



The International Commission for the Accreditation of Professional Genealogists

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

ICAPGen — Dedicated to World Class Professionalism in the Genealogical Field 1

Opportunities to Enhance Skills: A Review of Pro-Gen Studies 2

Meet Your New ICAPGen Commissioners 3

Renewed AG Professionals 3

Look for us at our ICAPGen booth at the RootsTech Conference this week!

ICAPGen — Dedicated to World Class Professionalism in the Genealogical Field

It is truly amazing how quickly time has flown since the beginning of ICAPGen . The history of this organization is filled with many who have donated their time and talents to make ICAPGen what it is today. The Accredited Genealogist credentialing program is entering its 47th year (eleven under the administration of ICAPGen) with exciting new programs and ways to assist those who wish to rise to the highest level of proficiency in our field.

In this past year we have added several new AG professionals to the membership of this highly acclaimed credentialing organization. We have held and recorded mentoring classes. We have revamped our website and we are adding more resource pages to help those interested in becoming accredited learn more about the records and resources for their geographical regions of interest.

As we continue to strive to improve and reach out to a greater audience of researchers, we are interested in what is needed and wanted by those who are a part of this organization and those you wish to become accredited. We ask for your assistance in this endeavor.

Please take a few minutes to answer these questions to help us make ICAPGen an even better organization:

- Do you as an AG professional feel you have the support you need from ICAPGen?
- What would you like to see happen in ICAPGen to better serve you?
- If you are not yet an AG professional or you desire to gain a second AG credential, how can ICAPGen help you feel more comfortable and prepared for the AG exams?
- Would you be interested in a mentoring seminar being held in your geographical area?
- Is there something we could do to encourage more individuals in your area to become accredited?
- In what ways would you be willing to volunteer time to support ICAPGen and other AG professionals or those who are working to obtain their AG credential? (These could include volunteering on a committee, helping out at our booth at conferences, helping to organize a mentoring seminar in your area, serving as a mentor, and other ways .)

Please send your replies and comments to claire.brisson-banks@icapgen.org. Thank you for your time.

— Claire V. Brisson-Banks
ICAPGen Marketing Committee

Opportunities to Enhance Skills— A Review of *ProGen* Studies

As professional genealogists (or those who want to become professional genealogists) we should always be looking for ways to enhance our knowledge and skills. One way, among many, is to participate in a *ProGen* study group. Here is a review by one of our AG professionals who has participated in a study group:

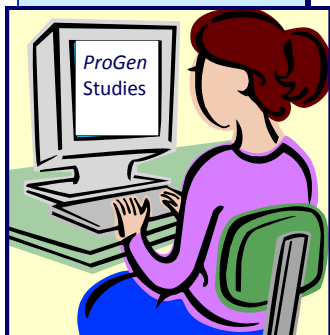
In March 2011, the fourth *ProGen* study group will complete their course. As one of the first Accredited Genealogists to graduate from this online collaborative course, I would like to share my views about this unique opportunity for genealogical education.

What is it? A *ProGen* group studies the book *Professional Genealogy: A Manual for Researchers, Writers, Editors, Lecturers, and Librarians*, edited by Elizabeth Shown Mills. As explained on the group's website at <http://progenstudy.org>, "Each month group members study one or two chapters of *Professional Genealogy* and complete a practical assignment relating to the material. They meet online to discuss the topic in small group discussions. Members review each other's assignments and offer constructive feedback. The study program covers all of the chapters in the book, including research procedures and business practices." Most participants are interested in conducting client research, many are preparing for a genealogical credential, and all are interested in becoming better genealogists. Each group has twenty four participants divided into four peer groups of eight people each. A credentialed genealogist mentors each study group. Those inter-

ested in participating are added to a waiting list. A new group starts each time there are enough interested participants and a willing mentor has been identified. The eleventh study group is currently being organized.

This is not for the faint of heart! It takes nineteen months to complete the course so consistent and persistent effort is required. I dedicated six to twenty hours monthly to this course. But the benefits that I received are many:

- Where else can I learn so much for so little cost? Through the generous contributions of course developer Angela McGhie and the many coordinators, mentors, and alumni, participation costs are minimal. There is a requested donation of \$30 to cover the cost of the Basecamp website and it is best to own a current copy of the textbook.
- My genealogical research skills and business practices improved.
- Peer group members offer differing perspectives. I learned from reviewing others' assignments and participating in the discussions.
- My professional network has expanded. I learned who I can rely on for thorough critique, follow-through, or lively discussion. I have benefitted from the frequent exchange of professional services that occurs.
- I have had my associations strengthened by get-togethers at major genealogical events. The 2011 Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy, for instance, had over 30 attendees who are participants in *ProGen*. —Cont. page 4



Meet Your New ICAPGen Commissioners

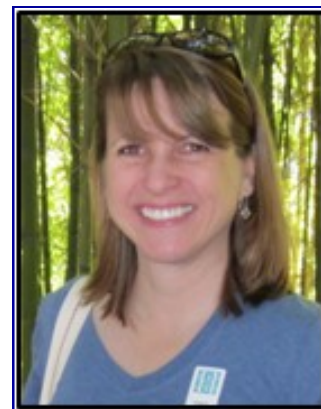
Our thanks to all AG professionals who recently voted in the election for new commissioners. Let's meet them:

Danielle Batson, AG®, MLS

I was born and raised in San Diego, California and still very much consider myself a California girl, even though I've lived in Utah for 18 years. I received a Bachelor's degree from Brigham Young University in Family History in 1997 and accredited in the Midwestern States. Once I graduated from BYU, I worked for 3 years for Genealogy Research Associates. I then began freelancing as a professional genealogist doing client work and contracting with several genealogical companies. I also began working part-time at the Family History Library as a research consultant for the United States and Canada unit. In 2006, I was hired on full-time. I also received a Masters of Library Science from the University of North Texas in 2007.

My genealogical experience has included on-site research at various repositories and cemeteries throughout the Midwest, Mid-Atlantic, and New England states. For the last 3 years I've worked extensively in African-American research. When I'm not looking for my own dead people on genealogy trips, I enjoy traveling, reading, watching old movies and working on my house I bought in 2009.

For the past two years I've been on the ICAPGen Renewals Committee, becoming a co-chair with Carol Smith in Dec 2009. The committee has been devoted to helping our AG professionals renew their credential in accordance with the additional renewal requirements passed by the ICAPGen Board in February 2009. I will continue to work in this capacity along with participating on the ICAPGen Board as a commissioner.



I am excited to be working with such a great group of professionals who really care about ICAPGen and maintaining the integrity of the AG credential.

—Danielle Batson

Jill N. Crandell, AG®

Since my graduation from Brigham Young University with a B.A. in family history, I have stayed involved in the genealogical community and participated in a variety of activities. For many years, I conducted client research and attended local conferences, which led to completing my accreditation in Midwestern U.S. research.

—Cont. on page 4

Renewed AG Professionals

Congratulations to these individuals who have successfully renewed credentials:

- Elaine Hasleton — Norway
- Diane Loosle — England
- Russ Lynch — Mid-Western US
- Kahlile Mehr — LDS Records
- Ken Nelson — New England
- Vicky Standing — Mid-Western US
- Jenny Tonks — Italy
- Anne Wuehler — England

Contact information for these AG professionals can be found on the ICAPGen website.

Meet Your New ICAPGen Commissioners, cont.

I began volunteering with the Utah Genealogical Association and lecturing at conferences, and served for two years as the director of the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy. I was then asked to serve as a founding commissioner for ICAPGen and later held the positions of executive secretary and treasurer. From the time that I heard of the accreditation program as an undergraduate, I appreciated the value of genealogy credentials and worked to support and maintain them.

For the past seven years, I have taught family history and technology courses for the history department at BYU. Most recently, I have completed an M.A. in history and I am currently the director of the Center for Family History and Genealogy. I enjoy my work with the students and appreciate their enthusiasm for learning and improving their research skills. I'm happy to be serving on the ICAPGen commission and look forward to working with this valuable organization again.

—Jill Crandall



We would like to heartily thank these two ladies for their willingness to continue working with ICAPGen by serving as commissioners. We will continue to be benefitted by all of their efforts and expertise.

Opportunities to Enhance Skills — Review of *ProGen*, cont.

- I earned “bragging rights” by receiving a Certificate of Completion (for those meeting all of the course requirements). My name now appears on the Alumni page of the *ProGen* website—thus providing me an additional marketing tool plus a way to measure the education and persistence of professional genealogists previously unknown to me.

ProGen certainly fits with the ICAPGen function of “Recruiting, encouraging, mentoring, and educating genealogists,” so I encourage ICAPGen to have a more visible presence in *ProGen*. For instance, consider offering to be a study group mentor. One need not be an alumnus of *ProGen* to serve as a mentor, but it is expected that you have been accredited for a number of years and have experience conducting research for clients.

I highly recommend this collaborative educational opportunity for genealogists.

(Learn more about online study groups: Angela McGhie, “Virtual Study Groups: An Opportunity for Continuous Education,” *Association of Professional Genealogists Quarterly*, June 2009.)

—Charlene M. Pipkin, AG®

AG News and Views is the official newsletter of the International Commission for the Accreditation of Professional Genealogists. For a full list of commissioners and committees, as well as contact information, see our web site at <http://icapgen.org>.