

How To Up Your Genealogy Game

ancestry.com®

Anne Mitchell



How to up your genealogy game?

Learn

“I am a perpetual student
because the world is a limitless
place”

Elissa Scalise Powell ^{CG}

<http://www.powellgenealogy.com/>

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- [Recent new record collections](#)

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First Steps

Just getting started? Let us help.

- [Census Search Secrets](#)
- [Where to Find the Answer](#)

Begin

Next Steps

Learn about our collections...

- [Getting Ready for the 1940 Census](#)
- [Locating Passenger Arrival Records](#)

Explore

Family History 101

Newsletters and networking with friends...

- [Ask Ancestry Anne](#)
- [Clues in Death Records](#)
- [Scanning Sense](#)

Learn

Learn online

Videos and online classes... **Free**

Learn More

Jumpstart your research with a free research guide

Getting Started with Search

Learn how to find your ancestors in historical records.

Featured Collection

We've added nearly nine million Massachusetts birth, marriage and death records detailing over 330 years of Massachusetts residents to its website. Now available exclusively online at Ancestry.com, the collection includes original records for 315 of the state's 351 towns from 1620 through 1988.

Year	Name	Age	Sex	Marital Status	Place of Birth
1620	John M. Smith	25	M	Single	England
1650	Mary J. Brown	18	F	Single	Massachusetts
1680	John D. White	30	M	Married	Massachusetts
1710	Elizabeth Green	22	F	Single	Massachusetts
1740	Richard Black	40	M	Married	Massachusetts

Your DNA can lead to new discoveries.

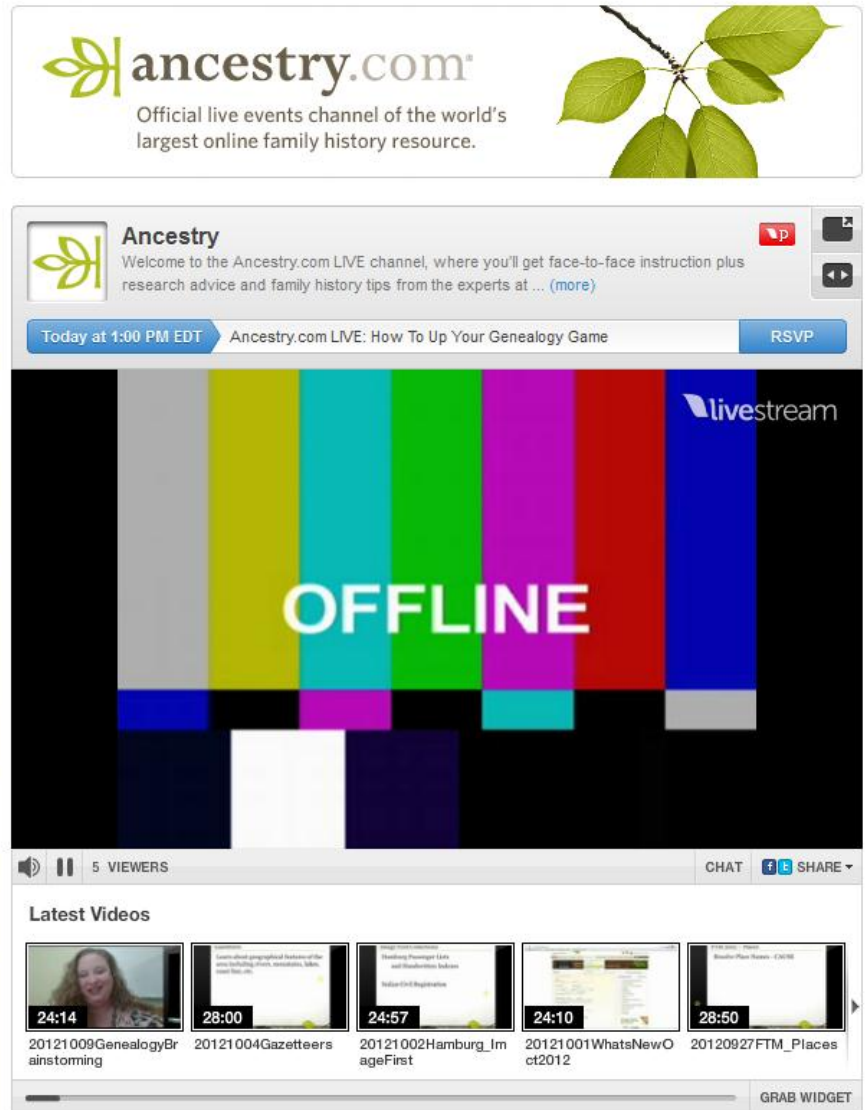
ancestryDNA

If you haven't heard, there's a new DNA test and it uses the latest autosomal testing technology to help you discover even more about your past. AncestryDNA can be a great starting point to kick off your family history search or a way to dig even deeper into the research you've already done. The new AncestryDNA test is currently available by invitation only. Click here to learn more.

Ancestry.com Livestream presentations

<http://livestream.com/ancestry>

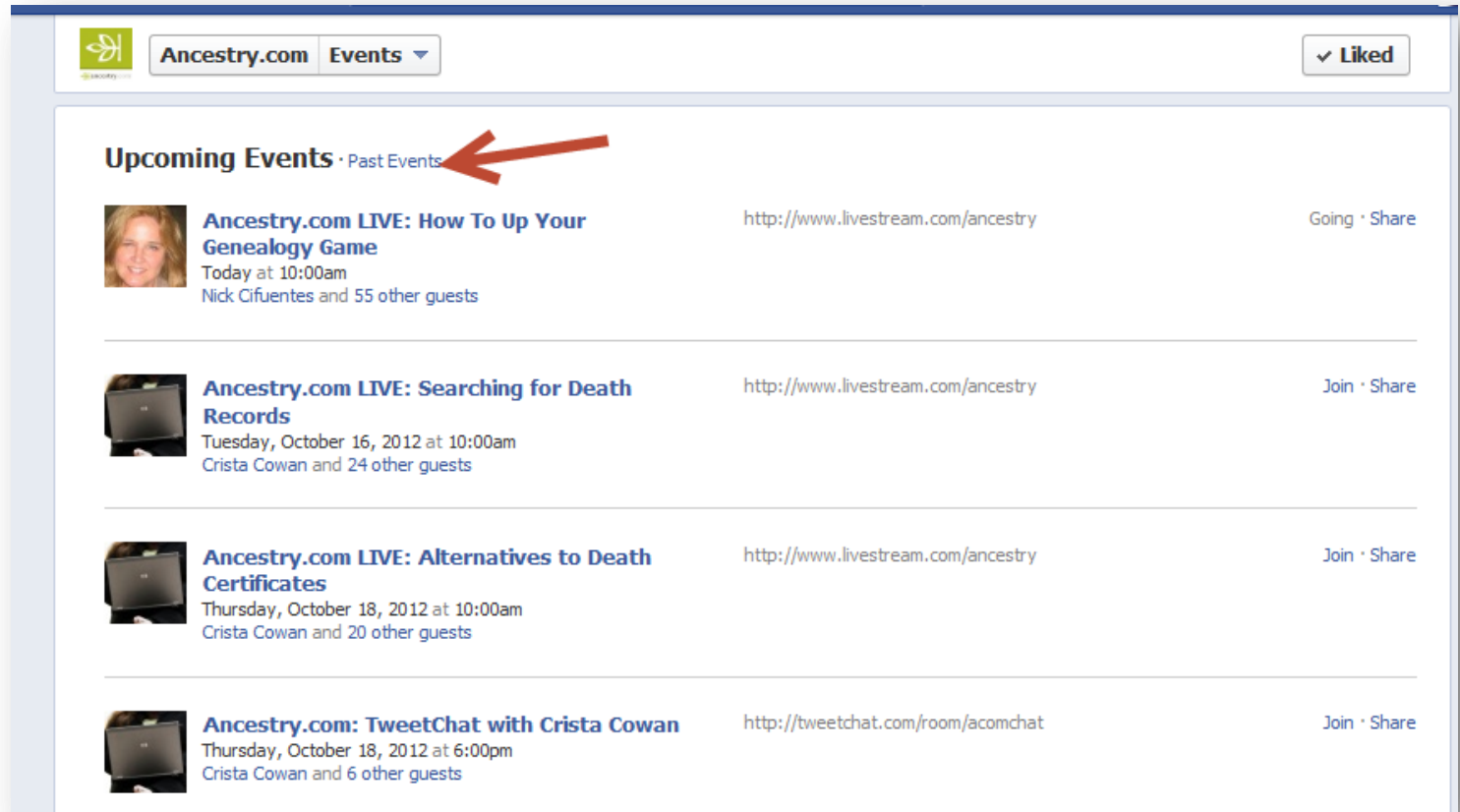
Browse Latest Videos or check
past events on




The screenshot displays the Ancestry.com Livestream channel interface. At the top, the Ancestry.com logo is accompanied by the text "Official live events channel of the world's largest online family history resource." Below this, the channel name "Ancestry" is shown with a welcome message: "Welcome to the Ancestry.com LIVE channel, where you'll get face-to-face instruction plus research advice and family history tips from the experts at ... (more)". A banner for a live event, "Ancestry.com LIVE: How To Up Your Genealogy Game", is scheduled for "Today at 1:00 PM EDT" with an "RSVP" button. The main video player area shows a test pattern and the word "OFFLINE" in large white letters. Below the player, it indicates "5 VIEWERS" and includes "CHAT" and "SHARE" options. A "Latest Videos" section features five video thumbnails with their respective durations and titles: "20121009GenealogyBrainstorming" (24:14), "20121004Gazetteers" (28:00), "20121002Hamburg_ImageFirst" (24:57), "20121001WhatsNewOct2012" (24:10), and "20120927FTM_Places" (28:50). A "GRAB WIDGET" button is located at the bottom right of the page.





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<https://www.facebook.com/Ancestry.com/events>



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Upcoming Events · Past Events 

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Today at 10:00am
Nick Cifuentes and 55 other guests
-  **Ancestry.com LIVE: Searching for Death Records** <http://www.livestream.com/ancestry> Join · Share
Tuesday, October 16, 2012 at 10:00am
Crista Cowan and 24 other guests
-  **Ancestry.com LIVE: Alternatives to Death Certificates** <http://www.livestream.com/ancestry> Join · Share
Thursday, October 18, 2012 at 10:00am
Crista Cowan and 20 other guests
-  **Ancestry.com: TweetChat with Crista Cowan** <http://tweetchat.com/room/acomchat> Join · Share
Thursday, October 18, 2012 at 6:00pm
Crista Cowan and 6 other guests

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Online Military Records webinar

Document Your Family's Service Can you remember a time before the internet became a genealogist's best friend? It's hard to even comprehend the amount of time and effort the web saves us. And while physical research in archives, libraries and courthouses will always serve a purpose, most of our research these days starts online. When [...]


1 2 3 **4**

- #### I want to learn how to:
- Start tracing my family tree
 - Find my immigrant ancestors
 - Locate where my family came from
 - Research my family from the old country
 - Share what I've discovered about my family
 - Document my ancestors' lives
 - Search the internet for my family
 - Use Google tools for my ancestry search
 - Trace my family in census records
 - Find my ancestors' birth, marriage & death records
 - Be a better genealogist
 - Learn how to preserve and identify family photos

Family Tree Firsts



Civil War Roots and a Historic Birthday
Many of you may remember that I was attempting to put together a Civil War book for my oldest son's birthday. Well...his birthday came and went. Summer was not the



Genealogy Overload: Finding Time to Find Your Family
Okay, so who out there was at the Virtual Conference? I was! Once again it was fantastic, and I was very excited to "see" everyone there. I even had a

VIEW COURSE SCHEDULE REGISTER NOW

- #### 16 Courses Starting Oct. 15
- Registration is open until Friday, October 19, 2012.
- First Steps: Finding Family History Books About Your Ancestors **NEW**
 - US Military Records **SPECIAL OFFER**
 - First Steps: Discover Your Family Tree
 - Discovering Your Czech and Slovak Roots
 - Hungarian Genealogy 101
 - Find Your German Roots
 - Newspaper Research 101
 - Irish Research 101
 - Computer Boot Camp for Genealogists
 - Creating a Family History Book
 - Organize Your Genealogy
 - Reverse Genealogy
 - First Steps: Using Census Records
 - First Steps: Using Marriage and Divorce Records

NGS Home Study Course

http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/homestudy_course_cd

[Educational Courses](#)
[PDF Courses](#)
[Online Courses](#)
[Home Study Course](#)
[FAQs](#)

Home : Educational Courses : Home Study Course : Homestudy Course CD

NGS American Genealogy: Home Study Course

Have you always wanted to learn how to trace your family tree or solve a difficult brick-wall genealogy problem? Perhaps everyday commitments or the cost of attending an institute or conference get in the way of your dream of knowing your ancestors. Or maybe you prefer to work at your own pace, mostly in the comfort of your own home.

If so, there's another option—the renowned NGS Home Study Course (HSC) on CD. It provides a solid foundation for someone just starting out and new possibilities for experienced researchers' more difficult problems.

The NGS Home Study Course includes

- instruction about a variety of genealogical resources;
- strategies for conducting family history research on the Internet and in libraries, courthouses, and archives;
- analyzing documents to get the most out of sources;
- the principles of evidence analysis;
- explanations of source citation, including examples;
- tips for writing narratives;
- assignments with examples of how they should be completed;
- self-correcting exams;
- bibliographies and reference lists;
- specific written feedback on written reports, suggestions for improvement, and encouragement from expert genealogists; and
- an online mail list for advice and research help.

To learn more about the Home Study Course, see the [course syllabus](#) or watch the [video](#).

Requirements

The HSC is available only on PC- or MAC-compatible CDs, so you will need a computer with a CD drive.

An Internet connection is also recommended so students can participate in the online mail list for research help and advice. Some students choose to submit their lessons by e-mail

Text Size + - SHARE

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E-mail address:


Password:

Please provide your complete e-mail address and password to login.


[Forgot Password?](#) [LOGIN](#)

[Not a Member?](#) [Sign up today!](#)

Research References

 [Numbering Your Genealogy](#)
[Learn More](#)

Partnership Discounts

 **10% Tuition Discount on the Boston University Certificate in Genealogical Research Program**

Boston University's Center for Professional Education is offering a 10% tuition discount to NGS members who enroll in the new Boston University Certificate in Genealogical Research program. [To learn more](#)

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Programs Schedule Registration Student Information News & Events

Genealogical Research Programs—Classroom and Online

When genealogical research is used to authenticate an identity, solve a medical mystery, trace property ownership, find lost friends and family, or write accurate historical discourses, the results must be irrefutable.

The Genealogical Research Program offered by Boston University's Center for Professional Education introduces current genealogical technologies and research methods that reflect the exacting standards and investigative best practices used by professionals. Developed in collaboration with—and taught by—some of the **premier genealogists** in the country, the Genealogical Research Program employs lectures, demonstrations, hands-on learning, workbook exercises, practice activities, and open discussions to help students identify and evaluate evidence, design research strategies, and write quality reports.



The program leads to a certificate from Boston University, and is excellent preparation for those who seek certification through the Board for Certification of Genealogists®.

ACE CREDIT recommends 3 graduate level semester hours for BU's Genealogical Research Program. [Learn more >](#)

Available on campus or online, and—in fall 2012—in New York City, the Genealogical Research Program covers the following topics:

- Foundations of Genealogical Research
- Problem-Solving Techniques and Technology
- Evidence Evaluation and Documentation
- Forensic Genealogical Research
- Professional Genealogy

Program Details

View the [classroom-based curriculum](#).

View the [online curriculum](#).

Genealogical Research

- Classroom Program
- Online Programs
- Instructor Profiles
- Textbooks
- FAQ

 **Download Brochure**

Learn more about the **Genealogical Research Program** at BU, the **online program**, or the **online Essentials course**

Learn more at an Information Session

10 JAN Genealogical Research Certificate Program

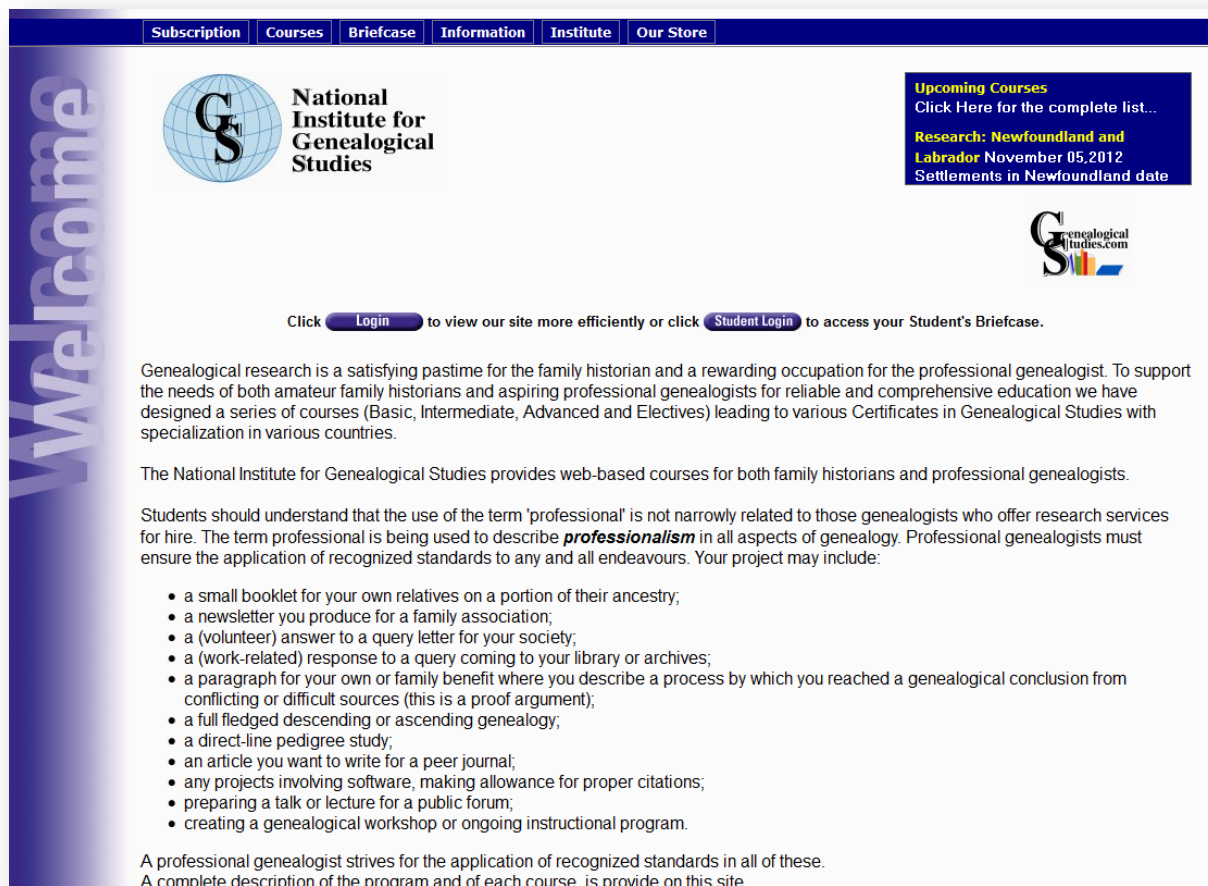
▶ See all Information Sessions

 **When do classes start?**

Find out when classes start—and **register today**.


National Institute for Genealogical Studies

<http://www.genealogicalstudies.com/>




Subscription Courses Briefcase Information Institute Our Store

Welcome

 **National Institute for Genealogical Studies**

Upcoming Courses
Click Here for the complete list...
Research: Newfoundland and Labrador November 05, 2012
Settlements in Newfoundland date



Click [Login](#) to view our site more efficiently or click [Student Login](#) to access your Student's Briefcase.

Genealogical research is a satisfying pastime for the family historian and a rewarding occupation for the professional genealogist. To support the needs of both amateur family historians and aspiring professional genealogists for reliable and comprehensive education we have designed a series of courses (Basic, Intermediate, Advanced and Electives) leading to various Certificates in Genealogical Studies with specialization in various countries.

The National Institute for Genealogical Studies provides web-based courses for both family historians and professional genealogists.

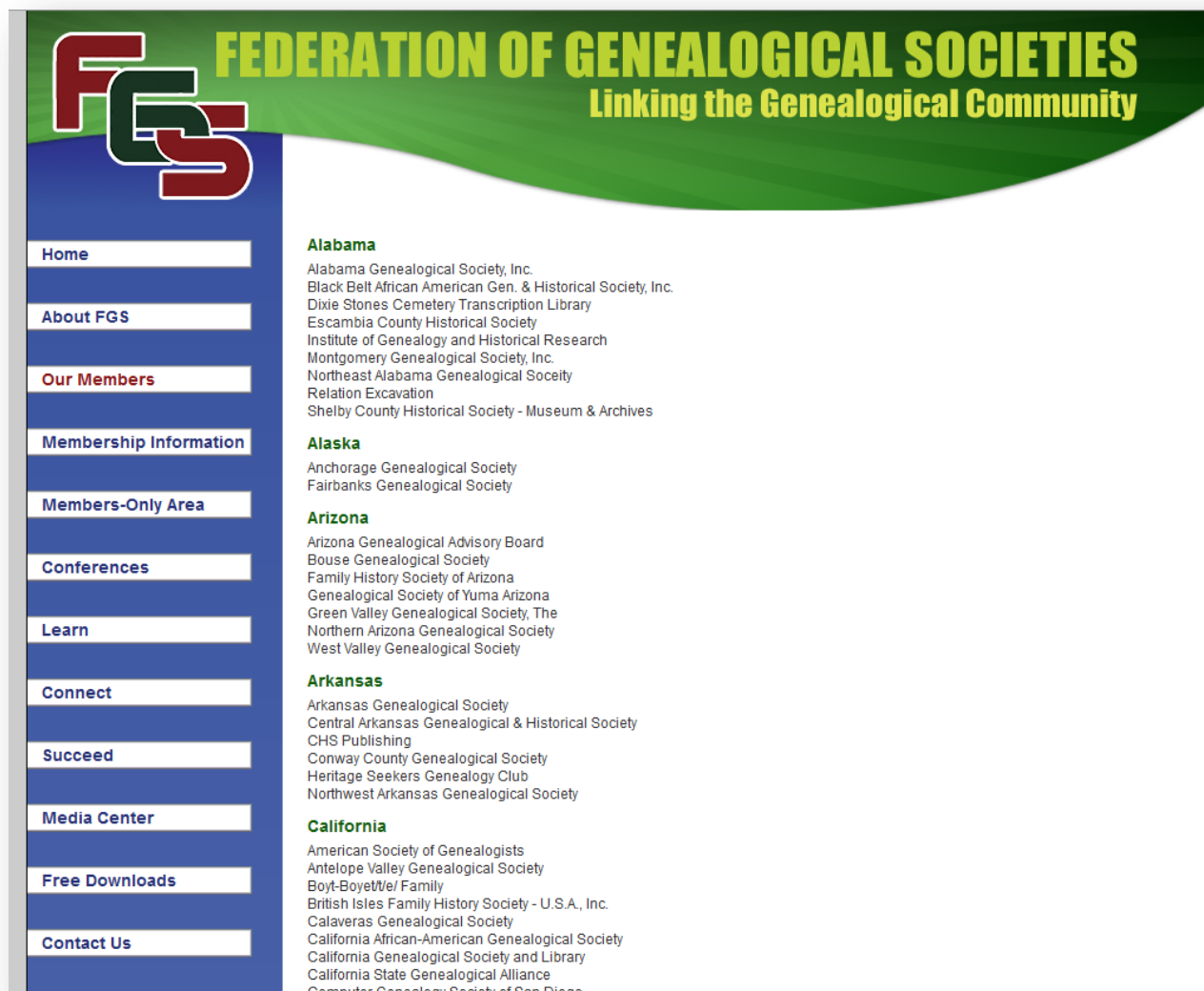
Students should understand that the use of the term 'professional' is not narrowly related to those genealogists who offer research services for hire. The term professional is being used to describe **professionalism** in all aspects of genealogy. Professional genealogists must ensure the application of recognized standards to any and all endeavours. Your project may include:

- a small booklet for your own relatives on a portion of their ancestry;
- a newsletter you produce for a family association;
- a (volunteer) answer to a query letter for your society;
- a (work-related) response to a query coming to your library or archives;
- a paragraph for your own or family benefit where you describe a process by which you reached a genealogical conclusion from conflicting or difficult sources (this is a proof argument);
- a full fledged descending or ascending genealogy;
- a direct-line pedigree study;
- an article you want to write for a peer journal;
- any projects involving software, making allowance for proper citations;
- preparing a talk or lecture for a public forum;
- creating a genealogical workshop or ongoing instructional program.

A professional genealogist strives for the application of recognized standards in all of these. A complete description of the program and of each course, is provide on this site.

Find A Local Genealogical Society

http://www.fgs.org/cstm_memberLocList.php



FGS **FEDERATION OF GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES**
Linking the Genealogical Community

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Alabama Genealogical Society, Inc.
Black Belt African American Gen. & Historical Society, Inc.
Dixie Stones Cemetery Transcription Library
Escambia County Historical Society
Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research
Montgomery Genealogical Society, Inc.
Northeast Alabama Genealogical Society
Relation Excavation
Shelby County Historical Society - Museum & Archives

Alaska

Anchorage Genealogical Society
Fairbanks Genealogical Society

Arizona

Arizona Genealogical Advisory Board
Bouse Genealogical Society
Family History Society of Arizona
Genealogical Society of Yuma Arizona
Green Valley Genealogical Society, The
Northern Arizona Genealogical Society
West Valley Genealogical Society

Arkansas

Arkansas Genealogical Society
Central Arkansas Genealogical & Historical Society
CHS Publishing
Conway County Genealogical Society
Heritage Seekers Genealogy Club
Northwest Arkansas Genealogical Society

California

American Society of Genealogists
Antelope Valley Genealogical Society
Boyt-Boyet/We/ Family
British Isles Family History Society - U.S.A., Inc.
Calaveras Genealogical Society
California African-American Genealogical Society
California Genealogical Society and Library
California State Genealogical Alliance
Computer Genealogy Society of San Diego

Genealogy Conferences

Roots Tech 2013 : Salt Lake City March 19

<http://rootstech.org/>

NGS 2013 : Las Vegas May 17

http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/conference_info

FGS 2013 : Fort Wayne Aug 20

<http://www.fgs.org/>

SoCal Jamboree 2013 June 7

<http://www.scgsgenealogy.com/>

Genealogy Blogs and Sites



Legal Genealogist by Judy Russell

<http://www.legalgenealogist.com/>

Historic Pathways by Elizabeth Shown Mills

<http://historicpathways.com/>



GENEABLOGGERS

The ultimate site for your genealogy blog



GENEALOGY BLOGGING BEAT – THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2012



Today is Thursday, October 11, 2012, and here is what's available in terms of Daily Blogging Prompts and other related events in the genealogy blogosphere:

Items of Note

- Happy blogiversary to [3log](#) (started October 11, 2008) and [whispermygenealogist](#) (started October 11, 2011).
- Today is It's My Party Day and National Coming Out Day.

Daily Blogging Prompts

Thankful Thursday - Create a post that expresses gratitude for a

Geneabloggers

<http://www.geneabloggers.com/>

BCG Certification

<http://www.bgcercertification.org/>

Formal Educational Opportunities

Many superb programs exist nationwide. The following lists some of the programs that successful applicants have found helpful. Most offer "certificates of completion," but they also caution that their programs and certificates are not to be confused with actual certification. BCG does not require or specifically recommend any of them for certification.

- [Academic Programs](#)
- [Independent Study Courses](#)
- [Institutes](#)
- [Major Conferences](#)
- [Seminars](#)

Academic Programs

Boston University: Certificate in Genealogical Studies

This fourteen-week program offered by the BU Center for Professional Education provides classes in basic research, problem solving, evidence evaluation, documentation, and other more. The course is available in a classroom setting at its Boston, Massachusetts, campus, as well as online.

Brigham Young University

BYU (Provo, Utah) offers two options for genealogical education:

- a conventional on-campus [B. A. in Family History](#)
- an independent-study [Certificate in Family History](#); in eighteen academic hours of course work, students select specialized courses that center upon geographic areas or ethnic groups

University of Toronto, St. Michael's College: National Institute for Genealogical Studies (NIGS)

NIGS offers web-based courses at beginner, intermediate and advanced levels. Most last six to eight weeks, and some are worth credit towards NIGS's certificate in genealogical studies.

Independent Study Courses

National Genealogical Society

NGS, founded in 1903 and based in Arlington, Virginia, also offers options:

- *American Genealogy: A Home Study Course*. Sixteen lessons that students can pursue at their own pace offer thorough instruction and hands-on experience with major resources and record analysis.
- Various online mini-courses, covering such skills topics as abstracting and transcribing, working with deeds, etc.

Institutes

National Institute on Genealogical Research [NIGR]

www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~natgenin or NatInsGen@juno.com.

Held each July since 1950 at the National Archives (Washington, D.C.), this concentrated 5½ -day program focuses upon NA holdings. Limited enrollment. Cosponsored by BCG.

Samford University Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research [IGHR]

Held each June since 1964 on the Samford campus (Birmingham, Alabama), this 5-day

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About BCG

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Genealogy

Genealogy is the study of *families* in genetic and historical context. It is the study of *communities*, in which kinship networks weave the fabric of economic, political, and social life. It is the study of *family structures* and the changing roles of men, women, and children in diverse cultures. It is *biography*, reconstructing each human life across place and time.

Genealogy is the story of who we are and how we came to be, as individuals and societies.

Work Samples

EDUCATIONAL
PREPARATION

PUBLICATIONS

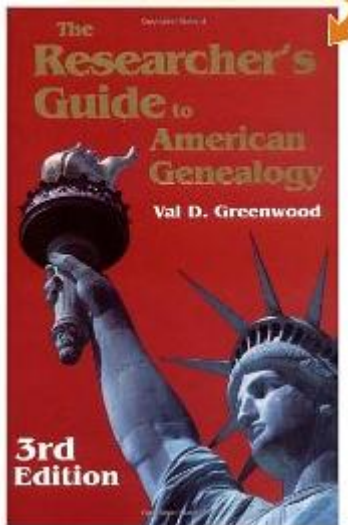


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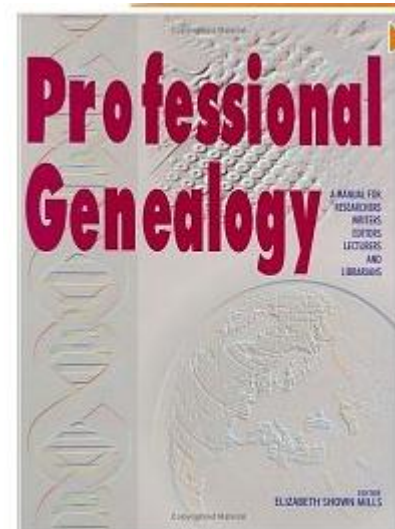
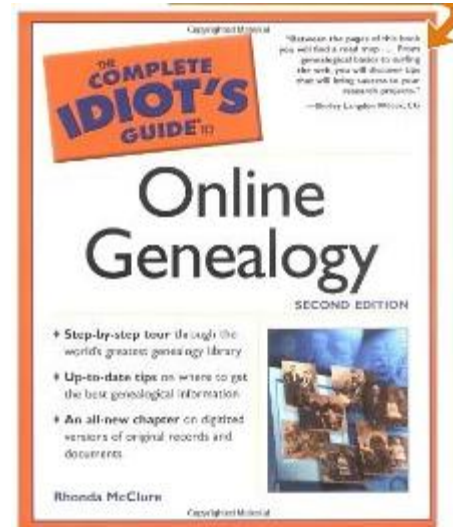
Genealogy Books

The Complete Idiot's Guide to Genealogy



Val Greenwood's The Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy

Professional Genealogy: A Manual for Researchers, Writers, Editors, and Librarians, edited by Elizabeth Shown Mills



““The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go.” ”

Dr. Seuss

Where you can find this in PDF form:

<http://finding-forgotten-stories.com/resources/how-to-videos/>

Coming up on Ancestry.com Event

Upcoming Events · Past Events



Ancestry.com LIVE: How To Up Your Genealogy Game

Today at 10:00am

Nick Cifuentes and 55 other guests

<http://www.livestream.com/ancestry>

Going · Share



Ancestry.com LIVE: Searching for Death Records

Tuesday, October 16, 2012 at 10:00am

Crista Cowan and 24 other guests

<http://www.livestream.com/ancestry>

Join · Share



Ancestry.com LIVE: Alternatives to Death Certificates

Thursday, October 18, 2012 at 10:00am

Crista Cowan and 20 other guests

<http://www.livestream.com/ancestry>

Join · Share



Ancestry.com: TweetChat with Crista Cowan

Thursday, October 18, 2012 at 6:00pm

Crista Cowan and 6 other guests

<http://tweetchat.com/room/acomchat>

Join · Share



Ancestry.com LIVE: Family History Clues in Death Records

Tuesday, October 23, 2012 at 10:00am

Crista Cowan and 23 other guests

<http://www.livestream.com/ancestry>

Join · Share



Ancestry.com LIVE: Common Ground - What Family Secrets Can Be Uncovered in Cemeteries

Thursday, October 25, 2012 at 10:00am

Nick Cifuentes and 22 other guests

<http://www.livestream.com/ancestry>

Going · Share