APG is proud to sponsor an **exhibitor table**, providing a dedicated space for members to connect, share resources, and discuss professional genealogy.

Additionally, APG members attending the conference are invited to a **pre-conference dinner on 20 March**, offering a chance to network and socialise before the event begins. Don't miss this opportunity to connect, learn, and be inspired by leading experts in the field.

For more info, or to volunteer at the exhibitor table, please contact Mel Dunstan at [mel@thednaconnection.com.au](mailto:mel@thednaconnection.com.au).

# SAVE THE DATE!

# PMIC 2025

## VIRTUAL PROFESSIONAL MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

# 18-20 SEPTEMBER 2025

## MEMBERS' NEWS

### Congratulations to Luis Ariel Rivera

Luis Ariel Rivera, recipient of the APG New Professional Scholarship in 2023 (see *APG eNews* September 2023), has received the 2025 Debbie Parker Wayne Memorial Scholarship, as awarded by the Board for the Certification of Genealogists Education Fund (<https://bcgedfund.org/dpw-scholarship>). The award is given to someone who “demonstrate a genuine passion for researching family history and a commitment to improving their skills through quality education.”



Congratulations to Luis!

### Newly Accredited Members

And congratulations also to Kimberley O. Nagy and Linda Yip, who have been recently accredited through the International Commission for the Accreditation of Professional Genealogists (<https://www.icapgen.org>).



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# Caribbean Research

**MARCH 24, 2025**  
**11 a.m. - 6 p.m.**  
**Eastern**  
**ONLINE**



for your *British Ancestors*



Todd Knowles



Dan Poffenberger, AG<sup>®</sup>

Join us on Zoom for a genealogical journey through the Caribbean Islands! Our expert guides, *Dan Poffenberger, AG<sup>®</sup>* and *Todd Knowles* will describe the “five W’s” of Caribbean research. You’ve got questions? They’ve got answers. Register at <https://isbgfh.com/si>



**ISBGFH**  
International Society for British Genealogy and Family History



## CHAPTER AND SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP (SIG) NEWS

### Puget Sound Chapter



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

- Date: 24 March 2025
- Time: 7:00 p.m. PT (please visit <https://www.timeanddate.com> for worldwide time equivalents)
- What: “Conference Keeper: Helping to Inform the Community,” with Tami Mize
- 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](mailto:nancy.cordell@gmail.com).

### Mid-Atlantic Chapter



Mid-Atlantic APG offers a welcoming, supportive network of professionals and enriching activities. Connect with fellow genealogists who share an understanding of the region’s unique historical and genealogical landscapes. We provide opportunities for professional development, collaboration, and mentorship—along with engaging events designed to spark fresh ideas and sharpen your skills. Join us to grow your network, share your expertise, and stay at the forefront of the field.

To join Mid-Atlantic, complete our membership form ([https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfw0g8ezRG1M70Qpo4dM\\_2o3\\_TMwbTeb8k5CmboS99lIBdByQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfw0g8ezRG1M70Qpo4dM_2o3_TMwbTeb8k5CmboS99lIBdByQ/viewform)). Annual dues are US \$20, which you can pay via the following link: ([https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=\\_s-xclick&hosted\\_button\\_id=6RPQDGS344LQE](https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=6RPQDGS344LQE))

#### Upcoming Events

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

#### Mid-Atlantic Chat

Thursday, 6 March, and Thursday, 20 March, at 12 noon ET

Register: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/yyz95cu9SMqIndw3YnnBJg> (6 March) and

[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/Jytu\\_OTYSyWQSM7iEW1ITg](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/Jytu_OTYSyWQSM7iEW1ITg) (20 March)

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Sunday, 9 March, 7 pm ET

**Tech Exchange: "Forging Power(ful)Points: Using PowerPoint to Captivate"**

Presenter: Elizabeth Gomoll

Register: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/wLAcaM2OStaMlwsUYIMWAw>

Your presentation is what you say. Your slides illustrate and emphasize your points. Creative visuals keep your audience engaged so they can learn from you. Genealogists who teach often have a PowerPoint presentation to accompany their lecture. Many times, these slide presentations are a plain white background with lists of bullet points, or worse, full sentences read by the presenter to the audience. Such lectures become tedious, and attendees tune out. Thoughtfully designed slides illustrate and emphasize the key points of a lecture and keep the audience engaged. A presenter who teaches effectively will be invited back. You put a lot of work into preparing your lecture – what you will say. Your PowerPoint slides are there to illustrate and emphasize your words.



Elizabeth Williams Gomoll, CG, is a professional board-certified genealogist. She is president of the Northland Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists, was co-editor of *Generations* quarterly journal for 10 years, and served several terms as a Director for the Minnesota Genealogical Society. Liz is associate director for the Upper Midwest Genealogy Institute scheduled for August 2025. She researches and lectures as Red Bird Genealogy Services ([www.RedBirdGen.com](http://www.RedBirdGen.com)).

Tuesday, 11 March, at 12 noon ET

**Second Tuesday: "Adding Dual Citizenship to Your Professional Portfolio"**

Presenter: Alec Ferretti

Register: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwvfuoqoqDMuGNlg4s3ofp8UDBLMKaUyPST->

Dual citizenship work allows genealogists to help clients reconnect with their heritage, gain legal rights in another country, and open doors for travel, work, and cultural opportunities. It is a growing field that combines genealogy with elements of international law and cultural research. Topics will include litigation in foreign countries and how recent changes have impacted the work.



Alec specializes in the genealogy of 20<sup>th</sup>-century immigrants to the United States. He is a regular lecturer at genealogical societies and conferences, as well as president of the New York Genealogy & Technology Group. He is an active board member of both the Association of Professional Genealogists and Reclaim the Records, a nonprofit dedicated to wrangling public records from obstinate government agencies. (Ed: You can read Alec's plea to members to help save the US National Archives funding on p. 1-2)

Wednesday, 12 March, at 7 pm ET

**MidAtlantic Board Meeting**

All Mid-Atlantic members welcome. Check your email for the link.

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Sunday, 23 March, at 7 pm ET

**FORGEN study group**

Topic: Chapter 9: Business Considerations/Contracts

Check your email for the zoom link.

Monday, 24 March, at 7 pm ET

**Happy Hour with Hope! chat**

Register: [https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tV6VzcgNQmeWN3Xh\\_1Ka\\_Q](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tV6VzcgNQmeWN3Xh_1Ka_Q)

Wednesday, 26 March, at 7 pm ET

**General Meeting: "Conestoga Town"**

Presenter: Charles Stewart of the It's Not History podcast

Register: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/XCBUUu9AQ9y6YAmJpQa4EQ>

Charles Stewart, a Lancaster County, Pennsylvania native, set out to create a podcast inspired by his roots near the Conestoga and Susquehanna waterways. What began as an exploration of their names and early history took an unexpected turn—he realized this wasn't just history; the story was still unfolding today. Twenty-two episodes in, he's still discovering new stories and connections.

Links for most Mid-Atlantic events are available on the APG calendar. Events are open to all APG members unless otherwise specified.

# The IRISH Family Genealogist

**Making complex Irish genealogy clear, one topic at a time**

Each Thursday, we break down essential aspects of Irish genealogy:  
record types, timeframes, methodologies, and research strategies

**JOIN FOR FREE**



From the folks at  **A Letter from Ireland**

## Writers SIG



The APG Writers SIG continued its stellar lineup of speakers with Mark Lowe speaking on 19 February on the topic of “Sharpening Our Digital Skills for Genealogical Writing and Presentations.”

Our next meeting is on 19 March 2025 when John Colletta, Ph.D. will speak on **“More Than Pretty Pictures: Sources for Visual Enhancement of Your Story.”**

In his words: “Using three articles of mine that have been published in the past four and a half years, as well as *Only a Few Bones*, I talk about the illustrative images—photographs, prints and engravings, documents, maps, etc. —and discuss why I selected them and not other possibilities (including a couple that the editor rejected). I propose some “Bedrock Principles” and some “Stern Caveats” for illustrative material that accompanies historical narrative.”

For 40 years John Colletta has helped family historians discover and write the stories of their ancestors. After working at the Library of Congress and teaching classes at the Smithsonian Institution and National Archives, he became a popular lecturer at NGS and FGS national conferences and a faculty member of the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research (U. of Georgia) and Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy. His publications include many articles, both scholarly and popular, two manuals (*Finding Italian Roots* and *They Came in Ships*), a murder mystery/family history, *Only a Few Bones* (the second edition includes instruction on how to write narrative family history), and a Great Course titled “Discovering Your Roots” available from The Teaching Company. Recipient of professional awards and honors, Dr. Colletta resides in Washington, D.C., where he earned his doctorate at the Catholic University of America.



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

Save the dates for our future speakers:

- 16 April 2025 – Wesley Pippenger, **“Reconstructing the Past: Three Case Studies”**
- 21 May 2025 – Ian Watson, **“Genealogical Writing and Publishing in the 2020s.”**

The 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](http://www.apgen.org), and visit Writers SIG under the “About” tab.

## Forensic Genealogy SIG



### **Book Signing: *Forensic Genealogy: Theory and Practice***

Published 2025 by National Genealogical Society

RootsTech Salt Lake City, Utah, 6–8 March 2025 (check the schedule for specific date and time on arrival)

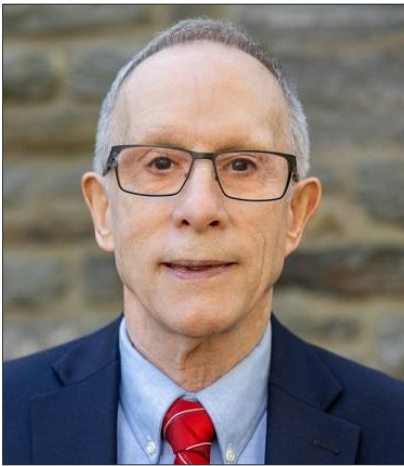
Buy your book and/or bring your book, and chat with the authors! The following is a link to NGS for additional information, and to purchase a book: <https://www.ngsgenealogy.org/forensic-genealogy/>

### **Monthly Program: Ethics and Forensic Genealogy**

Presented by Michael S. Ramage, J.D., CG

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

The session starts at 7:30 p.m. for networking.



Michael S. Ramage, JD, CG, is a full-time professional genealogist, author and lecturer. Michael has served as a trustee, officer and currently general counsel of the Board for the Certification of Genealogists, and he was the 2020-2022 president of the APG Forensic Genealogy Special Interest Group. His 25-year law practice included real estate and estate law and litigation. He has taught numerous genealogy courses at genealogy conferences and institutes around the country. His related publications include: (1) Michael S. Ramage, J.D., CG and Catherine B. W. Desmarais, CG, *Forensic Genealogy: Theory and Practice* (National Genealogical Society, Falls Church, VA: 2025); and (2) the “Forensic Specialization” and “Ethical Considerations” chapters in *Professional Genealogy: Preparation, Practice & Standards*, Elizabeth Shown Mills, editor (Baltimore, Maryland: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2018).

Ethical rules and guidance are arguably more important to forensic genealogists than others in the industry, given the relationship to the law and living people. This presentation initially provides some background and history of ethics in general, and then specifically as it relates to forensic genealogy.

Examples of commonly encountered ethical landmines in this field will be explored along with the applicable ethical codes adopted by APG, BCG, CAFG and ICAPGen. We will then delve into privacy concerns raised as forensic genealogists report on living subjects, including HIPAA, the GDPR, AI and pretexting. Your discussion and questions will be welcome.

### **Forensic Genealogy SIG Book Club – Starting in 2025**

(Open to APG Forensic SIG members only)

If you would like to join the SIG, please contact Angela Harris, CG, at [forensicsig@apgen.org](mailto:forensicsig@apgen.org). Please email your

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book suggestions to Kathleen Carter ([kathleen.carter@me.com](mailto:kathleen.carter@me.com)).

### Membership meetings for 2025

The Program Committee has been hard at work securing speakers for 2025. Confirmed programs are:

- 22 April 2025            **Forensic Genealogy Volunteer Opportunities** – Several organization representatives
- 27 May 2025            **Law Enforcement and Forensic Investigative Genetic Genealogy** – Indiana State Police

Meeting dates for the remainder of 2025:

- June 24, 2025
- Aug 26, 2025
- September 16, 2025
- October 28, 2025



Further programming will be announced as it is confirmed.

### 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](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 29 January and 21 February 2025:

**John Salmon**, Fredericksburg, Virginia, USA; **Mattan Segev-Frank**, Vienna, Austria; **Georgie Kennedy**, Markham, Ontario, Canada; **Fernanda Bortolossi Zanini**, Livorno, Italy; **Caroline Knight**, Grantham, England; **Elizabeth Betsy Rogers**, Springfield, Missouri, USA; **Lorraine Escobar**, Modesto, California USA; **Kathryn Paye**, Laguna Niguel, California, USA; **Kimberly Robbins**, Louisville, Kentucky, USA; **Sally Cray**, Rochester, Illinois, USA; **Timothy Taylor**, Clarksville, Indiana, USA; **Jasie Stokes**, Louisville, Kentucky, USA; **Vanessa See**, Jeffersonville, Indiana, USA; **Lynne Jakobowski**, Williamsburg, Virginia, USA; **Teresa McMillin**, Inverness, Illinois, USA; **Carolyn Schott**, Seattle, Washington, USA; **Rhonda Copher**, Newton, North Carolina, USA; **Katherine Bucher**, Chesapeake, Virginia, USA; **Lisa Minogue**, Forest Lake, Minnesota, USA; **Ron McCuin**, Montclair, Virginia, USA; **Jon Strebler**, Ferndale, Washington, USA; **Regan Richardson**, Eveleth, Minnesota, USA; **Michiko Arima**, Shreveport, Louisiana, USA; **Sonya Norris**, Rockmart, Georgia, USA; and **Raymond Allen**, Niagara Falls, New York, 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

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